



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson & Lt. Gov. Denish Help Kick Off Pre K classes in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE - Governor Bill Richardson and Lt. Governor Diane Denish visited parents and their four-year-olds on the first day of Pre K classes at Eugene Field Elementary School in Albuquerque. Eugene Field is one of the first programs in the state to take advantage of New Mexico's new Pre K initiative, which is expanding early childhood education for more than 1,500 children in 23 communities across the state.

"I am proud that the state is investing in Pre K for the future. These children deserve this opportunity," Governor Bill Richardson said. "Unfortunately, there aren't any other options for Pre K in this neighborhood. That will change when we continue to expand access to Pre K for all four-year-olds in the state."

Lt. Governor Diane Denish encouraged parents in other communities to call participating schools or private providers that are increasing access to Pre K through the state's program.

"We are only at the beginning of our state's innovative pre K program," Lt. Governor Diane Denish said. "This is a great opportunity to give your children a great start in school. I would like to encourage parents across New Mexico to do as the parents here have done—see if you have local provider, call and inquire if there are slots available, and get your child into Pre K. It's a great opportunity."

Several studies suggest that Pre-Kindergarten programs are a key means of closing the achievement gap. At least one report estimates that about half of the test score gap already exists by the time that a student enters kindergarten.

Governor Richardson and Lt. Governor Denish, working with the Legislature, secured \$5 million for the first year of Pre K New Mexico. Unlike other pre-k programs across the country, Pre-K New Mexico dedicates more than 20% of the money, or \$1 million, for professional development. Teacher training and technical assistance is slated to begin this fall.

Noting that of the 24,600 students that entered kindergarten this year, just more than half had no opportunity to enter a Pre-K program, Governor Richardson emphasized that he will push next session for more funding for Pre K so all children have an equal chance to succeed.

Applicants were required to meet several criteria: experienced and professional staff, developmentally appropriate curriculum; a plan for collaboration with the community, a commitment to involve parents; a means of assessing the progress of their students, and plan to evaluate their program. Proposals were divided between PED and CYFD, which had impartial selection committees read over and score the proposals. The proposals from school districts were scored by a team from the Public Education Department, whereas proposals from private providers were scored by a team from CYFD. A geographic breakdown of Pre-K awardees and a list of selected Pre-K programs are attached.

Here is a list of participating Pre K programs in public schools:

Magdalena	Magdalena	854-8015/ 854-2818
Gallup-McKinley		721-1010
	Navajo ES	
	Rocky View ES	
	Tohatchi ES	
	Washington ES	
	Tohatchi Head Start	
	Crystal Head Start	
Gadsden	Gadsden	882-6758
Central		368-4984 x314
	Nataani Nez ES	
	Nizhoni ES	
	Newcomb ES	
Cuba	Cuba ES Preschool	289-3158
Roswell	Parkview ELC	637-3525 x7081
Zuni		782-5511
	Zuni Head Start	
	St. Anthony Indian School	
Santa Fe	Agua Fria ES Preschool	467-1300
Bernalillo		867-7870
	Roosevelt Primary School	
	Santo Domingo ES	
	Cochiti ES	
Los Lunas		866-8334
	Mariposa ES	
	Tome ES	
Albuquerque Public Schools		880-8249 x159
	Eugene Field ES	
	Valle Vista ES	

Here is a list of participating private providers offering Pre K:

Program Name	Location	Telephone
Albuquerque Preschool Coop	Albuquerque	344-0389
AppleTree Educational Center	T or C	894-5646
City of Albuquerque	Albuquerque	767-6500
	Hawthorne Elem.	
	Barelas	
	Los Volcanos	
Family Learning Center	Espanola	753-2739
HELP		
	Chaparral	824-0060
	Lordsburg	542-9678
	Deming	546-4339 544-3821
	Columbus	531-2599
	Alamogordo	434-6313
	Las Cruces	541-8898 521-0661 527-2298
	La Luz	437-4485
Highlands University	Las Vegas	454-3509
Jardin de los Ninos	Las Cruces	522-2111
Little Learners	Los Lunas	866-7272
Mescalero Apache School	Mescalero	464-4431
Mid-West CAP		
	Gallup	722-7428
	Grants	287-4470
La Petite Academy	Albuquerque	898-1500
Presbyterian Medical Services		
	Santa Fe	474-5244
	Bernalillo	896-1885
Rocking Horse Daycare	Carrizozo	648-2802
Ruidoso River Racoons	Ruidoso	257-0671
San Felipe de Neri	Albuquerque	2422411
St. Marks	Albuquerque	344-8624
UNM Children's Campus	Albuquerque	277-3365
Watch-Me-Grow	Belen	864-6095
YDI	Albuquerque	452-2215
	South Valley TVI 5816 Isleta Blvd	
	Pedro Baca 1700 Centro Familiar	