

**Explora  
Legislative Finance Committee  
November 14, 2018**



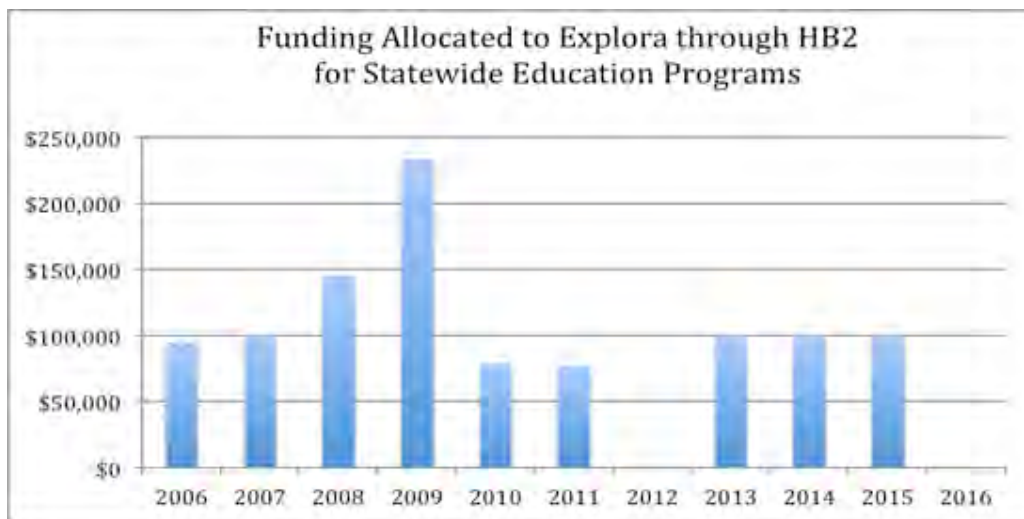
**Introduction:**

For over a decade, the New Mexico Legislature has been a critical partner in supporting Explora’s work to engage, educate, and employ New Mexico’s students in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). **Operating support through House Bill 2 has funded Explora’s statewide education outreach programs, serving all 33 New Mexico counties and 95% of the state’s school districts.** Explora’s outreach programs to schools and libraries around the state spark students’ curiosity and increase scientific & technological literacy, preparing students for a 21<sup>st</sup>-century workforce.



**Request:**

Budget cuts during the 2016 legislative session resulted in a loss of this ongoing operating funding; however, funding for STEM education programs is more crucial now than ever before, as 80% of all jobs in the next decade will require STEM skills. **We respectfully request that Explora’s appropriation of \$100,000 for statewide STEM education outreach programs be restored in HB2 during the 2019 session.**



**Impact:**

With support from the New Mexico Legislature through restoration of Explora’s past appropriation of \$100,000 for statewide outreach, Explora will:

- Provide **100 outreach trips** during the 2019-2020 school year to communities throughout New Mexico (2-6 hours of STEAM programming per trip);
- Reach over **5,000 individuals**, including students and their families, teachers, and community members with **high-quality STEAM-based educational opportunities**;
- Strengthen our **regional hubs** in Gallup, Las Cruces, and Taos, where Explora employs education staff to efficiently conduct outreach activities statewide.

**Community Need:**



In New Mexico First’s 2016 report, “Economic Security and Vitality in New Mexico,” our state’s changing workforce was described as follows: “High unemployment, low job creation, high poverty, shrinking population, and limited education all present barriers to building a strong workforce. New Mexico is battling all of them... **By 2020, most New Mexican students will not have the education, credentials, or degrees required to fill 63% of New Mexico’s jobs.**” New Mexico First town hall

participants described solutions, including efforts to increase the number of graduates with STEM degrees. We look forward to renewal of Explora’s past appropriation—so that Explora can continue our work creating New Mexico’s future STEM professionals.

**Community Response & Support:**



“The Explora Family Science Nights are an amazing opportunity for intergenerational fun and learning. Explora has provided these opportunities to the **remote tribal communities on the Navajo reservation**, where these experiences are rarely available.”

*-Alana McGrattan, DCA, State Tribal Libraries Coordinator*

“Keep these types of activities coming, just because we live in a remote area does not mean we don’t love this!”

*-Staff at El Rito Library, Rio Arriba County*



“Thank you for inviting Questa Headstart!  
You are great to bring this experience to us!”  
-Teacher at Questa Public Library, **Taos County**

“The students asked if Explora would be coming  
back to the Navajo Nation Chapters for more  
education science fairs.”  
-Staff from Church Rock Chapter House, **McKinley  
County**

“Los Alamos County Library got to have our first visit  
from Explora, and it was a truly wonderful experience.  
We were able to provide science education and  
programs for over 200 families. As the children played  
and learned with all of the experiments and materials  
the Explora staff brought, we could see them feeling  
welcomed and challenged and excited by just being at  
the library. It was truly a chance to witness learning  
through hands-on play in the best way. Many of the  
attendees don't have a chance to regularly visit  
Explora, so having them visit *us* was a great benefit to  
our small community.”

-Angie, staff at Los Alamos Libraries, **Los Alamos  
County**



“The excitement shared between children and families was infectious. Parents got an  
understanding that science is part of everyday life. You don't need a laboratory or Bunsen  
burner to learn about science!” -Meg, Lead Teacher, Christina Kent Early Childhood Center,  
**Bernalillo County**

“I first became aware of Explora while I was working on my MAT in Elementary Education at  
Western New Mexico University in Gallup, NM. Our professor arranged for Explora to provide  
professional development as part of our math and science curriculum course. I was  
immediately hooked. The event was evidently exciting to others in the community as well, and I  
ended up with my picture in the local newspaper with an enormous balloon that had been

inflated by a chemical reaction involving dry ice. My fellow teachers at Church Rock Elementary on the Navajo reservation and I were able to arrange a field trip to Explora in Albuquerque for the entire second grade class. It was so powerful for me to see students who often struggled in the classroom become completely engaged and excited about making scientific discoveries. My appreciation for Explora's pedagogy grew, and I spent the next few years advocating for more Explora in our school. As school budgets tightened and field trips became more and more difficult to take, the outreach programs Explora offers became especially important."

*-Amber Shiel, teacher in Gallup, NM, McKinley County*

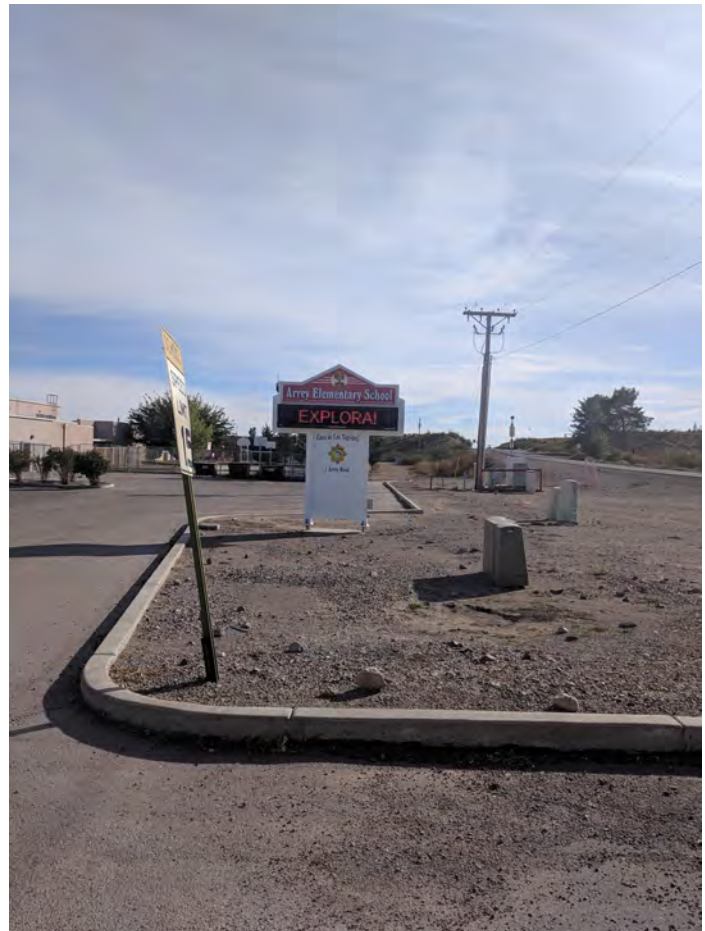


Explora exposes girls to STEM content and career pathways at the Expanding Your Horizons conference in Santa Fe (**Santa Fe County**), and Explora gets a warm welcome in Arrey, NM in **Sierra County**!

**Thank you for your support!**

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2/13/14

Dear Explora,

The first time you came to our school it was awesome. I liked how you explained the three laws of Sir Isaac Newton. I liked the part when two people had to grab the end of the rope and you had to sit on the skateboard and we

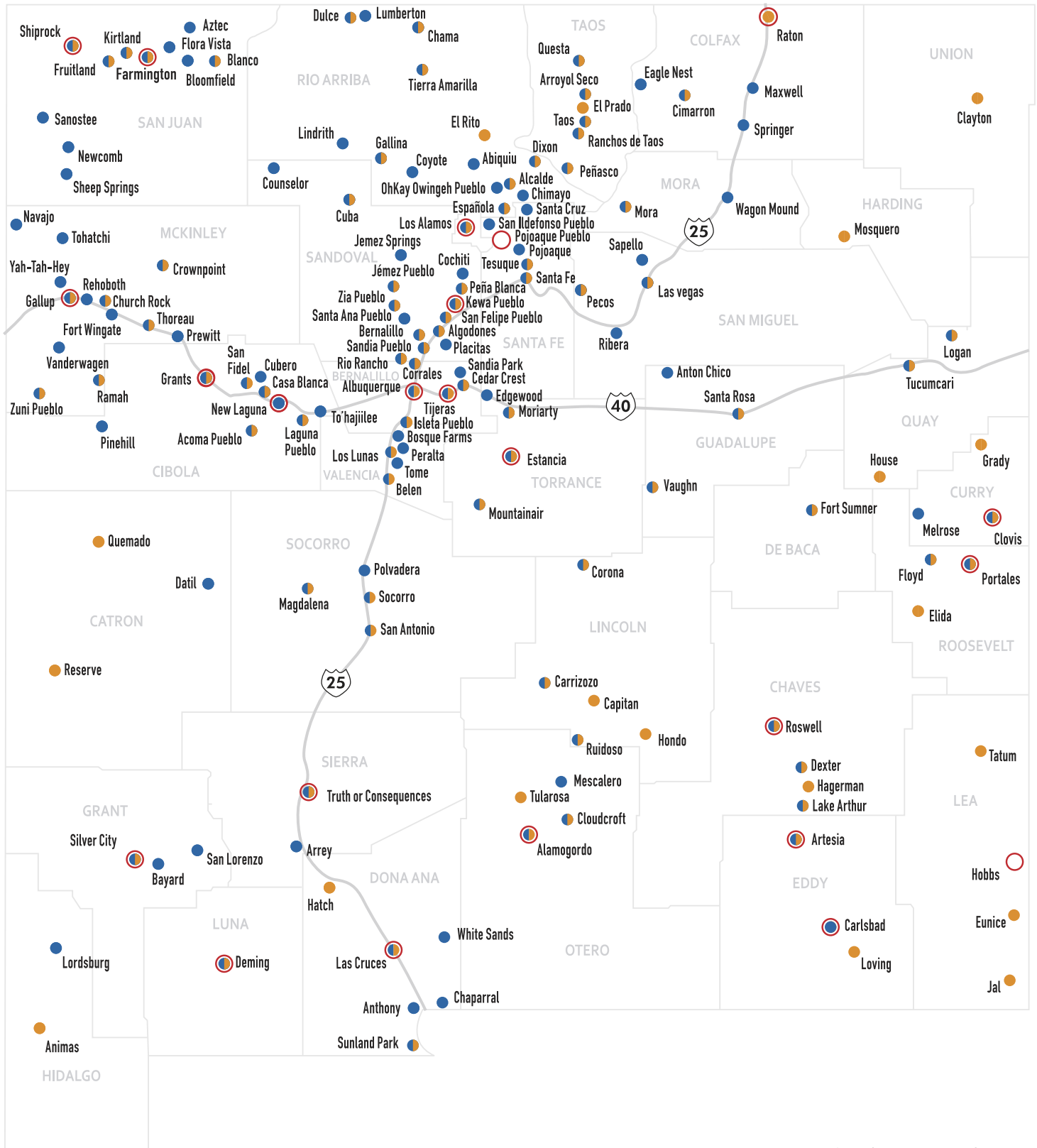
had to pull on the rope to prove the third law of Sir Isaac Newton, which is "when there's a force upon something, there will be an opposite force."

You should come again to Desert Trail Elementary School. I like the wonders of relativity, motion, etc. When I grow up, I would want to be an engineer, or something related to technology and science. Please I beg you to come again.

Your program really explains the wonders of science and technology. If you do this favor for us, I would appreciate it.

# Explora Serves New Mexico

Reaching out to schools and communities



## Communities Served by Explora

- Experienced Programs at Explora
- Explora Program Outreach Sites
- Explora Exhibit Outreach Sites