In the 2005-2006 school year, the state launched its preschool education initiative, New Mexico PreK, which offers center-based early childhood services for 4-year-olds. Although there is no specific income requirement to be eligible for the program, two-thirds of enrolled children at each program site must live in the attendance zone of a Title I elementary school. Approximately half of the enrolled children are served in public schools with the other half served in nonpublic settings, such as community and municipal child care centers, faith-based centers, family child care homes, Head Start programs, and universities. Over the last five years, on an annual basis, this initiative has been evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes using child outcome data as well as classroom observation data.

Funding for the New Mexico PreK program is allocated on a competitive basis with priority given to programs in areas where schools have the highest percentages of children failing to meet No Child Left Behind's adequate yearly progress in math and reading. Half-day preschool slots are funded based on half of the funding level for kindergarten slots. However, New Mexico PreK will unlikely be able to offer new additional programs in the 2010-2011 school year as no additional funds were provided.

A second preschool initiative, the Child Development Program, is funded by the state to provide family support services, home visits, and early childhood education to at-risk children from birth to age 3 who do not qualify for other eligibility-based programs. However, individual programs may limit eligibility to risk factors based on locally determined needs, such as having a teen parent, homelessness, or poverty. Funding for the Child Development Program has been cut over the past few years, resulting in a decreasing number of preschool-age children being served through the initiative. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, the Child Development Program no longer serves any of the state’s 4-year-olds and serves fewer than 1 percent of 3-year-olds. Therefore, NIEER no longer considers the program’s primary focus to be providing center-based preschool education for 3- and 4-year-olds, and thus it is not profiled in this report.

In addition to the two state-funded initiatives described above, New Mexico also allocated $800,000 in state funds during the 2009-2010 program year to provide additional slots in federal Head Start programs and extend the day to allow families that were TANF-eligible to work and/or go to school. However, in January 2010, a reduction in state spending immediately resulted in a termination of funding for the Head Start state supplement.
NEW MEXICO PREK

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment: 4,848
School districts that offer state program: 49%
Income requirement: None
Hours of operation: Determined locally
Operating schedule: Academic year
Special education enrollment: 4,049
Federally funded Head Start enrollment: 7,685
State-funded Head Start enrollment: 36

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

3-YEAR-OLDS

Pre-K: 85%
Head Start: 4%
Special Ed: 11%
Other/None: 1%

4-YEAR-OLDS

Pre-K: 16%
Head Start: 15%
Special Ed: 6%
Other/None: 63%

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>See footnotes</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service</td>
<td>45 clock hours</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health; and support services</td>
<td>at least 1 support service</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>At least one meal</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending: $16,542,407
Local match required: No
State Head Start spending: $800,000
State spending per child enrolled: $3,412
All reported spending per child enrolled: $3,412

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- PRE-K*: $3,412
- HDST**: $9,664
- K-12***: $13,644

1 Priority is given to children who will attend Title I schools with the highest percentages of children failing to meet NCLB AYP in reading and math.
2 Schedules are determined locally but the majority of programs operate 2.5-3 hours daily for 5 days per week. Programs must provide 450 hours of classroom instruction plus 90 hours of parent/family activities each year.
3 Lead teachers are required to have a BA degree and licensure in Early Childhood Education birth-grade 3 within five years of being hired. Assistant teachers in both public and nonpublic settings are expected to have an AA in early childhood education within five years of being hired. All teachers, regardless of degree type, begin receiving specialized training immediately.
4 Support services include four annual parent conferences or home visits, parent education or job training, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.
5 Additional funds not counted in these figures are $2,456,819 for training, technical assistance, and professional development and $488,687 for program evaluation.
6 This sum represents TANF funds dedicated to Head Start. Funding represents the allocated amount for the program. However, the program was only funded for September 2009-December 2009, after which the supplement was eliminated by a legislative action designed to curb state spending.