

ARE YOU PURSUING THE STATE SEAL OF BILINGUALISM-BILITERACY? BECOME AN EDUCATOR AND TEACH MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS!

Educators have the capacity to enact positive social change in their communities through culturally sustaining pedagogy (Alim and Paris, 2017). If you are pursuing the State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy, it is likely you recognize the importance of culturally and linguistically sustaining teaching and could make a difference in your community! Does teaching sound appealing to you? Check out the following steps you can take to become an educator:

1. Do some research



Look up licensure and teacher preparation program requirements. The state of New Mexico requires that teachers be licensed. To obtain a license, you need a bachelor's degree. You can earn a bachelor's degree through a number of educator preparation programs in New Mexico. Visit the New Mexico Public Education Department's webpage on [pathways to educator licensure](#) to see a list of in-state educator preparation programs. These programs may differ in terms of cost, the number of credit hours students are required to complete, focus areas, and other factors. Explore each program website to learn what is expected of students who enroll.

2. Apply to a college or university

In most cases, you must be accepted by a college or university before you can apply to an educator preparation program. Be sure to review application requirements and deadlines. Are ACT or SAT scores required? Do you need to order official transcripts? Making note of priority deadlines and application requirements your junior year of high school will help you plan ahead and apply for admission on time. Many college and university application deadlines fall between August and February.

3. Seek financial aid

Don't let the cost of higher education keep you from pursuing a degree in teacher education! You may qualify for financial aid that can cover the cost of your education. Check out the scholarships available through the [New Mexico Higher Education Department](#). See the back of this flyer for more information about state-funded financial aid.



4. Meet with an advisor

Advisors help students enroll in the right courses and stay on track to graduate. After being admitted to a college or university, ask an advisor how to apply to an educator preparation program. Once accepted, you should meet with an advisor regularly to ensure you fulfill all program requirements. Advisors can also provide information about academic support and new funding sources. They want you to succeed!

5. Complete program requirements

Teacher preparation programs often require students to complete field experiences or student teaching in addition to courses. Student teaching allows you to apply what you've learned and grow as an educator. Some programs even offer [paid teacher residencies or paid student teaching](#)! Use these experiences to ask experienced teacher-mentors questions and build relationships with people in the field of education.

FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES

New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship

The Opportunity Scholarship can be used to cover up to 100% of tuition and required fees at any New Mexico public college or university. If you are an established New Mexico resident & plan to enroll in at least 6 credit hours at a public college or university in NM toward a training certificate, associate degree, or bachelor's degree, you may qualify for the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship.

Teacher Preparation Affordability Scholarship Program

The purpose of the program is to encourage eligible New Mexico students to attend and complete an accredited teacher preparation program at a New Mexico public post-secondary educational institution or a tribal college by providing a scholarship opportunity. The scholarship is intended to help defray the educational expenses charged by the public post-secondary institution or tribal college including tuition, fees, books and course supplies and living expenses. Institutions shall make awards based on financial need. Awards shall not exceed \$6,000 per academic year.

Teacher Loan-For-Service Program

The purpose of the Teacher Loan-For-Service program is to proactively address New Mexico's teacher shortage by providing students with the financial resources to complete or enhance their post-secondary teacher preparation education. The award is based on financial need of the student. The award may not exceed \$4,000 per year.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE UNDOCUMENTED

In the State of New Mexico, Senate Bill 582 establishes two things:

- Prohibits universities from discriminating against students based on their immigration status; and
- Provides in-state tuition and state funds such as the Legislative Lottery Scholarship if you attended a year of secondary education in New Mexico or graduated or obtained a GED in New Mexico.

Undocumented and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) Student Resources:
[New Mexico State University, Educational Info for Undocumented Students](#)

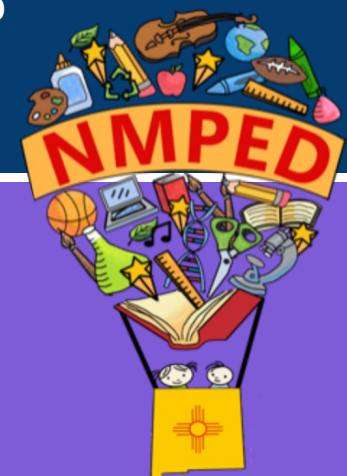
[Northern New Mexico College, DACA & Undocumented Students](#)

[University of New Mexico, El Centro del la Raza Undocresources](#)

Students who are undocumented and interested in obtaining a license to teach in the state of New Mexico may reach out to the NM Public Education Department's Licensure Bureau for more information:

Email: LicensureUnit@ped.nm.gov

Phone: 505-827-5800



New Mexico has an ongoing, urgent need for qualified, quality teachers. Are you multilingual? We need you!