



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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### **Governor Bill Richardson outlines plan to continue investment in classrooms**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today outlined an ambitious agenda for public schools, which is part of his **Prepare for Success** initiative. Governor Richardson's 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.

"My goals for New Mexico schools are clear: Improve student performance in the classroom and close the achievement gap between minority and non-minority students; assure student health and well being; and hold schools accountable to maximize every dollar spent for students," Governor Bill Richardson said during a news conference today.

#### **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 11<sup>th</sup>-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 NCEC 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