

Using research and data to understand and improve New Mexico's prekindergarten programs

High-quality early childhood education is key to later success in school and life. The **New Mexico Prekindergarten Research Alliance** is a collaborative partnership of early childhood educators and advocates, state education leaders, and researchers seeking to improve early learning through **research and analytic technical support**.

“ *The GIS preK mapping study helps us understand where children attend preK programs in New Mexico and where additional program sites or enrollment slots might be needed. This study could help inform future decisions about preK expansion in our state.* ”

— Brenda Kofahl, PreK Program Manager,
New Mexico Public Education Department

Alliance priorities and work

PreK program quality

- ▶ **Workshop:** PreK research review and data gap analysis
- ▶ **Workshop and webinar:** Evidence-based strategies for teaching math to young children
- ▶ **Webinar:** How states are addressing early learning under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- 🎯 **State education leaders and early childhood educators are applying the research and strategies to improve preK program quality, preK instruction, and state-level support for early learning**

PreK program participation and need

- ▶ **Technical assistance:** Using GIS mapping to understand New Mexico PreK availability and need
- ▶ **Technical assistance:** New Mexico PreK participation for special populations
- ▶ **Technical assistance:** Transportation and access to preschool in New Mexico
- 🎯 **The data are informing state efforts to improve New Mexico PreK access and participation**

Transition to kindergarten

- ▶ **Study:** Validation of New Mexico's Kindergarten Observation Tool (KOT)
- ▶ **Technical assistance:** Understanding kindergarten readiness and child assessment in New Mexico
- ▶ **Webinar:** Preschool to kindergarten: Successfully navigating the transition
- 🎯 **State education leaders and early childhood educators are using the data and strategies to refine/scale up the KOT and to improve New Mexico children's kindergarten readiness**

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