



## HB 52 Bilingual Multicultural Education Advisory Council Act

Sponsored by: Representative Natalie Figueroa

The New Mexico Bilingual Multicultural Education Advisory Council (BMEAC), formerly known as the State Bilingual Advisory Committee, is an ad hoc advisory to the New Mexico Public Education Department that was created in 1970. Its purpose is to advise the Secretary of Education and the Public Education Department on issues that impact the education of English Language Learners and other students participating in the State Bilingual Multicultural Education and ESEA programs.

The Secretary of Education of the Public Education Department appoints each member who will serve a three-year term.

Since its inception, a synergistic relationship has grown between the NMPED and the committee that embodies mutual confidence and trust. As such, the council has become a powerful action agent for practitioner-based policy development in bilingual education.

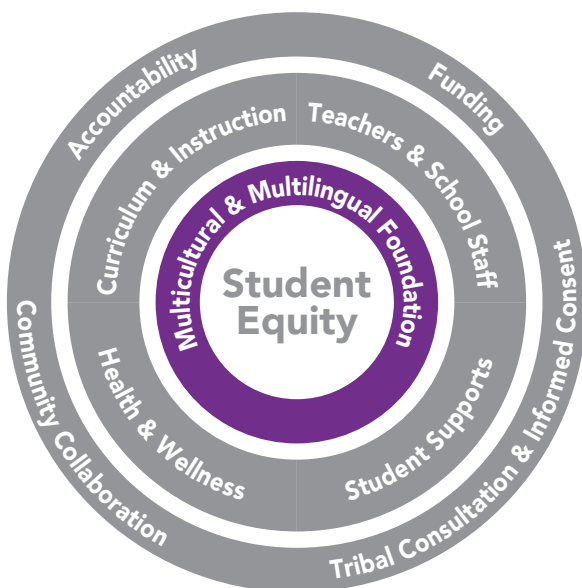
The BMEAC identifies major issues in bilingual education, appoints sub-committees to study and research those issues, and presents findings

and recommendations to the New Mexico Public Education Department and the Secretary of Education. It also informs the New Mexico Legislature at committee hearings. Working cooperatively with the NMPED over the years, the BMEAC has addressed major policy and legislative issues in bilingual education.

The BMEAC has been around for 50 years and must be recognized in an equitable fashion similar to the IEAC and the HEAC.

### HB 52 will:

- Create the Bilingual Multicultural Education Advisory Council in statute, and in this way create parity with the Indian Education Advisory Council and the Hispanic Education Advisory Council.
- Define “bilingual learner” in the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act.
- Leverage the expertise of Indigenous, Hispanic, and other culturally and linguistically diverse communities advocating for BMEPs.
- Ensure the Bilingual Multicultural Education Advisory Council will remain a voice of advocacy in support of the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act.
- Encourage Hispanic leadership and tenure track faculty positions at higher education institutions.



Transform Education NM is a coalition of education, tribal and community leaders advancing a new vision for our public education system in New Mexico. For more information, visit [transformeducationnm.org](http://transformeducationnm.org).