



# El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

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September, 2005

## NMELPA to be Ready for Spring, 2006

Dr. Don E. Watson, Director of the Public Education Department's Assessment and Accountability Division has provided updates to school districts on the NMELPA, the New Mexico English Language Proficiency Assessment. Civil Rights law and policy require districts to identify and assess all students with a primary or home language other than English. Under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act this must be a standards-based English language proficiency assessment. NMELPA was developed for states that comprise the Mountain West Assessment Consortium of which New Mexico is a member.

The Assessment and Accountability Division will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will address the implementation of the NMELPA. The first full operational administration of the test will be in late spring of 2006. The PED will announce specific time frames for assessing ELLs with the NMELPA based in

responses to the RFP and the work required to prepare for the operational assessment. The RFP will include the option of implementing the English language proficiency assessment or another assessment instrument that is aligned to the state's English Language Development standards

Time frames for districts to receive training on NMELPA and to train teachers and staff to properly test students with the assessment will also be addressed in the RFP. The Division expects this aspect of the assessment to begin in early 2006.

The Division advises districts to continue to use their current English Language Proficiency assessment at the beginning of the school year to satisfy identification and alternative language program placement requirements for new students. It is working to develop a system that will waive the requirement for retesting students on or before their anniversary date. This would allow districts to wait to retest those returning students until the new assessment

is administered.

The NMELPA is designed to comply with the requirements of Title I and Title III of NCLB for a standards-based English Language Proficiency assessment. The test will be aligned to the English Language Development standards, which are, in turn, aligned to the Language Arts content standards. The test will measure all four language modalities: listening, speaking, reading, and writing and will classify students into one of 4-5 language proficiency levels. The standard setting (establishment of the cut scores) for these proficiency levels will occur after the spring 2006 administration of the test. The AMAOs set forth in Title III will be established based on the distribution of students across the proficiency levels.

The Legislature put an additional seven million dollars in to the general fund to cover assessment costs this year. This includes funds for the implementation of NMELPA. The cost for printing, distribution, scoring and reporting of the NMELPA should be in the range of \$15.00 - \$20.00 per student. The purpose of the RFP is to secure the best possible rate.

The Assessment and Accountability Division is also working with Instructional Technology of the PED regarding data elements that are collected and reported on ADS.

For more information, please contact Dr. Don E. Watson at (505) 827-6523 or don.watson@ped.nm.us.

### NMABE - PED Reading First Language and Literacy Institute

October 17-18, 2005  
MCM Elegante Hotel  
2020 Menaul NE

Designed for Reading First schools with high percentages of ELL students.

For more information see the August *el Noticiero*, Vol. 29, No. 4 at <http://www.nmabe.net/noticiero.html> or contact Liza Rael at the PED, lrael@ped.state.nm.us

# NATIVE AMERICAN NEWS



## Indian Education Advisory Council Meets in July

Dr. Veronica García presented "A Whole-Child Approach" at the summer Indian Education Advisory Council meeting in July. The approach aims to close the achievement gap. She focused on some significant factors that contribute to the achievement gap as well key elements that could help in closing the gap.

Three schools that received mini-grants from the Northwest Office presented their accomplishments of how they used the funding. Zuni had a Summer Language Camp, which incorporated the Hands-On and Oral Language approach integrating culture and traditional settings. Jicarilla students from Dulce produced a three-day documentary for their Film Project. At Chee Dodge Elementary School, the children explored cultural heroes and role models through literature and community interviews.



Senator Leonard Tsosie and Representative Ray Begaye were present for the 2006 Legislative Work Plan agenda item. They advised the Advisory Council to look at those bills that were passed during the 2005 session of the Legislature as well as what is being implemented.

### Announcements:

- A government-to-government meeting was scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> in Mescalero.
- The National Indian Education Association Conference will be in Denver on October 6-9, 2005.

## Instituto Cervantes Announces Fall Spanish Classes: Sept.30-Dec.16, 2005

The *Instituto Cervantes* has announced its fall schedule of classes which include:

- Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and Superior Spanish language classes
- Intermediate Conversation
- Introduction to Spanish Dance (*Flamenco* and *Sevillanas*)

For more information contact Erin Fugate, (505) 724-4777, Fax (505) 246-2693, EFugate@hcc.state.nm.us. The *Instituto Cervantes* is located at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102



## El Noticiero

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### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

**No. 29:1, Fall, 2004: Oct.**

(Pre-conference issue)

**No. 29:2, Winter, 2005: January**

(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,  
Call to Action)

**No. 29:3 Spring, 2005: April**

(Conference Edition)

**No. 29:4 Summer, 2005: August**

(Summer Activities, Institutes)

Inserts offer monthly news