



## OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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December 4, 2025

New Mexico Public Education Department AND  
Attorneys in *Martinez-Yazzie v. The State of New Mexico*

RE: Martinez-Yazzie Action Plan

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission respectfully submits this letter to convey our position regarding the New Mexico Public Education Department's Action Plan recently presented to the court. As an organization committed to advocating for the educational rights of Native American students, we find it imperative to highlight critical deficiencies in the proposed Plan and urge refinement to ensure meaningful progress.

After thorough review, the Commission finds the Action Plan incomplete and insufficient in addressing the core concerns raised by the Martinez-Yazzie lawsuit. It remains essential that Native students have access to high-quality instruction and culturally relevant curricula. The Plan falls short in specifying how it will guarantee rigorous academic standards and promote instructional practices that recognize and integrate Native language, heritage and perspectives. Without such commitments, the educational experience for Native students risks remaining inequitable and disconnected from their cultural identities.

The proposed Literacy Center, while a potentially valuable resource, lacks clarity in several key areas. The Plan does not provide sufficient details on funding sources or sustainability, leaving questions about its long-term viability. Furthermore, the relationship between English literacy and the preservation of Native languages is inadequately addressed. Both objectives must be pursued in tandem, with clear strategies to support bilingualism and native language revitalization.

The success of any educational reform hinges on the recruitment, training, and retention of qualified teachers. The current Plan inadequately addresses the need for certified bilingual educators and special education teachers, both of whom are essential to serving Native students. Targeted support and incentives for these professionals must be prioritized to ensure that Native and all students receive appropriate and effective instruction.

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission conducted numerous public hearings related to the public education that our Native students receive, and we will continue advocating for the rights of Native students and supporting the Plaintiffs' efforts to achieve substantive change. We

remain committed to collaborating with all parties to advance solutions that honor our Native students' heritage, promote equity and uphold the principles of justice.

In closing, we urge the State Public Education Department, the court and all stakeholders to recognize the gaps in the current Action Plan and to support further refinement to address these critical issues. Furthermore, Navajo Nation Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, Honorable Crystalyne Curley, requests the New Mexico District Court to consider extending the time for public input regarding the Plan. This extension would allow for broader community engagement and ensure all voices are adequately heard before any final decisions are made.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide input and is ready to contribute expertise and advocacy toward the development of a more comprehensive and effective Plan. Do not hesitate to contact Ms. Darlene Womochil, Policy Analyst or me at 928-871-7436. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to the advancement of Native American education in New Mexico.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy S. Greyeyes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Dr. Wendy S. Greyeyes, Ph.D.

Chairwoman

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission