New Mexico

New Mexico launched the state’s preschool education program, New Mexico PreK, in the 2005-2006 school year with the aim of offering center-based early childhood services for 4-year-olds. There is no specific income requirement for eligibility, but two-thirds of enrolled children at each site must live in the attendance zone of a Title I elementary school. Approximately half of the enrolled children are served in public schools while the other half are served in nonpublic settings such as community and municipal child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start programs, faith-based centers, and universities.

The New Mexico PreK initiative served 4,745 children with a budget of $15.9 million during the 2008-2009 school year. New Mexico PreK funding 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. In the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years, funding increases led to expanded enrollment.

The state funds a second preschool initiative, the Child Development Program, which provides family support services, home visits, and preschool education programs to at-risk children primarily from birth to age 3 who do not qualify for other eligibility-based programs. Individual programs may limit eligibility, however, to specific risk factors based on locally determined needs such as having a teen parent, homelessness, or poverty.

In recent years, funding for the Child Development Program has been cut, resulting in a decreasing number of preschool-age children being served by the program. During the 2007-2008 school year, the Child Development Program did not serve any of the state’s 4-year-olds. As the initiative no longer serves 4-year-olds and serves fewer than one percent of New Mexico’s 3-year-olds, NIEER no longer considers the program’s primary focus to be providing center-based early childhood education for 3- and 4-year-olds, and thus it is not reported in this profile.

In addition to the two state-funded initiatives described above, New Mexico also allocated $800,000 in state funds to provide additional slots and supplement services in Head Start-like programs during the 2008-2009 program year. Of this amount, $343,451 went to Head Start program grantees while the remainder went to programs providing services similar to Head Start.
### New Mexico Pre-K

#### Access

- Total state program enrollment: 4,745
- School districts that offer state program: 49%
- Income requirement: None
- Hours of operation: Determined locally
- Operating schedule: Academic year
- Special education enrollment: 3,864
- Federally funded Head Start enrollment: 6,894
- State-funded Head Start enrollment: 121

#### 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 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health; and 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 and other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Resources

- Total state pre-K spending: $15,920,660
- Local match required: No
- State Head Start spending: $800,000
- State spending per child enrolled: $3,355
- All reported spending per child enrolled: $3,355

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

** K–12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

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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 Effective for the 2008-2009 school year, all programs must offer at least one meal, breakfast or lunch.
6 Additional funds not counted in these figures are $2,338,619 for professional development, training and technical assistance, $400,000 in non-recurring funds for start-up and safety, and funds for a program evaluation.