

Vote YES for Kids!

Early Childhood Education/K-12 Constitutional Amendment #1



Presentation to
The NM League of Women Voters
September 15, 2022

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Who are we?

New Mexico Voices for Children

Our mission is to champion public policies that improve the equity and well-being of New Mexico's children, families, and communities.



Vote Yes for Kids



Who are we?

The 'Vote YES for Kids!' campaign IS **ALL OF US!** **Every** parent and working family that relentlessly pursues a better life and opportunities for their children; we are **every early childhood educator and caregiver** who tirelessly works day-in and day-out to shape thriving, happy kids; we are **every educator** who encourages our future generations to reach their full potential and help transform New Mexico in profound ways.

We are the hopes, dreams, and change our families and communities have been looking for; we are the opportunities our families deserve; we are the community that is ready for real change and real results. We are New Mexico's future!



NM's Permanent School Fund

- The Permanent School Fund (*also known as the Land Grant Permanent Fund*) was **created in 1912** when New Mexico became a state.
- **Only the voters have the power** to change what percentage of the fund is withdrawn every year.
- It is a trust fund, but it differs from most trust funds because it has **two sources of income**:
 - It receives money from oil, gas, and mineral production on 13 million acres of state lands.
 - It also earns income on the investment of that money in the stock exchange.
- **It grows 11% per year** on average.
- The state constitution requires that **5% of the fund** be withdrawn every year to support public education, hospitals, and other beneficiaries.
- New Mexico's Permanent School Fund is currently valued at nearly **\$26 billion**.



ECE Constitutional Amendment History

2009: Stakeholders come together to identify funding for early childhood education programs

2011: First introduction of bill to fund ECE via the Land Grant Permanent Fund introduced (Invest in Kids NOW formed)

2013: Passed the House of Representatives for the first time



ECE Constitutional Amendment History

2013 – 2020: Held up by Senate Rules and Senate Finance Committees

2019: Legislature creates Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD)

2020: Legislature creates Early Childhood Trust Fund

2020: Several powerful Senators lose re-election



Progress in 2021 with passage of HJR 1

OUR VIEW

New Mexico has its game-changer for children

The New Mexican Mar 20, 2021  1



The game-changer that New Mexico children need is an election away.

After years of effort, the Legislature has approved House Joint Resolution 1, a proposed amendment to the New Mexico Constitution that would allow the state to draw from one of its permanent funds to help young children so they won't be behind once traditional public school starts. It's an ambitious, necessary effort to raise the standard of living for children, our state's most vulnerable residents.

Constitutional Amendment #1 on the ballot

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT ARTICLE 12, SECTION 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND FOR ENHANCED INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS AT RISK OF FAILURE, EXTENDING THE SCHOOL YEAR, TEACHER COMPENSATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR DISTRIBUTION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.



The Permanent School Fund ballot question

- The Permanent School Fund ballot question will appear **on the back of your November 8 ballot** during the General Election.
- This question asks voters about **approving the distribution of a small additional percentage (1.25%)** of the Fund for education.
- That would result in about **\$150 million in new funding available for early childhood education** (60% of the 1.25%) and roughly **\$100 million in additional funding for teachers and programs** (40% of the 1.25%) to address inequities in educational outcomes for students in our public schools.
- This additional funding will come from oil and gas revenues and interest on the fund's investments. It does **not raise taxes on New Mexicans**.



\$250 million in new annual funding could support:

- Hiring more teachers
- Expanding early childhood services like home visiting, high-quality child care, and pre-kindergarten
- Creating high school career technical education and job training programs
- Raising teacher salaries and increasing their benefits
- Supplying classroom technology
- Expanding mental health services for students and educators
- Hiring more student support staff, including counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses
- Expanding programs that support at-risk students
- Extending the school year for additional instruction (optional for communities)



This funding is necessary to support and build upon recent ECE progress

The Washington Post
Promoting Progress in the District

SOCIAL ISSUES

New Mexico to offer a year of free child care to most residents

The program, which state officials say is the first to target such a broad swath of income levels, begins May 1 and lasts through June 2023.

By Casey Fatico

Updated April 26, 2022 at 9:44 p.m. EDT | Published April 26, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. EDT



New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) speaks at a retirement center in Santa Fe on March 8. (Morgan Lee/WP)

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Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) announced Thursday that New Mexico will cover the costs of child care for most residents through June 2023. The benefit, which covers families earning up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level, makes New Mexico the first state to offer no-cost care over such a broad range of incomes, officials said.



A statewide campaign is in full swing!

**VOTE
YES
FOR KIDS!**

Hey, NM! Are you ready to
**Vote YES
For Kids?**



#VoteYESForKidsNM



SANTA FE + NEW MEXICAN

MY VIEW JESSICA COWDREY AND AMBER WALLIN

New Mexico's children are worth the investment

By Jessica Cowdrey and Amber Wallin
Jul 1, 2022 Updated Jul 1, 2022 1



Investing in high-quality early care and education is one of the best things that New Mexico can do to help all children thrive and reach their full potential. Despite what some might say (“N.M. should think twice about universal pre-K,” June 26), well-funded programs that support parents from before birth through age five are common sense ways to improve New Mexico’s future.



VOTE
YES
FOR KIDS!

How to get involved

And be part of this MOVEMENT

- **FILM** a 10 second video clip stating why you are going to Vote YES on CA#1
- **DONATE** to our campaign to secure big time matching funds
- **VOLUNTEER** with an organization (text/phone banking/door knocking)
- **HOST** a Texting or Phone Banking Party
- **BELIEVE IN THE CHANGE WE ARE MAKING TOGETHER**

Voting on November 8, 2022

- Voting and registering to vote are easier than ever in New Mexico!
- **If you are unregistered or need to update your registration, visit [NMVote.org](https://nmvote.org).**
- Then, don't forget to **FILL OUT THE ENTIRE BALLOT** on November 8.
- We want to make sure Constitutional Amendment #1 does not get forgotten.



VOTE
YES
FOR KIDS!

For more information:

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VOTE
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