

Public Education Department

Martinez Yazzie Consolidated Lawsuit – Since the Time of the Court's Orders

July 20, 2018	The First Judicial District Court rules that the State of New Mexico violated students' fundamental rights by failing to provide a sufficient public education, as required under the state constitution. Judge Sarah Singleton rules that all New Mexico students have a right to be college and career ready and that the State is failing to meet this obligation, enjoining the State to take immediate steps to create an educational system that ensures New Mexico's at-risk students will have the opportunity to become so prepared. As evidence, the judge pointed to New Mexico's low graduation rate (70%—the lowest in the nation), low proficiency rates in reading and math (70% of New Mexico students cannot read or do math at grade level), and high rates of college remediation (almost 50% who do attend college need remedial courses).
December 20, 2018	Judge Singleton files the Court's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order re Final Judgment. Principle in its findings is that educational inputs are inadequate and that at-risk students can benefit from adequately funded programs.
February 14, 2019	The Court files its final judgment in favor of the plaintiffs. There were no appeals.
March/April 2019	New Mexico Legislature passes a landmark budget that increases public education spending by \$446 million to \$3.2 billion.
October 22, 2019	The NMPED releases a memo outlining the 4-part strategy to fulfill the Court's decision and order.
October 30, 2019	Martinez's attorneys ask the court to allow MALDEF to take discovery and learn what steps the state has taken to comply with the injunction. The filing also requests the court to set a schedule for further proceedings to enforce the injunction.
November 22, 2019	The NMPED releases memo to superintendents and charter school leaders outlining requirements for Equity Councils. The memo includes guidance on the formation of Equity Councils.
December 18, 2019	The Court schedules a hearing for March 27, 2020 for the Martinez attorneys' request to take additional discovery and schedule proceedings for the enforcement of the injunction.
February/March 2020	The NMPED hosts Equity Council webinars to guide districts and charter schools through the Equity Council formation process.
March 2020	The NMPED holds Equity Council Summit in Albuquerque
March 13, 2020	The State moves to dismiss the lawsuit, claiming the requirements of the court's injunction have been satisfied.
March 23, 2020	The Court postpones until June 29, 2020 the hearing scheduled for March 27, 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.



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April 26, 2020	Attorneys for the Martinez plaintiffs file Motion to Strike the State's March 13, 2020 Motion to Dismiss on procedural grounds, claiming it is an untimely supplemental response to Martinez plaintiff's Motion for Entry of Schedule for Discovery and Enforcement Proceedings.
May 1, 2020	Attorneys for both the Yazzie and Martinez plaintiffs respond in opposition to the State's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, claiming the State has not yet satisfied the requirements of the court's injunction.
May 11, 2020	The State responds to the Martinez plaintiffs' Motion to Strike the state's Motion to Dismiss, noting procedural differences between that motion and the Martinez plaintiff's Motion for Discovery, and noting that denying the plaintiff's motion would not have the same effect as granting the State's Motion to Dismiss.
May 26, 2020	Attorneys for the Martinez plaintiffs reply to the State's Response to Martinez plaintiff's Motion to Strike the State's Motion to Dismiss, and request a hearing on their Motion to Strike.
June 5, 2020	Attorneys for The NMPED filed the State's Replies to Plaintiffs' Responses to the State's Motion to Dismiss.
June 29, 2020	There will be a hearing on the motions before the Court.