



Indian Education Fund

- Indian Education in New Mexico is funded at \$90 million to be spent over the next three fiscal years – the highest level in the state’s history, marking a significant milestone in our commitment to Native American students.
- In FY26, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) released \$23.4 million to Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations as upfront, non-reverting funding without requiring tribes to apply for the funds.
- Funding for tribes was issued through an intergovernmental agreement with requirements comprising written reports, quarterly face-to-face check-ins, submission of quarterly drawdown reports, and submission of an implementation plan.
- In FY26, PED released \$5.8 million to 30 school districts and charter schools awarded through an application and reimbursement process.

Trends in Spending

- Spending trends reflect varying implementation timelines across tribes. Sustained funding supports long-term planning, uninterrupted programming, and continued student services across fiscal years.
- Examples of how the Indian Education fund supports Native American students include:
 - Salary support for critical personnel within tribal communities, school districts, and charter schools, including tribal education directors, Indian Education staff within school districts and charter schools, tribal liaisons, and language and culture teachers
 - Contracts for tutors, academic coaches, and attendance liaisons
 - Out-of-school learning experiences such as field trips and college visits
 - Supplies and equipment for programming
 - Stipends for language boards and community experts who provide learning experiences for students



- **Pueblo of Picuris:** Pueblo of Picuris is utilizing Indian Education funding to implement student tutoring and cultural and health initiatives. Of the students attending tutoring, 100 percent showed growth in reading and math assessments. Approximately 75 percent of all students regularly participate in language and culture programs.
- **Pueblo of San Felipe:** The Pueblo of San Felipe focuses Indian Education funding on academic support, providing students with over 600 tutoring sessions during the Spring semester. San Felipe also provides students with enrichment opportunities in STEM and offers additional programming for math, reading, and parenting support.
- **Pueblo of Santa Ana:** The Santa Ana Department of Education (SADE) focuses Indian Education funding on comprehensive academic and social-emotional support to all Santa Ana students in grades K-12, including tutoring and behavior supports. Students with disabilities are matched with tutors who have specialized training and certifications in special education.
 - Students seeking greater academic achievement are paired with tutors who challenge and extend their learning, supporting college and career readiness.
 - SADE tracks student attendance and academic performance and provides incentives to students to improve attendance, course grades, and graduation milestones. Due to this incredible work and support, Santa Ana students have a 94 percent graduation rate.
- **Pueblo of Santo Domingo:** The Pueblo of Santo Domingo demonstrates a collaborative funding model in which five tribal community-based programs each receive a portion of the tribe's Indian Education funding allocation. This coordinated approach expands student services through a more holistic, community-centered model of support.
- **Pueblo of Zuni:** The Pueblo of Zuni has strategically distributed its Indian Education funding across three tribal community-based programs, including the tribal library. Increased funding to their tribal library has strengthened access to afterschool resources, educational programming, and community events that support students and families.

Shared Priorities

- Continue strengthening local capacity and expertise to develop programs that effectively meet the needs of Native American students.
- Sustain data-informed program development to ensure services and support remain responsive to student needs and community priorities.

Planning for FY28 and Beyond

- Continue investing \$30 million annually in Indian Education to sustain and expand the progress already made for Native American students, while strengthening data collection to demonstrate the long-term impact and success of these investments.
- Continue working alongside tribes to define culturally relevant measures of success for Native American students and ensure the fund supports those community-driven priorities.
- Continue emphasizing the importance of shared investments among tribes, school districts, and charter schools to collaboratively support Native American students through guidance from experts within tribal communities.

