

# Pre-Kindergarten Status Report and Capital Outlay Funding Needs

Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force

8-28-18



**New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority**

Partnering with New Mexico's communities to provide quality, sustainable school facilities for our students and educators.

# Pre K Statutory Requirements and New Mexico Licensing

## **Statutory**

- Based on the Pre-Kindergarten Act (Section 32A-23-9 NMSA 1978) funding for Pre K programs shall be split between CYFD and PED
- *Any money appropriated for Pre-Kindergarten programs shall be divided equally between the public education department and the children youth and families department.*

## **New Mexico Licensing**

- Requires 35 Square Feet (SF) min. of indoor activity space per child
- Early Childhood Rating Scale (ECRS) – The State’s licensing standards determine SF and number of students

# Summary of Existing State Pre K Programs

Public Education Department (PED) has been administering a Pre K capital funding program since 2005

- \$23 M per year since 2007
- 74 Awards
- Funds classroom space only (new or renovated)
- Funds existing or planned Pre K programs
- Does not apply to portables
- Does not apply to furniture fixtures and equipment

# Pre K in Existing Public Elementary Schools

Elementary schools are typically the preferred location for Pre K programs due to the following:

- Similar age range of student population
- Access to site areas for playgrounds and parking
- Developmental delayed (DD) student Pre K programs already exist in many public elementary schools
- Co-location of shared ancillary services
- Shared security processes and protocols
- Wider geographic distribution of neighborhood centers elementary schools
- Continuity of student teacher relationships

# Site Requirements for Pre K Programs

In addition to classroom space, Pre K programs need the following:

- Playground or play area
  - Fenced or enclosed/ near or attached to classroom space
- Secure building entry area
  - Monitored and controlled check-in/check-out
- Parent parking area
  - Typically parents are required to park and walk their children into the facility



# Space Requirements for Pre K Classrooms

## Pre K Classroom Size Requirements

- 16 students per classroom (ideal)
  - For 3 year olds only, or mixed 3 and 4 year old
- 20 students per classroom (maximum)
  - for 4 year olds only
  
- 35 Square Feet per student (minimum)
  - 16 students x 35 = 560 SF
  - 20 students x 35 = 700 SF
- 50 Square Feet per student (ideal)
  - 16 students x 50 = 800 SF
  - 20 students x 50 = 1,000 SF
- 80 NSF for a restroom

Total classroom size = 880 SF (640 to 1,080 SF range)

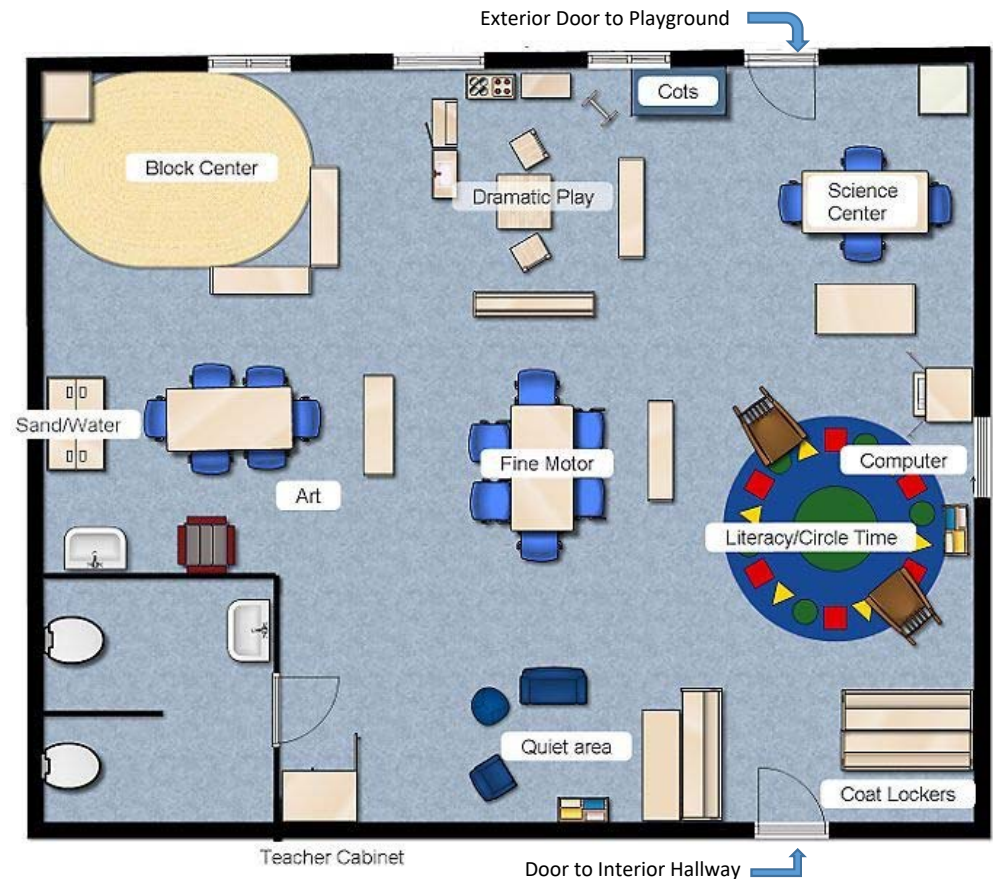


# Typical Pre K Classroom Floor Plan

## Centers in Pre K Classrooms

- Block Play
- Literacy/Reading/Writing
- Math and Manipulatives
- Sand and Water
- Music and Movement
- Art
- Science and Sensory
- Dramatic Play
- Technology Center
- Exterior Door to Playground

\* Similar to Vocational Ed, there is a functional minimum size for Pre K classrooms to accommodate the space requirements of these centers



# Improved Utilization of Public School Spaces

Expanding Pre K programs into existing public schools could back-fill underutilized spaces

- Some elementary schools in the state have underutilized space that can accommodate Pre K classrooms with renovation

Benefits of renovating existing underutilized space

- Though initial costs can be higher, renovating underutilized spaces saves money by reducing maintenance costs
  - Maintenance costs typically \$7.50/SF