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2018 State of Preschool Report Shows Progress Stalled in New Mexico ***Flat funding for preschool limited growth in 2017-2018***

New Brunswick, NJ—Spending for New Mexico PreK did not increase, according to new research by the National Institute for Early Education Research.

The State of Preschool 2018 annual report, based on 2017-18 academic year data, finds just a third of 4-year-olds and 5.5 percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in public preschool programs nationwide—virtually no change in years. State funding is failing to keep pace with even the slow increases in enrollment and state spending per child has *decreased*, when adjusted for inflation. Inadequate funding undermines classroom quality, and most states fail to pay pre-K teachers comparably to K-3 teachers.

New Mexico requires state pre-K teachers to have a BA but provides salary parity with K-3 teachers only for pre-K teachers in public schools.

“Nationally, we are disappointed by the lack of progress,” said NIEER Founder and Senior Co-Director Steven Barnett, Ph.D. “New Mexico needs to renew its commitment to expanding access to high-quality pre-K so that more young children can benefit.”

This year’s report includes a special section on policies affecting the preschool teacher workforce, focusing on salary and benefit parity. (*see box for New Mexico specifics*)

Enrollment has more than doubled since 2002—with almost 1.6 million children enrolled nationwide—but expansion has slowed in recent years. In some states, slow growth is due to a shift from part-day to full-day programs, which can better support child development as well as family work schedules, but nevertheless leaves many children unserved.

The State of Preschool 2018 *yearbook* was supported with funding provided by the Heising-Simons Foundation. For more information and detailed state-by-state profiles on quality, access, and funding, please visit www.nieer.org.

The National Institute for Early Education Research (www.nieer.org) at the Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, supports early childhood education policy and practice through independent, objective research. For more information, contact: Michelle Ruess mruess@nieer.org 848-932-4350

New Mexico 2017-18 Fast Facts

Met 9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks

Enrolled 9,119 children (including 31% of 4-year-olds)

Total state funding = \$53,302,160 an inflation-adjusted decrease of \$804,649 from 2016-17

State spending-per-child = \$5,845

New Mexico requires a BA and K-3 salary parity only for pre-K teachers in public schools

National rankings:

- 19 in access for 4-year-olds
- 18 in access for 3-year-olds
- 17 in state spending per child