

## **BMEAC Advisement – Prueba de Español para la Certificación Bilingüe**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this advisement is to update the current Spanish language proficiency exam (Prueba de Español para la Certificación Bilingüe) required for New Mexico educators to receive a bilingual endorsement as part of their state licensure.

- Bilingual educators intending to teach as part of a Spanish/English bilingual education program must take this exam.
  - The Spanish proficiency of bilingual teachers is key to their success in bilingual classrooms and to the success of their students (Guerrero, 2003; Guzmán Johannessen & Bustamante-López, 2002). Historically, teachers with inadequate levels of Spanish proficiency have been placed in bilingual classrooms (Aquino-Sterling, 2016; Blum Martinez & Baker, 2010).
  - Therefore, raising the standards required for bilingual teacher certification is a step forward in addressing the need to place qualified teachers in bilingual classrooms who have demonstrated academic Spanish proficiency beyond oral proficiency, a need well documented in the literature (Guerrero, 1998, 2000, 2003; Guzmán Johannessen & BustamanteLópez, 2002).
- With 84% of the state’s bilingual programs supporting Spanish and English (STARS, 80th Day, 2020-2021 Data) this exam ensures Spanish language proficiency, awareness of regional New Mexico dialects, and a general cultural awareness that New Mexico bilingual educators must possess.
- Prueba de Español para la Certificación Bilingüe was last updated in SY 2005-06.
- This advisement aligns with Key Recommendation #6 of the LFC Program Evaluation of Bilingual and Multicultural Education Programs (June 16, 2022, Report #22-02). “Update the proficiency exam for bilingual Spanish teaching endorsement (Prueba), which was developed in the ‘90s.”

### **Advisement (Clear and Concise)**

The BMEAC advises the NMPED to create an updated version of Prueba de Español para la Certificación Bilingüe to include an updated study manual. In order to accomplish this, the BMEAC advises the NMPED to:

- Meet with the original creators of Prueba de Español para la Certificación Bilingüe and members of the BMEAC in order to understand the original vision of the assessment, its intended legacy, and to capture recommendations as to how the assessment must be updated,
- Meet with ENMU as part of a needs assessment in order to identify specifics regarding the breadth and depth of the project and update/formalize cost estimates,
- Secure additional funding for this project, currently estimated at \$253,700.00,
- Develop an RFP in consultation with BMEAC, ENMU, and the original test developers to include a project director, exam writers (3), an audio producer, and an educational statistician for purposes of test validation(all three test versions and the three grading rubric versions), norming and the development of normed rubrics,
- Identify a project director and/or an NMPED liaison(s) inclusive of the Language and Culture Division,
- Create consensus together with members from the above-mentioned groups, as to who and how this project will move forward.
- Promote the value of developing and using an assessment made locally that is culturally and linguistically responsive to New Mexico’s Spanish speaking communities.

### **Support (How can the BMEAC support the advisement?)**

The BMEAC can:

- Commit expertise and input as necessary for this project, and
- Connect the NMPED and the assigned project director to additional resources, experts, and the original creators of Prueba de Español para la Certificación Bilingüe.