



HB 287 Access to Culturally Appropriate Services

Sponsored by: Representative D. Wonda Johnson

Budget Appropriation: \$150,000 to PED to contract for an evaluator and program manager

School social workers and counselors, school-based health centers, and community schools are the link between home, school, and community. They provide necessary supports and services that promote the social and emotional growth and academic success of all students.

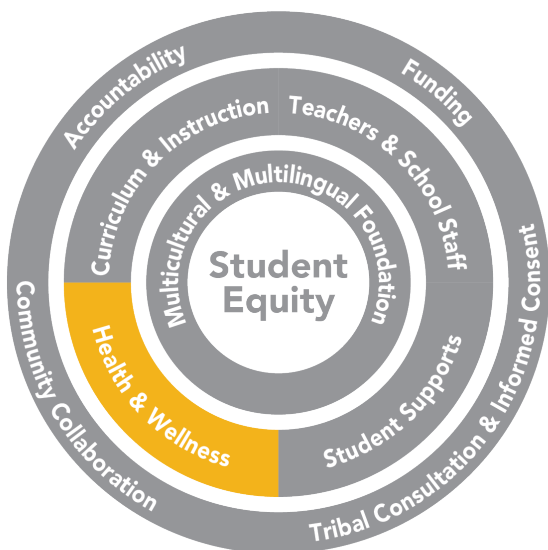
Evidence shows that access to social workers and counselors can mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and improve graduation rates.

High-performing schools have strong non-academic supports, including counseling, social workers, nurses, and health clinics within schools, yet only a fraction of New Mexico students have access to these services.

Due to lack of funding, many schools and districts eliminated school counselors, nurses and social workers positions and the services that are available are usually fragmented, under-staffed and under-funded.

When students have health, behavioral health, and social services and supports, they are better prepared to enter the classroom ready to learn and to achieve their highest potential.

- Create a task force to conduct an asset mapping and gap analysis to determine the availability, accessibility, and need for social services in public schools, charter schools, and in tribal communities.
- Integrated learning supports – health, behavioral, mental health, and social services – are key components of a basic sufficient education.
- Asset mapping will include a study of the availability of social services to families of students and the availability culturally appropriate social services, including trauma-informed practices and indigenous justice and peacemaking models.
- The gaps analysis will result in a comprehensive report that maps out the best path forward, including short and long-term policy and funding recommendations, to ensure all students have access to culturally appropriate social services.



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.