

## **The Yazzie case is rooted in the strengths of New Mexicans**

- Our children are culturally and linguistically diverse and gifted.
- Our educational expertise and knowledge.
- Every student deserves to graduate ready for college and career, and to pursue their dreams.



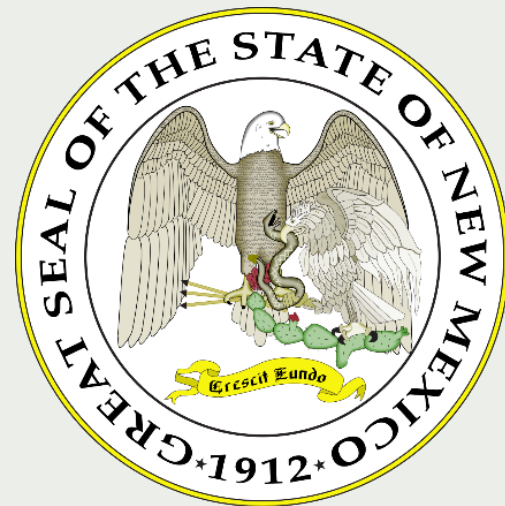
# Who Is Impacted?

- Native American Students (10.6%)
- English Language Learners (14.4%)
- Students with Disabilities (14.8%)
- Low-Income students (71%)

# The New Mexico Constitution

"A **uniform** system of free public schools **sufficient** for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained."

N.M. Constitution, Article XII, Section 1



# **Yazzie v. State**

- **2014 - Filed in State Court**
- **Plaintiffs**
  - 5 Family Plaintiffs
  - 6 School District Plaintiffs
- **Defendants**
  - State of New Mexico
- **Legal Claim - Violation of State Constitution**
- **Consolidated with *Martinez v. State***
- **2018 - Decision issued by the Court in favor of the Plaintiffs**



***Wilhelmina Yazzie, parent and advocate***



# Judge's Decision

*"...[T]he State Constitution requires the State to provide every student with the opportunity to obtain an education that allows them to become **prepared for career or college**."* (Judge Singleton)

**Multicultural Framework:** PED has not given the school districts a framework to use in providing a multicultural education. The State has not implemented the NM Indian Education Act, the Hispanic Education Act, or the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act.

**Effective Programs and Services:** Programs like full-day PreK, extended learning time, bilingual programs and culturally and linguistically relevant education are effective, but not available to all students. The public school system fails to provide adequate special education, health and social services, instructional materials, transportation and other services.

**Teachers:** The state does not have a system to recruit and retain quality and diverse teachers. Low teacher pay and inadequate funds to adequately train teachers are barriers.

**Funding & Accountability:** Funding is inadequate for all districts, and the PED has failed to assure that funds are spent to provide "at-risk" students with needed programs and services.

***\*Education is a right and lack of funds is not a defense for violating this right.***





## Contact Us

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