



PRESS RELEASE

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New Mexico Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report on Educational Adequacy and Disparities for Native American Students

On August 7, 2024, the New Mexico Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) issued a [report](#) on educational adequacy for Native American students in the state. The report was issued after a series of public hearings where the Committee heard from individuals, organizations, and professionals with specific knowledge of and experience with education in New Mexico.

In July 2018, a New Mexico state district judge ruled in the consolidated lawsuit *Yazzie/Martinez* that the state has failed to adequately invest in public education, violating its constitutional duty to provide a "uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of and open to all children of school age." The court found significant deficiencies in both educational inputs, such as instructional materials, curricula, and qualified teachers, and outputs, where at-risk students frequently lack basic literacy and math skills necessary for post-secondary education or career readiness.

Committee Chair Chris Saucedo stated, "The Committee wanted to tackle this notable problem. The Committee heard testimony that significant funding directed to the education of Native American students was made but produced only modest improved outcomes. The problem requires a more comprehensive and targeted approach, which is the intent of the committee's recommendations."

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Advisory Committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing, education, and other important themes. For information about the Commission and our Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.