

Tribal Remedy Framework Bills 2024:

Advancing Native students' right to an equitable and culturally relevant education

HB 134 // Tribal Education Trust Fund (Rep. Derrick Lente)

This bill establishes a Tribal Education Trust Fund to invest in tribal education capacity for generations to come. This will secure stable and consistent funding for Tribes to support Native students and collaborate with school districts. The investment will grow over time and create value for the State and Tribes. This is how a Trust Fund would work:

- The State Investment Office would invest the money and make an annual 5% distribution to PED.
- PED would enter into intergovernmental agreements with Tribes to disburse the funds.
- Tribes would report on education plans, budgets, and impacts, using self-determined criteria.
- A task force of tribal representatives would agree how to share funds among all Tribes.

Appropriation: \$100 million from the General Fund, with an annual 5% distribution starting in FY26.

Endorsements: Indian Affairs Committee and Legislative Education Study Committee

HB 135 // Indian Education Fund Distributions (Rep. Derrick Lente)

This bill amends the Indian Education Act to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and user-friendliness of the existing funding process. The Indian Education Fund has disbursed small, short-term grants for many years but is marred by a high rate of reversions. The goal is to achieve 100% timely disbursement and use of available funding. The amendment proposes these fixes:

- Replace inefficient grant process with upfront disbursements, using intergovernmental agreements.
- Distribute funding at the start of the fiscal year, not months later.
- Allow Tribes to carry over funds, just like school districts do with their state formula funding.

Endorsements: Indian Affairs Committee and Legislative Education Study Committee

HB 39// Yazzie Lawsuit Educational Funding (Rep. Yanira Gurrola)

This bill seeks to fund Native, bilingual, and multicultural higher education programs and Tribal Colleges to better support K-12 schools. These programs must be able to scale up their work to support the *Yazzie/Martinez* "at-risk" student groups, including Native, Black, and Hispanic students.

- Fund designated academic programs and Tribal Colleges that prepare culturally competent and diverse teachers, educational leaders, social and health services professionals; design culturally and linguistically sustaining curricula, materials, and pedagogy; and enhance college access.

Appropriation: \$27,552,700 from the General Fund

Tbd // Fund Tribal Libraries Construction and Renovation (Rep. Derrick Lente)

Proposed capital outlay funding for tribal libraries seeks to ensure that tribal libraries can fulfil their role as community education hubs by constructing, renovating or expanding their facilities.

- Next phase funding for construction/renovation, following the design and planning phase 1 (2022) and the construction funding of phase 2 (2023) that funded a few select projects.

The Tribal Education Alliance supports New Mexico's tribal leaders in advancing the Tribal Remedy Framework, a comprehensive plan for meeting the educational needs of Native students and upholding their constitutional and human rights.