



SB 233 Student Bill of Rights of 2021

Sponsored by: Senator Linda Lopez

## *Education is in an unprecedented moment.*

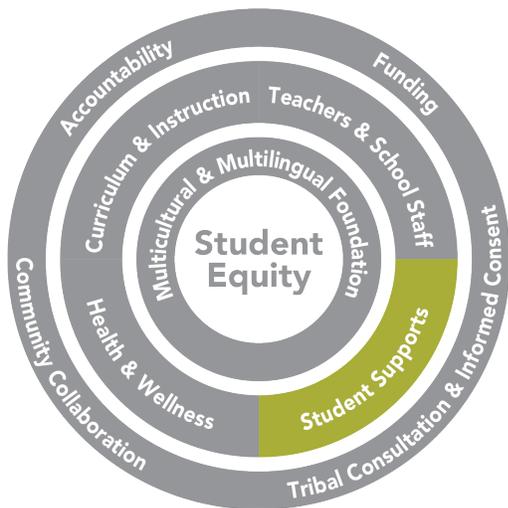
Now more than ever is time to listen to our young people. Youth are the solution, not the problem and they deserve to be acknowledged and to be taken seriously in our State.

In 2013, New Mexico youth worked with elected officials to pass a Student Bill of Rights Senate Memorial. The Student Bill of Rights of 2021 is a timely and much needed revival and update to that legislation.

The original memorial was compiled through a series of workshops in collaboration with the SouthWest Organizing Project and over 1000

students across different schools in New Mexico. The updated version has been redrafted with new inputs from students from across several organizations including Transform Education New Mexico, the Learning Alliance of New Mexico, New Mexico Dream Team, and the SouthWest Organizing Project.

The Student Bill of Rights establishes the basis for a fair, safe, and engaging learning environment for ALL New Mexico students. This will be an opportunity for young people to have self-agency in their academic lives and also give students the respect they deserve.



New Mexico is 50th in education in the country, we are in the middle of a pandemic, and we are in the midst of a historic lawsuit with Yazzie-Martinez v State of New Mexico.

It is important now more than ever to give students rights which will allow them to succeed in their education. We believe that a student's education helps prepare them for life afterwards. If we teach students that they don't deserve rights in their educational environments, what are we teaching them about what they deserve throughout the rest of their lives?

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).



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### SB 233:

- Students shall have freedom from discrimination.
- Students shall have access to extracurricular and after school programs.
- Students shall have information, resources, and support to prepare them for life after high school and shall be highly encouraged to pursue higher education.
- Students shall have affordable and nutritious food.
- Students shall have access to bilingual education.
- Students shall have full protection of their constitutional rights while in schools.
- Students shall be free from criminalization in any form in school environments.
- Students shall have safe and secure public schools.
- Students shall always have the right to adequate mental health services in their schools and shall be encouraged to use those services.
- An emergency Clause to define how to provide adequate education during emergency situations such as a pandemic, natural disaster, etc. and communication tools for students, family and community engagement and empowerment.
- Students shall have the right and the opportunity to organize themselves and self-represent in important school decision-making processes.
- Students shall have the right to be afforded space to dialogue safely about aspects of their learning experience and to understand how the school budget works and is allocated.

