

Position Statement on Early Childhood Education Legislation

SUBJECT: Legislation for Early Childhood Education (ECE) should be brought to the voters

POSITION: Early childhood education, funded by increasing the use of the NM Permanent Fund annual income by 1-2%, need to be passed in the legislature and brought to the voters to decide. This is important for equitable education for all NM Children and our economy.

FACTS: Research has shown that children in poor families benefit from high-quality preschool programs when compared to similar kids who do not attend preschool, and from studies that tracked kids from the 1960's and 1970's, they "reap benefits that last through school and their lives."¹ The legislation that is expected will be asking for a 1-2% increase from the current 5% spending from the permanent fund, which is well below the annual earnings plus income from the \$20 billion plus fund.

Studies in other states have found that spending on early education reaps economic benefits as well. In Oklahoma a study found that \$3-\$4 were returned in revenues to the state for every \$1 spent on early childhood education because of improved job readiness and increased businesses attracted and started by those locally educated.² Georgia estimates that over the long run, \$5 is returned to state coffers for every \$1 spent in state-wide early childhood education. The findings are that the poorer the state, the greater the returns.³

1. Beth Meloy, et. al., 2019, The Learning Institute, <https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/press-release/what-does-research-really-say-about-preschool-effectiveness>
2. Bartik, TJ, et. al., 2011, Earnings benefits to Tulsa Pre-K Program for Different Income Groups, Economics of Education Review 31(6): 1143-1161
3. Suitts, et. al., 2011, The Promise of Georgia Pre-K, Southern Education Foundation.

ASK: I am asking that you vote yes on passing a bill for letting the voters decide on whether or not to fund early childhood education in New Mexico, by increasing the education budget from the NM Permanent Fund. I am also asking to please get back to me to schedule a zoom with other voters in your district so we can hear each other's perspective.

Sincerely,

Albuquerque Interfaith