

INVEST IN KIDS NOW

A Rapid Health Equity Impact Assessment

This Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) examines the potential racial, ethnic, social, and economic health equity effects of a policy proposal to expand early childhood education and services across New Mexico through the Land Grant Permanent Fund.

New Mexico's Education, Health, & Well-being Indicators

The Evidence is Clear

A gap in school readiness exists between students of color and students experiencing poverty and their White and more affluent counterparts. The gap begins at early levels and remains through higher education.

8 of every 10 Youth in NM are Youth of Color



90%

of Native American
4th Graders

83%

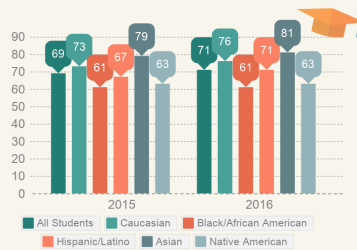
of Hispanic/Latino
4th Graders

61%

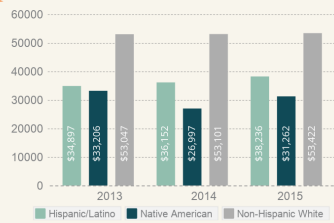
of White 4th Graders

are below reading proficiency levels

NM 4-Year High School Graduation Rates



Median Household Income Over Time, by Race & Ethnicity



Solution: Early Childhood Education

- ▶ High-quality early education for all would narrow the readiness/achievement gap
- ▶ Early childhood education can boost children's earnings later in life
- ▶ Earnings from increased enrollment in early childhood education would provide benefits that outweigh their costs

New Mexico's Land Grant Permanent Fund (LGPF) is the 3rd Largest in the US



Currently estimated at **\$17.2 billion** and grows by nearly 11% each year

Annually, under **5%** gets distributed to New Mexico's public schools, universities, and other beneficiaries



HRJ1 seeks to increase the distribution by **1%** phased in over 3 years for early childhood education

It's Time to Upstream NM's Investments & Increase their ROI:

Pass HJR 1 and allow voters to decide on investing 1% in Early Childhood Education from the LGPF

"We cannot allow large percentages of our children to be deprived of early childhood education and services, and then expect them to take full advantage of the big investments that come in K-12. We must upstream our investments, starting at birth."

~ Javier Martinez, NM Representative, HJR1 Co-Sponsor

What NM's Families Say:

"Currently, teachers have to get all children up to speed in the first years, since not all have had the advantage of early childhood education. [S]ince NM is fortunate to have an abundant permanent fund, we should be utilizing it to invest in our future and become the benchmark for other states to improve the overall wellbeing of the residents of NM."

~ Parent of two young children, one in pre-k and one in childcare

"It's been too long that our policy makers have not voted for this. It's like they know how to fix our educational crisis but they just won't."

~ Parent of three elementary age children

What NM's Teachers Say:

"In my opinion, quality, free [early childhood] services for all children would decrease the number of children with disabilities, increase student achievement in emotional and academic areas, and provide a foundation for the entire family to be more successful."

~ Special Education Teacher, AFT Member

"I strongly believe that increased access to early childhood education and services would improve the lives and education of the students I teach, especially the students from low-income families."

~ Kindergarten Teacher