Since its establishment in the 2005-2006 school year, the state-funded New Mexico PreK program continues to provide center-based early childhood education services for 4-year-olds. Approximately half of the 5,331 children were enrolled in public school programs while the remaining children were served in nonpublic sites, such as community child care centers, Head Start programs, faith-based centers, family child care homes, municipalities, and universities. Following a significant decrease in enrollment during the 2010-2011 school year, participation increased by 16 percent in the 2012-2013 school year, the second consecutive year additional children have been served. Ten additional school districts offered the PreK program in 2012-2013.

The New Mexico PreK program, supported exclusively with state funds, operated at a budget of $19.2 million in 2012-2013, an increase from $14.5 million the previous school year. Program support is awarded on a competitive basis, with preference given to programs in communities with public elementary schools designated as Title 1. Eligibility for New Mexico PreK is not determined by a specific family income requirement, though two-thirds of enrolled children at each program site must live in the attendance zone of a Title I elementary school. Half-day preschool slots were funded at the rate of $3,000 per child.

Revised in January 2012, the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines, Birth to Kindergarten, address multiple domains of early development and learning and are aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Program quality is monitored through annual site visits conducted by state personnel and program information submitted throughout the year, including child assessment results. New Mexico PreK had been formally assessed on an annual basis through 2009, for both program quality and impact; however, due to fiscal constraints, planned evaluation for subsequent years was discontinued in the 2010-2011 school year.

Prior to January 2010, New Mexico allocated state funds to offer additional slots in federal Head Start programs and extend the day to allow families who were TANF-eligible to work and/or attend school. This Head Start supplement was permanently removed from the state budget.

New Mexico was one of five states to receive funding in the second round of federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge in 2012.
**NEW MEXICO PREK**

**ACCESS**

Total state program enrollment .......................................................... 5,331
School districts that offer state program .............................................. 49%
Income requirement ................................................................. None

Hours of operation ................................................................. Determined locally
Operating schedule ................................................................. Academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .................................. 3,904
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .................. 7,407
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......................... 0

**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

**POLICY**          **STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT**          **BENCHMARK**          **DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?**

Early learning standards ...................................................... Comprehensive
Teacher degree ................................................................. BA (public); HSD (nonpublic)
Teacher specialized training ................................................. EC (B–3rd) (public)
Assistant teacher degree ...................................................... AA (public); HSD (nonpublic)
Teacher in-service .............................................................. 45 clock hours per year
Maximum class size .............................................................. 20 or lower
3-year-olds ........................................................................... NA
4-year-olds ........................................................................... 20
3-year-olds ........................................................................... NA
4-year-olds ........................................................................... 1:10
Screening/referral ................................................................. Vision, hearing, health, dental,
and support services ............................................................... Vision, hearing, health;
and support services ............................................................... Developmental; and support services
Meals .................................................................................. At least one meal
Monitoring ........................................................................... Site visits and other monitoring

**RESOURCES**

Total state pre-K spending ...................................................... $19,214,600
Local match required? ............................................................ No
State spending per child enrolled ............................................... $3,604
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................... $3,604

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** HEAD START per-child spending for the 2012-2013 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '12-'13 school year, unless otherwise noted.

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1 Program support is awarded on a competitive basis, with preference given to programs in communities with public elementary schools designated as Title 1. All age-eligible children in locations offering the program are eligible.

2 Schedules are determined locally, but the majority of programs operate 2.5-3.5 hours daily for 5 days per week with state funding paying for 450 instructional hours per school year.

3 Lead teachers in public school programs must have a bachelor's degree and licensure in early childhood education. Teachers who have an elementary education or special education license are required to take a minimum of 6 credit hours of early childhood education coursework annually. Teachers in nonpublic school settings should, but are not required to, have a bachelor's degree and are required to take at least 6 college credits annually with an approved professional development plan to complete the degree in early childhood education.

4 Assistant teachers in both public and nonpublic settings are expected to have an AA in early childhood education, but may be hired without an AA with an approved professional development plan and take at least 6 college credits annually toward the requirement. New Mexico offers an Education Assistant certificate for P-12 in public settings only.

5 Support services include 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.

6 At least one meal per day is provided, breakfast or lunch depending on schedule.