

Rio Rancho Public Schools

DEPARTMENT OF FEDERAL, BILINGUAL, AND
NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS



Tribal Education Status Report

For School Year 2020-2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

Per the Indian Education Act (IEA) Article 23A Indian Education, NMSA Section 22-23A-7 Report and IEA Rulemaking (Title 6, Chapter 25 Part 2.11):

- A. The Indian education division in collaboration with the education division of the federal bureau of Indian affairs and other entities that serve tribal students shall submit an annual statewide tribal education status report no later than November 15 to all New Mexico tribes.
- B. A school district with tribal lands located within its boundaries shall provide a district-wide tribal education status report to all New Mexico tribes represented within the school district boundaries. The report must include the twelve indicators listed herein. The report must be provided on or before September 30th following the close of the previous school year. Copies of the reports must be provided to the assistant secretary at the time the reports are provided to the respective tribes.

In order to be in compliance with filing the dates, school districts need to complete a districtwide annual Tribal Education Status report no later than September 30, 2021.

The Tribal Education Status Report (TESR) informs stakeholders of the following:

- past and recent trends in the education of New Mexico's American Indian students;
- gaps in academic performance between American Indian students and other
- ethnicities; and
- data-driven decision-making through the analysis of district wide data.

The New Mexico Public Education - Indian Education Division (IED) will use the district reports to inform the development of an annual statewide tribal education status report, which will be disseminated no later than November 15 to all New Mexico tribes.

2. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Article 23A Indian Education 22-23A-7 Report

Title 6 Chapter 35 Part 2

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION INDIAN EDUCATION
IMPLEMENTING THE INDIAN EDUCATION ACT

6. 35.2.13 TRIBAL EDUCATION STATUS REPORT (TESR)

- A. Beginning in school year 2020-2021, by September 30, each school district with tribal lands located within its boundaries shall provide an annual district wide tribal education status report to all Indian nations, tribes, and pueblos located within the school district boundaries and to the assistant secretary.
- B. Beginning in school year 2020-2021, by September 30, each school district adjacent to tribal lands may provide an annual districtwide tribal education status report to all Indian nations, tribes and pueblos with tribal lands adjacent to the school district's boundaries and to the assistant secretary.
- C. A report provided in accordance with Subsections A or B of this section shall include the following information based upon data from the immediately preceding school year:
 - (1) Student achievement as measured by a statewide test approved by the department, with results disaggregated by ethnicity. Any cell with an N of 9 or fewer must be masked;
 - (2) school safety;
 - (3) the graduation rate;
 - (4) attendance;
 - (5) parent and community involvement;
 - (6) educational programs targeting tribal students
 - (7) financial reports;
 - (8) current status of federal Indian education policies and procedures;
 - (9) school district initiatives to decrease the number of student dropouts and increase attendance;
 - (10) public school use and variable school calendars;
 - (11) school district consultations with district Indian education committees, school-site parent advisory councils, tribal, municipal and Indian organization;and
 - (12) indigenous research and evaluation measures and results for effective curricula American Indian and Alaska Native students; and
 - (13) access to native language programs.

3.1 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

For the 2020-21 school year, New Mexico received an accountability waiver from the US Department of Education. This waiver exempts New Mexico from reporting many pieces of accountability data, including achievement data, due to the challenges presented by the pandemic. Given the low participation rates on statewide summative assessments, aggregated data from these assessments are not a reliable picture of academic achievement for New Mexico students. Given the low participation on the Measures of Student Success and Achievement (MSSA) PED will not produce school or district reports unless certain participation thresholds are met. This includes the assessments for science readiness (ASR) since no reports will be available to districts.

3.2 SCHOOL SAFETY

Objective. To ensure that New Mexico schools are safe, secure, and peaceful for students to attend.

The Rio Rancho Public Schools Safety Plan utilizes federal, state, and local guidelines to ensure a safe learning environment for Rio Rancho Public Schools' staff and students. The overall goals for safe schools in New Mexico include:

- all students will have access to public education services in a safe, secure, healthy, caring and respectful learning environment;
- all school personnel will be able to carry out their duties in a safe, secure, healthy, caring and respectful work environment and
- students, staff, parents and the community should understand that safe schools are everyone's responsibility and benefit the whole community.

Background. New Mexico, as do other states in the rest of the nation, looks at strategies to keep students, staff, and faculty safe in schools.

The school safety plan offers new research and new approaches with the intent to:

- assist schools and their community partners in the revision of the school-level safety plans;
- prevent an occurrence and/or recurrences of undesirable events;
- properly train school staff, faculty, and students to assess, facilitate, and implement response actions to emergency events and
- provide the basis for coordinating protective actions prior to, during, and after any type of emergency.

New Mexico school districts have developed supports to ensure the safety of students within the schools. These provisions include the following: policies and procedures for school safety, safety committees, safety implementation plans, prevention plans, anonymous tip lines, emergency response plans, recovery plans, and safe schools reports

Source: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/safe-healthy-schools/safe-schools/>

Methods. The safety and security of every student and staff member within the Rio Rancho Public Schools is our highest priority in the daily operations of our district. To that end, every school develops a School Level Safety Plan that establishes goals and benchmarks for security. These can encompass safety procedures that include bus, playground, cafeteria, discipline, community involvement, classroom, evacuation drills, and mediation arenas.

Student excellence is our vision. We seek to be a catalyst for positive change in safety and security issues.

The global public health crisis prompted the district to implement a variety of new processes and procedures in August of 2020. The district gathered feedback from a variety of sources during the fall semester, analyzed the data and then implemented a number of changes for the spring semester.

Results. The district analyzed stakeholder surveys, middle school and high school failure rates, attendance and truancy data and input from instructional leaders, administrators and Curriculum & Instruction staff. Based on these analyses, changes to secondary schedules, scope and sequences, evening and weekend academic support, and attendance were implemented.

Student Infractions: The table below shows the number of students in RRPS with reported infractions disaggregated by “All Students”, “Native American Students”, and by “Grade Level”. The number of infractions by Native American Students is far less than the number from all students. An asterisk (*) is used when the number is less than 10 to protect confidentiality.

2020-2021 Number of Student Infractions

Grade	All Students	Native American Students
K-5	*	0
6	18	0
7	28	0
8	17	*
9	39	*
10	*	*
11	*	*
12	*	*

Source: STARS> District and Location Reports>Disciplinary Reports> STARS Student Infraction and Response Detail

Conclusion. From an overall perspective, Rio Rancho Public Schools and all NM schools have been successful in keeping most of their students and employees safe from harm. The perception of risk at these schools is often greater than the actual risk incurred. However, many schools do face serious problems of on-campus violence and criminal activity. It is important to develop an understanding of these problems so that the best possible strategies can be devised to prevent crime and increase school safety. Most worthy of this data is that this was during the COVID-19 pandemic, so any and all other data would not be a fair comparison to the unique school year presented in this report.

Action Plan. The Rio Rancho Public Schools Safety Plan, also known as the core document, is the same for each school site. This ensures consistency and uniformity before, during and after a critical incident, threat or disaster. It also includes an emergency personnel response to ensure critical incident management methods are the same at each school. It is important to note that there are variances as each school site is unique due to the specific location of the school, its diverse

community and different facilities.

Student infractions will be closely monitored with professional learning and development opportunities for all staff members in relevant topics including cultural competency, emotional regulation, and student and family engagement as a cohesive effort to proactively reduce the number of student infractions.

The district will continue to actively monitor and review school and district processes, procedures, training opportunities, communication with stakeholders, and continue our well-established relationships with local community based organizations including those serving social and emotional health and well-being, mental health resources, and law enforcement agencies.

3.3 GRADUATION RATES

Objective. The graduation rate objective is to ensure that all American Indian students are given the opportunity to graduate from high school with a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence. The high school experience and diploma together provide students with solid preparation for college and career readiness.

Rio Rancho Public Schools is dedicated to graduating each student with an educational foundation for success as a responsible, ethical contributor to society.

Background. New Mexico implemented its first 4-year cohort graduation rate in 2008. Cohort rates prior to 2008 are not comparable. A cohort is named according to students' expected fourth year of high school. Cohorts are tracked for one additional year past their expected year of graduation, yielding 5-year and 6-year graduation rates for the same cohort of students.

Methods. The cohort consists of all students who were first-time freshmen four years earlier and who graduated by August 1 of their 4th year. Additionally, cohorts are tracked for one additional year past their expected year of graduation, yielding a 5-year graduation rate.

Results. Graduation rates are one year lagged so the most recent graduation data is from the 2019-2020 school year. Both all students and American Indian student graduation rates decreased from 2017-2018, 2018- 2019 but increased from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020. Included in these tables are reasons students did not graduate within 4 years.

Rio Rancho Public Schools 4 Year Graduation Rate

Subgroup	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
All Students	85.4%	89%	88.3%
American Indian Students	83.9%	92%	83.5%

Reason Not Graduating	Total
Excused - Death transferred out, migrated, foreign	*
Still Enrolled	*
Withdrawn - dropout/outcome unknown	*
Total	11

*Indicates less than 10 students so results are masked

Source: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/accountability/graduation/>

Conclusion. Rio Rancho Public Schools 4-year graduation rates for all students and Native American students continues to exceed that of the state. The 2019 graduation rate of the RRPS Native American students exceeds that of the RRPS All Students category. RRPS will continue to utilize state supported systems and initiatives, which includes best practices from the Early Warning System, to support students and narrow (or close) the gap.

Currently, far too many students drop out or graduate from high school without the knowledge and skills required for success in the 21st century workplace and/or post-secondary education, closing doors and limiting future options. In response, the PED has developed and phased in implementation of the Early Warning System (EWS) to provide schools with the tools to reliably identify students who have lower odds of graduating, based upon specific key indicators. Support can then be provided through effective interventions early enough in their educational experience that there is sufficient time to intervene. The EWS highlights risks utilizing an electronic dashboard. The dashboard includes the following seven key student indicators:

- **Attendance**— less than 90 percent attendance is flagged as ***at risk***
- **Behavior**—one or more unsatisfactory behaviors that are written up is flagged as ***at risk***
- **Course Performance**—any report card grade of *D* or *F* in mathematics or English is flagged as ***at risk***
- Student Demographics
- State Assessment Scores
- **Economic Disadvantaged status**, if applicable
- **Special Education Services Summary**, if applicable

Action Plan.

The statewide EWS electronic dashboard became available in January 2016. The dashboard is a tool that administrators, counselors, and SAT members can use to obtain an overall picture of their students. The College and Career Readiness Bureau (CCRB) provides opt-in professional development (PD) opportunities to schools for the EWS. This PD trains student assistance team (SAT) members to evaluate student data and respond with tiered interventions. Early reports from the two cohorts that are participating suggest that the SATs and Response to Intervention (RTI) format—when coupled with the dashboard information—prove to be powerful tools for schools to use in their support of at-risk students.

New Mexico's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan outlines the following ambitious graduation rate goals from a baseline taken in 2016, and the goal for 2022:

FOUR - YEAR ADJUSTED COHORT GRADUATION RATE IN PERCENTAGES, CURRENT & GOAL

Subgroup	Baseline 2016	Goal 2022
All Students	71	85
Economically disadvantaged students	67	82
Students with disabilities	62	79
English learners	67	82
Caucasian	76	88
Hispanic	71	84
Asian/Pacific Islander	81	91
American Indian	63	79
African-American	61	78

RRPS began with a baseline rate that already exceeded that of the state in 2016, and have already exceeded the statewide goal for 2022. However, we will continue to implement state support systems and initiatives to improve the graduation rate for our Native American students as well as all students.

3.4 ATTENDANCE

Objective. The attendance objective is to assure that all students attend school every day and on schedule. This will be accomplished by supporting school district initiatives addressing the decrease in dropout rate and increase in attendance.

Background. The Compulsory School Attendance Rule (6.10.8.9 NMAC) takes into consideration the sovereignty of every American Indian pueblo or tribe. The rule requires an established set of policies to be identified with each governing entity in support of the cultural well-being of the student, with the goal of keeping children in school until the age of eighteen. The local school board/governing body of the public or charter school adopts the attendance policy. Each district that serves a large American Indian student population or one that borders on or around tribal lands reports the attendance rate.

Methods. Important to note is the emergency COVID-19 health pandemic that prompted immediate school closure in March 2020. Available attendance data is provided below.

As reported in the 2020-2021 STARS Reports, the habitual truant rate for RRPS was 0%, and the Chronic Absenteeism rate was 0.2442%. Statewide data was unavailable, and therefore a comparison cannot be made at the time of the writing of this report. During this same school year, RRPS had 259 student excused cultural absences.

The school districts and charter schools report absences with excused and unexcused identifiers through the Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS). They certify that the information is being reported consistently at intervals at the 40th-, 80th-, and 120th-day, and end-of-year in a manner as specified by the PED. STARS tables were sorted by the attendance rates of American Indian students within the district, capturing the 80th day attendance. A student is considered habitually truant if he or she has a total of 10 or more full day, unexcused absences in a school year within that district.

The Compulsory School Attendance Law requires districts to maintain an attendance policy that provides for the early identification of students with unexcused absences and truancy, while providing intervention strategies that focus on keeping truants in an educational setting. NM districts identify these students using demographic data obtained from the Student Snapshot and Membership (school cumulative enrollment between the first and last days of the school year) records stored in STARS. Student membership is collected and reported at the school, district, and state level—including the number of pupils in each of several categories from grades K (kindergarten) through 12.

STARS District and Location Reports Mobility, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism

Results. The results below indicate that, within our district, the attendance rate shows a gradual decline for all students within our district as well as for our Native American students from 2018 to 2021.

Attendance Rates from 2015-2021						
	<i>20-21</i>	<i>19-20</i>	<i>18-19</i>	<i>17-18</i>	<i>16-17</i>	<i>15-16</i>
Statewide All Students	*	90.6%**	93.9%**	94.1%**	95.1%**	95.2%
RRPS All Students	92.3%	93.3%	93.9%	92.4%	94.3%	94.7%
Statewide Native American Students	*	90.9%**	92.5%**	92.9%**	92.8%**	92.3%
RRPS Native American Students	89.0%	91.8%	92.4%	91.6%	93.3%	93.8%
<p>*The Statewide Attendance rate data was unavailable at the time of writing this report. **This data was collected from the most recent NMPED-IED TESR available</p>						
Source: STARS District and Location Reports Assessment Attendance						
<p>Conclusion. The attendance rate for RRPS Native American students is comparable with the district’s rate for all students, with the exception of the school year 2020-2021 with a notable difference of 3.3 percentage points. Our district rates are consistently slightly higher than the statewide attendance rate for Native American students.</p>						
<p>Action Plan. The IED will continue to partner and collaborate with school districts to provide support in the identification of the causes underlying students dropping out of school and in the implementation of successful strategies to address and ameliorate dropout rates. As indicated in the graduation section, the EWS is an effective tool for schools to use in identifying struggling students who exhibit signs of not persisting to graduation. Non-attendance is a leading indicator of student disengagement. The PED, local education agencies (LEAs), and BIE can support recipient schools by teaching them interventions and encouraging their participation in the EWS training program.</p> <p>Early warning systems combine data systems with student response systems to identify students early and provide proactive responses to student needs. EWS uses readily available data to alert teachers and administrators about students who are on the pathway to dropping out of school. A key benefit of early warning systems is that they help educators know what to look for amid the mountains of student data. Early warning systems can be implemented at the middle and high school levels—even as early as 6th grade. Researchers from the Everyone Graduates Center found that more than 50 percent of students who dropped out could be identified as early as the 6th grade by using three key indicators (the ABCs): attendance (chronic absenteeism), behavior (being suspended or sustained mild misbehavior), and course performance (failure in math or English). Furthermore, the PED has established the Truancy and Dropout Prevention Coach program. The program trains and places coaches, so these support personnel are available to engage with students, which better ensures that students attend and participate in school.</p>						

3.5 PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Objective. The parent and community objective is to ensure that parents; tribal departments of education; community-based organizations; urban American Indian community members; the DOE; universities; and tribal, state, and local policymakers work together to find ways to improve educational opportunities for American Indian students by encouraging and fostering parental and community involvement within public and charter schools.

Background. The importance of parent involvement in education has been documented as benefiting students, parents, teachers, and schools—whether the program is at the preschool or elementary, middle or high school levels. Studies have shown that when parents participate in their children’s education, the result is an increase in student academic achievement and an improvement in the student’s overall attitude and school behavior. There is also improved attendance, fewer discipline problems, and less bullying. Higher aspirations have been correlated to parent involvement as have improved attitudes, enhanced interest in science among adolescents, increased language achievement, and sustained achievement gains.

Methods.

- Student Credentialing (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- District provided information about state testing expectations as well as school and student results
- Parent education via workshops (e.g. Parent University, courses, and/or training) for all, including parents of Native American students
- Providing strategies that support learning at home
- Community meetings (Native American Parent Advisory Committee)
- Community engagement events
- Providing information to families on how to monitor and discuss schoolwork with student(s)

Results. Rio Rancho Public Schools hosts organized activities directed toward involving families and the community in their children’s education. Based on feedback gathered from students, parents, and community members through measures including anecdotal notes, observations, and perception feedback through surveys, programs are refined and improved in efforts of continuous improvement. The number one priority is to support the needs of our students. We achieve this through a comprehensive approach leveraging all of our resources and directing support appropriately. District and statewide data provides a good indicator in the effectiveness of these programs and efforts.

Conclusion. Research indicates that students with highly engaged families will attend school regularly, enjoy a more positive attitude, be involved in fewer discipline problems and incidences of bullying, and exhibit greater interest in higher education.

Action Plan. Feedback collected during open meetings and surveys guide the programmatic supports and offerings provided to our students and families.

3.6 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TARGETING TRIBAL STUDENTS

Objective. The tribal students’ educational programs objective is to recognize and support the unique cultural and educational needs of American Indian students enrolled in public schools and charter schools.

Background. The Indian Education Act prioritizes support to meet the unique educational and culturally relevant academic needs of American Indian and Native Alaskan students through the efforts of LEAs, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities. American Indian students are challenged to meet the same state academic standards as all other students are expected to meet. Integrated educational services, in combination with other programs, are offered to best ensure that American Indian students and their families can meet and take advantage of those academic opportunities.

Methods. The Rio Rancho Public School District meets compliance with all Federal and State educational requirements. Programs and systematic support are aligned to federal and state level initiatives to align and maximize time, efforts and resources. Student, parent and community input along with input and data from our schools at the site and district level provide critical information for a needs assessment, to refine and restructure opportunities for our students.

Results. Educational programs targeting tribal students offered in RRPS include:

- SAT/ACT/AP preparation materials and exam fee reimbursements
- Dual credit programs, cultural competency support for educators
- Elementary summer school
- 6th and 8th Grade Academic Youth Development
- Credit recovery scholarships
- Student Centered Activities/Programs (District RRPS Native American Pageant, Native American Senior Banquet, School Supply Cost Reimbursement Program, Native American Student Union at the comprehensive high schools)
- Title I school wide programs
- Title III supplemental support for identified English Learners
- Bilingual Multicultural Education Program opportunities K-12
 - Bilingual Multicultural Education Programs (BMEP) support the maintenance of Tribal languages and serve American Indian Students. **American Indian Students Involved in BMEPs - 31.**
- Community engagement events (Native American Summer Academy, guest speakers)

Conclusion. Activities and educational programs for Native American students are consistently offered in RRPS. Evidence through student achievement data, attendance, and survey feedback, are collected and analyzed to reflect upon program offerings and the correlation between student performances—specifically in the priority areas as identified by the NMPED-IED.

Action Plan. RRPS will use the available data as captured within this TESR, and any other data sources made available after the submission of this report through an ongoing process to continuously tailor and refine the programmatic support for our Native American students. A current partnership is in progress with the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc. in which students within our district would be able to have access to licensed mental health professionals with extensive knowledge and training in culturally responsive services, on-site. This is an example of our efforts in mitigating barriers for our Native American students, in order to provide increased access to general well-being, which will lead to greater opportunities for educational success.

3.7 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Objective. The financial objective is, with public school funds, to ensure that New Mexico schools provide adequate operational resources to provide and improve services to NM tribal students. These services will meet the educational needs and provide opportunities to tribal students attending NM public schools.

Background. The New Mexico public school funding formula is based on a model developed by the National Education Finance Project (NEFP) in the late 1960s and early 1970s. As a tool for better decision making, the model had great potential because of the variety of data that could be accommodated and the ease with which new data could be added and new decision options made available.

Prior to the creation of the current formula, school-funding methods had created a high degree of dis-equalization among districts because of differences in local wealth. The gap between rich and poor districts was broad, and the revenue that would be required to reach full equalization with the richest districts was staggering. The goal of the new formula, therefore, was clear: to equalize educational opportunity at the highest possible revenue level, while minimizing the financial loss to the richest districts. As a result of the committee's work, the 1974 New Mexico Legislature enacted the Public School Finance Act, which has been widely acclaimed as one of the most innovative of the school finance plans currently being used across the country. The formula is designed to distribute operational funds to school districts objectively and in a non-categorical manner, while providing for local school district autonomy. Formula dollars received by local districts are not earmarked for specific programs. Within statutory and regulatory guidelines, school districts have the latitude to spend their dollars according to local priorities.

In place for more than four decades, the public school funding formula has been under constant analysis. For the most part, the results of these analyses have supported statutory data-based refinements to the structure of the formula, while maintaining the philosophical concept of educational equity for all students.

Source: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/school-budget-finance-analysis/>

Methods. Rio Rancho Public Schools applies annually for the School District Initiative Grant through NMPED's Indian Education Division, as well as the Federal Title VI Grant for Indian Education.

Results. Rio Rancho Public Schools uses operational resources to ensure that resources are applied to equitable services for all students, including the unique needs of American Indian students' educational opportunities. In addition, the school district applies for additional supplemental grant opportunities.

<i># of AI funding sources used</i>	<i>Total Enrollment (80D)</i>	<i>AI Enrollment* (80D)</i>	<i>AI* (%)</i>	<i>Indian Ed Formula Grant Title VI</i>	<i>NM IEA</i>	<i>Total AI Program Funding</i>
2	16,449	1512*	9.2%*	\$163,414	\$90,000	\$253,414

*This number is captured from the 80 STARS Report for unduplicated students.

Source: STARS: Indian Education Reports-->Students by Ethnicity and Tribal Affiliation Detail.

Conclusion. RRPS will continue to monitor expenditures and align department, district, and school support for the best results for the education of our Native American students.

Action Plan. RRPS will continue to utilize funds to ensure that fiscal expenditures are aligned with the needs of the New Mexico Native American student population. Furthermore, the various funding sources available in our district are actively pursued, and strategically leveraged to maximize opportunities for our students.

RRPS has worked hard to ensure a Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum for each of our students through core instruction, with additional layers of support as appropriate. Our schools have structures in place to offer differentiated layers of support, following the Response to Intervention framework. We ensure equity for all students by including differentiated instruction at all levels, supporting students with disabilities to demonstrate outcomes according to their IEP or other appropriate documentation, intentional English Language development support and scaffolds for our English Learners, additional supports and benefits for our minority students, students in foster care, and students experiencing homelessness. Varieties of support ensure access to a high quality learning experience for all students. We currently do not have any students that qualify for a migrant program.

Multiple measures afford us the ability to look at multiple layers to identify program and individual strengths, as well as opportunities for improvement. Individual and class based data drives instruction for the classroom teacher, grade level/content specific data is reviewed by Professional Learning Community teams at the school and district levels, school wide data is reviewed by school leadership teams, including the NM DASH teams, with participation and support from District based individuals, and district-wide data is used by district level program managers to analyze and evaluate program effectiveness, systems alignment, and which/what supports should be directed to/provided for particular schools/teachers. Federal funding is leveraged to maximize support to positively affect the unique and diverse learning needs for our students.

Title I dollars are used to provide additional support through school-wide programs at our 8 elementary, 2 middle school, and 1 alternative high school Title I designated schools. These funds provide for additional staffing including Instructional coaches, interventionists, EAs and counselors so that increased supports can be offered through creative, though research based methods to meet the diverse needs of all of our students, as well as additional dollars to support the implementation of the action steps identified in the school NMDASH plans. Additionally, students in foster care, or are experiencing homelessness are supported through additional programs to alleviate challenges related to these environments including transportation to the most appropriate school even when they live out of boundaries (including another city), access to additional counselors or mental health experts, additional programs for academic remediation and enrichment, scholarship opportunities, and access to basic necessities.

Title II funds are used to support professional development/learning opportunities for our staff in all areas, including core instruction, Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Instruction, serving English Learners, serving Students with Disabilities, Cultural Competency, differentiated instruction, Trauma Informed Practice, Social Emotional Learning, integration of Technology to enhance the learning experience for all students, etc. Additionally, we offer a tuition reimbursement program to offset costs for individuals seeking additional licenses and/or

endorsements in highly needed areas including TESOL and Bilingual endorsements, Educational Leadership, and core content areas. We also use Title II dollars to support onboarding and retention of new teachers to the district to ensure that these individuals are prepared and equipped to be successful educators through designated professional learning days prior to the beginning of their contract, and are continuously supported throughout the year through a formal mentor/mentee partnership and district facilitated meetings every other month.

Title III dollars are used to supplement and enhance the learning environment for our English learners. The classroom teacher and/or the campus English Language Development Coordinator support all ELs daily, with intentionality. ELD Coordinators work collaboratively with the team of Teachers of English Learners at every campus to ensure that our students are getting the language support needed. Teachers of English Learners specialize in supporting core instruction through targeted English Language Development support.

3.8 INDIAN EDUCATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Rio Rancho Public Schools is not eligible for Impact Aid funding, and the Indian Pueblo Policies and Procedures (IPP) section is not applicable.

Listing of Tribes and School Districts Located on or Near Tribal Lands

Region I		Region III	
Tribe	School Districts	Tribe	School District
Navajo (Dine') Nation 53 NM Chapters	Bloomfield* ² Cuba* Farmington* Central Consolidated * Jemez Mountain*	Navajo (Dine') Nation 53 NM Chapters Pueblos Various Tribal Affiliated Tribes	Albuquerque*
Jicarilla Apache Nation	Dulce*	Ohkay Owingeh	Española * & Pojoaque*
Region II		Pueblo of Cochiti	Bernalillo*
Tribe	School District	Pueblo of Jemez	Jemez Valley & Walatowa*
Navajo (Dine') Nation 53 NM Chapters	Gallup McKinley* Grants-Cibola* Magdalena*	Pueblo of Nambé	Pojoaque*
Pueblo of Acoma	Grants-Cibola*	Pueblo of Pojoaque	Pojoaque*
Pueblo of Isleta	Los Lunas*	Pueblo of Picuris	Peñasco*
Pueblo of Laguna	Grants-Cibola*	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Pojoaque*
Pueblo of Zuni	Zuni*	Pueblo of Sandia	Bernalillo*
IPP Not Required	Aztec Rio Rancho Santa Fe	Pueblo of Santa Ana	Bernalillo*
Current Status of Federal Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPS) Compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Compliant—20 districts o Did not report—0 district o Not required to report—3 districts 		Pueblo of Santa Clara	Española* & Pojoaque*
		Pueblo of Santo Domingo	Bernalillo*
		Pueblo of San Felipe	Bernalillo*
		Pueblo of Tesuque	Pojoaque*
		Pueblo of Taos	Taos*
		Pueblo of Zia	Bernalillo* & Jemez Valley*
		Mescalero Apache Tribe	Ruidoso & Tularosa

Objective. The objective of Indian policies and procedures (IPP) is to ensure that New Mexico schools provide adequate tribal consultations with regard to the basic support payment requirements under the federal Impact Aid regulations.

Background. Districts that claim federally identified American Indian students residing on Indian lands for Title VIII Impact Aid funding shall develop and implement policies and procedures in consultation with tribal officials and parents. The New Mexico Indian Education Act requires that school districts obtain a signature of approval by the New Mexico tribal governments or their designees residing within school district boundaries, verifying that New Mexico tribes agree to Indian education policies and procedures pursuant to federal Title VIII Impact Aid funding requirements.

Methods. not applicable

Results. not applicable

Conclusion. not applicable

Action Plan. not applicable

3.9 SCHOOL DISTRICT INITIATIVES

Objective. The objective of this initiative is to ensure that New Mexico schools provide their district office with the initiatives they are employing to increase attendance support for and decrease the number of student dropouts of American Indian students.

Background. New Mexico pursues programs and strategies to meet the needs of at-risk students and to address obstacles associated with keeping students in school. New Mexico schools continue to be challenged in obtaining resources required to keep students in school despite including an “at-risk” factor in the state’s funding formula to assist in addressing the issue. The assurance of collaboration and engagement from educational systems and pueblos/ tribes for input regarding academics and cultural awareness has positive effects on developing and implementing a variety of administrative and instructional practices to reduce school dropouts and increase students’ success in school. Additionally, dropouts negatively affect the four-year (freshman) cohort graduation rate for the state, which results in a lower graduation rate.”

Methods. The 23 school districts and 2 charter schools submitted their local TESRs, which include initiatives that school districts have identified for increasing attendance and decreasing the number of student dropouts for American Indian students.

Dropout statistics are reported annually and drop out data is collected at the school district level. Student membership is also collected and reported at the school, district, and state levels, including the number of pupils in each of several categories from grades K through 12.

Dropout data and rates are calculated only for grades 7–12. A student is considered a dropout if he or she was enrolled at any time during the previous school year, is not enrolled at the beginning of the current school year, and does not meet certain exclusionary conditions. This means that students dropping out during the regular school term in year one, who are not re-enrolled in school on October 1 of year two, are reported as year one dropouts. This is recorded in the dropout report in year two. Dropouts negatively affect the four-year (freshman) cohort graduation rate for the state, which results in a lower graduation rate.

Source: STARS Dropout Reports, 2019–2020

Results. The student dropout rate is one year lagged as is the graduation rate. The table shows the number of students who dropped out, and the percentage of students who dropped out during the 2019-2020 school year.

Student Dropout rate 2019-2020 (one year lagged)

Ethnicity	2019-2020 Drop Gr. 7-12	2019-2020 Overall % Rate
American Indian/Alaskan Native	*	*
Asian	*	*
Black or African American	*	*
Caucasian	16	0.6%
Hispanic	44	0.9%
Multiracial	*	*
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	*	*

Source: STARS Staging Reports>Public Folders>eScholar Framework-Verify>State Reports→ Assessment→ Student Snapshot Template Extract

*Indicates less than 10 students so results are masked

Conclusion. New Mexico students drop out for a variety of reasons and the data does not always capture the underlying causes. The top three reasons reported include student: 1) did not re-enroll; 2) had an invalid transfer; and 3) intends to take GED.

What is not reflected in the reported reasons are the social, health, and economic stresses that can affect dropout rates. Poverty is an underlying stress factor. For example, without adequate health care and nutrition, students may be absent more often from school due to poor health. Sometimes, family economics may require an older sibling to care for younger siblings who are at home, thereby affecting the student’s regular school attendance. Students may leave school to help support their families. Some other factors that can influence dropout rates are experimentation with drugs, teen pregnancy, chronic diseases, and being the victim of bullying.

Action Plan. The objective is to encourage schools to continue to support the efforts of American Indian students to stay in school or become re-engaged. This can occur with the implementation of academic and cultural awareness and through collaboration with tribal governments.

As mentioned above in section 3.6, a current partnership in progress is with the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc. in which students within our district would be able to have access to licensed mental health professionals with extensive knowledge and training in culturally responsive services, on-site. This is an example of our efforts in mitigating barriers for our Native American students, in order to provide increased access to general well-being, which will lead to greater opportunities for educational success.

Additionally, since Fall of 2017, we have a full time Native American support assistant/liaison at each of our comprehensive high schools. The role of these individuals is to connect our Native

American students and families to resources that will help support student success and achievement, while maintaining a strong sense of cultural identity to empower our Native American youth.

Within our district, several initiatives have been implemented and sustained to support increased attendance for American Indian students that include—but are not limited to: experiential projects, reading and math interventions, incentive programs, after school programs, tiered interventions, tutoring, alternative settings, attendance/truancy policies, parent liaisons, home visits, incentives, school counselors, Native American liaison/advisor, positive behavior interventions and support, suicide prevention, attendance policies and procedures, parent educator programs, student assistance teams, counseling, career exploration for K–12, extracurricular activities/clubs, credit recovery, Saturday school, after-school programs, parent engagement, student health centers, Early Warning System with High Plains, culturally relevant curriculum and cultural experiences, out-of-school opportunities including international travel experiences, and college engagement programs to provide support for academic success.

3.10 VARIABLE SCHOOL CALENDARS

Objective. The variable school calendar objective is to ensure that New Mexico schools collaborate with Tribal governments to identify the important cultural events in their American Indian students’ lives. By using variable school calendars, schools directly address their AI students’ cultural and family responsibilities and enhance these students’ ability to more regularly attend their public school.

Background. New Mexico has a rich American Indian history and culture that cultivates the 22 Tribal governments and urban Native communities. The assurance of collaboration and engagement from educational systems and pueblos/tribes for input regarding academics and cultural awareness has positive effects on the educational success of American Indian students.

American Indian education in New Mexico represents rich cultural traditions and diverse educational practices through different protocols and paradigms of practice. The 35,000-plus students who represent the NM tribes and pueblos and other tribes from throughout the United States, who attend over 185 public schools and charter schools in the State of New Mexico, were the focus of state and tribal legislators who established the Indian Education Act (IEA) in 2003.

Methods. Rio Rancho Public Schools makes every effort to support Native American students with their self-identity, language, and culture by providing students opportunities to maintain a sense of connectedness to cultural practices. Communication between the pueblo leadership with RRPS allows students to attend cultural activities without negatively affecting student achievement.

Results. The chart below lists the variable school days that are offered to American Indian students within the 23 districts and 2 charters. This list serves as a guide to days of Native importance in the SY 2015-2016 District Wide TESR. Per the 2016-2017 District Survey, 48 percent of the districts and charter schools follow a variable calendar and have a school calendar committee involved in the decision-making.

VARIABLE CALENDAR DAYS AS PROVIDED IN THE SY 2015–2016 SURVEY	
All Souls Day (November 1 st)	Pueblo of Nambe Feast Day
Alamo Indian Days	Pueblo of Pojoaque Feast Day
Cultural Day, Pueblo of Acoma	Pueblo of San Ildefonso Feast Day
Gathering of Nations	Pueblo of Santa Ana Feast Day
Jicarilla Apache Tribal Feast, Go Jii Ya	Pueblo of Santa Clara Feast Day
Mescal Harvest and Roast	Pueblo of Santo Domingo Feast Day
Native American Senior Day	Pueblo of Tesuque Feast Day
Navajo Sovereignty Day	Pueblo Taos Feast-San Geronimo Feast Day
Ohkay Owingeh Corn Dance	Pueblo of Zia Feast Day
Ohkay Owingeh Feast Day	Pueblo of Zuni-Shalako
Pueblo of Acoma Feast Day	Shiprock Northern Navajo Fair (Professional Development Day)
Pueblo of Cochiti Feast Day	Tribal Governor’s Irrigation Day
Pueblo of Isleta Feast Day	Winter and spring break extended to accommodate dances
Pueblo of Jemez Feast Day	Zuni Appreciation Day
Pueblo of Laguna Feast Day	

Conclusion. The majority of the 23 districts and one charter school report the use of variable school calendars that support an American Indian student’s cultural well-being and self-awareness.

Action Plan. The objective is to encourage schools to continue to support Native American students to develop and honor their cultural traditions while better ensuring school attendance. This is accomplished by the development of variable calendar days and in collaboration with Tribal governments, who ensure calendar days are accurate. In instances when this is not possible, schools and districts actively communicate with Tribal leadership to ensure that absences are excused as appropriate, and that attendance is encouraged by all stakeholders.

3.11 SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS

Objective. The district consultations ensure that New Mexico schools provide a means of developing mutual understanding of educational programs and collaborate with Tribal entities to find ways to improve educational opportunities for American Indian students.

Background. Districts that claim federally identified American Indian students residing on Indian lands for Title VIII Impact Aid funding shall develop and implement policies and procedures in consultation with tribal officials and parents. Additionally, the New Mexico Indian Education Act asserts that parent(s); families; tribal departments of education; community-based organizations; the Public Education Department; universities; and tribal, state, and local policymakers work together to find ways to improve educational opportunities for American Indian students.

Methods. The 23 school districts submitted responses on district-wide surveys that provided input into the number of times districts met and discussed American Indian students' educational opportunities with the district's Indian Education Committee, parent advisory committees, Tribes, Indian organizations, and other tribal community organizations.

Results. Rio Rancho Public Schools has actively and repeatedly engaged in good-faith efforts for tribal consultation. We serve students from all nations, pueblos, and tribes within New Mexico, as well as federally recognized tribes from all over the world. Some examples of this consultation are attending Pueblo of Jemez Governors Meetings, communicating with tribes regarding COVID quarantines and lockdowns. For tribal consultation, our district Tribal Education Status Report is completed annually and posted on our district website, as well as the NMPED-Indian Education Division website.

We also meet regularly with our Native American Parent Advisory Committee at the district and school level. There are a minimum of 5 district level meetings throughout the year, occurring the second Tuesday of the following months: September, November, January, March, and May. These meetings include our school based Native American liaisons, district staff, parents, extended family members, and students. Additional meetings are offered as requested by the Native American Parent Advisory Committee (NAPAC) board. This will provide various opportunities for consultations with parents, community and tribal entities to occur on an as needed basis and upon request.

Finally, we continue to engage in systematic professional development opportunities for all staff. The end goal is to give staff training in an effort to promote cultural sensitivity as well as perspective when interacting with our American Indian students.

Conclusion. LEAs developed working relationships with their Indian Education Committee (IEC), parent advisory committees, Tribes, Indian organizations, and other tribal community organizations through the consultation and decision-making processes.

Action Plan. The objective is to develop a minimum of one primary goal for consultations with each Tribe or Pueblo and, in collaboration, stakeholders determine the best method to implement and achieve that goal for the benefit of New Mexico American Indian students.

3.12 INDIGENOUS RESEARCH AND EVALUATION MEASURES AND CURRICULA

Objective. The research objective ensures that New Mexico schools receive adequate assistance for planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of curricula in native languages, culture, and history designed for tribal and non-tribal students as approved by New Mexico tribes.

Background. Indian Education has been working to strengthen the field of Native education research, data, and best practices. The development of resources for Native education researchers, evaluators, educators, professors, and others who are working within Indian Education has been to improve education for our American Indian students enrolled in all schools. The Indigenous research methodologies differ from the Western educational approaches. In Western academic models, the research project and data are separated from the researcher, who is merely an onlooker. Though the data collected by Indigenous research methodologies can be analyzed quantitatively as well as qualitatively, just like data collected by Western research methods, the acknowledged relationship between researcher and data naturally challenges Western research paradigms. Indigenous research methodologies are powerful and worthwhile despite this challenge because they provide vital opportunities to contribute to the body of knowledge about the natural world and Indigenous peoples.

Methods. In order to develop effective curricula for tribal students and increase their educational opportunities, the 23 school districts submit district-wide surveys on behalf of the district's implementation of indigenous research.

Results. The graph below illustrates the activities in which districts have collaborated and in which they have implemented the Indigenous research evaluation measures and curricula within their respective schools and neighboring tribes.



Research: Research and data has been shared with all sites. All sites have a Native American Liaison who participates in professional development.

Curricula: Resources are available to support a Linguistically and Culturally Responsive learning environment for all students.

Conclusion. Districts have implemented Indigenous Research and Evaluation in the development and assessment of tribal language programs.

In 2008, a major effort to offer a Tribal language program was initiated with an identified instructor, materials and classroom space. However, due to lack of interest and registered students, the program did not come to fruition. There have been continuous efforts. The school district is in support of offering tribal language programs.

In 2015, Rio Rancho Public Schools began work through a book study for a core team. From this book study, the expectation of the team members was to create lesson plans to be shared district wide for best practices in Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Instruction.

Beginning in the Spring of 2017, an MOA was established between RRPS and the IAIA to offer Navajo Language Courses through a Dual language program. This partnership continues with hopes of expanding opportunities to support other indigenous languages represented by our community.

Formally in the Fall of 2018, the district formed a core team at the district office to develop and implement a comprehensive plan of support to support the unique academic, cultural, and behavioral health needs of our students. An important component of this plan is to support adult professional learning and understanding to ensure a culturally and linguistically responsive learning environment for our students.

Action Plan. The objective is to create an action plan, with each district supporting Indigenous research. These plans ensure that comprehensive, best practice models are being utilized for language development, and that opportunity for the use of Indigenous research, evaluation measures, and curricula in other areas—such as culture and history—are being explored.

3.13 Access to Native Language Programs

Objective. This section is a new addition to IED’s objective which will be provided in the statewide TESR report. Quoting from Indian Education Act, “it is imperative that native language and bilingual programs are part of a schools’ development plan”.

Background. The ability to access native language programs was added to the Rule of the Indian Education Act in 2019, and will become a part of the statewide IED TESR: 22-23A-5 (E2) provide assistance to school districts and New Mexico tribes in planning, development, implementation and evaluation of curricula in native language, culture and history designed for all students, including American Indian and Alaska Native students, as approved by Indian nations, tribes, and pueblos in New Mexico.

Methods. Rio Rancho Public Schools has successfully collaborated with the Institute of American Indian Arts for the dual credit opportunities to offer Tribal language programs. We are currently seeking opportunities to expand the language and culture course offerings to include Navajo Government, and the various dialects of Keres.

Forty district-wide school staff members are self-reported as Native American, breakdown below representing Acoma, Cochiti, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Navajo, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, and other:

- 1 administrator
- 27 teachers, grades pre K - 12
 - 18 general education
 - 6 special education
 - 3 specialty areas
- 12 educational assistants, pre K - 12

Results. We have offered Navajo Language as a dual credit course since the Spring 2017 semester. Since then, we have been able to increase the number of courses and increase accessibility by including a virtual option, a course within the bell schedule, and one outside of the bell schedule. This course is open to high school students across the district, regardless of the school registered at.

Conclusion. Students are taught by an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, who is also a NMPED licensed educator. An approved syllabus is followed, created by and with the Institute of American Indian Arts. Instructional practices and pedagogy is culturally and linguistically responsive to the needs of the students within each section.

Action Plan. The history of world cultures and politics necessitates the valuation of language to retain important cultural aspects of groups of people. A challenge of language preservation may be due to a lack of linguistic knowledge and lack of resources. We strive to mitigate these challenges and support cultural and linguistic identity through programs such as this Navajo Language course. This partnership continues with hopes of expanding opportunities to support other indigenous languages represented by our community.

4. Conclusion

This report employs qualitative and quantitative performance measures to briefly examine the current educational opportunities available to Rio Rancho's Native American students, in comparison with New Mexico's Native American students. In support of the vision of the IED, RRPS is also committed to providing support for equitable and culturally responsive learning environments for Native American students in all our schools.

This report includes the Native American student outcomes in 13 reporting areas within the Rio Rancho Public School District, and details the efforts that the PED and the school districts have made within these areas to support American Indian students' academic and cultural achievement during the 2020–2021 school year. Though gaps in available data exist due to the public health emergency, this afforded us the opportunity to take different approaches and more quickly act upon shifts and adjustments to better meet the needs of students. Unique needs arose during the pandemic with several programmatic and pedagogical shifts to better support all students, including our Native American students. The PED, and RRPS, looks to strengthen tribal and school district partnerships in order to reach the growth goals set out for American Indian students within the Every Student Succeeds Act New Mexico Plan and the state's Route to 66 Plan for all New Mexicans.

RRPS looks forward to guidance and technical assistance from the IED on tribal consultation, in order to increase tribal involvement in the educational decisions that affect Native American students. Additionally, the district is looking forward to improving internal processes and a more consistent reporting system across the state through data collection and analysis that informs program development and educational decision making for our Native American students across the state.