



Universal Pre-K for Students: Standards for a Sufficient Education

Every child in NM has the right to a sufficient and equitable education.

Pre-K is one of the best ways to close achievement gaps for students and improve social and emotional well-being – programs must be high quality and culturally and linguistically relevant.

The Court ruled that the State is violating the constitutional rights of students to a sufficient education that prepares them for college and career. (Yazzie/Martinez Decision, July 2018)

The court found that early childhood education (Pre-K) for 3 and 4-year old children is an important component of providing a sufficient education and equitable educational opportunities. (Findings and Conclusions, at 7)

Preschool programs by themselves could close the achievement gap between low-income and other children through the end of high school. (13)

In comparison to their peers who do not attend Pre-K, students that attend Pre-K have higher achievement test scores, repeat grades far less often, need less special education, graduate from high school at substantially higher rate, and are more likely to graduate. (23-24)

Full-day Pre-K is more beneficial for children than half-day Pre-K as they receive more instructional time. (19)

Providing a multicultural and bilingual education to preschoolers is an important part of preparing a child to be successful. (23)

New Mexico Pre-K does not provide enough half or extended day slots to serve all students who are eligible to participate in Pre-K. (27)

The per-pupil Pre-K funding is inadequate to cover all the costs of Pre-K services that are provided by schools and school districts in New Mexico. (25)

Any legislation to expand Pre-K must have the following:

- Quality, full-day Pre-K for all four-year-old children.
- A long-term implementation plan for universal access for 4-year-olds and 3-year-old expansion.
- Culturally and linguistically relevant instruction and curriculum (including ELL programming).
- Includes a teacher pathway and professional development to ensure more bilingual providers and Native American teachers.
- Wrap around services for full-day and half-day programs.
- Funds the Pre-K school system to maximum capacity in FY20.
- Funding for Pre-K must be sufficient to cover the cost of teachers, educational assistants, administration, materials, supplies, curriculum, transportation, utilities and custodial cost.

*Expanding Pre-K universally is part of the **Platform for Action** developed by the **plaintiffs in the sufficiency lawsuit, the Transform Education NM coalition, and hundreds of education and community leaders** including educators, parents, tribal leaders, experts and researchers. For more information, contact Lauren Winkler, Attorney at NM Center on Law and Poverty, (505) 255-2840, lauren@nmpoertylaw.org.*

Transform Education NM

Platform for Action

To transform education for our students and meet the constitutional mandates of the Yazzie/Martinez education ruling, a Platform of Proposed Remedies was developed by the plaintiffs in the Yazzie lawsuit, the Transform Education NM coalition, and hundreds of education and community leaders including educators, parents, tribal leaders, and experts.

Find the full platform at: <http://nmpovertylaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Transform-Education-NM-Platform-2018-12-11.pdf>



The platform is endorsed by Transform Education NM: New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, College Horizons, Dual Language Education of NM, Native American Community Academy (NACA), NACA Inspired School Network (NISN), Learning Alliance NM, AFT-NM, National Education Association NM (NEA-NM), NM School Boards Association, New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education (NMABE), New Mexico Voices for Children, Keres Learning Center, Coalition for the Majority, Native American Budget & Policy Institute (NABPI), New Mexico Education Action Alliance, CHI St. Joseph's, NGAGE NM, NM Dream Team/United We Dream, Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP), The Santa Fe Indian School Leadership Institute, The Sun Project, and current and former superintendents of school districts and plaintiff school districts (Cuba Independent School District, Gallup-McKinley County Schools, Lake Arthur Public Schools, Moriarty Edgewood School District, Rio Rancho Public Schools, Santa Fe Public Schools).