

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE FAMILIES, CHILDREN,  
3 EDUCATORS, ADMINISTRATORS AND PROGRAM STAFF WHO HAVE  
4 CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW MEXICO PRE-KINDERGARTEN  
5 PROGRAM.

6  
7 WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK is a program that the children,  
8 youth and families department and the public education  
9 department jointly administer that focuses on preparing  
10 children to enter kindergarten with the skills and  
11 dispositions necessary to be successful in school, to read by  
12 third grade, to graduate from high school and to be  
13 successful in life; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2005, the legislature passed and the  
15 governor signed into law the Pre-Kindergarten Act, finding  
16 that a state pre-kindergarten program was necessary to  
17 provide four-year-old residents with an environment to foster  
18 their intellectual, emotional, social and physical  
19 development; and

20 WHEREAS, under the Pre-Kindergarten Act, the New Mexico  
21 PreK program is charged with creating an effective,  
22 child-centered and developmentally appropriate learning  
23 environment; and

24 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico funded the national  
25 institute for early education research to carry out a

1 comprehensive evaluation of the New Mexico PreK program,  
2 beginning with its first year of operation and ending in  
3 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, research, including that of the national  
5 institute for early education research, consistently shows  
6 that four-year-olds who have had the opportunity to  
7 participate in the pre-kindergarten program enter  
8 kindergarten with significantly greater language, literacy  
9 and mathematical skills than those children who have not  
10 participated in the program; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK provides meaningful  
12 opportunities to engage parents in fostering their children's  
13 learning at home; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK honors each child's home  
15 culture, knowledge and languages; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK lays the foundation for  
17 developing the highly trained work force that New Mexico  
18 needs in the twenty-first century; and

19 WHEREAS, the national institute for early education  
20 research's studies show that New Mexico PreK can improve  
21 short- and long-term educational outcomes by reducing the  
22 numbers of children retained in their grade levels, lowering  
23 the number of children eligible for special education and  
24 increasing graduation rates; and

25 WHEREAS, studies have estimated that pre-kindergarten

1 participants will have better educational outcomes that  
2 produce higher earnings, be less likely to engage in criminal  
3 behavior and be less likely to use welfare services; and

4 WHEREAS, the co-administration of the pre-kindergarten  
5 program by the children, youth and families department and  
6 the public education department supports a mixed delivery  
7 system that provides families choices among different types  
8 of programs and greater access to pre-kindergarten programs  
9 statewide; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK provides on-site consultation,  
11 scholarships from the teacher education and compensation  
12 helps program, also known as "T.E.A.C.H.", professional  
13 development opportunities and training that focuses on  
14 implementing a consistent, criterion-based instruction  
15 program; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK continuously assesses  
17 participants' learning and development across many domains of  
18 knowledge and skill; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico PreK has modeled high-quality early  
20 childhood education and has helped to spread best practices  
21 in the field even to those programs that are not involved  
22 with New Mexico PreK; and

23 WHEREAS, the national institute for early education  
24 research study estimates New Mexico PreK's benefit to society  
25 to be six dollars seventeen cents (\$6.17) for every one

1 dollar (\$1.00) invested;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the families, children, educators,  
4 administrators and program staff who have contributed to the  
5 success of the New Mexico PreK program be recognized and  
6 celebrated; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of children, youth  
9 and families and the secretary of public education. \_\_\_\_\_

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