

The Tribal Remedy Framework: Taking a Stand for Native Children

The Tribal Remedy Framework (TRF) is a comprehensive plan for meeting the educational needs of Native students and their tribal communities. It was created collectively by tribal community members and Indigenous education experts, following a series of tribal Community Education Institutes and Pueblo Convocations. The Tribal Remedy Framework has been endorsed by the leadership of New Mexico’s 23 Nations, Tribes and Pueblos.

The TRF responds to the landmark 2018 *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* court ruling, which ordered the state to transform the public education system to ensure that all students receive the programs and services necessary to be college, career and community ready. The TRF outlines initial steps for an overhaul of education governance, funding, programming and services. The proposals are aligned with the mandates of the *Yazzie/Martinez* ruling and the Indian Education Act of 2003. They are part of the *Platform for Action* developed by the broad-based coalition, Transform Education NM.

“We have a chance to bend history, to make it different, to create change, so that in the totality of all our actions, we will have shaped a future generation of Native children who has it better than we do.”

Governor Brian Vallo, Pueblo of Acoma

Tribal solutions to New Mexico’s education crisis

The Tribal Remedy Framework proposes a set of strategic solutions that place tribal communities at the center of education planning, programming and infrastructure:

<p>1. Shared responsibility and increased tribal education sovereignty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate the role of Tribal Education Departments (TEDs) and build capacity by creating a pipeline for Native professionals and partnering with Native higher education institutions and programs. • Share education resources more equitably by providing recurring state funding for TEDs, including through the school funding formula’s at-risk factor. • Formalize collaboration between Tribes and school districts and establish Native technical assistance centers to support TEDs and schools, directed by Native academic faculty.
<p>2. Community-based education, created by and centered within tribal communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in tribal libraries as community education centers to provide extended learning, summer school, technology access, career and support services. • Invest in early education programs developed and delivered by tribal communities. • Sustain and scale up tribal community-based student support services and enable public schools to coordinate and contract with Tribes for providing students with social and health supports.
<p>3. A balanced, culturally and linguistically relevant education that and sustains the strengths of children and their communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address institutional racism, develop trauma-informed practices and implement Indigenous justice models to end the marginalization and school pushout of Native children. • Establish Indigenous curriculum development centers; expand Native language programs by adding a Native language factor to the school funding formula and distribute funds to Tribes. • Invest in a pipeline for Native teachers, staff and educational leaders; ensure pay equity for Native language teachers; provide tuition waivers for tribal students.

“New Mexico’s education system needs a complete overhaul in order to reflect Native people and be relevant for us.”