



# El Noticiero

*Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education*

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Spring: April 2014

## Bilingual Seal Bill Passes and Is Signed by Governor!

On Saturday, March 8, 2014, Governor Susana Martinez signed House Bill 330, sponsored by Rep. Rick Miera. The bill establishes a state seal for proficiency in two languages for all students in the state of New Mexico.

This historic legislation represents the culmination of the efforts of many individuals throughout New Mexico who worked together to develop and pass the bill. It also represents the vision of the many early pioneers of Bilingual Education in our state, who inspired the dreams and actions accomplished this past Legislative session. While impossible to name all individuals and organizations, the NMABE must simply and wholeheartedly say "THANK YOU!"

Above all, NMABE is overwhelmingly thankful to REPRESENTATIVE RICK MIERA, who sponsored HB 330. "THE SEAL OF BILINGUALISM/BILITERACY FOR THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO". Without his belief in the children of New Mexico, their teachers, his pride in the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of New Mexico and his

knowledge of all that this represents for education, and his leadership in the New Mexico House of Representatives, none of this would have happened.

REGIS PECOS, Chief of Staff for Rep. Rick Miera, House Majority Leader was also instrumental in helping pass the seal. Regis worked hand-in-hand with the Coalition for the Majority, providing guidance every step of the way from the moment the idea of a bill was conceived, to drafting its content, testifying before the House Education Committee, notifying all about its passage first in the House and then in the Senate.

The bill was designed in such a way that any child in New Mexico can attain the seal by demonstrating a high level of proficiency in two languages. This includes students participating in any Bilingual Education program model, including Native American Language revitalization, an English as a Second Language stand-alone program and in any secondary World language program.

A copy of the legislation can be found on page 2.

## SBAC Develops Teacher Observation Tool

The State Bilingual Education Advisory Committee (SBAC) has augmented the NM TEACH observation tool for use in classrooms throughout the state. The product responds to the charge of the NM TEACH committee (the leading state committee) that the NMPED develop a supplement to the existing teacher evaluation tool. This supplement would be used in classrooms that have English Language Learners/Culturally and Linguistically Diverse students (ELL/CLD). The NM TEACH committee reviewed and approved the tool on Feb. 24, 2014.

Using the NM TEACH Elements and Domains as a base, the tool is aligned with best practices for sheltering English content instruction. While the NM TEACH tool offers a descriptor for each of the five levels of teacher effectiveness, the augmented ELL/CLD version offers "look-fors"--the evidence of best

practices--that principals should find when observing teachers in classrooms with ELL and CLD students. Intentional use of these practices can safeguard equity and ensure access to the NM Common Core Standards for CLD and ELL students. The new tool will address use of the NM English Language Development Standards and data from ACCESS (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State, the current statewide assessment used to measure student progress in learning English). These standards (and student data related to the standards) help to inform instruction; they are now part of the teacher performance assessment process.

The NMPED will provide professional development to principals and other observers on how to use the tool during its Summer 2014 training sessions.

**HB 330**

## AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; PROVIDING FOR A STATE SEAL OF BILINGUALISM-BILITERACY ON NEW MEXICO DIPLOMAS OF EXCELLENCE FOR GRADUATES WHO ARE PROFICIENT IN SPEAKING AND WRITING A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is enacted to read:

"NEW MEXICO DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE--STATE SEAL FOR BILINGUAL AND BILITERATE GRADUATES.--

A. The state seal of bilingualism-biliteracy on a New Mexico diploma of excellence certifies that the recipient is proficient for meaningful use in college, a career or to meet a local community language need in a world language other than English. The graduate's high school transcript shall also indicate that the graduate received the state seal on the graduate's New Mexico diploma of excellence.

B. The department shall adopt rules to establish the criteria for students to earn a seal of bilingualism-biliteracy, to include:

(1) the number of units of credit in a language other than English, including content courses taught in a language other than English, English language arts or English as a second language for English language learners;

(2) passage of state assessments in a world language other than English or English language arts for English language learners;

(3) in the case of tribal languages, certification of tribal language proficiency in consultation with individual tribes and adherence to processes and criteria defined by that tribe as appropriate for determining proficiency in its language;

(4) demonstrated proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of

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**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE**

**No. 38:1 Fall 2013: October**  
(Back to School Edition)

**No. 38:2 Winter 2014: January**  
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,  
Call to Action)

**No. 38:3 Spring 2014: April**  
(Spring Conference Edition)

**No. 38:4 Summer 2014: July**  
(Summer Activities)

the following methods:

- (a) score three or higher on an advanced placement examination for a language other than English;
- (b) score four or higher on an international baccalaureate examination for a higher-level language other than English course;
- (c) score proficient on a national assessment of language proficiency in a language other than English; or
- (d) provide presentations, interviews, essays, portfolios and other alternative processes that demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English.

C. In establishing the criteria for awarding the state seal of bilingualism-biliteracy, the department shall establish and consult with a task force of stakeholders that represent language experts, including:

- (1) Indian nations, tribes and pueblos;
- (2) teachers of world languages;
- (3) endorsed teachers of bilingual multicultural education;
- (4) directors of bilingual education;
- (5) statewide organizations representing language educators, bilingual education, dual language education and teachers of English as a second language;
- (6) university professors of world languages, heritage languages, Indian languages and bilingual education; and
- (7) representatives of the state bilingual advisory council, the Indian education-advisory council and the Hispanic education advisory council."

## ¿Need to pass Prueba??

**New Mexico Highlands University  
offers YOU—**

### **PROGRAMA DE INMERSION EN ESPAÑOL**

**Preparación para  
-Prueba-**

**6 - 13 de junio, 2014**

El programa consiste de clases en :

Lectura en el Contenido Escolar

Composición en el Contenido Escolar

Ortografía y Acentuación

Composición en el Contexto Escolar

Día y noche, noche y día...hasta las comidas...  
presentaciones, canciones, videos, chistes, adivi-  
nanzas y más...

...Te prometemos...¡¡ todi-ti-ti-to en español!!

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# The Fourth Annual Santillana National Spanish Spelling Bee



**July 19, 2014**

**The National Hispanic Cultural Center  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**Students**

**Teachers**

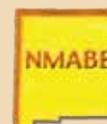
**Parents**

**Bilingual Educators**

**Administrators**

## Plan on attending!

The New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education (NMABE) along with Dual Language Education of New Mexico (DLENM), Bee sponsors and other organizers, invite you to the fourth annual National Spanish Spelling Bee Competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



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