



**Bilingual Multicultural
Education Program
(BMEP)
Recognition Awards
2024**



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Recognition Award Schools

Albuquerque High School

Principal: Cesar Hernandez

Albuquerque Public Schools

Superintendent: Scott Elder

Bilingual Multicultural Education Director: Linda Varela

Albuquerque High School is a comprehensive high school of approximately 1,700 students who come from a variety of ethnic, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Because the school is the oldest in the district, it enjoys a strong heritage of tradition and community support. At AHS, students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement coursework and exams. For several years, AHS has had one of the highest percentages of Ivy League college acceptances in the district, and the Spanish Embassy in Washington DC has recognized AHS as the best public high school in the United States for Bilingual/Spanish education.

Our mission is to provide all AHS students equitable access to our bilingual education programs. With the support of the school and community partners, our BMEP uses data and culturally relevant and diverse instructional strategies to increase student achievement and develop a bilingual, biliterate, multicultural community. Our BMEP students are empowered with a strong cultural identity and global awareness.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Recognition Award Schools

Apache Elementary School

Principal: Davina Terry

Farmington Municipal Schools

Superintendent: Cody Diehl

Bilingual Multicultural Education

Director: Dianne Arrington



Apache Elementary is one of ten elementary schools in the Farmington Municipal School District. We have approximately 440 students, 73% of whom are Native American. We serve the highest percentage of Native American students out of all the elementary schools in the district. Our Diné Language and Culture Revitalization program is a dual language model, with 50% instruction in English and 50% instruction in Diné. We began the program with a cohort of students in Kindergarten. The program is in its sixth year. The first cohort is now in fifth grade and we have a BMEP cohort in every grade level from K-5.

This program focuses on biliteracy and bilingualism, utilizing an inclusion model to emphasize the connection between home language and culture and the everyday, general education setting. We strongly believe that students need to understand that their culture, language, and identity function within the society and community they live in, not without. We engage students and families through program-specific family nights and schoolwide Academic Parent



Teacher Team nights. Students participate in cultural field trips, demonstrations, and guest speaker presentations. Our students have won the Diné district spelling bee, taking first and second place last year. Our program is flourishing. Our goal is to create life-long learners who are fluent in their language and culture, so that they and future generations may view their language and culture as *part of*, not *separate from*, the world they live in.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Recognition Award Schools

Atrisco Heritage Academy High School

Principal: Irene Cisneros

Albuquerque Public Schools

Superintendent: Scott Elder

Bilingual Multicultural Education Director: Linda Varela



The vision and mission of the dual language program at Atrisco Heritage Academy High School aim to cultivate students' agency by fostering bilingualism, biliteracy, socio-cultural competency, and high academic achievement within a supportive and rigorous learning environment. Through culturally responsive strategies, differentiation, scaffolding, collaboration, a robust course selection, and family and community engagement, the dual language team is dedicated to nurturing students who become not only proficient in multiple languages but also equipped with the skills and knowledge to thrive academically and socially in an increasingly diverse world. Beyond teaching languages, our pedagogy focuses on nurturing and supporting the holistic linguistic growth of our students, empowering them to become competent in all areas of life. We actively celebrate the linguistic and cultural diversity of our school community, recognizing that it enriches learning for all. At Atrisco Heritage Academy High School, we strive to empower our students to be proud of who they are and where they come from.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Recognition Award Schools

Bernalillo Elementary School

Principal: Jayme Schutte

Bernalillo Public Schools

Superintendent: Gwen Maldonado

Bilingual Multicultural Education Director:
Laura Corral



Bernalillo Elementary School is uniquely located along the beautiful Rio Grande River and proudly serves the diverse communities of Bernalillo, Placitas, San Felipe, Algodones, Sandia, Santa Ana, and Santo Domingo. Our school was established in 2010, and our current enrollment is about 380 students, serving grades 4, 5, and 6. We take pride in our cultural diversity. We offer a two-way dual language program to foster bilingualism and biliteracy in English and Spanish. Bernalillo Elementary also offers a Keres Heritage program for Santa Ana and San Felipe pueblos.

At Bernalillo Elementary, faculty and staff have created an inclusive and supportive learning environment that recognizes and values students' cultural and linguistic diversity. This globally-oriented, culturally-responsive stance is also reflected in how BPS values the cultures and languages that its students bring to the learning environment daily. This treasuring of students' innate cultural and linguistic gifts is a centerpiece that lends itself to intentional climate- and character-building within the school and sparking partnerships for learning that are established across the community and contribute to a global society.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Recognition Award Schools

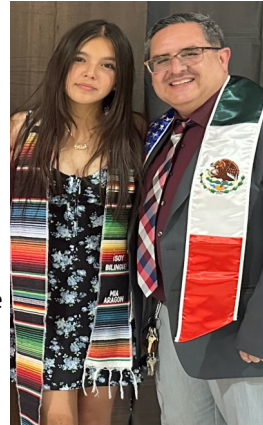
Christine Duncan Heritage Academy

Principal : Jesus Moncada

Albuquerque Public Schools

Superintendent: Scott Elder

Bilingual Multicultural Education Director: Linda Varela



Christine Duncan Heritage Academy (CDHA) is a Pre-K through 8th grade dual language immersion charter school located on the westside of Albuquerque. CDHA opened its doors in 2006 and currently serves approximately 450 students. CDHA's mission is to offer students the opportunity to become bilingual and biliterate in a Spanish-English immersion setting that uses research-based practices and data-driven instruction. CDHA values its diverse, inclusive environment that encourages family and community engagement.

We have 26 teachers with a bilingual endorsement, 19 with a TESOL certification, and four school administrators who are fluently bilingual. We work hard to support teacher retention, which was 97% in 22/23! We believe teacher retention has a big impact on our students' success.

CDHA students made significant academic progress in reading, math, and English proficiency last school year. We are meeting the charter school goals for language development, and last year 64% of our 8th graders achieved a bilingual seal. Our strong 90/10 dual language immersion program in grades Pre K – 8th is inclusive of students with diverse backgrounds and educational needs.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Recognition Award Schools

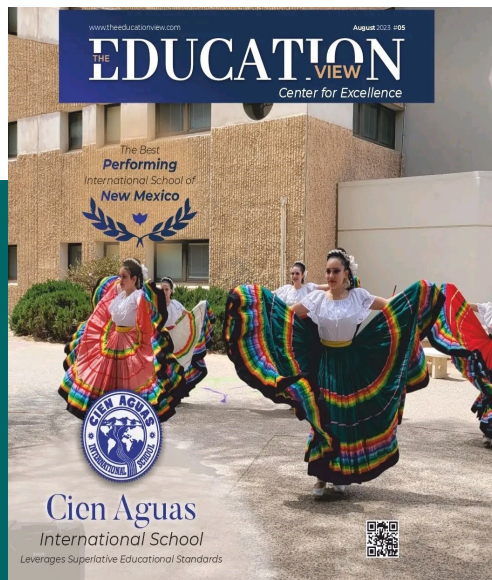
Cien Aguas International School
Principal: Casey Benavidez

Albuquerque Public Schools
Superintendent: Scott Elder
Bilingual Multicultural Education
Director: Linda Varela



Cien Aguas is celebrating its 15th year! Back in 2009, our founders designed a school that would demonstrate that English Learners are capable of higher levels of achievement. This school would be a model for other Spanish-English dual language and ESL programs. Today, Cien Aguas is a Title I School with a population of 420 students. We have a diverse learning community with 15% of our students in Special Education and 36% classified as English Learners. Serving our unique and historically underserved students is at the center of our strategic planning and daily operations.

Cien Aguas' highly educated and committed professionals develop, review, and design our academic program. At the core of our program is meaningful, relevant content brought through teaching that is both energetic and active. Our students are engaged in art, music, PE, folkloric studies, and film classes. Students and teachers at Cien Aguas understand the importance of working as a team. Cien Aguas students continue to realize the school founders' dream of achieving higher levels of academic success while becoming bilingual and bi-literate.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Recognition Award Schools

Maggie Cordova Elementary School

Principal: Stephanie Nieto

Rio Rancho Public Schools

Superintendent: V. Sue Cleveland Ed.D

Bilingual Multicultural Education

Director: Suzanne Nguyen



Maggie Cordova Elementary School is a kindergarten through 5th grade school within Rio Rancho Public Schools. As a Title I school, MCE strives to connect students with learning experiences and resources to become successful in learning and in life beyond the classroom. Our campus boasts successful special education programs as well as a strong bilingual education program. Serving just under 700 students daily, our staff is dedicated to high-quality instruction, inclusive practices and ensuring that our campus is a community for all learners. Maggie Cordova Elementary School truly is a great place for all.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Recognition Award Schools

Sunrise Elementary School

Principal: Dora Solis

Las Cruces Public Schools

Superintendent: Ignacio Ruiz

Bilingual Multicultural Education Director: Aine Garcia-Post

Sunrise Elementary is a 3rd through 5th grade school in Las Cruces. Our school's core purpose — "We are a caring community where everyone succeeds" — is not just a statement; it is a guiding principle that profoundly influences the educational journey of our dual language students. This commitment to fostering a caring community creates an inclusive and supportive environment where students from diverse linguistic backgrounds feel valued and embraced. The impact on our dual language students is evident in the development of a strong sense of belonging and acceptance. Our approach goes beyond conventional language education, emphasizing the importance of empathy and understanding in the process of linguistic and cultural development.

The impact of this core purpose extends beyond the classroom, influencing the relationships between students, parents, and educators. The collaborative and nurturing atmosphere enhances communication and engagement, fostering partnerships between home and school. Dual language students benefit from this synergy as they receive consistent support and encouragement. We are honored to be a part of the bilingual journey for our students!



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Recognition Award Schools

Tombaugh Elementary School

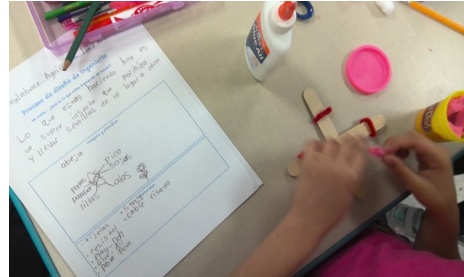
Principal: Tara Faivre

Las Cruces Public Schools

Superintendent: Ignacio Ruiz

Bilingual Multicultural Education Director:

Aine Garcia-Post



Tombaugh Elementary is a PreK-5th grade school in Las Cruces which offers dual language as a core instructional program. Our program offers English and Spanish speaking students the opportunity to learn and excel in two languages. Within this model we provide a research-based approach that is effective for both our Emergent Bilingual students and our Spanish Learner students.

We are excited to announce that next year, our dual language students will be part of the Tombaugh STEAM Academy. In this Academy, students will experience hands-on learning through science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematical concepts taught in both languages. They will develop real-world skills, flexibility, perseverance, and critical thinking. Our aim is to motivate and inspire our students to explore, experience, and generate new ideas for a brighter bilingual and biliterate future!



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Recognition Award Schools

West Mesa High School

Principal: Michele Torres

Albuquerque Public Schools

Superintendent: Scott Elder

Bilingual Multicultural Education

Director: Linda Varela

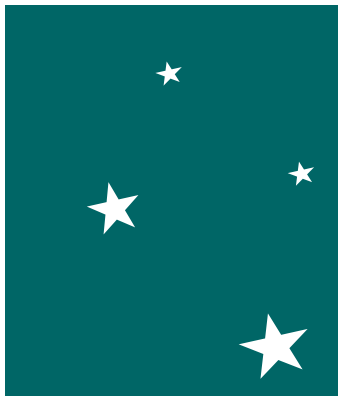


Established in 1967, Albuquerque's West Mesa High School serves nearly 1,560 students. We have a rich history of academic, extracurricular, co-curricular, and cultural excellence. Our motto is "Knowledge today, success tomorrow." We inspire academic achievement by building a community of lifelong learners and creating opportunities for success through learning achievement.

West Mesa students come from various backgrounds. Our student body includes 430 English Language Learners and our dual language and heritage BMEP serves 578 students. We offer home language support with Spanish for heritage speakers and Spanish Language Arts. In addition, we offer support for our Diné students. Our bilingual program strives to graduate students who are bilingual, biliterate and culturally competent so that they are college and career ready.

West Mesa works to make personal connections with students and their families, which boosts academic success and graduation rates. One way we accomplish this is through Escuela de Padres, a monthly meeting where parents and students explore various school- and family-related topics in a bilingual setting.

Finally, we are very proud of our bilingual seal program. Students can earn up to three different bilingual seals varying in rigor. These include The New Mexico State Seal of Bilingualism and Biliteracy (SSBB), The Global Seal of Bilingualism, and the Albuquerque Public School Seal of Bilingualism and Biliteracy.





Bilingual Multicultural
Education Program (BMEP)
Excellence Awards
2024

Awarded for maintaining consistent
performance over the course of multiple years





Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Excellence Award Schools



East San Jose Elementary School

Principal: Eder Ortiz

Albuquerque Public Schools

Superintendent: Scott Elder

Bilingual Multicultural Education Director: Linda Varela



East San José Elementary has been a proud dual language school for more than 25 years and we take that commitment seriously. We have highly trained, dual language certified teachers and interventionists who have worked with Dr. Jose Medina on the 4+1 language practices and elected to participate with his embedded coaching to guide our dual language practices. We implemented the color-coding system schoolwide to support English/Spanish language development and bridging languages for all language learners. Socio-emotional learning is part of our school culture. Our goal is to develop respect towards others and to learn through a biliterate lens. East San José is committed to supporting and extending the BMEP to develop biliterate lifelong learners. We are East San José, *Donde todo el mundo aprende*.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Excellence Award Schools

New Mexico International School

Head of School: Todd Knouse

Bilingual Multicultural Education Director: Cynthia Pedrotty

New Mexico International School (NMIS) is a K-8 charter multilingual school, established in 2011. Our academic program is one of rigor. Our drive is for children to push the educational process through inquiry-based education. Additionally, the school has an academic goal for all students to exit the program in eighth grade bilingual and bi-literate in Spanish and English and with a conversational level of Arabic. To this end our students are taught in an “immersion” environment. Students in K-8th are taught all their subjects in Spanish, even though our students are mostly native English speakers. Students are introduced to the Arabic language in 4th grade and will continue through middle school. Students progressing through our middle school have certain subjects taught in English, and some in Spanish, but all at a high level of academic language proficiency.

Our school is one of a small handful of World Schools, authorized International Baccalaureate (IB). This means that our students are exposed to a global curriculum. Our staff members promote an awareness of various customs around the world and we encourage our students and families toward cultural and religious tolerance, as well as ecological responsibility. Regardless of the language abilities of our parents/guardians, it is expected that multiculturalism and multilingualism is promoted in the home.

NMIS has a high value on the arts. Our students receive violin lessons twice a week from a violin teacher who is licensed in Suzuki-method violin instruction. Additionally, our students receive twice-weekly visual arts instruction from a licensed art teacher. Our school also places a strong emphasis on student action and student leadership. Our Student Council participates in the NMASC State and District level events and receives multiple district and state-level awards and recognitions.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Excellence Award Schools

Rudolfo Anaya Community School

Principal: Rebecca Maestas

Albuquerque Public Schools

Superintendent: Scott Elder

Bilingual Multicultural Education Director:

Linda Varela



Rudolfo Anaya Community School serves the southwest Albuquerque community. Named after the world-renowned author who wrote about New Mexican traditions and culture, our elementary school takes great pride in keeping those traditions and culture alive. We recognize that by meeting the needs of the whole child, both linguistically and culturally, we can expand on student learning and academic achievement. Our top priority is student well-being and success. We have a welcoming atmosphere and value our positive school climate that celebrates academic success.

Our dual language program is led by highly qualified teachers who have trained with Dr. Jose Medina. Their instruction is centered around implementing research-based strategies, including the five language domains of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and “translanguaging.” Through rigorous instruction, 5th grade students are afforded the opportunity to earn the bilingual seal. This is a school-wide effort that all can engage in to ensure the success of all students. Dual language teachers collaborate with one another to provide opportunities for the older students to interact with our younger students by offering peer tutoring sessions and performing community service.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Excellence Award Schools

Tierra Encantada Charter School

School Director: Daniel Peña

Santa Fe Public Schools

Superintendent: Hilario “Larry” Chavez

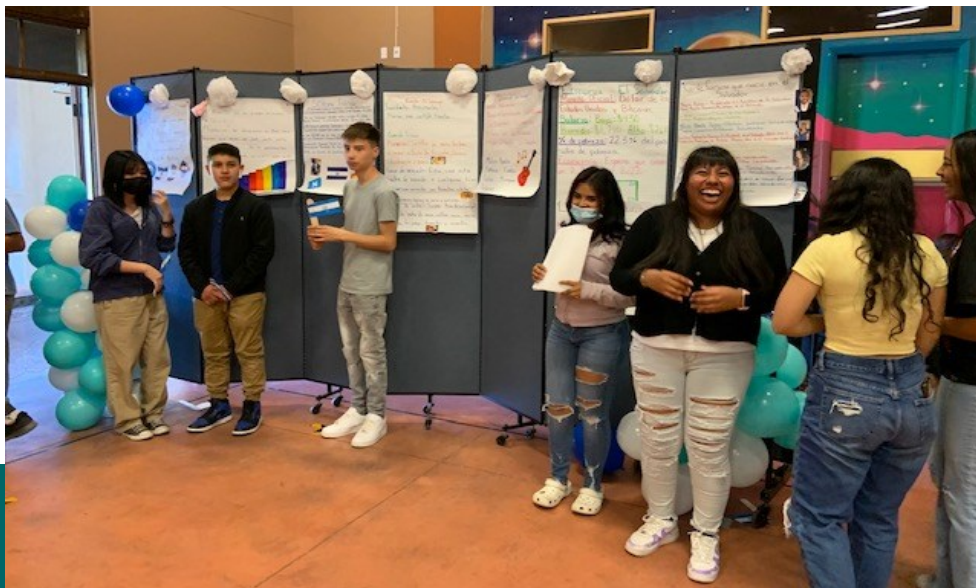
Bilingual Multicultural Education

Director: Daniel Pastrana



Tierra Encantada Charter School is a dual– language, project– based, college preparatory school that serves students in grades 7-12. It is located in beautiful Santa Fe, NM. Tierra Encantada provides rigorous instruction and experiential academic programs to our students. Tierra Encantada is a student-centered, inclusive community of teachers , staff, and parents who strive to meet our learners where they are and to facilitate excellence in academics and character.

Tierra Encantada promotes student leadership through participation in Model United Nations or LoboMUN Conference and many other civic engagement projects. Our students become prepared leaders who present at different bilingual conferences such as La Cosecha or NABE. Students also take on other leadership roles such as mentoring other students and contributing their skills and talents to their community.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Program Excellence Award Schools

Truman Middle School

Principal: Shayne Goesling

Albuquerque Public Schools

Superintendent: Scott Elder

Bilingual Multicultural Education Director:
Linda Varela



Truman Middle School is the heart of Albuquerque's Westgate neighborhood, dedicated to diversity, differentiation, pure teaming, middle-level philosophy, and learning for all. Our 50/50 dual language program began in 1999 and has grown to earn a reputation as one of the best developed and implemented middle school Spanish-English dual language programs in our state. Students' and families' cultures are reflected in the curriculum and in teacher-student interactions, which creates a healthy school environment that honors the various cultural identities of our community.

Truman's structured program sets a high bar for student performance. An example of this is our implementation of the Bilingual Seal that recognizes students' language proficiencies and culture with pride. Truman's seal is the only middle school seal to compare with the expectations of the high school seal. Year-round, Truman welcomes visitors who wish to learn more about the incredible program. Keeping with high student standards, the faculty also has high standards by presenting at bilingual education conferences throughout the year, which include our very own students. Truman's BMEP continues to strengthen and improve through reflection and collaboration.





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