



## State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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### **Governor Bill Richardson says Pre-K will move New Mexico schools forward**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson said the state's new Pre-Kindergarten program, approved late Friday by the New Mexico Legislature, is a major step toward providing opportunities to thousands of New Mexico families.

"If we're really serious about improving our public schools, we must start early and increase access to pre-kindergarten in every New Mexico community," Governor Bill Richardson said.

The Senate on Thursday voted to approve Governor Richardson's Pre-K initiative, which will start with \$5 million that will be awarded to communities that design high-quality, voluntary programs for 4-year-olds. The money will be awarded to both public and private programs that are supported by local communities.

"I'm confident that our investment in children will pay huge dividends," Governor Bill Richardson said. "I will continue to push for all 4-year-olds to have access to high-quality Pre-K."

The bill, HB 337, now heads to Governor Richardson for his signature.

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