

**Date:** December 19, 2025

**Prepared By:** Sarai Ortiz

**Rule Citation:** 6.64.10 NMAC: Beginner Bilingual Teacher Requirements

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## Overview of Proposed Rule

**Agency:** Public Education Department

**Rulemaking Action:** Repeal and Replace

**Date of Notice:** December 9, 2025

**Public Comment Period:** December 9, 2025, to January 12, 2026

**Rule's Purpose:** The proposed rule would repeal and replace existing beginner bilingual education licensure requirements and establish updated bilingual teacher testing, coursework requirements, and competency expectations for teachers, instructional support providers, and support providers seeking a bilingual education endorsement.

## Summary of Proposed Amendment to 6.64.10 NMAC: Beginner Bilingual Teacher Requirements

The Public Education Department (PED) has given notice that it is proposing a repeal and replace of 6.64.10 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) to align beginner bilingual teacher licensure requirements with New Mexico's standards and assessments, the National Association for Bilingual Education's standards, and the state's higher educational 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.

If adopted, the rule would go into effect July 1, 2026.

**Testing and Coursework Requirements.** The proposed amendment would replace existing core licensure requirements with a more prescriptive set of requirements that includes both testing and coursework. All pathways—including those for teachers, instructional support providers, and support providers pursuing initial bilingual education endorsement—would need to complete at least 24 semester hours in bilingual education, including 12 semester hours in teaching bilingual education aligned to the competencies in 6.64.10.9 NMAC. 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 proposed rule establishes differentiated testing requirements based on language and licensure status:

- Spanish and English bilingual candidates would be required to pass the Prueba de Español para la Certificación Bilingüe;
- Native American language and English bilingual candidates would be required to hold a Native American Language and Culture certificate; and
- Candidates seeking bilingual endorsement in languages other than Spanish or Native American languages would be 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.

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The proposed rule would also allow any teacher or instructional support provider to obtain bilingual education certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Teachers who already hold an existing Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) endorsement could 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.** The proposed repeal and replace defines “translanguaging” as a teacher’s ability to move fluidly between languages and as a pedagogical approach that supports students’ multilingual development. The rule would expand teacher competencies to include translanguaging skills and implementing culturally relevant curriculum. The proposed changes also allow applicants pursuing Native American languages certification to demonstrate proficiency using tribal standards.

## Impact

The NMAC 6.64.10 proposed rule repeal and replace would impact entry-level bilingual education teachers, instructional support providers, school districts and charter schools, higher education institutions, and students.

**Testing and Coursework Requirements.** The proposed rule would align with higher education institutional practices by removing the 24 to 36 semester hour range and mandating 24 semester hours minimum, which would standardize coursework expectations statewide. These changes would formalize distinct testing and certification requirements based on language pathway and varying teacher experience. The proposed rule does not appear to impact current license holders as it indicates an effective date of July 1, 2026, and does not include requirements for current license holders.

**Teacher Competencies.** The proposed rule would require all applicants demonstrate translanguaging skills, comprehension of pedagogical practices centering diverse linguistic and heritage students, and comprehension of the interconnection of oracy, biliteracy, and multiliteracies.

While the proposed 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 would preserve the validity, legality, and enforceability of PED’s rule in the event a section or the entire rule is repealed.