

The **purpose** of this bill is to **update** the current Spanish language proficiency exam (*Prueba*) required for New Mexico educators to receive a bilingual endorsement as part of their state licensure. Bilingual educators intending to teach as part of a Spanish/English bilingual education program must pass this exam.

**STAKEHOLDER & INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS UPDATE**

**Bilingual and Multicultural Education Advisory Council (BMEAC)**

The BMEAC was created in statute to advise the secretary and department staff on the effective implementation of the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act. It is comprised of educators, tribal language representatives, and parents from throughout New Mexico.

On August 11, 2022, the BMEAC advised the NMPED to:

- Create an updated version of *Prueba* to include updated ancillary materials.
- Meet with the original creators of *Prueba* and members of the BMEAC to understand the original vision of the assessment, its intended legacy, and capture recommendations as to how the assessment must be updated.
- Secure additional funding for this project (\$350,000.00) to include a project director, exam writers, an audio producer, and an educational statistician for purposes of test validation and the development of rubrics.

**Legislative Finance Committee (LFC)**

- Key Recommendation #6 of the LFC Program Evaluation of Bilingual and Multicultural Education Programs (Report #22-02) which advises the NMPED to “Update the proficiency exam for bilingual Spanish teaching endorsement (*Prueba*), which was developed in the ‘90s.”

**Prueba Data 2009-2022**

<b>Test Takers</b>	2009-2022	1,893 full tests	280 partial tests
<b>Passes (full exam)</b>	2009-2022	1,435 (75.8%)	125 (44.6%)
<b>Pass Rates—Change over time</b>			
<b>2017-2022</b>	746 full tests	39 partials	<b>2009-2016</b> 1,125 full tests 206 partials
<b>Passed</b>	604 (81%)	25 (64.1%)	<b>Passed</b> 831 (73.9%) 100 (48.5%)

**PRUEBA FACTS**

- *Prueba* was created by and for New Mexicans as a response to the concern brought forth by the State Bilingual Advisory Council (now BMEAC) regarding the test in use at that time.
- *Prueba* responds to the Martinez/Yazzie recommendations, meets the state competency requirements, and is nationally recognized for its relevance and value.
- The *Prueba* video, an essential testing of aural skills, is considered by many to be the crown jewel of the test, capturing the beauty and cultural richness of New Mexico. Besides testing aural comprehension, the video tests listeners’ knowledge of New Mexican Spanish.
- *Prueba* is uniquely relevant to classroom practices. The exam assesses teachers' ability to:
  - o comprehend aural material,
  - o read and understand texts in Spanish,
  - o write and correct Spanish text (including writing a summary from a social studies text), and
  - o record a reading of a science passage as well as a mock parent/teacher conference in Spanish.
- Reliability and integrity – the planned *Prueba* revision will use the same validity and reliability testing methodology used for the 2006 version.
- Technical Improvements – *Prueba* must include improvements to the testing experience such as adjustments to allow virtual (proctored) testing, more reliable digital recordings by test-takers, updated video recordings, and superior electronic storage of the testing for enhanced audio quality.