



**RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Relating to Education; Supporting the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee  
Memorandum Opposing the New Mexico Public Education Department's Martinez-Yazzie Action  
Plan (MY Action Plan)**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The Navajo Nation Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") is the education agent in the Executive Branch for the purposes of overseeing the operation of all schools serving the Navajo Nation. 10 N.N.C. § 106 (A). The Board carries out its duties and responsibilities through the Department of Diné Education (hereinafter the "Department"). 10 N.N.C. §106 (G)(3).
2. The Department is the administrative agency within the Navajo Nation with responsibility and authority for implementing and enforcing the educational laws of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §1801(B); 10 N.N.C. §107(A). The Department is under the immediate direction of the Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools, subject to the overall direction of the Board. 10 N.N.C. §107(B).
3. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee is the oversight committee for the Department of Diné Education and Navajo Nation Board of Education. 2 N.N.C. § 401 (C)(1); 10 N.N.C. § 1(B).
4. The Navajo Nation also established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and is empowered to coordinate all state program and position statements, including those to the federal government. 2 N.N.C §§164(A)(9), 700(A), 701(A)(4), 701(A)(6); CO-45-12. The Navajo Nation also has a government-to-government relationship with the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and federal government.
5. The Board has reviewed and supports the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee memorandum opposing the New Mexico Public Education Department's Martinez-Yazzie Action Plan (MY Action Plan), attached hereto as "EXHIBIT A". The Board supports continued collaboration with the State of New Mexico and appropriate agencies in the best interests of Navajo education.

**DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION**

Post Office Box 670 · Window Rock, Arizona, 86515 · Phone (928)871-7475

**NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Nadine M. Chatto, **President** · Freda Nellis, **Vice President** · Andrea K. Thomas, **Secretary**

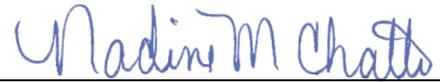
**Members:** Dr. Henry Fowler · Joan A. Gray · Emerson John  
Spencer W. Willie · Sharon A Toadecheenie · Dr. Pauletta White  
Claudia Edgewater-Russell, **(A) Superintendent of Schools**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Navajo Nation Board of Education hereby supports the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee Memorandum opposing the New Mexico Public Education Department's Martinez-Yazzie Action Plan (MY Action Plan) (Attached as "EXHIBIT A").
2. The Navajo Nation Board of Education further recommends that the Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools or her designee(s) to advocate on behalf of the Navajo Nation consistent with the position stated in this resolution.
3. The Navajo Nation Board of Education hereby directs and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any action deemed as necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

**C E R T I F I C A T I O N**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Board of Education of the Navajo Nation at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Arizona (Navajo Nation) at which a quorum was present, motioned by Joan A. Gray and seconded by Dr. Henry Fowler and that the same was passed by a vote of 10 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstained, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025.



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**Nadine Chatto, President**  
**Navajo Nation Board of Education**



## 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

EXHIBIT

**A**

November 26, 2025

Mariana Padilla, Secretary of Education/PED  
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[Governor.BCD@exec.nm.gov](mailto:Governor.BCD@exec.nm.gov)

### **Re: Opposing the New Mexico Public Education Department's Martinez-Yazzie Action Plan (MY Action Plan)**

Greetings,

On behalf of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we write to oppose the finalized Martinez-Yazzie Action Plan ("the Plan") released by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). Despite the opportunity to produce a comprehensive response to the New Mexico First Judicial District Court's (Court) directive, the Plan exhibits critical deficiencies that fundamentally undermine its capacity to remedy the constitutional violations identified in the Martinez-Yazzie decision. Perhaps it is because a draft of the Plan was written in less than a month from less than 15 community meetings hosted only in August 2025. Then, it was given back to the public for 10 days to collect any further comments and/or recommendations before a final version was released.

The Plan fails to establish transparent connections between its proposed initiatives and the specific constitutional deprivations the Court identified regarding at-risk students' educational rights. Rather than systematically addressing documented disparities affecting Native American students, English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged populations, the Plan addresses these populations in fragments, leaving substantial legal vulnerabilities unresolved. For instance, the NM Indian Education Act or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Further, instead of presenting an integrated strategic framework, the Plan reads as a collection of disconnected programmatic elements without direction. It also lacked substantive engagement with tribal nations and affected communities whose input is essential to designing culturally competent, educationally responsive solutions. Meaningful consultation represents both a legal prerequisite and practical necessity for plan viability. None of the mere 15 community meetings were not even held on the Navajo Nation, where over 25,000 Diné students attend public schools across NM.

Finally, any comprehensive remedial plan requires detailed fiscal analyses. This Plan neglects to include itemized cost projections, funding source identification, or implementation budgets. This omission only reveals uncertainty to both the feasibility and sustainability of any proposed educational interventions. Therefore, we urge NMPED to undertake a comprehensive reconsideration and substantive revision of this Plan. The current iteration fails to satisfy the Court's expectations and serves neither the educational interests of disadvantaged students nor the state's legal obligations.

We respectfully request submission of a substantially revised plan that demonstrates clear connections between proposed actions and constitutional remedies, including specific performance metrics and implementation timelines, and financial projections – and with all affected stakeholders.

Respectfully,



Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee  
25th Navajo Nation Council

CC: Crystalyne Curley, Speaker  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

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Gallup-Mckinley School District*