



3021 Todos Santos NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120

(505) 998-0459 FAX (505) 998-0463

December 9, 2019

Dear Horizon Academy West Families, Staff, and Community,

We are in the process of forming the **Horizon Academy West Equity Council** to help establish and guide efforts in ensuring culturally and linguistically responsive (CLR) practices at our school in accordance with NM Public Education Department (NM PED) guidelines.

The purpose of the **Horizon Academy West Equity Council** is as follows:

- 1) Ensure all students in New Mexico are engaged in a culturally and linguistically responsive (CLR) educational system that meets their social, emotional, and academic needs (*NM PED, 2019*).
- 2) Build the school-level framework integrating input from parents, families, Tribes, and communities with support from the school and district to ensure students have equitable access to learning.
- 3) Ensure plans are implemented and shared with school community on annual progress of student achievement with specific focus on economically disadvantaged students, English learners, Native American students, and students with disabilities.
- 4) Create a forum for the school community to connect with the school and have input and insight on CLR practices within the school through collaborative efforts.

The Horizon Academy West Equity Council will be tasked with the following:

- 1) Attend meetings (to be determined) at Horizon Academy West in order to:
 - a. To review yearly data for sub-populations designated by the NM PED including but not limited to economically disadvantaged students, English Learners, students of Native American heritage, and Special Education);
 - b. Assist with input for the state assessment tool in the area of CLR practices;
 - c. Provide information on attending NM PED regional trainings provided by the state for district/charter equity councils;
 - d. Establish groundwork Horizon Academy West Equity Council goals as needed;
 - e. Reach out to NM PED, as needed, for additional guidance on aligning school initiatives supporting at risk populations to NM PED Yazzie/ Martinez initiatives.
- 2) Meet expected timelines as designated by the NM PED including:
 - a. By February 3, 2020, completion of the required Martinez/Yazzie Readiness Assessment provided by the NM PED in early January;
 - b. Based on M/Y Readiness Assessment findings, by April 1, 2020, create a charter-level Equity Plan to support school transformation to align with the NM PED goals using template provided;



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- c. By July 15, 2020, create report which tracks expenditures from funding designated to improve outcomes for at-risk students, Native American students, students with disabilities, students who are English learners, and economically disadvantaged students;
- d. Providing members of the Horizon Academy West Equity Council with information on opportunities to attend additional forums including but not limited to strands at the annual NM PED Teacher Conference in May/June;
- e. By June 2020, submit CLR frameworks to the NM PED approved by local school boards;
- f. By July 2020, begin implementation of frameworks.

Membership Requirement Information includes:

- Horizon Academy West Equity Council membership shall include representatives of the school district or charter school leadership, school staff, students, parents and family members, community members, and members of Nations, Tribes or Pueblos.
- At least half of the total membership must represent the student groups identified in the Court's ruling in the Yazzie/Martinez case — students with disabilities, Native American students, students who are English learners, and economically disadvantaged students.
- If a school district or charter school is identified as serving a significant population of Native American students, the Superintendent's/Executive Director's Equity Council shall include at least one member from each Nation, Tribe or Pueblo represented in that population.
- The number of members on the council shall not exceed (15) fifteen.
- Members will agree to serve either 3 or 4 year terms for continuity (please email for clarification).

If you are interested in becoming a member in these ground-breaking efforts, please fill out and return the attached application for consideration either with your student or by email to fmendoza@hawest.net no later than Thursday, December 12, 2019. Selected members will be notified by December 19, 2019. Thank you for your commitment to improving education at Horizon Academy West and in our great State of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Electronic signature - frm

Fatima Mendoza

Family Engagement Community Coordinator

fmendoza@hawest.net

505-998-0459 ext 216