



El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

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Funding Formula Study Task Force Will Impact Future Funding of Bilingual Education

The Funding Formula Study Task Force (FFSTF) is a committee appointed by the New Mexico State Legislature and the Governor and under the direction of the Legislative Council Service. It has commissioned the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to conduct a comprehensive study on the current New Mexico public school funding formula.

The ultimate goals of this study as stated on the website www.nmschoolfunding.org include "(1) obtaining public input on defining the goals, priorities and issues in public school finance, (2) determining what it will cost to provide an adequate education for all New Mexican students, (3) examining and potentially modifying the current funding formula to distribute the necessary resources and (4) assessing available potential revenue sources to fund these changes."

The first phase of the project gathered public input "(1) to raise public awareness, (2) to identify how New Mexicans envision the goals of its public schools, and (3) to seek public input on what needs to be done to achieve those goals." This public input was solicited through a series of town hall meetings, the website and targeted surveys.

Public engagement materials from the first phase of the study are posted on the website. A review of these materials by NMABE and DLeNM raised serious concerns on future funding for bilingual programs serving low income, linguistically and culturally diverse students in the state.

At a joint meeting of NMABE and DLeNM held in June in Santa Fe, Board members questioned the process AIR followed to get information from all New Mexico constituents. It is unclear whether the public engagement process represented New Mexico's diverse populations and especially constituents of bilingual education. A review of the public engagement materials showed that only 23 percent of the town hall meetings were attended by parents. Translation services were not provided at all meetings nor were the

meetings conducted in any Native American language. The vast majority of surveys completed prior to the town meetings were done online. This precluded participation from community members who do not have access to computers and the website to complete the survey. Finally, there is no Native American representation on the task force's Advisory Panel.

Further review of the engagement materials also revealed broad statements downplaying the effectiveness of bilingual education. For example, in the description on *Programmatic Issues that Cut Across Grade Levels*, the following is stated: "... English language/bilingual programs do not work across the board because some students are not proficient in any language."

The report does not recognize that bilingual programs in New Mexico are multifaceted: from transitional models to language revitalization models to dual language immersion models. The goal of bilingual programs is for all students to develop proficiency in both English and another language.

The Expert Briefs section of the materials featured distinguished bilingual education researcher, Dr. Kenji Hakuta. His brief discusses findings over the years from bilingual

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**NMABE 36th Annual
State Bilingual Education Conference**

April 10-12, 2008

Embassy Suites Hotel

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Back to School Family Institute Planned for Fall

On October 11 and 12, 2007, the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP) and the Ben Luján Leadership and Public Policy Institute will host the 16th annual Back to School Family Institute at the new Ohkay Owingeh Convention Center just north of Española. Over 300 parents, community members, and educators from across northern New Mexico are expected for the event.

The Formula Funding Task Force (See lead story, this edition.) has agreed to hold its Fall meeting in conjunction with this event. This offers an excellent opportunity for the Task Force to present proposed changes to the funding formula to an important constituency encompassing a number of northern New Mexico communities and Pueblos.

For registration information, contact Catrina García of the CESDP toll free at 1-866-587-2558 or by email cgarcia@cesdp.nmhu.edu. NMABE is proud to be a primary co-sponsor of the institute this year.

Historical Marker Named after Mela Leger, Bilingual Education Pioneer

On July 19, NMABE President Loretta Salazar attended a reception at the Governor's Mansion commemorating the Historic Women Marker Initiative. The reception was sponsored by the First Lady, the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Women's Forum.

In January 2006, the State of New Mexico passed an appropriation bill that funded the Historic Women Marker Initiative. Fifty-four new highway markers honoring historic New Mexico women who made significant contributions to their communities, the state or the nation will grace New Mexico's

highways in each county, Pueblo, and on the Jicarilla, Mescalero and Navajo lands. These markers will recognize women of courage, vision and fortitude found throughout the pages of New Mexico's history, beginning with pre-Territorial days. They will serve as historical reminders for the generations to come.

Mela Leger, early pioneer in bilingual education will have a marker in her name for her work in bilingual education.

ESLOffered Online

WNMU now offers the NM TESOL endorsement graduate courses 100% online. Contact Dr. Roy Howard for more information at (505) 722-3389. howardr@wnmu.edu



El Noticiero

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

No. 31:1, Fall, 2006: October
(Pre-conference issue)

No. 31:2, Winter, 2007: January
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day, Call to Action)

No. 31:3 Spring, 2007: April
(Conference Edition)

No. 31:4 Summer, 2007: July
(Summer Activities, Institutes)

Monthly news as well

Also monthly inserts/wraps

New Mexico BMEB Reports Activities for 2007- 2008

The New Mexico Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau (BMEB) has provided NMABE the following updates on plans and activities in the schools for 2007-2008.

New AMAO Targets

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) is preparing to establish new state target goals for English language proficiency. There are three Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives; AMAO #1 and #2 are based on the New Mexico English Language Proficiency Assessment (Making Progress and Attaining Proficiency), and #3 is based on the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (Academic Performance of English Language Learners).

Number of State and Federal Programs

A total of 483 schools, from 58 districts, have submitted

State Bilingual Multicultural Education applications and their programs are approved for the 2007-08 school year. For Title III Programs, a total of 616 schools, from 50 districts, have had their applications approved.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Spain

This international agreement will be renewed during a formal gathering in Santa Fe on August 6, 2007. Specifically the MOU is an agreement between the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science and the New Mexico Public Education Department. The memorandum offers districts and charter schools the opportunity to recruit and employ teachers from Spain who are specially qualified to teach in Bilingual

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NMABE Expands Its Native American Representation on the Board

The New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education has expanded Native American representation on the Board of Directors.

In the past, the Board had one Native American spokesperson. This year, there are three. Clyde B. Vicenti joins NMABE from the Jicarilla Apache, Carlene Murphy is a

member of the Navajo Nation, and Willard Zunie represents the Pueblo people.

This new configuration on the NMABE Board will help to better understand and address issues in bilingual education from the Native American perspective. WELCOME!

NMABE Attends Formula Funding Study Task Force Meeting

Dr. Rodolfo Chávez, NMABE President Elect, attended the 11th meeting of the Formula Funding Study Task Force (FFSTF) on June 26th. The meeting was chaired by Rep. Mimi Stewart and followed an earlier meeting of the advisory group where the letter crafted by NMABE and DLeNM was read. (See lead story, page 1.)

The committee consists of state senators and representatives from various parts of the state, along with two governor

appointees. NMNEA and the New Mexico School Boards Association are also represented.

The FFSTF will complete its work over the next five months. At the next meeting on August 30 and 31 they will discuss the funding study recommendations.

Sometime after October 8, AIR and the FFSTF will notify the public of its findings and secure further input in forums and town meetings across New Mexico.

NMABE Creates Strategic Plan

New Board members of NMABE met in June to create a strategic plan for the organization. The plan aligns present and future activity of NMABE to the mission statement and objectives over a 3 to 5 year period. This will ensure clear direction and continuity of purpose over the years as new NMABE Board members are elected.

For 2007-2008, NMABE plans to strengthen the organization by increasing membership, seeking more conference sponsors, and increasing the number of affiliates. Since local bilingual programs need support from informed, knowledgeable principals, program directors, and superintendents, NMABE plans to increase their participation in its professional development activities. Finally, it plans to offer a leadership academy to nurture and develop future leaders in bilingual education.

More information can be found on the NMABE website, www.nmabe.net.

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Education programs, and/or to teach Spanish language and culture. Access to materials in Spanish and professional development opportunities are also part of this MOU.

NMELPA Kindergarten

On March 23, 2007, a committee of fourteen kindergarten teachers from five districts met in Bernalillo with PED officials from Assessment and Bilingual Education to review shelf Harcourt preliteracy assessments for Prereading (PR) and Prewriting (PW). On June 7, 2007, the committee met again with Harcourt ELL development staff to revise and/or approve the developed items proposed by Harcourt based on the March 23rd recommendations. No changes for the listening and speaking

subtests were recommended by the committee. The revised kindergarten test must be administered to all ELL Kindergarten students in the Spring of 2008. The committee also recommended that testing in kindergarten should only be allowed in the Spring.

Visiting Teachers (Mexico & Spain)

For SY 07-08 a total of eleven teachers, six from Spain and five from Mexico, were recruited and offered teaching positions. Districts participating this upcoming year include Las Cruces Public Schools hosting five teachers from Spain, Albuquerque Public Schools hosting two teachers from Mexico, Santa Fe Public Schools hosting three teachers from Mexico, and Cariños Charter (Española) hosting one teacher from Spain.

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education programs across the nation and around the world. These research findings confirm that English language development is best achieved when strong academic skills are developed in one's first language. Yet, this information does not seem to be recognized in the New Mexico report.

At the June meeting, the Board members of NMABE and DLeNM developed an action plan. Members drafted a letter stipulating concerns which was publicly read at the June 26 task force meeting. A talking points brief was also developed with commitments made by

Board members to contact legislators personally throughout July and August to illustrate weaknesses and the bias in the study. These actions are both critical and urgent due to the short timeline of the task force to complete its work in upcoming months.

NMABE will request an opportunity to go before the Legislative Education Study Committee to elaborate concerns at their next meeting in September. Time is critical at this point. CONTACT LESC LEGISLATORS TODAY! To find contact information go to www.legis.state.nm.us, committees, Legislative Education Study Committee.

ESL --- Every Student Learns!

Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) is an integral part of bilingual education. As a specialized component within the program, ESL is needed to ensure appropriate development of English as students acquire concepts in subject areas of the curriculum. Instruction in and through the native languages of New Mexico--Spanish and the Native American languages of Apache, Navajo, Tewa, Tiwa, Towa, Zuni and Keres--make our programs "bilingual". Equally important, however, is ESL. It is especially critical when instruction in the native language is not available.