

Investing in Innovation



NEW MEXICO STARTSMART K-3 PLUS VALIDATION STUDY

Summer 2014 Report to the
Legislative Education Study Committee

The contents of this presentation were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Investing in Innovation (i3) Program. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal government.

THE NEW MEXICO STATE K-3 PLUS PROGRAM

- Provides an additional 25 days of school to children in at risk schools (85% or higher FRL)
 - Focuses on Literacy & Numeracy
 - Includes Class sizes no larger than regular school year
 - Provides Breakfast, Lunch & Transportation
 - Provides Professional Development for K3+ Teachers
 - Includes Parent Involvement Component
- Served about 5,000 students statewide in 2012



WHAT IS STARTSMART K-3 PLUS?

- Utah State University received funding through the Innovation in Innovation Fund (i3) program to evaluate the effectiveness of NM State K-3 Plus. The project includes funding from:

- * U.S. Dept. of Education
- * JP Morgan
- * Annie E. Casey Foundation
- * Sandia National Labs

- * Kellogg Foundation
- * Innovate Education NM
- * Rural School & Community Trust
- * Pearson & Riverside Publishers

WHAT IS STARTSMART DOING FOR NEW MEXICO?

- Providing summer services:
 - About 350 seats in 2011
 - About 900 seats in 2012, 2013, and 2014
 - About 550 will be given in 2015
 - At a reimbursement rate of \$44 per student per day (the 2013 funding rate), this amounts to nearly \$4 million in direct services to children
- Providing work opportunities for NM residents
 - Provide high-level training in assessment to outstanding NM-based employees.
- Providing a scientifically rigorous evaluation of the innovative K-3 Plus Program with education research experts at USU, UNM, and NMSU.

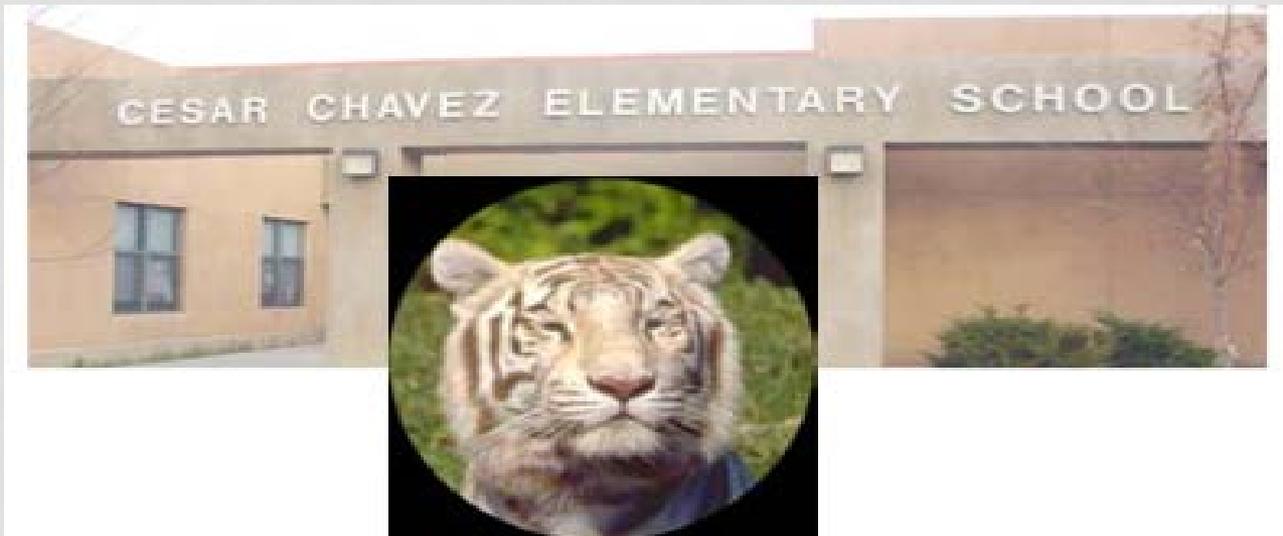
WHY A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL?

- Comparing K-3 Plus with non-K-3 Plus = *selection bias* because:
 - More ELL students
 - More FRL students
 - Parents/students with different levels of motivation
- The StartSmart K-3 Plus Randomized Controlled Trial compares students randomly assigned to...
 - *Intervention Group*
 - *Control Group*



GOALS FOR TODAY

- Provide an update on the status of the program
- Provide information about data gathered to date
- Discuss preliminary results



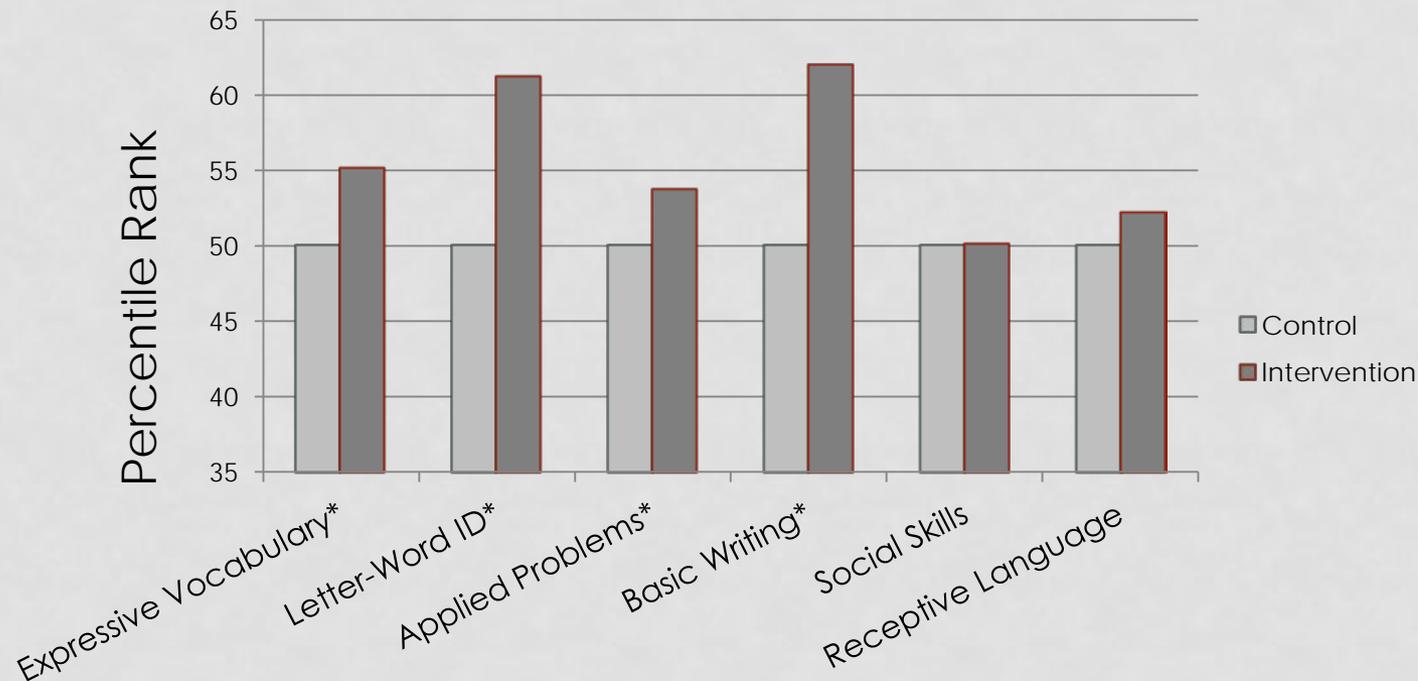
RESULTS OF DATA GATHERED TO DATE

- Today's results are *preliminary* because
 - They only cover a short time frame (Kindergarten & 1st grade)
 - They look at *beginning of year* effects.
 - Still scoring several tests
 - Attendance data are incomplete
 - We still need to look at modifying factors
- Today's results include:
 - Adjustments to account for program attendance
 - All students through the beginning of 1st grade

KINDERGARTEN READINESS EFFECTS

- The Effects: Percentile Ranks

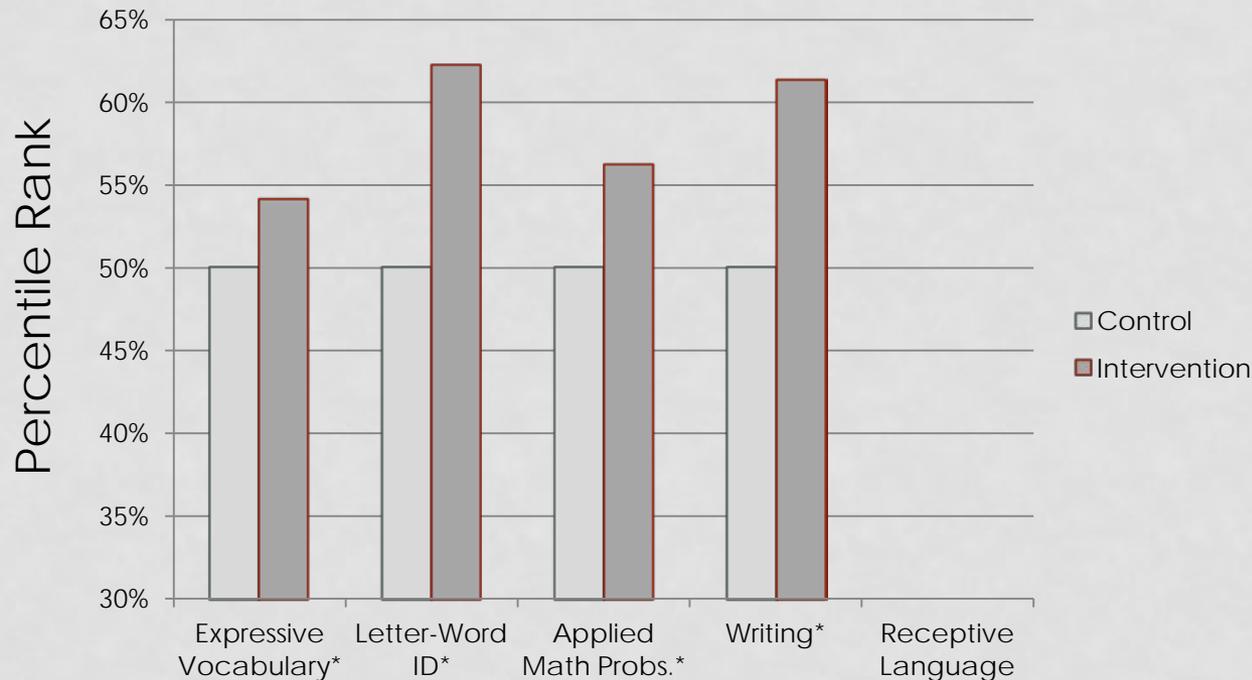
- Suppose a student in the control group scored at the 50th percentile on the tests. How much better would that student do if he/she had been in K-3 Plus?



* Denotes statistical significance at $p < .05$, two-tailed

BEGINNING OF FIRST GRADE

- The Effects: Percentile Ranks
 - Suppose a student in the control group scored at the 50th percentile on the tests. How much better would that student do if he/she had been in K-3 Plus?

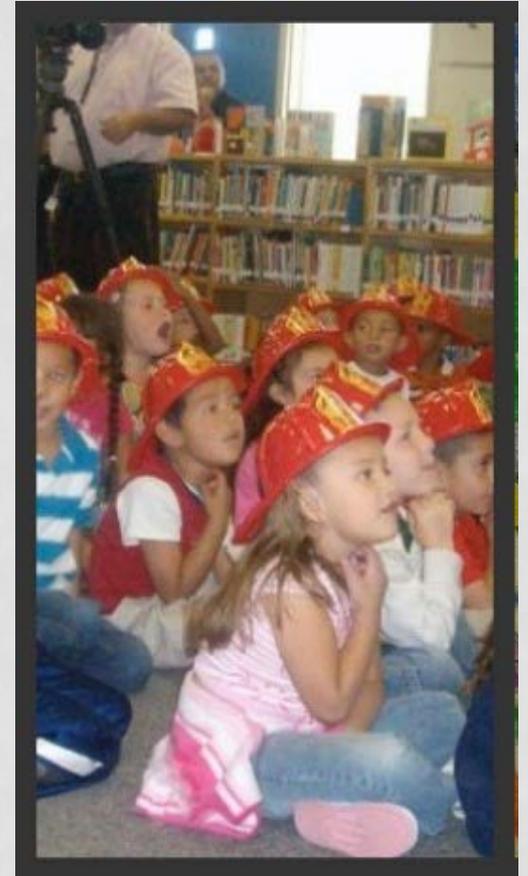


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WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Preliminary Results are supportive of program effectiveness, but the picture is not yet fully clear

The emerging (but not complete) picture is one of evidence that K-3 Plus boosts student achievement in a variety of areas in Grades K & 1 at the beginning of the school year.



IF THE STUDY ENDED TODAY, WE WOULD NOT KNOW IF...

1. The program is as effective in 2nd & 3rd grade as in K & 1st
2. End of year comparisons show the same effects as these beginning of the year results
3. The effectiveness of K3+ varies across students of certain types and settings of certain types.
4. Perfect attendance data would yield different results

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

- Loss of Schools & Districts—encourage folks to stick with us
- We are seeking additional funding for an additional end of 3rd grade assessment and a greater depth of analysis.

A SLIDE OF THANKS

- PED has been a supportive partner; their continued support is crucial
- Districts:
 - * Albuquerque Public Schools
 - * Gallup-McKinley County Schools
 - * Gadsden Indpnt. School District
 - * Deming Public School District
 - * Hobbs Municipal Schools
 - * Roswell Indpnt. School District
- LESC & LFC members & staff
- University of New Mexico & New Mexico State University partners

QUESTIONS?

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