

Early Childhood Education Programs: Preparing Children for Kindergarten

Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky

Presentation to the

Legislative Education Study Committee

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Features of New Mexico PreK

- Mixed delivery system
- Focus on school readiness
- PreK Program Standards
- New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines
- FOCUS: Essential Elements of Quality



New Mexico PreK: Mixed Delivery System

Setting	PreK	Early PreK	Mixed Age	Total
Public Schools	7,327	N/A	N/A	7,327
Private Sector	3,767	1,890	514	6,171
Tribal	719	609	N/A	1,328
Head Start	3,136	2,969	N/A	6,105
Total	14,949	5,468	514	20,931



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School Readiness*

- Children possess the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life.
- Children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children.

*Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five (ELOF)



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A photograph of several young children playing on a yellow school bus-shaped play structure. The structure has a yellow frame and a horizontal bar with the words "SCHOOL BUS" in black letters and a red circle. A girl in a pink jacket is leaning over the bar, and a boy in a grey hoodie is holding a blue steering wheel. Other children are visible in the background.

New Mexico PreK: Essential Program Standards

1. Health, safety, and nutrition
2. Full participation of each child
3. Curriculum implementation
4. Assessment of children
5. Continuous quality improvement
6. Professionalism
7. Program administration

<https://www.newmexicoprek.org>

New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines: Birth Through Kindergarten

- A framework for measuring children's growth and development
- Provides a common vocabulary
- A continuum that reminds us that children develop at different pace and rate
- Reflects current brain development research and best practices
- Emphasis is on children's conceptual learning, social and emotional development and active participation in meaningful learning experiences

[https://www.earlylearningnm.org/media/files/FINAL%20ELG English2015%201-8-15.pdf](https://www.earlylearningnm.org/media/files/FINAL%20ELG%20English2015%201-8-15.pdf)

Essential Elements of Quality: Knowledgeable Educators

- High-quality early education starts with early educators who have the necessary credentials, professional development, formal education, and supports to provide:
 - ◆ Positive family engagement
 - ◆ Culturally and linguistically responsive instruction
 - ◆ Inclusive practices
 - ◆ Early literacy
 - ◆ Social and emotional learning
 - ◆ Use of research-based curricula and assessments
 - ◆ Data-driven instruction



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NM PreK Teacher Credentials

	Community Based	Public School	Tribal Head Start*	Head Start*
Associate Degree	47%	N/A	47%	45%
Bachelor's Degree	34%	65%	21%	36%
Master's Degree	6%	35%	8%	5%
TOTAL	87%	100%	76%	86%

Essential Elements of Quality: Supportive and Knowledgeable Administrators

- Job-embedded coaching
- Reflective practice and planning time
- Access to technology
- Data-driven planning
- Ongoing professional development
- Assessments of classroom environments and interactions



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New Mexico PreK: Key Highlights

- Increased funding and access in all sectors
- Authentic family engagement
- Enhanced access to scholarships
- Common approach to social and emotional development strategies
- Launched a Summer JumpStart Program
- Demonstrated short - and long-term positive outcomes*
 - ◆ Increased high school graduation rates for inaugural cohort
 - ◆ Reduced special education enrollment
 - ◆ Lowered chronic absenteeism and the chance a child will be held back a grade
 - ◆ Return on investment (\$6 on every \$1 invested)



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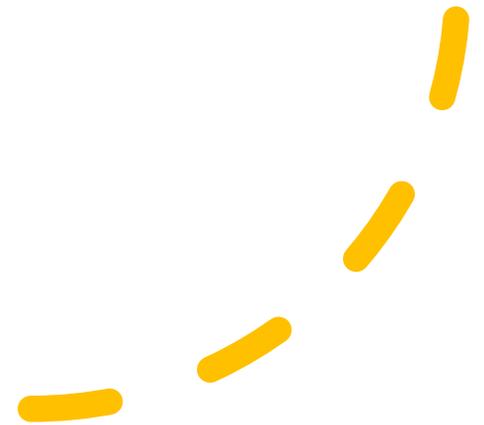
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New Mexico PreK: Opportunities for Growth

- Pay parity for educators
- Increase the number of bilingual educators
- Alignment of program standards, professional development and coaching
- Common approach to authentic, observational assessments
- Increase collaboration with Head Start and tribal programs
- Supportive and seamless transitions



Resources

- Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) - <https://www.nmececd.org/>
- New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) - <http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/>
- Central Region Educational Cooperative - <https://www.crecnm.org/>
- Tribal Early Childhood Survey (August 2020) - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-8HW8JVVB>
- National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) - <http://nieer.org/>
- Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>



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For More Information

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