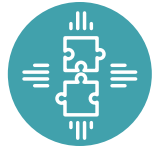


New Mexico Public Schools on Tribal Lands

NMPED GUIDANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



The **Indian Education Act** has a number of goals, including to **“ensure that the department of education partners with tribes to increase tribal involvement and control over schools and the education of students located in tribal communities.”**



This guidance document addresses the complex issues that may arise during COVID-19 in the cases where public schools are on tribal lands. In such cases, schools are to respect tribal sovereignty. As such, public schools should follow the prevailing health order of the land they are on to ensure the safety of the tribal community.

For example, if the Navajo Nation closes, schools on Navajo lands should also close. This action will respect tribal sovereignty and prevent issues that would arise regarding the transportation of children and adults across the border.

If the Navajo Nation is open but the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) has closed public schools, the public schools on tribal/pueblo lands would also remain closed.

In the event of school closure for any reason, local tribal leaders and public school leaders should consult regarding the logistics of school closure, such as:

- Distributing food to children,
- Distributing remote school work and/or technology where appropriate, and
- Communicating with families.

This guidance pertains to New Mexico public schools and does not apply to tribally managed schools or Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools.

For information on supporting Native students and on school-tribal consultation, please see the guidance document, [Supporting Native American Education](#). For tribal government contact information, please email inquiries to Indian.Education@state.nm.us.



Reentry Support Guidance

Public Education Department