PUBLIC EDUCATION

Governor Richardson's ambitious agenda for public schools is part of his **Prepare for Success** initiative. The plan emphasizes spending in the classroom and a major commitment to early childhood education.

Governor Richardson's $2.1 billion education budget plan includes $93 million in new funding, and $41 million from the "education lock box" to pay for a variety of initiatives, including the first phase of a voluntary pre-kindergarten program; the next phase of three-tier licensure for teachers; bringing back physical education in elementary schools; doubling the number of school-based health clinics; increased support for charter schools; and funding for after-school and dropout prevention programs such as ENLACE.

1. Quality Teachers and Student Performance = Closing the achievement gap

$57 million for Educator Quality

- $51.8 million for next phase of three-tier licensure
- $1 million for professional development for pre-Kindergarten teachers
- $800,000 for Governor's New Mexico Teacher Corps program.

$16.2 million for Early Childhood Education

- $9 million for Pre-Kindergarten
- Continued support for Full-day Kindergarten
- Before and after school programs for young children

2. Healthy Students in every classroom

$9 million for Student Health and Well Being

- $3-million to operate 34 new school-based health clinics
- $3.7 million to phase in physical education
- $750,000 for childhood obesity
- $600,000 for elementary breakfast programs

3. Holding School Accountable

$13.6 million for better Accountability

- $9 million for student testing, including new 11th-grade test and Spanish language test
- $2.6 million in incentives for schools to improve ($1.6 million for school improvement and $1 million for high performing schools)
- $1.8 million for next phase of NCES Chart of Accounts

4. $33 million dollars for additional reform programs

- $1 million to help charter schools get started
- $450,000 in technical assistance for charter schools
- $2 million for truancy and dropout initiatives, such as ENLACE and bullying prevention
- $1 million for extended school days to target students who are falling behind
- $2.5 million for the Indian Education Act
- Additional funding for the successful laptop learning initiative