



# El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

www.nmabe.net

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## PED Revises TESOL Endorsement Rule

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) is proposing an amendment of criteria for an endorsement to a teaching license for TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). The change pertains to requirements for an add-on endorsement for practicing teachers. TESOL endorsement preparation for new teachers will remain the same.

The change came about because of concerns raised by the State Bilingual Advisory Committee (SBAC), an ad hoc advisory committee to the PED. Currently, the add-on TESOL endorsement allows teachers the option of taking a test in place of needed course work. The course work addresses competencies in pedagogy and content knowledge in second language acquisition, culture and research. Dr. Loretta Salazar, member of the SBAC and past president of

NMABE, said, "The stakes are much too high for our ELL students across New Mexico. Teachers must have more profound study of the pedagogy and methodology implicit in effective instruction for second language learners."

The amendment proposes that teachers "pass the content knowledge test(s) of the New Mexico teacher assessments" and successfully complete at least twelve credit hours of TESOL preparation, six hours of which must be in a language other than English. The remaining six hours of course work must be the competencies in Subsection C of 6.64.11.9 NMAC. The language requirement may be waived if the candidate has passed the language proficiency examination for bilingual education in Spanish or the Navajo language proficiency test.

The New Mexico State Board of Educa-

tion first issued certification requirements for the teaching of ESL in 1968, making New Mexico the first state in the nation to do so. This represented the culmination of 10 years of work in what was a new field in education at the time.

The large Cuban refugee population that arrived in Florida in the late 1950's brought about a national discussion on how to best teach English to speakers of other languages. Here in New Mexico, the State Department of Education, under the direction of the late Dr. Henry Pascual, began experimental programs in teaching English as a Second Language in schools in Gallup, Magdalena, Cuba and at Santo Domingo. By 1963, New Mexico had field-tested the ESL Miami Linguistic Series, designed by linguists in Florida, in Albuquerque, West Las Vegas, Wagon Mound,

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## NMABE Establishes Legislative Platform

The advocacy arm of NMABE responds to statewide issues that impact the education of bilingual children in New Mexico schools. For the past two years, NMABE has been involved with statewide groups and the Legislature as the new funding formula was being developed. (See past stories in El Noticiero, www.nmabe.net: Aug. '07 - 31:4.1; Winter '08 - 32:2; Feb. '08 - 32:2.1; Summer '08 - 32.4; Aug. '08 - 32:4.1)

NMABE supports the new funding formula and a strong accountability system. Its importance and urgency cannot be ignored, due to the critical need for resources in all public schools, especially when sufficient funds for bilingual education programs are needed. The base revenue amount for a school district will increase according to the percentage of students in poverty, special education students, ELL students and high mobility students. Every district that has English language learner (ELL) students will need to specify how it will include Bilingual Education in its budget plan reported to the PED. Each budget will need state approval. Local districts will calculate the amount they allocate to any and all programs needed to meet the educational needs of the student population.

NMABE has prepared its legislative priorities for the formula with this in mind. Through its partnership with the New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators, these priorities are also a part of the NMCSA's legislative package which is presented to the Legislative Education Study Committee prior to the session.

NMABE, its affiliates and partners strongly support the proposed new funding formula with the inclusion of the following:

- Districts will develop and implement research-based bilingual education programs to better serve ELLs and heritage language students, as well as families choosing to participate

in dual language enrichment programs;

- Districts will define effective program models that focus on closing the achievement gap between ELLs and their native English speaking peers;
- Districts will demonstrate high accountability through program monitoring and budget allocation alignment; and,
- Districts will ensure adequate resources for proper program design and implementation.

NMABE has also prepared strategic statewide goals as part of its legislative position. They are as follows:

### Placement of ELLs and Effective Interventions

- Provide guidance via the SAT manual as to the appropriate placement of ELLs and identify effective interventions in their education

### Professional Development

- Develop, fund and implement a statewide

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# Announcements

## Spanish Immersion Institute

The one-week total Spanish immersion preparation for "Prueba" at NMHU-Las Vegas will take place on June 21-28, 2009. For further information, contact Dr. Loretta Salazar at 505-454-3535 ([lsalazar@nmhu.edu](mailto:lsalazar@nmhu.edu)) or Jayni Flores at 505 454-3146 ([ljflores@nmhu.edu](mailto:ljflores@nmhu.edu)).

## Professional Development Activities

The Spanish Resource Center in Albuquerque will offer the following professional development activities through the end of February. Admission is free. For more information, email [language.assistant@state.nm.us](mailto:language.assistant@state.nm.us), phone: (505) 724-4743

### January 10, 2009 History of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education in New Mexico

10:30-1:30 National Hispanic Cultural Center  
Lecturer: Mary Jean H. López Limit: 20 students

### January 24, 2009 Cántigas de Santa María – Lessons for Today's World

10:30-12:00 National Hispanic Cultural Center  
Lecturer: Dr. Karl Hinterbichler Limit: 20 students

### January 24, 2009 Resources for Bilingual and Spanish Teachers

12:00-1:30 National Hispanic Cultural Center  
Lecturer: Fernando Martín, Director, Spanish Resource Center Limit: 20 students

### January 31, 2009 The Maya

10:30-1:30 National Hispanic Cultural Center  
Lecturer: Ma. Verónica Iglesias-Swanso Limit: 20 students

### February 21, 2009 The Spanish Romanticism Movement in Poetry (XVIII-XIX)

10:30-1:30 National Hispanic Cultural Center  
Lecturer: María Nieves de Abajo Bajo Limit: 20 students

## Fifth Annual Spanish Literary Contest "Escribo en Español"

Topic: "Lecciones que aprendí de mis mayores" honoring the *Día del Libro*, April 23, 2009.

This contest is made possible by the New Mexico/Spain educational partnership. Students are encouraged to further their writing skills and their knowledge of the Spanish language by writing a short story or a children's tale in Spanish. The deadline is March 10, 2009. For more information, contact: [language.assistant@state.nm.us](mailto:language.assistant@state.nm.us).

## Language Café

This activity offers an opportunity for people interested in speaking Spanish, with the advantage of doing so with a native speaker from Spain. Participants can improve their Spanish skills and learn about the culture of the country. Based on the wishes of the participants, every session will focus on a different topic. The meetings will take place in the Conference Room (Room 113) at the History and Literary Arts Building in the National Hispanic Cultural Center on Tuesdays from 11 am-12 pm every week.

The Language Café is organized by the Spanish Resource Center. It is open to everybody, it is free, and coffee and bizcochitos will be served. Those who want to participate should send an e-mail with their name to the following address: [cer.albuquerque@mec.es](mailto:cer.albuquerque@mec.es)

## Scholarships Available for Study in Spain

The Spanish Resource Center (SRC) in Albuquerque has funding for financial aid for two persons at \$1500 each for summer study in Spain. These scholarships aim to reward New Mexico teachers who, upon their return from summer study in Spain, will prepare a PowerPoint presentation for use by the Spanish Resource Center. All presentations will become part of

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# El Noticiero

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## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

**No. 33:1 Fall, 2008: October**  
(Pre-Conference issue)

**No. 33:2 Winter, 2009: January**  
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,  
Call to Action)

**No. 33:3 Spring, 2009: April**  
(Conference Edition)

**No. 33:4 Summer, 2009: July**  
(Summer Activities, Institutes)

Monthly Inserts/Wraps in Language Magazine

# Mark Your 2009 Calendars!

## NMABE Professional and Student Activities

**The Bilingual Educators' Institute** January 29 Hotel Santa Fe

This year, NMABE's institute focuses on best practices for ELLs as a springboard for RtI (Response to Intervention). The content is appropriate for teachers and administrators that work with ELLs in any school setting—Bilingual Education programs, Title I, Schools in Need of Improvement, etc. If you haven't registered yet, go to [www.nmabe.net](http://www.nmabe.net) for details.

**Bilingual Education Day at the State Legislature** January 30 State Capitol Rotunda

Come visit legislators and support the children, teachers and schools that provide entertainment at the Rotunda, and congratulate the schools being recognized by the PED for their successful outcomes with ELL students.

**The NMABE State Spanish Spelling Bee** April 18 Embassy Suites Hotel, Albuquerque, NM

The bee is an exciting, worthwhile event that brings district champion Spanish spellers together for the final competition for first to fifth place state winners!

**The National Association for Bilingual Education Conference** February 18-21 Austin, Texas

If you haven't registered yet, you still have time! Go to [www.nabe.org](http://www.nabe.org) for more information. This wonderful national conference is a must for anyone involved in field of Bilingual Education—from classroom practitioners, to researchers, administrators and teacher trainers at the university level.

**The NMABE State Bilingual Education Conference** September 24-26 Embassy Suites Hotel

### Bilingual Multicultural Education: Pathway to Success

NMABE has lined up two keynote speakers for the conference this year: James Lyons, Esq. and Regis Pecos, Chief of Staff, Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. As one of the keynote speakers at the fall CESDP Annual Parent Institute and the Cosecha conference, participants gave him a standing ovation. As the consultant for the Coalition for a Multilingual America in Washington, D.C., Jim is spearheading inclusion of bilingual education in NCLB. Regis Pecos, of Cochiti Pueblo has dedicated his life's work to the preservation of language and culture among his people in particular, and among Native Americans of all tribes across New Mexico.

**The NMABE State Native Language Festival** September 26 Embassy Suites Hotel

Another marvel for New Mexico as Native American students representing Pueblo, Navajo and Apache tribes compete in their native languages in reading, spelling, song and dance.

## Children Showing Their Learning

By Theresa Durán



**Front Left to Right:** Orlando Esparza, Luis Verdugo, Jaime Chavez, Pablo Ituarte

**Back Left to Right:** Marisol Robles, Yarthiza Pena, Cristina Parra, Vanessa Trevizo-Torres, Jaquelin Conejo, Maria Ortega, Jocelyn Barajas, Michelle Aguilar

Gilberto Lobo, Juana Medina, Michael Pedersen and Theresa Durán, all teachers from Truman Middle School in Albuquerque, took 12 students from their classrooms to make a wonderful presentation on Cooperative Learning at the La Cosecha Conference held in November in Santa Fe. Attendees were very impressed with the leadership and poise of the students. They taught math games, science experiments, editing and writing in Spanish and English. Participants spent 15 minutes in each core subject. This schedule followed the daily schedule of a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Dual Language Student at Truman.

## Seven Public High Schools Receive Award for Significant Improvement

On November 20, 2008, New Mexico Public Education Secretary Veronica C. García announced that seven public high schools in New Mexico have been chosen to receive the 2008 College Readiness Award for significant improvement in ACT scores over the last five years.

"This is a good indication of the progress that has been made in preparing our high school students to be successful when they go on to college," Dr. García said. "The staff at all of these schools are to be congratulated

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for their efforts to see that their students are capable of moving on to college with a strong foundation.”

Over the 5-year period, Santa Teresa High made the biggest jump in scores, going from an average of 16.2 to 17.3 for a 1.1 improvement. Río Rancho High (20.5 to 21.5) and Crownpoint High (15.5 to 16.5) both moved up an even point over the same period. West Mesa High of Albuquerque (17.3 to 18.2) and Wingate High (15.2 to 16.1) improved by almost one point.

Cíbola High of Albuquerque started high at 20.9 and managed to increase its average score to 21.8. Cloudcroft High improved from 20.3 to 21.1. To qualify for the honor, every school had to have a minimum of 30 students taking the ACT tests every year.

The schools were chosen by the New Mexico ACT Council, which is made up of secondary and post-secondary educators. According to ACT, Inc. Southwest Region, 63 percent of New Mexico students took the ACT in 2008, which was an all-time high for New Mexico. Over the last five years, ACT scores in New Mexico have been on a steady increase.

The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement test designed to measure the skills and knowledge considered important for college freshmen. The test includes four exams in English, reading, math and science, plus an optional writing test. ACT scores are accepted at every major college and university across the United States.

**Continued from page 1 - NMABE Platform**

professional development initiative designed to provide training in effective instructional practice for ELLs and those students participating in heritage and dual language programs.

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the SRC collection and the copyrights will belong to the SRC. For more information, contact Fernando Martin Pescador at [language.assistant@state.nm.us](mailto:language.assistant@state.nm.us). The deadline for applications is **February 28, 2009**.

**Continued from page 1 - TESOL**

Gallup and one Santa Fe school. The leadership provided by New Mexico contributed as well to the formation of the national TESOL organization.

A public hearing on the proposed amendment is planned for April. NMABE will keep the membership informed on this issue in the upcoming editions of El Noticiero and on the website, [www.nmabe.net](http://www.nmabe.net)

It is imperative that New Mexico maintain quality in the preparation of its TESOL teachers. Together, we must continue to provide leadership in this area for the sake of the large ELL population in the state.

**Don't miss it!**

**NMABE 2009**

**Bilingual Multicultural Education: Pathway to Success**

**37<sup>th</sup> annual conference**

Sept. 24-26, 2009  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Albuquerque, NM

for more information  
visit our site at  
[www.nmabe.net](http://www.nmabe.net)