



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



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Governor Bill Richardson Highlights Economics of Pre-K

For every dollar spent, \$5 will return to New Mexico

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today highlighted a new economic study that makes a strong case for fully investing in universal access to New Mexico’s Pre-K program. The study by the Early Intervention Research Institute at Utah State University concludes that the state can expect a \$5 return on every \$1 invested in quality Pre-K programs.

“This study reaffirms that fully funded Pre-Kindergarten is a quality investment,” said Governor Richardson. “Providing access to state funded pre-kindergarten to all four year olds has proved beneficial for New Mexico families and young children and will prove beneficial in the long-run to the state.”

Modeled on a study contracted by RAND on per-kindergarten in California, the Early Intervention Research Institute has released a study titled, “The Economics of Investing in New Mexico’s State Funded Pre-K Program.” The study looked at the benefits generated from investing in pre-kindergarten services for New Mexico four year olds.

The institute found positive outcomes in education, child welfare, college attendance and economic status. The study also found that as students reach adulthood, that there is a decrease in juvenile and adult crimes.

"New Mexico's economy is on the upswing, but a robust business environment requires a robust educational system that can supply the jobs of today and tomorrow," said Lt. Governor Diane Denish. "The first of our pre-K participants are already charting gains. Expanding that opportunity to more children -- and applying rigor throughout their academic careers -- will guarantee our state's future success."

It was also determined that for every dollar spent on Pre-K services, nearly \$5 will be returned to New Mexico. The Early Intervention Research Institute concluded that New Mexico’s state funded Pre-K program is a good investment for taxpayers and children.

Ensuring access to Pre-K leads to a better educated labor force, faster economic growth and better quality of life.

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