



All Pueblo Council of Governors

Officers:
Mark Mitchell, Chairman
Jerome Lucero, Vice-Chairman
Governor Arden Kucate, Secretary

December 19, 2023

Re: Tribal Education Convening Report and Recommendations

Dear Honorable Governors and Lieutenant Governors,

I am pleased to share with you the report and recommendations from the 2023 Tribal Education Community Institute, convened by the All Pueblo Council of Governors and the Leadership Institute at the Santa Fe Indian School this past September. We were honored to host over ninety tribal educators and administrators, representing thirteen Pueblos, the Navajo Nation, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Together, participants developed recommendations for state education policy and funding, which are presented in the report (and summarized below).

The recommendations made by tribal delegations were compiled by our partner, the Tribal Education Alliance, and inform the *Tribal Remedy Framework* proposals for the 2024 New Mexico legislative session that begins on January 16. The recommendations show that despite an increase in state education funding, the need for targeted investments in tribal education remains as pressing as ever.

As you may recall, the *Tribal Remedy Framework* (TRF) is a comprehensive plan for meeting the educational needs of Native students. It has been endorsed by New Mexico's 23 Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos. The TRF is the collective tribal response to the 2018 *Yazzie/Martinez* court order and was developed jointly by tribal leaders, educators, and Indigenous education experts. In several resolutions enacted over the past few years, APCG has called on the State of New Mexico to implement the solutions contained in the TRF. TRF-related legislation is updated annually with input from tribal leaders, administrators, and educators.

The 2024 TRF update is grounded in the recommendations made at the 2023 Community Institute. This is a summary list of recommendations for state policymakers, along with the respective TRF proposal:

1. Strengthen Tribal Education Capacity

- New Mexico should establish a Tribal Education Trust Fund to secure stable, consistent, and self-determined funding for tribal education operations and programs, recurring and growing year after year.
- New Mexico should invest in tribal libraries, especially in the construction or renovation of facilities.

Acoma

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandia

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni



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2. Strengthen Tribal Education Sovereignty

- New Mexico should enact a State-Tribal Education Compact to allow tribally controlled, state-funded schools.

3. Ensure School District Accountability

- The State should enforce district-level implementation of Native student needs assessments and plans to meet those needs, in collaboration with Tribes, as required by New Mexico's Indian Education Act of 2003.

4. Implement a Linguistically and Culturally Relevant Education

- The State should fund Indigenous higher education programs and Tribal Colleges to train Native teachers, educational leaders, social and health workers; to create curricula, materials, and language programs, etc.

5. Ensure Stable and Sufficient State Funding for Tribes

- Amend New Mexico's Indian Education Act of 2003 to reform its funding process and ensure efficient, effective, and timely distributions to Tribes.

6. Enact State Education Policy Responsive to Native Students' Needs

- APCG will continue to work in partnership with the Tribal Education Alliance and Transform Education New Mexico to call for the implementation of the policy solutions contained in the Tribal Remedy Framework.

I invite you to review the 2023 Community Institute report, which contains the detailed recommendations and ideas shared by tribal delegations. Please download the report here: <https://tribaleducationalliance.org/trf-report/>. I am also enclosing a summary factsheet for your information.

I would like to express our gratitude for your continued engagement in our collective efforts to create a balanced education for our children – an education that enables our children to thrive and that preserves and revitalizes our cultures and languages.

Sincerely,

Mark Mitchell
Chairman

CC: Tribal Education Departments, Tribal Libraries