Indian Education Fund

October 2026

- FY27 marks the second consecutive year the Indian Education Fund has received $30 million—the highest funding level in New Mexico's history—reinforcing the state's commitment to Native American students.
- In FY26 and FY27, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) released $23.4 million to Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations as upfront, non-reverting funding and without requiring tribes to apply for the funds.
- Funding to tribes is issued through an Intergovernmental Agreement with requirements of written reports, quarterly face-to-face check-ins, submission of quarterly drawdown reports, submission of an implementation plan and a planned budget.
- In FY26 and FY27, the PED distributed $5.8 million to 30 districts and charter schools through an application and reimbursement process.

Trends in Spending

- Spending trends reflect varying implementation timelines across tribes, with sustained funding supporting 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, districts, and charter schools, including tribal education directors, Indian Education department staff within districts and charters, 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; and



    - 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. 100% of students attending tutoring showed growth in reading and math assessments. Approximately 75% 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% 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 being 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.

