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New Mexico Task Force
Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Youth
Language, learning, and development: Equity and Access
Fact Sheet (Updated February, 2017)

Purpose:

The purpose of the Task Force was to evaluate the progress our state has made in ensuring equity and access to education, learning, and development for children and youth cradle to career in response to the recommendations put forth by the 2003 Task Force and the 2004 NM Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children's Educational Bill of Rights.

Progress:

- A partnership was been formed between NMSD, DOH, and PED Special Education Bureau to facilitate the work of the Task Force. The Task Force process was co-chaired by Dr. Ron Stern and Dr. Rosemary Gallegos, Superintendents of NMSD.
- A first meeting was convened on December 1, 2014 with 32 participants, a second meeting on April 27, 2015 with 34 participants, and a third and final meeting on September 28, 2016 with 30 participants representing the following stakeholder groups: Public School Special Education Directors; Charter Schools; Private Schools; Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumers; Legislature; Higher Education; Parent Advocates; REC's; State Special Schools; Native Programs; Early Intervention Programs; State Agencies (DOH and PED); Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, NM Transition Alliance.
- The UNM Center for Educational Policy and Research (CEPR) provided support in initial data collection and presentation to situate the work of the Task Force during the first meeting. Task Force member input continued to provide additional state status information for the work of the Task Force.
- Twenty six (26) Task Force members and additional stakeholders served on three interim subcommittees (Early Intervention, Capacity, and Instruction). These committees summarized the information garnered at the first and second Task Force meetings as well as other sources in order to develop a profile of the scope of services and data resources in NM. They have also brought forth recommendations for priority actions for the final report.
- The final report was printed December, 2016 and was reviewed and shared with the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) on December 16, 2016.

For more information please contact:

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Vision: Children and students in New Mexico who are deaf/hard of hearing will become lifelong learners and contributing, well-rounded successful individuals in an increasingly global society.

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