



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

October 24, 2025

The Honorable Dominic Gachupin, Chairman
All Pueblo Council of Governors
2401 12th St. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104

Chairman Gachupin and Members of the All Pueblo Council of Governors:

I want to begin by expressing my deep respect and appreciation for the partnership between the All Pueblo Council of Governors and the State of New Mexico. Your voices and leadership have been—and continue to be—essential in our shared effort to fulfill the State's constitutional duty to provide a sufficient and equitable education for every Native American student in New Mexico.

Upon reflection, I realize the Public Education Department may not have engaged with the Council in the manner the Council wanted during the most recent consultation concerning the State's draft *Martinez/Yazzie* action plan. Rather than having members of the Council and tribal leadership participate in breakout groups, the Department should have continued to engage with leaders in a more direct Government-to-Government format.

The goal of the Department and my Administration has always been to work with tribal leaders, not around you, and we recognize that consultation is not complete without closing the loop and ensuring that your input is reflected in our work. To that end, I understand that the Department did receive meaningful oral and written feedback from the meeting that they are currently working on incorporating in the next draft of the action plan. I also understand the Department is working to include provisions from the Tribal Remedy Framework in the next iteration of the plan.

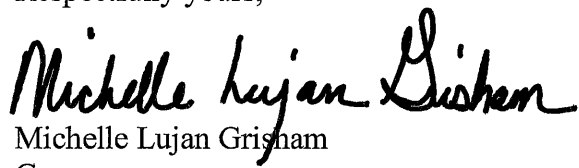
Additionally, the Department will provide the Council with an advance copy of the updated draft action plan before it is submitted to the Court for you to review. While the Department understands that you will not have time to provide feedback for consideration by the November 3 deadline, the Department can still incorporate feedback during the court-mandated review process with the *Martinez/Yazzie* plaintiffs. It is also my understanding that the final draft of the action plan will include additional opportunities for feedback and mechanisms to incorporate further changes during the course of its on-going implementation.

Please know that we are listening and remain committed to genuine collaboration. The challenges before us are complex, and it is incredibly difficult to draft an action plan that fully aligns with the views of so many diverse stakeholders. The development of this plan is further complicated by a prolonged adversarial process that has frayed the understanding that all participants are engaged in good faith efforts to improve education for Native American students in New Mexico. This is a disservice to everyone. The only way we will achieve genuine, lasting improvements for our students is by working directly with one another—state and tribal leaders, educators, and families—grounded in mutual respect and a shared purpose.

My Administration is dedicated to working with Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations in addressing the needs of Native American students and to solving the inadequacies identified in the *Martinez/Yazzie* litigation. Since I took Office in 2019, the State has increased educational funding by 70%, including an increase in funding from \$1.8 million for one year to \$90 million over three years specifically for Native American students. Despite these historic investments in education, I recognize there is still more work to do. Unfortunately, some of the progress thus far has been limited in large part because of inadequate implementation of state-mandated reforms by many schools. To achieve lasting and meaningful change, we will need the Legislature to enact stronger accountability measures, including those in the action plan, that ensure that local school systems uphold the standards and directives set forth by the Public Education Department. I hope to have your support in advocating for such a change.

Our shared goal is the same: to ensure every Native student in New Mexico receives the culturally responsive, high-quality education they deserve. I value your continued partnership and guidance as we take the next steps together.

Respectfully yours,


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor