



Bilingual Multicultural Education Advisory Council

Legislative Education Study Committee

October 15, 2026

Korina Cordova

BMEAC Co-Chair

Coordinator of Bilingual Education and Equity,
Carlsbad Municipal Schools

Bilingual Multicultural Education Advisory Council

Bilingual Multicultural Education Act

- Established in 1973
- Bilingual Multicultural Education Programs (BMEPs)
- 15 Member Advisory Council (BMEAC)

Bilingual Multicultural Education Advisory Council

The BMEAC- Purpose

- Subject matter experts (PreK through Higher Education)
- Develop annual Advisements for the Secretary of Education
- Support instruction for bilingual learners
- Think Tank to inform the New Mexico Public Education Department

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Name	Position	Institution or Region	Term End
Dr. Minea Armijo Romero	Assistant Professor, Teacher Preparation Administration and Leadership	New Mexico State University	June 2028
Korina A. Cordova	Coordinator of Bilingual Education and Equity	Carlsbad Municipal School District	June 2028
Dr. Armando Garza-Ayala	Assistant Professor, Bilingual Education	University of New Mexico	June 2026
Santi G. Gutierrez	English Learner and Bilingual Data Coordinator	Clovis Municipal School District	June 2028
Rita Holguin	Bilingual Teacher, Rio Grande Elementary	Hatch Valley Public Schools	June 2026
Erika Martinez	International Welcome Center Student and Family Advisor, Centennial High School	Las Cruces Public Schools	June 2028
Suzanne Nguyen Wisneski	Executive Director of Federal, Bilingual and Native American Programs	Rio Rancho Public Schools	June 2028
Cristian Yesenia Carrera	Parent Representative	Southern New Mexico	June 2027
Kelton Starr	Tribal Education Director	Mescalero Apache	June 2026

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The BMEAC- Think Tank with the Language and Culture Division

- Strengthen educational programs for students focusing on bilingualism/biliteracy and academic achievement
- Ensure that culturally and linguistically relevant instruction/materials are supporting our BMEPs
- Recruitment and retention of bilingual educators
- Support program monitoring and management
- Create family and community partnerships

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The BMEAC- Practice

- Function within bylaws
- Host work sessions with Outcomes-Based Agendas
- Annual Advisement/s

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The BMEAC- Advisements

Year	Advisements
21-22	Teacher Pipeline, Assessment
22-23	Assessment, Leadership Capacity, Teacher/Student Needs
23-24	BMEPs and SPED, Biliteracy and Oral Language- Biliteracy Framework
24-25	Secondary Students- BMEP Placement Guidance, Dynamic Biliteracy Framework, Spanish as a Heritage Language (<i>Spanishes</i> of NM)
25-26	Empowering Multilingual Learners by Investing in Multilingual Educators, Building Informed Partnerships: Strengthening Family Access to Bilingual Multicultural Education Programs, Supporting and Facilitating the Creation of a <i>Bachelor of Science/Arts in Bilingual Multicultural Elementary Education</i> (BMEE) (PK-8)

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Empowering Multilingual Learners by Investing in Multilingual Educators

Direct Ask: Initiate a joint effort between NMPED, LCD and the LESC to support work in introducing a bill in the 2027 legislative session to fund a minimum and uniform stipend for Bilingual and TESOL teachers teaching in a state-funded BMEP.

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BMEAC State-Wide Survey

“75% of instructional staff (n= 396) say a pay increase or stipend would make them more likely to use their endorsement to teach in a BMEP.”

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Contact Information:

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