

Educating Students with Disabilities in New Mexico

2021 IED G2G Summit

August 19, 2021

Alice Liu McCoy, Executive Director
Developmental Disabilities Council

Photo of a boy in a wheelchair interacting with a
woman at a conference from EPICS



NM Developmental Disabilities Council

Intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD)

DDC Council purpose:

Advocacy, systems change & capacity building

Council membership:

Self-advocates with I/DD & families of people with I/DD

State agencies

Disability Rights New Mexico

UNM Center for Development & Disability

NM DDC prioritizes education because the benefits and consequences of education have ongoing, drastic downstream effects throughout the lives of New Mexicans with I/DD, and major repercussions for our state's resources and economy.

Photo of a smiling woman holding a smiling girl with Down Syndrome from DDC



DDC Funding to Support Native American Students with Disabilities

- **Fiscal Year 2020 - \$2,500** to The Arc of NM for the EPICS (Education for Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs) annual Native American Special Education Conference
- **Fiscal Year 2021 - \$5,000** directly to EPICS for their annual conference and to fund student advocacy and family support work
- **Fiscal Year 2022 - \$10,000 to EPICS**
- Additional Fiscal Year 2022 funding to support student advocacy and family support work:
 - **\$250,000 to establish the Office of the Special Education Ombud**
 - \$49,900 to Disability Rights New Mexico
 - \$30,000 to Parents Reaching Out



Special Education Transformation Team

Agencies & Stakeholders

- Rep. Liz Thomson
- PED Secretary & staff
- ECECD Secretary & staff
- Mariana Padilla, Children's Cabinet Director & Governor's Education Policy Advisor
- DDC Chair & Executive Director
- CYFD Office of Children's Rights
- Native American Disability Law Center
- Disability Rights New Mexico
- Parents
- Educators
- Regional Educational Cooperative
- UNM Center for Development & Disability

Workgroups

- Behavioral Needs
- Transitions
- Student Advocacy & Family Support
- PED Role
- Educator/Staff Training
- Initial Evaluations/Rules


HB 222 Special Education Ombud

“All too often, families must battle with schools over the details of individual education plans or the extent of services their children need. From now on, students and families will have an expert ally who understands the process from beginning to end.”

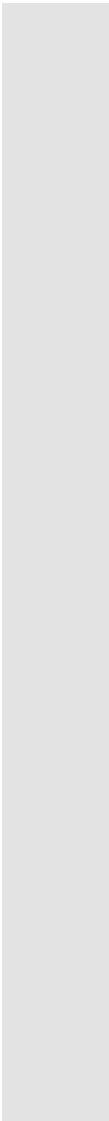
– *Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham*

Photo of a smiling young boy in a walker with a smiling teenage boy kneeling next to him outdoors from EPICS





Office of the Special Education Ombud

- New program established in DDC
 - Statewide network of trained volunteer ombuds
 - Requiring public schools to prominently display and individually provide ombud information to every student
 - Empowering students & families by providing resources & support in navigating the complex special education system
 - Systems change advocacy through collaboration & accountability
 - Annual report on the state of special education in New Mexico
 - Special Education State Ombud: Michelle Tregembo
 - Partnering with advocacy groups, including Parents Reaching Out, EPICS, NADLC, DRNM, Elevate the Spectrum
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Questions?

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NEW MEXICO
**Developmental
Disabilities
Council**