

CERTIFICATION IN NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, K-12

PURPOSE

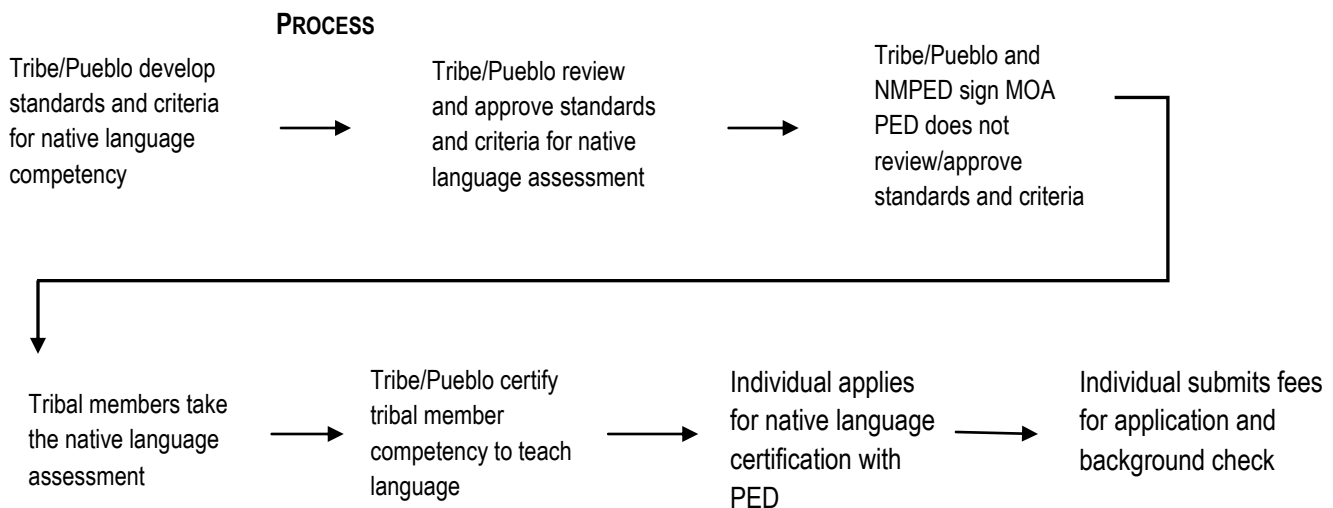
To provide a certification system, whereby any public school district and charter, may employ non-degreed individuals to teach in the native language and culture of specific tribes and pueblos in any grade K through 12. Each New Mexico Tribe and Pueblo shall collaborate with the Public Education Department (PED) to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the certification process. The MOA shall be negotiated every four years for a constant update and verification of any addendums to certification of Native language and culture educators.

STANDARDS FOR COMPETENCE AND LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Each New Mexico Tribe and Pueblo in collaboration with PED shall develop standards and criteria for determining competency for initial certification and renewal of certification, and shall verify in writing to PED that these standards and criteria have been developed and that they are maintained on file with the certifying community, tribe or pueblo.

Each New Mexico Tribe and Pueblo in collaboration with PED shall develop and consistently use a process for determining if candidates for the initial or continuing certification for Native American language and culture have met the standards of competence and language proficiency required for certification. The tribe and pueblo shall verify in writing to PED that the process has been developed and is the sole basis for determining language and culture competence, and that a description of the process is maintained on file with the certifying tribe or pueblo.

PED shall not review or approve the standards and criteria developed and approved by each of the New Mexico Tribes and Pueblos.



SUMMARY

Sixteen Tribes and Pueblos have signed MOAs with PED since 2003 to 2014 that certified for 520-Native American Language and Culture teachers, as recommended by Tribe and approved by PED.

As of 2014, there are 124 native language teachers who are certified by the New Mexico Public Education Department to teach native language and culture.