

# SERVING HISPANIC STUDENTS IN NEW MEXICO

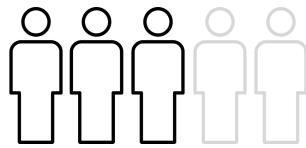
The future of New Mexico and the rest of the nation depends on our children; it is crucial that we ensure Hispanic children receive a culturally and linguistically responsive education that prepares them adequately for college, career, and life. New Mexico is poised to be an example for the nation with the Hispanic Education Act (HEA) of 2010. While the act includes essential items, there are opportunities for grassroots conversations about what Hispanic students and families need.

**THE # OF HISPANICS OR LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES MAY ALMOST DOUBLE WITHIN THE NEXT FORTY YEARS (VESPA ET AL., 2020).**

Hispanics will continue to play a critical if not much more visible role in our communities—in **business, science, healthcare, government, education, and every other field.**

**49.3%** of NM's total population self-identifies as Hispanic or Latino (2021 U.S. Census).

**62%** of students in New Mexico public schools are Hispanic (NM VISTAS, 2021).



**About three of every five students are Hispanic (NM Vistas, 2021).**

**HISPANICS CAN BE OF ANY RACE, AND THEY DIFFER BY**

- socioeconomic status,
- fluency in English and Spanish,
- region of the country they or their family comes from,
- documentation status, and
- generational status in the US.

(ANGELA VALENZUELA, 2016)

**In New Mexico, it might be easy to focus on numbers and forget that Hispanic students descend from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds with lived experiences that are shaped by multiple intersecting social factors, not only race and ethnicity.**

## THE NEW MEXICO HISPANIC EDUCATION ACT SIGNED INTO LAW IN 2010



The Hispanic Education Act (HEA) focuses on improving the educational success and post-secondary attainment of Hispanic students in New Mexico. The HEA is an outcome of the reality that Hispanic students have often been underserved throughout the state, both in our schools and in our communities. Let's work together to strengthen the act so that it supports the the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED), districts, and charter schools in providing culturally and linguistically responsive programming for Hispanic students and families.



The federal Office of Management and Budgets defines a Hispanic or Latino as "a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race" ("About Hispanic Origin," 2022). This means that any person who self-identifies as Hispanic or Latino may also self-identify as one or more of the five minimum racial categories: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and White.

By contrast, New Mexico statute requires that the Hispanic category be considered equivalent to other racial categories. Under New Mexico classification standards, students who identify as Hispanic and White and no other race are recoded as Hispanic. Put differently, the only students recoded as Hispanic under New Mexico classification standards are those who report only White and are not reported as any other race.



### HEA PURPOSE

- Provide for the study, development, and implementation of educational systems.
- Encourage and foster parental involvement.
- Improve educational opportunities for Hispanic students for the purpose of closing the achievement gap, increasing graduation rates and increasing post-secondary enrollment, retention and completion.

### HE LIAISON

The duties of the Hispanic Education (HE) Liaison are to advise the secretary of education, implement a 5-year strategic plan, collaborate with NMPED staff, provide resources to districts and charter schools, support the HEAC, and support districts and charter schools in the recruitment of parents and families to serve on key committees.

### HEAC

The 23-member Hispanic Education Advisory Council (HEAC) advises the secretary of education on matters related to improving education for Hispanic students, increasing parent involvement and community engagement, and increasing the number of Hispanic high school graduates who succeed in post-secondary academic, professional or vocational education.

### HESR

The Hispanic Education Status Report (HESR) is submitted annually to the governor and the legislature in partnership with the higher education department and includes the following data:

1. Hispanic student achievement at all grades;
2. attendance for all grades;
3. the graduation rates for Hispanic students; and
4. the number and type of bilingual and multicultural programs in each school district and charter school.

**For more information: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/languageandculture/hispanic-education-act/>**