



El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

www.nmabe.net

Vol. 39 No. 3

Spring: April 2015

ELL Teacher Preparation Act (ELLTPA) Makes Its Way through the NM Legislature

The ELL Teacher Preparation Act, HB 373 and SB 470, was introduced in both the House and the Senate in early February. The duplicate bills were sponsored by Rep. Javier Martínez and Tomás Salazar in the House and Sen. Bill Soules in the Senate. The bill was prepared by the NM Coalition for the Majority. This group represents statewide professional organizations and individuals who are concerned with the education of New Mexico's "majority-minority" student population, approximately 71% of its population.

HB 373 and Senate Bill 470 seek to improve the educational outcomes of English language learners (ELLs) in NM by increasing the number of teacher education students completing endorsements in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) or Bilingual Education, as well as providing additional training to teachers already in the field. The bill will establish, operate, expand and improve training programs for College of Education students or educational personnel who are or will be teaching English Language Learners. It allows the Higher Education Department (HED) to make grants to public post-secondary institutions, school districts, charter schools, or regional education cooperatives. The bill states what preferences HED shall apply in awarding grants. The bill also requires that Bilingual Multicultural Education training programs be designed

to ensure that participants become proficient in English and a second language of instruction and be proficient to work with culturally and linguistically diverse students in New Mexico.

Needs

According to the 2014 NM Standards Based Assessment results on the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) website, ELLs continue to suffer from a gap in achievement in comparison with their native English-speaking peers:

| Reading % Proficient | | Mathematics % Proficient | |
|----------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| All Students | ELLs | All students | ELLs |
| 49% | 19% | 41% | 17% |

Additionally, the bill seeks to fill a significant need in New Mexico's schools which is: the majority are instructed by teachers who lack a Bilingual Education or TESOL endorsement. (See charts on Page 4.) For the past two years, the New Mexico State Bilingual Advisory Committee has consistently emphasized to the NMPED the need to increase the number of TESOL and Bilingual Education endorsed teachers in the state.

Committee Hearings

After some debate, the bill was approved unanimously by the House Education Committee. [Continued on Page 2](#)

LCPS Parents Participate in Language Academies with Their Children

By Maricela Rincón

Coordinator, Dual Language Department, LCPS

The Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS), located in Las Cruces, New Mexico, has created a unique opportunity for secondary students and parents to learn a second language together. LCPS has opened its doors to a new concept, where you will see families participating for the first time in the LCPS Language Academies.

Las Cruces Public Schools Superintendent Stan Rounds and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Steven Sanchez first envisioned this idea as a different way to engage the community in public education and specifically, in their children's education.

"Most after-school enrichment programs focus only on students — we want to focus on engaging our families," said Dr.

Steven Sanchez.

The novel idea resonated with the Las Cruces community and resulted in an overwhelming, positive response. On the first night of registration, the LCPS Language Academies had more than 200 families lined up to take advantage of this opportunity. Superintendent Rounds welcomed and commended the participants for setting an example for children, as their attendance illustrated the importance of continuous learning.

"It is with great pride that we can work together in innovative ways that involve our community," said Mr. Rounds. "When you do your part as parents and support these educational events, you are sending us a clear message about your interest and dedication to produce and promote a polyglot, [Continued on Page 3](#)

Continued from Page 1 Edward Tabet Cubero, Deputy Director for Dual Language Education of New Mexico, provided expert testimony on behalf of Reps. Martínez and Salazar. Support voiced for the bill from the audience included comments from teachers, parents, School Districts (Rio Rancho and Las Cruces), administrators, NEA, the NM Coalition for School Leaders, the CESDP, NMABE, DLENM, the State Bilingual Advisory Committee, the business community, New Mexico Highlands University and the Native American Policy and Training Center at the University of New Mexico.

The NMPED did not support the bill. According to the Financial Impact Report:

- “PED notes that current teacher preparation programs and New Mexico-based nonprofits claiming expertise in educating ELL or BME may not be effective and argues that the appropriation in the bill may proliferate currently inadequate training programs rather than support the expansion and development of training programs with demonstrable research-proven methods and effectiveness data with New Mexico districts and schools.”
- “PED adds that in FY14, PED received \$1.65 million for establishing new teacher preparation programs in the state, called NMPrep. The purpose of the program is to establish innovative teacher preparation programs that train individuals with a past record of proven success to begin careers as effective classroom teachers. NMPrep programs address areas of need, including ELL/Bilingual, Special Education and STEM teacher training.”
- “PED notes the provisions in this bill for increasing the accountability of post-secondary education institutions in terms of requiring effective planning (measurable goals), recruiting, and reporting practices can be pursued directly from the PED’s Professional Licensure Bureau without enacting this bill.”

After over an hour of debate, the House Appropriations and Finance Committee voted down a "do pass" motion for the "ELL Teacher Prep Act" 7-8, along party lines. "While the committee overwhelmingly supported the concept of the bill, those who voted against it couldn't see a way to move it forward without an appropriation, which simply wasn't available at this point in the session." said Edward Tabet Cubero.

With only one week left in the Legislative Session at this writing, the fate of the bill is unknown.

New Albuquerque School Named in Honor of Dr. George I. Sánchez

The Albuquerque Public Schools has announced that it will name its newest school on the Southwest Mesa in honor of Dr. George I. Sánchez. Dr. Sánchez's long-recognized and celebrated work was virtually unknown in New Mexico until February of 2012, when Russell Contreras of the Associated Press wrote an article published in local newspapers about a “New Mexico Civil Rights Leader Largely Forgotten In His Home State.”

Dr. was born in Albuquerque in 1906. He was the son of an Arizona miner. He became a public school teacher, education reformer, scholar and educational activist for education equity for Mexican-American children. Dr. Sánchez taught at the University of New Mexico, and held several concurrent teaching, Chair, and Dean positions at the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned a Masters in Educational Psychology. He also earned a Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of California at Berkeley.

In his first position as Director of the Division of Information and Statistics of the New Mexico State Department of Education (1931–1935), Dr. Sánchez identified funding inequities across the state, especially in rural districts. From 1938 to 1940, he surveyed Taos County for the Carnegie Foundation (a survey that resulted in Sánchez's book, *Forgotten People: A Study of New Mexicans*). *Forgotten People* brought about a public awareness of the severity of

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El Noticiero

El Noticiero is published monthly by *Language Magazine* and provides information on current affairs concerning the education of language minority persons in New Mexico and the United States.

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

No. 39:1 Fall 2014: October
(Back-to-School Edition)

No. 39:2 Winter 2015: January
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,

No. 39:3 Spring 2015: April
(Spring Conference Edition)

No. 39:4 Summer 2015 July
(Summer Activities)

Continued from Page 1 — multilingual population.”

“I can’t believe it’s free of charge, what a great way to do a community outreach!” said one of the parents who registered.

“*Esta es una oportunidad que he esperado por mucho tiempo, me siento muy feliz al tener la oportunidad de aprender inglés con mi hija de la high school,*” said another parent who was excited about registering for the English as a Second Language Academy.

The four academies offered include Spanish as a Second Language, English as a Second Language, Arabic as a Second Lan-

guage, and American Sign Language. The language academies are open to students, parents and the community in general. Since their inauguration on January 15, 2015, the Academies have since expanded to include parents and students of Third through Fifth grades, as well.

“Families are excited! We often underestimate the desire of families to spend time together, and with so many extracurricular activities happening, our families don’t always get to spend quality time engaged in meaningful learning activities,” said Mari Rincón, the LCPS Coordinator for Dual

Language Education. “The Academies allow parents and children to connect on a personal level, without their electronic devices, and without a television in front of them,” added Iggy Campos, Coordinator in the Dual Language Department.

The academies meet twice a week for one hour, or once a week for two hours.

“It’s been exciting to see how families are building networks and now support each other as they learn a second language together,” Rincon added. “The Language Academies are bringing our community closer together.”

Continued from Page 2 — inequities for the school children of New Mexico. He is remembered today as an educator with a deep commitment to advancing minority interests.

NMABE presented its national recognition, the Joseph M. Montoya Award, to Dr. Sánchez in April, 2012. This award recognizes leaders who have distinguished themselves at the national level in Bilingual Education. In July and August 2012, NMABE's *El Noticiero* published the story of Dr. Sánchez, written by Luisa A. Durán. It can be found at www.nmabe.net, *El Noticiero*, July and August 2012.

It is fitting that Albuquerque Public Schools' newest school is named in Dr. Sánchez honor.

2014 - 2015 Elementary (Grades K-6) ELL Teacher Endorsements (source: NMPED)

| District Name | TTL Elem. ELL Teachers | TTL Elem. ELL Students | TTL Teachers Bil/ TESOL Endorsed | TTL Teachers Bil/ TESOL Not Endorsed | % Endorsed | % Not Endorsed |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| STATEWIDE | 6433 | 32151 | 3403 | 3030 | 52.9% | 47.1% |
| Albuquerque | 1999 | 10528 | 1364 | 635 | 68.2% | 31.8% |
| Clovis | 118 | 412 | 34 | 84 | 28.8% | 71.2% |
| Gadsden | 396 | 3401 | 307 | 89 | 77.5% | 22.5% |
| Gallup | 284 | 1673 | 70 | 214 | 24.6% | 75.4% |
| Las Cruces | 445 | 1913 | 179 | 266 | 40.2% | 59.8% |
| Santa Fe | 326 | 2203 | 166 | 160 | 50.9% | 49.1% |

2014 - 2015 Secondary (Grades 7 - 12) ELL Teacher Endorsements (source: NMPED)

| District Name | TTL Elem. ELL Teachers | TTL Elem. ELL Students | TTL Teachers Bil/ TESOL Endorsed | TTL Teachers Bil/ TESOL Not Endorsed | % Endorsed | % Not Endorsed |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| STATEWIDE | 6262 | 15716 | 1314 | 4948 | 21.0% | 79.0% |
| Albuquerque | 1936 | 4409 | 407 | 1529 | 21.0% | 79.0% |
| Clovis | 150 | 267 | 17 | 133 | 11.3% | 88.7% |
| Gadsden | 283 | 1370 | 163 | 120 | 57.6% | 42.4% |
| Gallup | 240 | 1356 | 48 | 192 | 20.0% | 80.0% |
| Las Cruces | 462 | 690 | 53 | 409 | 11.5% | 88.5% |
| Santa Fe | 270 | 993 | 48 | 222 | 17.8% | 82.2% |



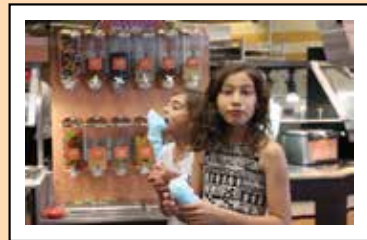
The Fifth Annual SANTILLANA

National Spanish Spelling Bee

July 16 -18, 2015

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER



Plan on attending!

Students

Teachers

Parents

Bilingual Educators

Administrators

The New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education (NMABE) along with Dual Language Education of New Mexico (DLENM), Bee sponsors and other organizers, invite you to the Fifth Annual National Spanish Spelling Bee Competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



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