

HOUSE BILL 488

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

E. Diane Torres-Velásquez and Linda M. López
and Patricia Roybal Caballero and Yanira Gurrola

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; PROVIDING THAT BILINGUAL
MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION SHALL USE STUDENTS' HOME OR HERITAGE
LANGUAGE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-23-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973,
Chapter 285, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-23-6. BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS--
ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT.--

A. To be eligible for state financial support, each
bilingual multicultural education program shall:

(1) provide for the educational needs of
linguistically and culturally different students, including
Native American children and other students who may wish to
participate, in grades kindergarten through twelve, with

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1 priority to be given to programs in grades kindergarten through
2 three, in a district;

3 (2) fund programs for culturally and
4 linguistically different students in the state in grades
5 kindergarten through three for which there is an identifiable
6 need to improve the language capabilities of both English and
7 the home language of these students before funding programs at
8 higher grade levels;

9 ~~[(3) use two languages as mediums of
10 instruction for any part or all of the curriculum of the grade
11 levels within the program;]~~

12 (3) use the home or heritage language as the
13 medium of instruction for any part or all of the curriculum of
14 the grade levels within the program and use English for an
15 additional part within the program when there is an
16 identifiable need to improve the students' English language
17 proficiency;

18 (4) use teachers who have specialized in
19 elementary or secondary education and who have received
20 specialized training in bilingual education [~~conducted through~~
21 ~~the use of two languages~~]. These teachers or other trained
22 personnel shall administer language proficiency assessments in
23 both English and in the home or heritage language until
24 proficiency in each language is achieved;

25 (5) emphasize the history and cultures

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1 associated with the students' home or heritage language;

2 (6) establish a parent advisory committee,
3 representative of the language and culture of the students, to
4 assist and advise in the development, implementation and
5 evaluation of the bilingual multicultural education program;
6 and

7 (7) provide procedures to ensure that parental
8 notification is given annually prior to bilingual multicultural
9 education program placement.

10 B. Each bilingual multicultural education program
11 shall meet each requirement of Subsection A of this section and
12 be approved by the department to be eligible for state
13 financial support."