OVERVIEW
New Mexico preschool enrolled 11,251 children in 2018-2019, an increase of 2,132 children from the prior year. State funding totaled $50,584,800 and $17,600,000 in TANF funds were also used to support program, up $12,976,400 (24%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled $6,060 in 2018-2019, up $6 from 2017-2018, adjusted for inflation. New Mexico met 9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT’S NEW
During 2018-2019, the state appropriation for NM PreK increased. The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) increased the number of school districts offering New Mexico PreK and CYFD served additional 3-year-olds and piloted mixed-age classes. There was also an increase in the percentage of children enrolled in School-Day or Extended-Day programs. In 2019, the Early Childhood Education and Care Department was created which establishes a cabinet-level new department with responsibility for all early childhood programs prenatal to age 5 (IDEA Part C, Family Infant Toddler Program for Early Intervention; Child Care Assistance; NM PreK; Early PreK, Home visiting, and the Head Start Collaboration Office). IDEA Part B (preschool) is not a part of the department, but will remain at PED and collaborate with ECECD. The ECECD officially takes responsibility for these programs on July 1, 2020.

BACKGROUND
New Mexico PreK (NM PreK) launched in the 2005-2006 school year with the enactment of the PreK Act of 2005. The program is jointly administered by the New Mexico PED and CYFD. PED is responsible for funding and monitoring NM PreK programs provided through school districts, and CYFD for programs operated by community-based organizations and other eligible providers. In the 2018-2019 school year, nearly 80% of school districts offered NM PreK.

NM PreK funding is awarded through a competitive grant process, with priority given to programs in communities with public elementary schools designated as Title I. Two-thirds of enrolled children at each program site must live in the attendance zone of a Title I elementary school, though eligibility is not determined by family income.

The number of hours and days per week vary by program, with a minimum of 450 hours per year. In 2014-2015, the legislature provided limited funding for an Extended-day PreK pilot to double the instructional hours to 900 per school year. In 2018-2019, almost 56% of all children enrolled were in School-day or Extended-day PreK. Some private or nonprofit facilities use Child Care Subsidy dollars for wraparound care to assist parents who qualify, or to offer reduced rates for private pay. PreK programs in public schools can extend the day using operational dollars or Title I funds.
NEW MEXICO PREK (4s) NM EARLY PREK (3s)

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................. 11,251
School districts that offer state program ........................................ 79%
Income requirement ......................................................... No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ............................................. 2.5 hours/day
Operating schedule .......................................................... Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............................. 3,906
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............. 7,427
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................. 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>NM PRE-K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA (public); HSD (nonpublic)</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>AA in ECE</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>30 hours/year (public teachers); 24 hours/year (nonpublic teachers &amp; all assistants); PD plans; Coaching</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>16 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:8 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending .................................................. $68,184,800
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State Head Start spending .................................................. $0
State spending per child enrolled ........................................ $6,060
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $6,060

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED