The 2006-2007 school year was the second year of operation for New Mexico PreK, the state’s first prekindergarten program with the sole purpose of providing center-based early childhood services to 4-year-olds. There are no specific income requirements for eligibility for the New Mexico PreK initiative. However, two-thirds of children enrolled at each site must live in the attendance zone of a Title I elementary school. New Mexico also prioritizes funding to programs in areas with schools with the largest percentages of children failing to meet No Child Left Behind’s adequate yearly progress in reading and math. Half of the children served are in public school programs and half are in other settings including family child care homes, community and municipal child care providers, Head Start programs, universities, and a Bureau of Indian Affairs school. Funding is awarded on a competitive basis and half-day slots are funded based on half of the funding for kindergarten children. During its second year of operation, the New Mexico PreK initiative continued to be entirely state funded, using a budget of $6.7 million to serve more than 2,000 children. Funding for 2007-2008 increased to serve an additional 1,375 children. During the 2006-2007 school year, all staff were trained to use the New Mexico PreK Observational Assessment and it was implemented program-wide.

The Child Development Program is New Mexico’s other state-funded prekindergarten initiative. In 1991, this initiative began offering prekindergarten and other services, including family support services and home visits, to children from birth to age 5. At-risk children who do not qualify for other eligibility-based programs can enroll in the Child Development Program. However, local programs can specify risk factors for eligibility based on locally determined needs such as homelessness, poverty, or having a teen parent. Private child-care programs and public schools are eligible to receive funding. Teachers use the Focused Portfolio System to assess children’s growth and development and to plan individualized curricula based on each child’s needs, strengths, and interests.

The Child Development Program is unique in that funding can be used to provide a variety of services other than prekindergarten. Cuts in funding over the past few years have resulted in a decrease in the number of prekindergarteners served by this program until 2006-2007. Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, the Child Development Program will only serve infants, toddlers, and 3-year-olds. Four-year-olds will be served by the New Mexico PreK initiative.

New Mexico also dedicated $1,589,915 in state funds to enhance services in federal Head Start classrooms.

The first two pages of this state profile document New Mexico’s overall contributions and commitment to prekindergarten, including state spending and enrollment for both the New Mexico PreK and Child Development initiatives. The third page focuses exclusively on the New Mexico PreK initiative and the final page presents specific details about the Child Development Program.
STATE OVERVIEW

Total state program enrollment ........................................... 2,739
Total state spending .......................................................... $8,149,234
State Head Start spending .................................................. $1,589,915
State spending per child enrolled ...................................... $2,975
All reported spending per child enrolled .............................. $2,975

STATE OVERVIEW

* 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 ’06–’07 school year, unless otherwise noted.

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS
26 22

RESOURCES RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING
25* 30

* In previous Yearbooks, only state spending was ranked.
NEW MEXICO PREK

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment..........................2,194
School districts that offer state program.................31%
Income requirement ...............................................None
Hours of operation..............................................Determined locally 1
Operating schedule .............................................Academic year
Special education enrollment ........................................3,727
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.................7,752
State-funded Head Start enrollment .........................300

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY

STATE PRE-K

BENCHMARK

DOES REQUIREMENT

MEET BENCHMARK?

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

Early learning standards .........................Comprehensive ......................................Comprehensive
Teacher degree ..............................................BA 2 ..........BA
Teacher specialized training .......................Licensure in ECE
Birth-Grade 3 ........................................Specializing in pre-K
Assistant teacher degree .............AA + education assistant .............CDA or equivalent
entry-level certificate (public); 45-hour
Teacher in-service .........................................At least 45 clock hours 5 ..........At least 15 hours/year
Maximum class size ........................................20 or lower
3-year-olds ..................................................NA
4-year-olds .................................................20
Staff-child ratio ............................................1:10 or better
3-year-olds ..................................................NA
4-year-olds .................................................1:10
Screening/ Vision, hearing, health; ..............Vision, hearing, health; and
referral and developmental, dental; at least 1 support service
support services and support services 4
Meals .........................................................Snack 7 ............At least 1/day
Monitoring ..................................................Site visits and other monitoring ..............Site visits

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending.................................$6,735,568 4
Local match required?.................................No
State Head Start spending............................$1,541,000
State spending per child enrolled......................$3,070
All reported spending per child enrolled* ..............$3,070

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources
**K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

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/teacher activities.

For each classroom, the lead teacher must hold a New Mexico Early Childhood Teacher License: Birth through Third Grade within 5 years of the program starting. During the 2006-2007 program year, nearly two-thirds of teachers held a BA.

Currently, lead teachers in a public school setting may work in Pre-K with Elementary School (K-8) licensure while receiving additional training and coursework in early childhood education. This is being phased in over five years.

Educational assistants in public school programs must have the education assistant certification, which requires either an AA, passage of the instructional assistant's exam, or 48 hours of college course work with at least 12 hours in math, reading, and writing. Staff in nonpublic programs must have the 45-hour entry-level course certificate in early care and education. Assistant teachers in public and nonpublic schools are expected to obtain an AA in Early Childhood Education within five years of a program starting.

All teachers in public and nonpublic settings are required to have 24 clock hours of in-service per year to meet New Mexico Child Care licensing regulations. All teachers also attend an additional institute, which is two days plus an evening session. They also receive training in using observational assessment tools. All staff also receive mentoring throughout the year. Staff in school public settings also receive additional local training.

Support services include four annual parent conferences or home visits, parent education or job training, mentoring, and support services. Support services also include professional development and staff development.

All programs must offer a snack. If operating more than 3.5 hours per day, programs must also offer a meal. While not required, in practice, programs provide either breakfast and/or lunch and snack.

Additional funds not counted in these figures are $209,306 for a program evaluation, $1,046,530 for professional development including training and technical assistance, TEACH scholarships, a statewide institute, and $1,500,000 for program start-up equipment.

RECORDS

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

State Contributions
Federal Contributions
Local Contributions
TANF Spending

$ THOUSANDS

K-12**

Federal Contributions
Local Contributions
TANF Spending

$ THOUSANDS

K-12**

$ THOUSANDS

K-12**

$ THOUSANDS

K-12**
NEW MEXICO CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ........................................... 5,451
School districts that offer state program .......................... 17%
Income requirement ......................................................... None
Hours of operation ........................................................... Determined locally
Operating schedule ......................................................... Determined locally
Special education enrollment ........................................ 3,727
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ....................... 7,752
State-funded Head Start enrollment ............................... 300

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

3-YEAR-OLDS
84%

4-YEAR-OLDS
65%

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 ..................................... None</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree .................................................. BA (public), 45-hour entry-level</td>
<td>BA</td>
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<tr>
<td>of employment (nonpublic)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized .................. Birth-3 or K-8 license (public)</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree ............ Educational Assistant License (public); None (nonpublic)</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent (public); None (nonpublic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service ..................... At least 15 hours/year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum class size ....................... 20 or lower</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds ........................................ Based on square footage</td>
<td>1:12</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds ........................................ Based on square footage</td>
<td>1:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio ......................... 1:10 or better</td>
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<td>Screening/referral ....................... Vision, hearing, health; and support services</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>and support services .................. Vision, hearing, health; and support services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals .............................................. At least 1 meal and snack</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring .................................. Site visits and other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ............................................. $1,413,668
Local match required? ................................................. No
State Head Start spending ........................................... $1,541,000
State spending per child enrolled ................................. $2,594
All reported spending per child enrolled* ....................... $2,594

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

| CDP* | 1:1 |
| HDST | 1:1 |
| K-12** | 1:1 |

* 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 ‘06–’07 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 This figure does not include the 129 children from birth to age 3 who are also served in Child Development programs.
2 Most programs are full-day (6-9 hours/day), full-week, although two school-based rural programs operate 4 days per week. School-based programs operate during the academic year, while other programs typically operate year-round.
3 Comprehensive early learning standards were introduced in 2005. These standards are used by the New Mexico PreK initiative but not by the Child Development Program. The Child Development Program is contractually obligated to use New Mexico’s Best Practices: Essential Elements of Quality, but this document does not contain early learning standards.
4 Maximum class size is determined by the square footage of the individual classroom. Accredited programs must adhere to specific accreditation standards for classroom size.
5 This ratio represents state child care licensing requirements. Accredited programs must adhere to standards of the accrediting organization.
6 Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.
7 Center-based programs that meet for at least a half-day session must provide a meal and snack. This applies to all Child Development programs that serve 3- and 4-year-olds.
8 This figure represents an estimate of funding for center-based programs only, some of which served children younger than age 3. This estimate includes $92,080 in state dollars for the TANF maintenance of effort.