

# American Indian Language Policy Research & Teacher Training Center

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## Mission

Established in 2008 by Dr. Sims, The Center serves as a local and national center of collaborative research that examines major policy issues affecting the survival and maintenance of American Indian languages.

- We provide Native language teacher training and technical assistance supporting American Indian tribes engaged in language maintenance and preservation initiatives.
- We engage in advocacy work on behalf of NM and other tribes and their Native languages.
- We bring together the academic resources of the University's College of Education, veteran practitioners in Native language teaching, tribal leaders and members of indigenous language communities in support of Native language efforts.

## Current Research Collaboratives

- Institutional Partner: *Bureau of Indian Education, Western Region Language Immersion Initiative*. A one-year research project of language immersion efforts in NM BIE schools (2018-19).
- Institutional Partner: *2019 FACES Survey of Region XI AI/AN Head Start Programs*. Revision of 2015 Survey.
- Institutional Partner: Tribal Early Childhood Research Center Steering Committee, University of Colorado Sch. of Public Health.

## Partnerships with Emerging Language Initiatives

- *Walatowa Head Start Immersion Program in Jemez Pueblo*. Federally funded Head Start Program. Transition to full Towa Immersion since 2015.
- *Keres Children's Learning Center (KCLC)*, Montessori School, Cochiti Pueblo. Private foundation and parent supported. Established by Trisha Moquino in 2012.



## Ancient Languages and Oral Traditions of New Mexico

**KERES**  
 • Acama  
 • Laguna  
 • Santa Ana  
 • San Felipe  
 • Santo Domingo  
 • Cochiti  
 • Zila

**TOWA**  
 • Jemez

**TEWA**  
 • Ohkay Owinghee  
 • Santa Clara  
 • San Ildefonso  
 • Nambé  
 • Sangria  
 • Isleta

**TIWA**  
 • Taos  
 • Picuris  
 • Sangaia

**ZUNI**  
 • Athabaskan  
 • Navajo  
 • Mescalero Apache  
 • Jicarilla Apache

## Advocacy for Native Language Issues

Tribal leaders, parents, and elders play significant roles in determining how languages will be taught, what needs to be taught, and where schools are involved, who will teach the language.

The implications for state educational agencies to recognize tribal direction for language initiatives is especially important when these extend into school settings. Examples of our advocacy, support, and work in this area include:

- Preconference Native language summits at NM La Cosecha Dual Language Conferences (upcoming November 16, 2019).
- NM Bilingual/Biliteracy Seal development Work Group (2013-2015)
- Position Statement on *Early Childhood Education: Implications for Indigenous Language Communities for NM Majority Coalition*, (August, 2018).
- Oral and written testimony submitted before U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Washington, DC (August, 2018).
- Legislative Hearing on *Examining Efforts to Maintain and Revitalize Native Languages for Future Generations*.
- Invitation to serve on National Advisory Council for American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start Programs (2017 to present)

## School-based Language Instruction & Community Programs

Language	Districts (# of Schools)	# of Students
Arapaho	Dodge (1)	397
Aztec	Bernalillo (6)	4754
Keres	Grant Charle County (1)	5097
Navajo (Diné)	Albuquerque (1)	
	Grant Charle County (1)	
	Costa (1)	
	County (1)	
	Doña Ana (1)	
	El Paso (1)	
	Graham (1)	
	King (1)	
	Lincoln (1)	
	Morongo (1)	
	Permian (1)	
	Pecos (1)	
	Pueblo (1)	
	Sandoz (1)	
	San Juan (1)	
	Union (1)	
	Wagon Wheel (1)	
	Yuma (1)	

- Language Nest in Cochiti Pueblo.
- Tribal Culture/language programs
- Language Immersion classes in BIE schools
- Language instruction in Head Start Centers
- Navajo immersion school: Dream Diné Charter School in Shiprock, NM

Source: Language and Culture Bureau (NM PEPD) 2018.

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