

**Date:** May 1, 2026

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**Rule Citation:** [NMAC 6.64.10: Bilingual Endorsement](#)

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## Overview of Adopted Rule

**Agency:** Public Education Department

**Rulemaking Action:** Repeal and Replace

**Date of Adoption:** January 29, 2026

**Effective Date:** February 10, 2026

**Rule's Purpose:** The adopted rule repeals and replaces existing beginner bilingual education licensure requirements and establishes updated bilingual teacher testing, coursework requirements, and competencies for teachers, instructional support providers, and support providers seeking a bilingual education endorsement.

## Summary of NMAC 6.64.10: Bilingual Endorsement

The Public Education Department (PED) adopted a repeal and replace of New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 6.64.10 to align bilingual teacher licensure requirements with New Mexico's standards and assessments, the National Association for Bilingual Education's standards, and the state's higher education institutional practices.

PED cites Section 9-24-8 NMSA 1978, Section 22-2-1 NMSA 1978, Section 22-2-2 NMSA 1978, and Section 22-10A-31 NMSA 1978 as its authorizing statutes for proposing the rule replacement.

**Testing and Coursework Requirements.** The adopted amendment replaces existing core licensure requirements with a more prescriptive set of requirements that includes both testing and coursework. Entry-level teachers, instructional support providers, and support providers pursuing initial bilingual education endorsement must complete at least 24 semester hours in bilingual education, including 12 semester hours in teaching bilingual education aligned to the competencies in NMAC 6.64.10.9. Licensed teachers, instructional support providers, and support providers seeking to add an endorsement in English and Spanish must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours in bilingual education aligned to the competencies in NMAC 6.64.10.9. This change removes the previous 24 to 36 semester hour range and standardizes minimum credit requirements across licensure pathways. In addition to these semester hour requirements, the adopted rule establishes differentiated testing requirements based on language and licensure status:

- Spanish and English bilingual candidates must pass the Prueba de Español para la Certificación Bilingüe;
- Native American language and English bilingual candidates must obtain a Native American Language and Culture certificate, also known as a "520 certificate"; and
- Candidates seeking bilingual endorsement in languages other than Spanish are required to demonstrate proficiency through a language proficiency examination, holding a New Mexico diploma of excellence (New Mexico's standard high school diploma) with a state seal of bilingualism and biliteracy, a portfolio, or a qualifying postsecondary degree.
- Candidates across all pathways have the option to present a portfolio to satisfy competency requirements.

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The adopted rule allows any teacher or instructional support provider to obtain bilingual education certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Teachers with an existing Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) endorsement can add a bilingual endorsement by passing the PED-required bilingual education examination and completing six semester hours of bilingual education coursework aligned to department competencies.

**Teacher Competencies.** In response to public comment, the adopted rule expands teacher competencies to include “translanguaging” and updates competencies for Native American languages certification. “Translanguaging” is defined as a practice in which bilingual people draw on their full linguistic range to provide meaning in context and a pedagogy to help learners use all of their linguistic resources. The rule expands teacher competencies to include translanguaging skills and implementing culturally relevant curriculum. The adopted rule requires tribal standards be used to determine competency for applicants pursuing Native American language and culture certification. Previous language in the proposed rule stated tribal standards may be used.

## Impact

The adopted repeal and replace of NMAC 6.64.10 impacts entry-level bilingual education teachers, instructional support providers; licensed teachers pursuing a bilingual endorsement; school districts and charter schools; higher education institutions; and students.

**Testing and Coursework Requirements.** The adopted rule aligns with higher education institutional practices by removing the 24 to 36 semester hour range and mandating either 12 or 24 semester hours minimum (based on whether the license exists or is initial), thereby standardizing coursework expectations statewide. These changes formalize distinct testing and certification requirements based on language pathway and varying teacher experience.

**Teacher Competencies.** The adopted rule requires all applicants demonstrate translanguaging skills, comprehension of pedagogical practices centering diverse linguistic and heritage learners (now defined in the rule), and comprehension of the interconnection of oracy, biliteracy, and multiliteracies.

While the adopted rule establishes expectations for teacher preparation and licensure, it does not specify how PED intends to support teachers across school districts and charter schools to implement this requirement. LESC staff have previously noted current bilingual education resource limitations hinder teachers’ ability to provide current and culturally relevant education.

**Severability.** The amendment also adds a severability clause, which preserves the validity, legality, and enforceability of PED’s rule in the event a section or the entire rule is repealed.