



# El Noticiero

*Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education*

www.nmabe.net

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## Coalition Forms as Groups Band Together to Testify before NM Legislative Education Study Committee

A number of groups came together in early December to respond to a request by the NM Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) to speak on the topic: "Educating New Mexico's Majority/Minority Children." The testimony was scheduled for Dec. 15, 2011.

A planning committee was organized comprised of diverse stakeholders concerned with the education of children from Native American and Hispanic communities. This coalition included Native Language teachers from Acoma, Acoma Tribal Councilman, the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education, Dual Language Education of New Mexico, the American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center, and the Latino/Hispano Education Improvement Task Force.

The group's major concerns revolved around the inaction by the NM Public Education Department (NMPED) to hear the voices and concerns of these communities into the development of recent policy decisions. Also at issue was the Department's slow response and lack of attention to various provisions of three statutes: The Indian Education Act, the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act and the Hispanic Education Act. Finally,

there was concern about the report: "Evaluation of the Public School Funding Formula, A Joint Study by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and the LESL." "

These three statutes clearly reiterate New Mexico's long-standing policy regarding the languages and cultures of the state. Its multilingual, multicultural character dates back to the early Pueblo period and continues through the Spanish Colonial period and U.S. Territorial times. The framers of New Mexico's constitution valued education and educational equality; they saw great worth in being bilingual and biliterate and in maintaining the traditions of the heritage languages of its people. In 1911, the state Constitution incorporated the framers' intent to protect the languages and cultures of our State.

These constitutional provisions, policy actions and statutes since statehood exemplify this long-standing vision for New Mexico's children. All of these actions have fostered the dignity and pride associated with New Mexico's cultures and the languages of our forefathers.

There were close to 100 people from Deming to Dulce to Clovis to Gallup were present at the meeting. The group

comprised a diverse body of educators representing Hispanic, Pueblo, Navajo and Jicarilla Apache interests, governing officials from Acoma and Pojoaque Pueblos, as well as community members.

The testimony at the LESL hearing provided an opportunity for the Secretary-Designate's Director of the Bureau of Student Success, Dr. Anna Lisa Banegas Peña, to hear the concerns and offer opportunities for greater voice in the future on these matters. The Secretary-Designate did not stay for our presentation.

NMABE looks forward to the promise of productive dialogue. We know that Bilingual Education is part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Concerning the Funding Formula Report, Senator Nava, Co-Chair of the LESL, indicated that the recommendations in the study did not represent the view of the legislative body, but rather of staff who completed the report. An analysis of that study can be found on page two of this edition of El Noticiero.

The public statement issued by this new coalition at the hearing as well as the actual LESL/LFC funding formula study can be found on the NMABE website: [www.nmabe.net](http://www.nmabe.net)

## New Mexico's National Spanish Spelling Bee Champ to Be Recognized by NM Legislature

Evelyn Juárez of the Española Public Schools, winner of the inaugural Santillana National Spanish Spelling Bee held in July, 2011, will be recognized before the New Mexico Legislature on January 27, 2012. The recognition will occur in conjunction with NMABE's annual Bilingual Education Day at the New Mexico Legislature. This annual event offers the opportunity for Bilingual Educators to meet with their legislators and showcase their programs. The New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education congratulates Evelyn on her achievement!

## Evaluation of the Public School Funding Formula

On Nov. 16, 2011 the LESC/LFC of the NM State Legislature released the report. The study issued recommendations to resolve three acute problems with the formula across a variety of programs. Recommendations for Bilingual Education are significant and have serious implications for the implementation of the program. For a full review of the report and NMABE's analysis, go to the NMABE website: [www.nmabe.net](http://www.nmabe.net).

*The first formula recommendation pertaining bilingual education is to adjust funding to direct a cost differential of .15 towards ELL students statewide. Elsewhere it recommends this funding be directed to "ELL services".*

### NMABE Response:

- It is unclear how this recommendation applies to the provisions of the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act and whether funds will flow to districts without an application for Bilingual Education. It appears to nullify the Bilingual Education statute and to direct funds statewide for "ELL services" with neither a plan nor accountability for program design and implementation of services. This is a direct violation of Civil Rights law under *Castañeda v Pickard* [648 F. 2d 989 (5th Circuit, 1981)]. This recommendation will result in a significant decrease in funding support for existing Bilingual Education programs for this population.
- Page 20 of the report states: "Overall, the funding formula recommendations would result in fewer allocated units (from 634 thousand units to 586 thousand units in FY 12) and a higher unit value." It appears that reducing the cost differential for Bilingual Education to .15 will increase the pool of funds available to all districts in the state. NMABE asks: At whose expense is this cost reduction?

*The next series of formula recommendations strengthen the use of the home language survey to identify ELLs at the local level.*

### NMABE Response:

- Administration of the Home Language Survey is a directive from the Office for Civil Rights to all districts in the United States of America, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the May 25th 1970 HEW Memorandum. The U.S. Office for Civil Rights policy states that districts must do everything they can to identify students with a Primary or Home Language other than English. NMABE applauds this recommendation.
- This section of the report also highlights how the formula creates incentives for school districts to participate in three-hour programs, cited as "the most costly and least effective." The analysis done to support this recommendation is simplistic and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the statute and types of Bilingual Education programs in New Mexico.

*Finally, the report identifies the need for oversight by the NMPED of both fiscal and programmatic aspects of the program. The Bilingual Education audits have been limited, yet they uncovered significant needs in the implementation of the program.*

### NMABE Response:

We believe oversight by NMPED is absolutely critical and necessary for both fiscal responsibility and programmatic success.

## Registration Fees for NMABE/AMME Conference

<i>Early Bird Registration</i>	\$299	Now through Feb. 3
<i>Pre-Registration</i>	315	Feb. 4 through Mar. 30
<i>On-Site Registration</i>	330	Mar. 31 through Apr. 28
<i>Full-Time Student</i>	150	Any time
<i>One-Day Registration</i>	200	Now through Apr. 28



# El Noticiero

*El Noticiero* is published monthly by *Language Magazine* and provides information on current affairs concerning the education of language minority persons in New Mexico and the United States.

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Mary Jean H. López	<i>Associate Director</i>

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

**No. 36:1 Fall 2011: October**  
(Conference Edition)

**No. 36:2 Winter 2012: January**  
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,  
Call to Action)

**No. 36:3 Spring 2012: April**  
(Institute Announcements)

**No. 36:4 Summer 2012: July**  
(Summer Activities)

Monthly Inserts/Wraps with *Language Magazine*



The  
New Mexico  
Association for  
Bilingual Education

The  
Alliance  
for Multilingual  
Multicultural Education



**Un Pueblo Unido:  
Creciendo Juntos**  
  
**One Community:  
Growing Together**

**AMME/NMABE  
2012 Conference**  
April 25-28



Embassy Suites Hotel  
Albuquerque, NM

*For Reservations:*  
[http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/A/ABQEMES-BIL-20120425/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/A/ABQEMES-BIL-20120425/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

## Conference Strands

- Dual Language Education
- ESL
- Policy
- Spanish Content
- Native American Issues
- Bilingual Education Practices
- Parent/Community Outreach
- Language Differences and Special Needs Students

## Invited Speakers

- Pedro Noguera
- Virginia Collier
- Wayne Thomas
- Lily Wong Fillmore
- José Luis Orozco
- Mary Jane Oatman-Wak Wak

*Call for Presenters due Jan. 20, 2012*

*To register go to [www.acteva.com/go/nmabe](http://www.acteva.com/go/nmabe)*

*Go to [www.nmabe.net](http://www.nmabe.net) for more information*



**Our Host**



**The National Hispanic Cultural Center**  
1701 4th Street SW  
Albuquerque, NM

[www.nationalhispaniccenter.org](http://www.nationalhispaniccenter.org)

THE EXCLUSIVE HOST HOTEL  
FOR THE EVENT!



For more information contact:

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**The New Mexico Association for  
Bilingual Education  
Presents**



# NMABE State Spanish Spelling Bee April 14, 2012

**CONCURSO DE DELETREO EN ESPAÑOL  
SPANISH SPELLING BEE COMPETITION**

**New Mexico Association  
for Bilingual Education**

**P. O. Box 5190  
Clovis NM 88102-5190**

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**Phone: 505-238-6812  
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E-mail: [nmabe@suddenlink.net](mailto:nmabe@suddenlink.net)

**8:30a.m-9:10 a.m.**

Inscripción de Participantes en el Concurso de Deletreo  
Registration of Spelling Bee Participants

**9:10 a.m-9:25 a.m.**

Participantes del Concurso toman su asiento  
Spelling Bee Participants take their seat

**9:30a.m-12:00 p.m.**

Concurso de Deletreo y Presentación de Premios  
Spelling Bee & Presentation of Awards

**12:00-1:30 p.m.**

Almuerzo para los Participantes y Padres  
Luncheon for Participants & Parents

