

Learning Begins at Birth: So Should Our Investment in Education



**INVEST in
KIDS NOW!**

www.InvestInKidsNow.org

Today's Agenda

- **Where We Are Now**
- **Why Early Childhood Care / Education is Key to NM's Future**
- **How Early Childhood Care Can Transform Education Outcomes**
- **What's Needed**
- **Proposed Strategy**
- **Broad-Based Support**



Tired of being ranked at the bottom?

- % of teens who did not finish high school:

NM ranks **47th**

- Teen pregnancy rate:

NM ranks **49th**

- % of children in poverty:

NM ranks **47th**



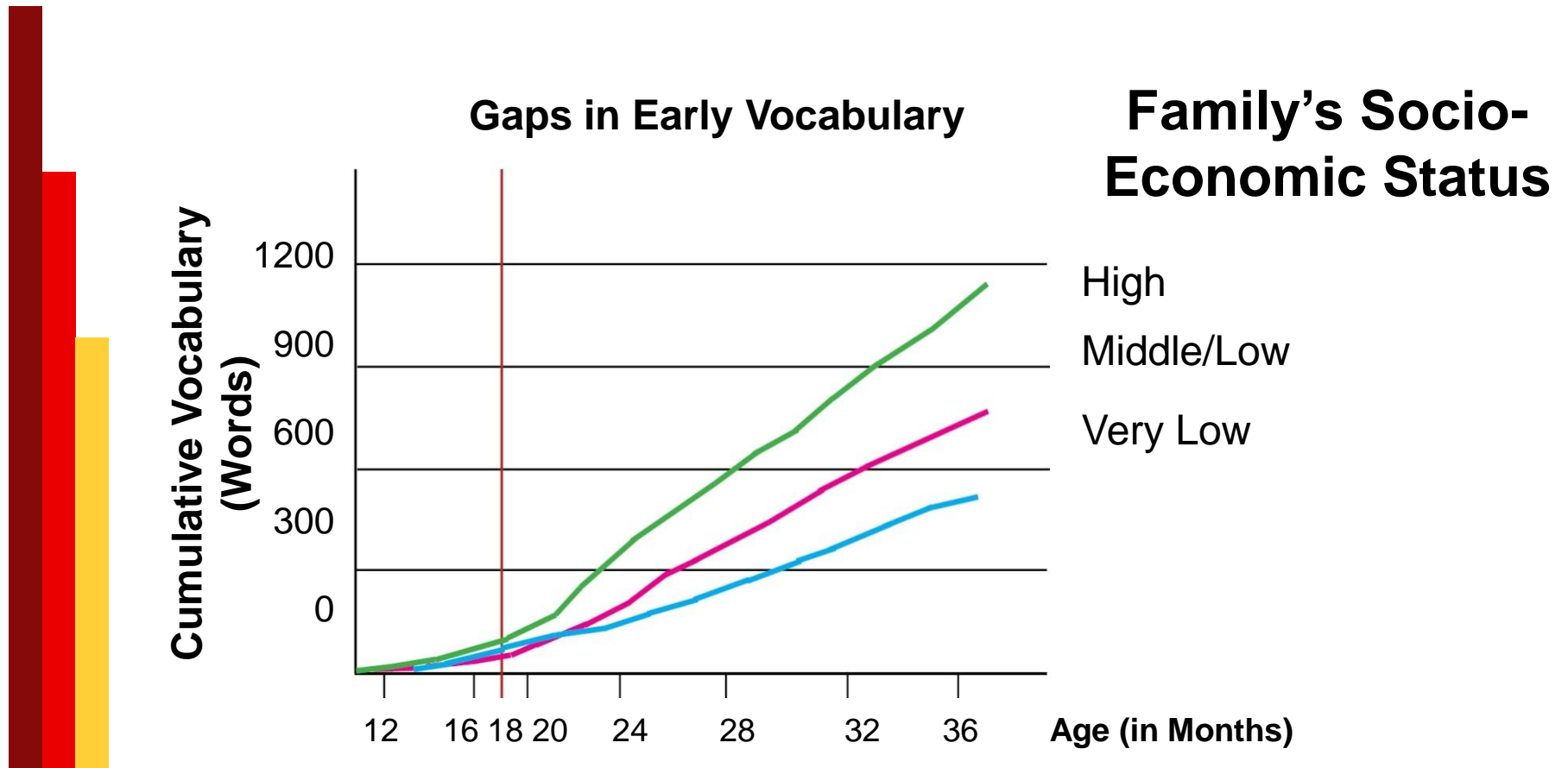
Already falling behind by 18 months

By age 3, the vocabulary gap can triple for children with low-income parents who did not complete high school.



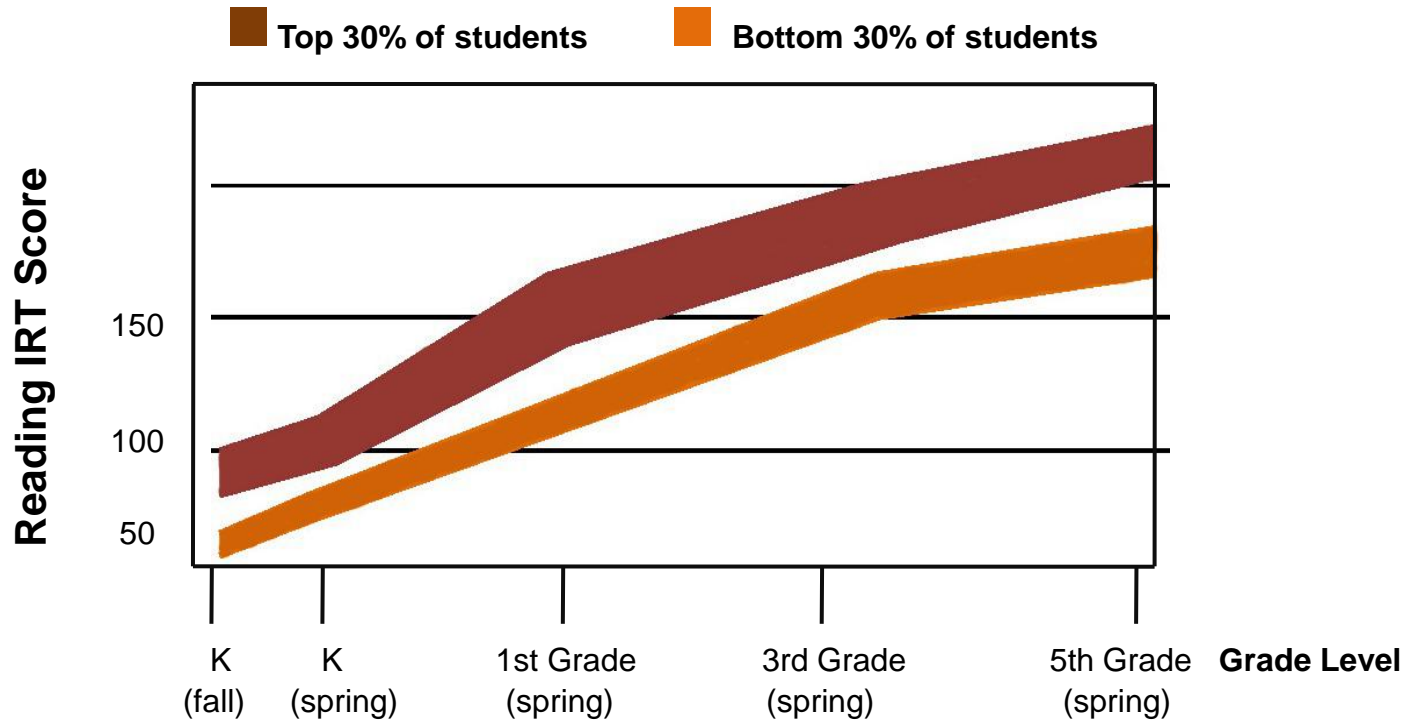
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Kids who start behind stay behind

Achievement Gap in Reading, K–5th Grade



The best way to close the achievement gap is to prevent it from happening in the first place

Remediation *costs more* than prevention

It costs ***twice*** as much to hold a child back after they have fallen behind than it does to prepare children for success in school

Cost of holding back a third grader: **\$9,069**

Cost of incarcerating a young person: **\$35,000**

Cost of NM Pre-K: **\$3,000**

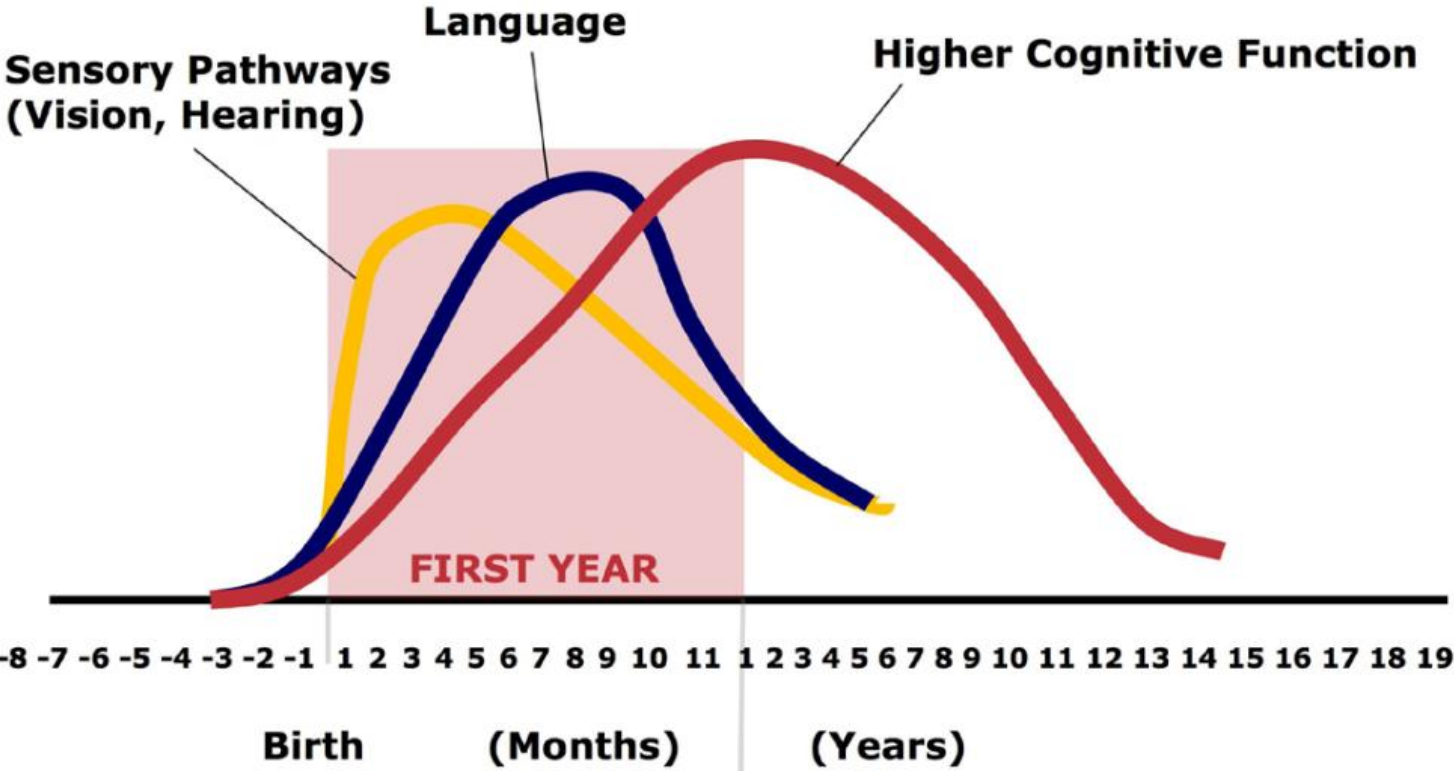
Cost of voluntary parent coaching: **\$4,000**

Cost of high-quality child care: **\$6,500**

Early experiences shape the brain

Human Brain Development

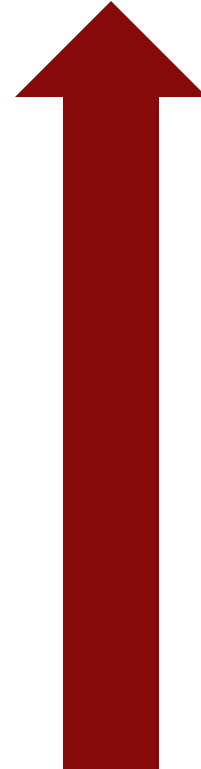
Neural Connections for Different Functions Develop Sequentially



ECE is an effective strategy for economic growth

Huge Payback by Increasing:

- School success
- Graduation rates
- Workforce readiness
- Job productivity
- Community engagement
- Earnings
- Health outcomes



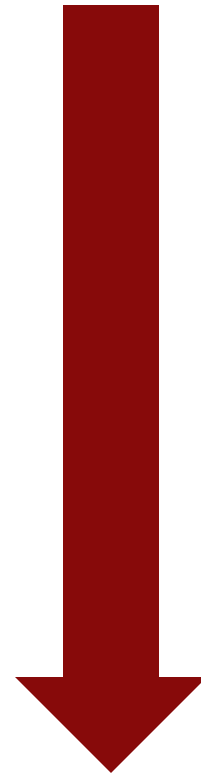
Huge Savings by Reducing:

the need for:

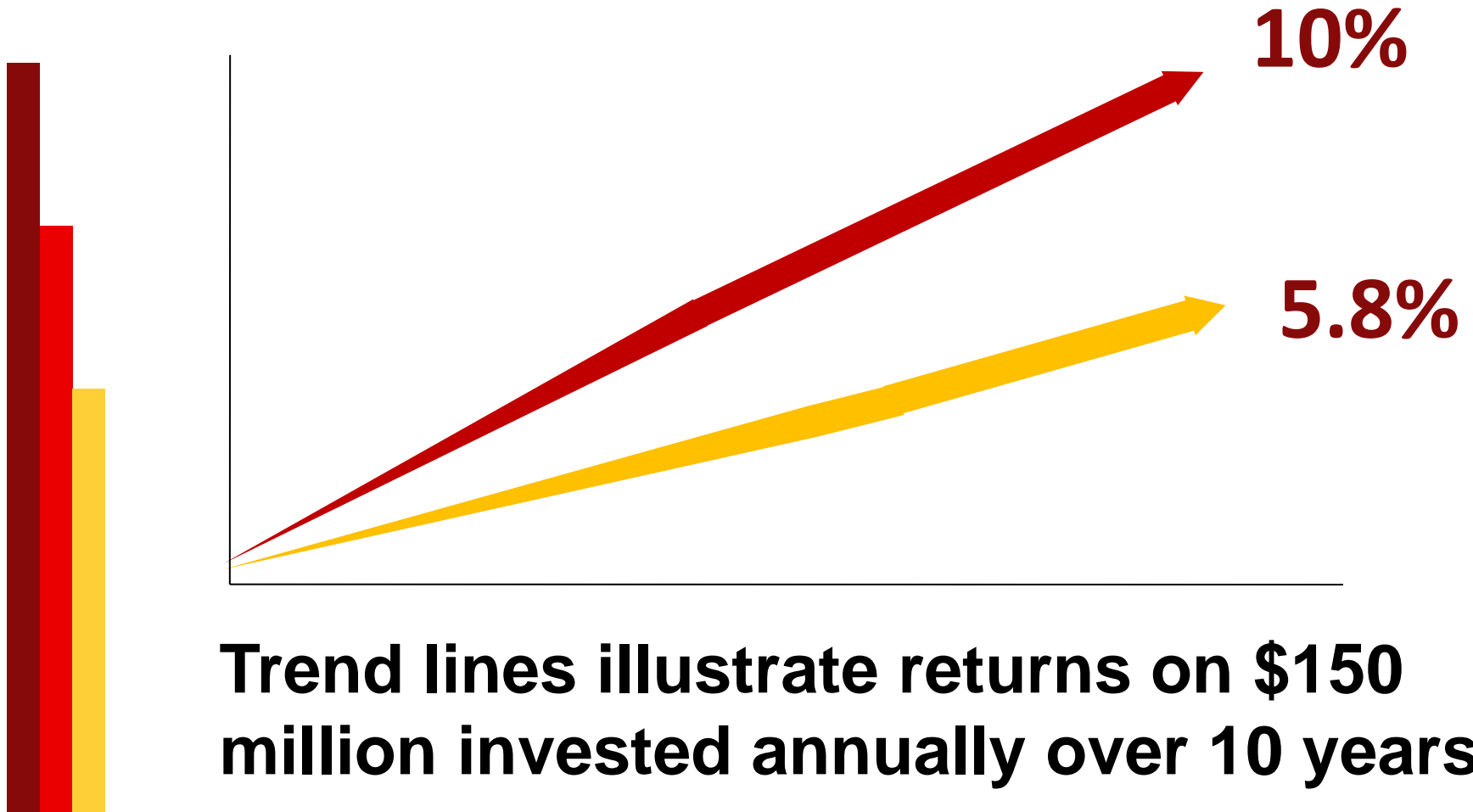
- Special education
- Remediation
- Grade repetition
- Social services

the amount of:

- Crime
- Incarceration
- Teen pregnancy



Investments in children surpass Wall Street's returns



Broad national support for ECE

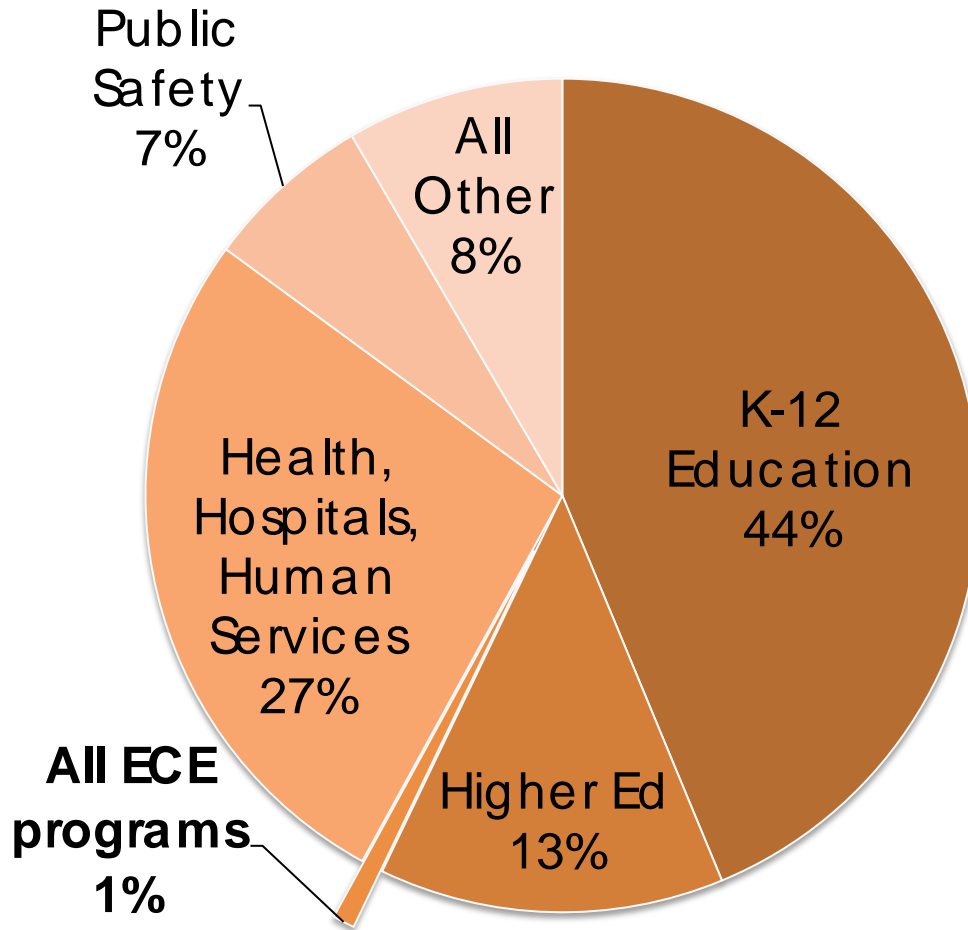


U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Fighting For Your Business®



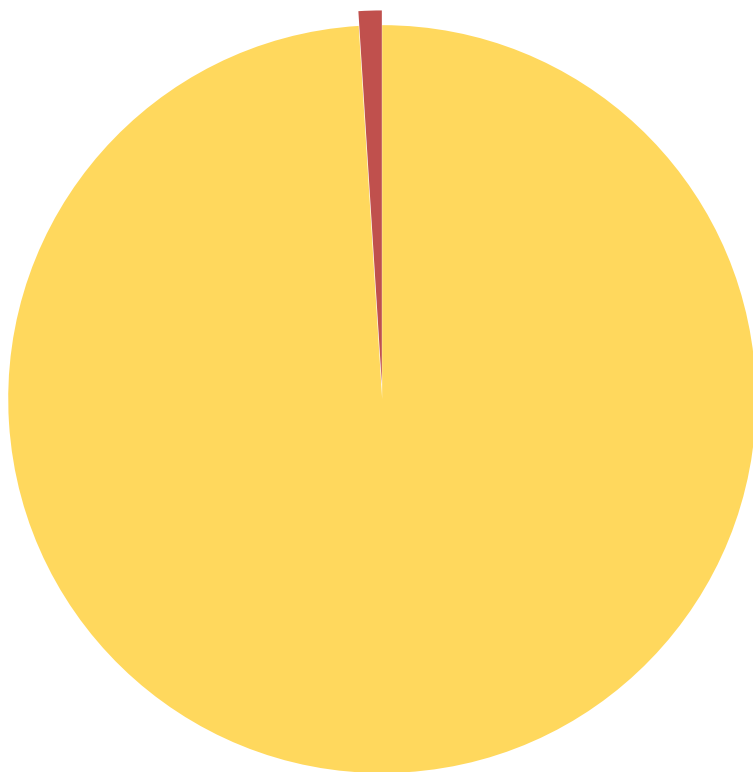
ECE programs < 1% of state budget



**New Mexico's
\$5.4 Billion
General Fund
Budget (FY12)**

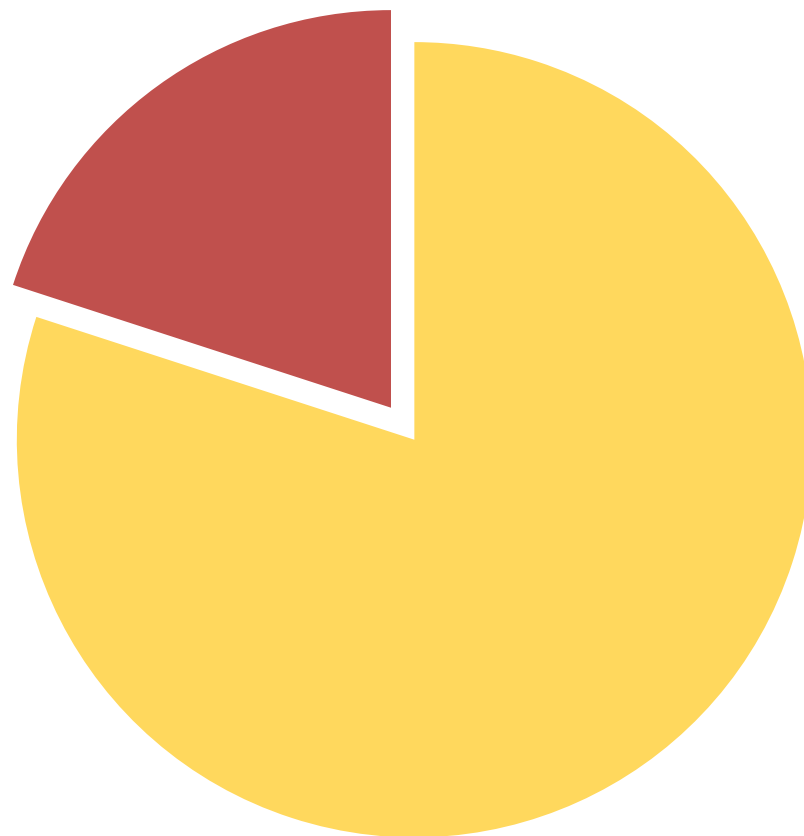
ECE programs serve a fraction of our kids

Serves less than 1%
of NM newborns



**Voluntary Parent Coaching
(Home Visiting)**

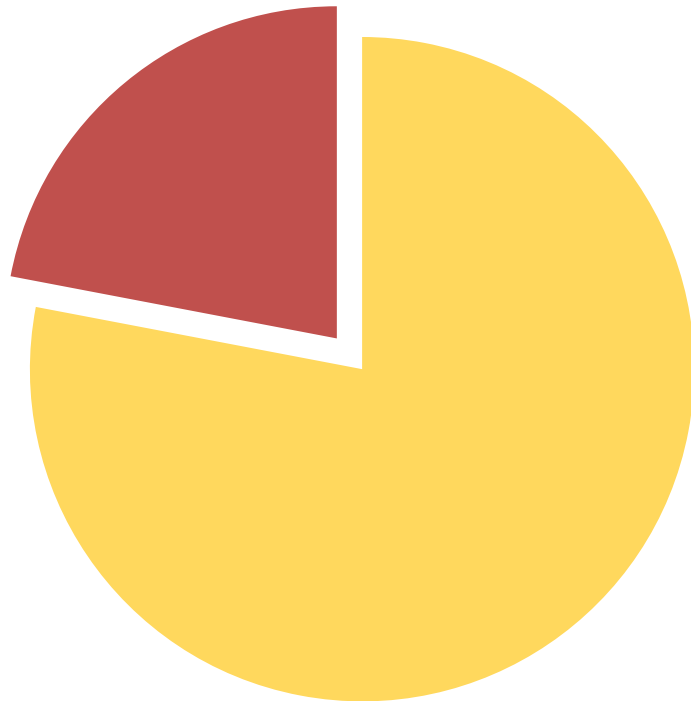
Serves less than 20% of
NM 4-year-olds



NM Pre-K

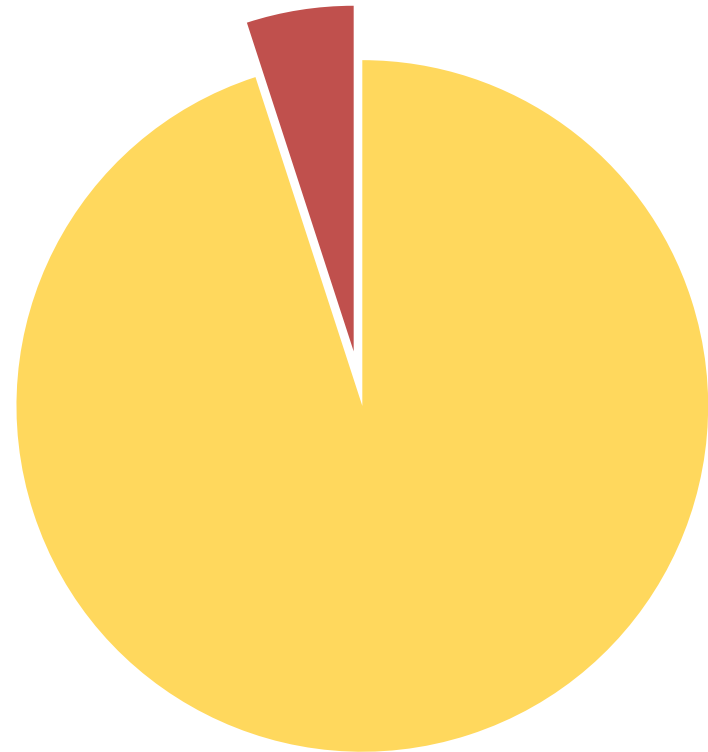
Higher quality is lacking

Only 1 in 5 children spend their day in a high quality child care setting



**4 - 5 STAR-Level
Child Care**

Only 1 in 20 early educators can access scholarships to improve their credentials



**T.E.A.C.H.
Scholarships**

Funding has been drastically cut over the last three years

- Child Care Assistance eligibility was cut
- 4,450 children are on the waiting list
- Payments to providers were reduced and parent co-pays increased
- The number of Pre-K slots have decreased
- Professional development for early childhood educators falls short of need

It's time for a paradigm shift to keep up with:

- What **science** tells us about **brain development**
- What **psychologists** tell us about **social and emotional development**
- What **business leaders** tell us about **a changing marketplace**
- What **economists** tell us about **the return on investment**

Invest in Kids Now! proposal:

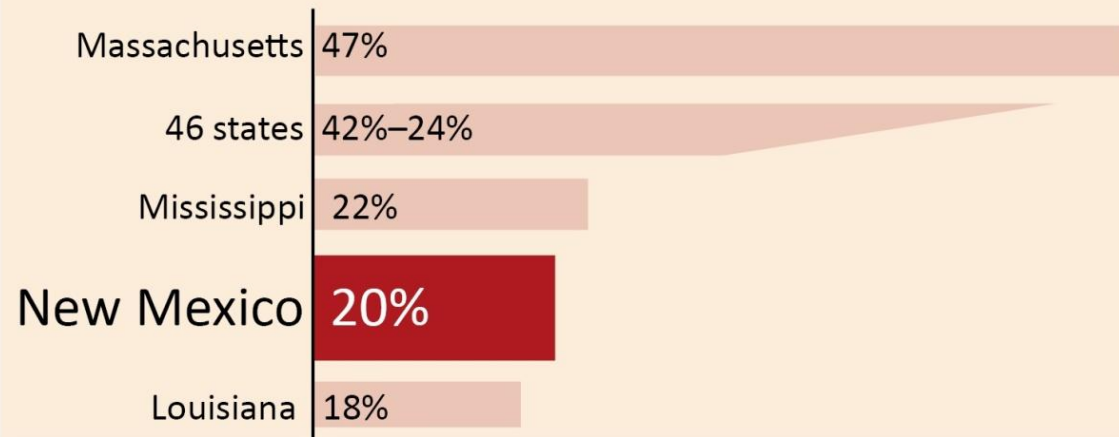
- Redefine education as beginning at birth
- Increase distribution from Land Grant Fund by 1.5% (~\$150 million per year)
- Constitutional amendment
- Fund parent coaching, high-quality child care, pre-k, and professional development
- Create continuum of services that integrates with early elementary grades

NM: 2nd highest Land Grant Fund 2nd lowest reading scores

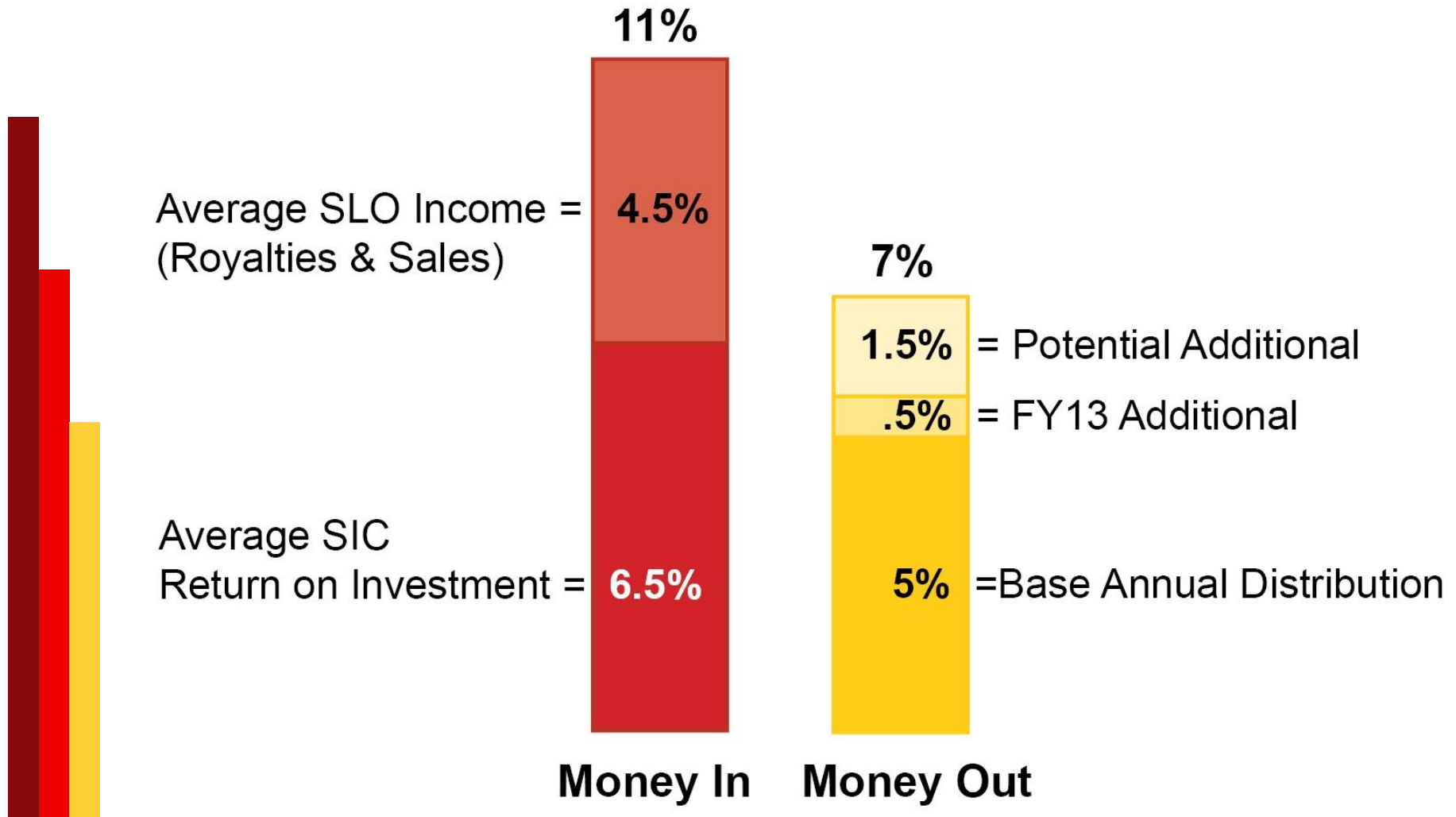
Land Grant Fund Values
(FY 2008)



Fourth Graders Who Are Proficient Readers
(by NAEP test scores; 2009)



The fund will continue to grow

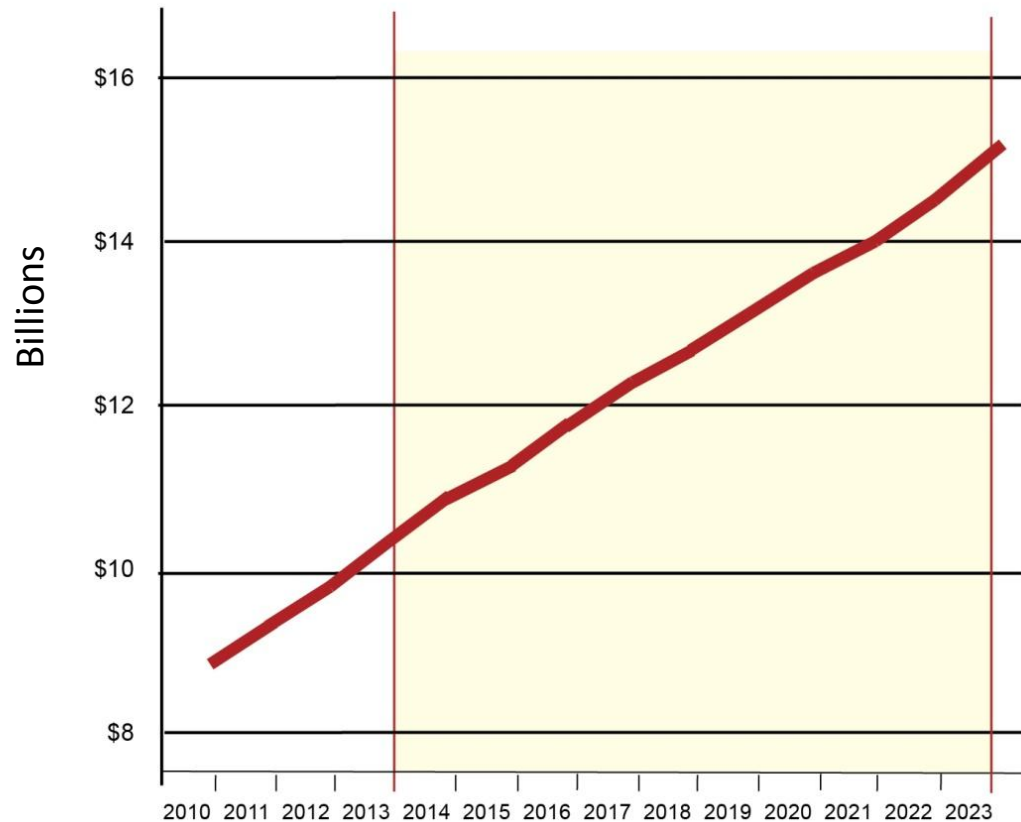


Good fund stewardship

- Fund will continue to grow
- Only 1.5% additional
- Circuit Breaker: The fund will never go below \$8 billion
- Sunsets in ten years
- Legislature can suspend distribution at any time



Forecasted Annual Growth of NM's School Fund with Proposed Distribution



Accountability is built in

- The State Auditor will annually certify that the funds are properly directed to early childhood programs
- An in-depth (longitudinal) evaluation will measure children's progress as they grow up and attend school
- After the ten years, the effectiveness of ECE services will be analyzed to inform decisions about what to do next

Responsible, efficient, effective

- Provides children with opportunity to have a better quality of life
- Prevention is more cost efficient and produces better results than remediation
- Education leaders agree: We cannot remediate our way out of this crisis



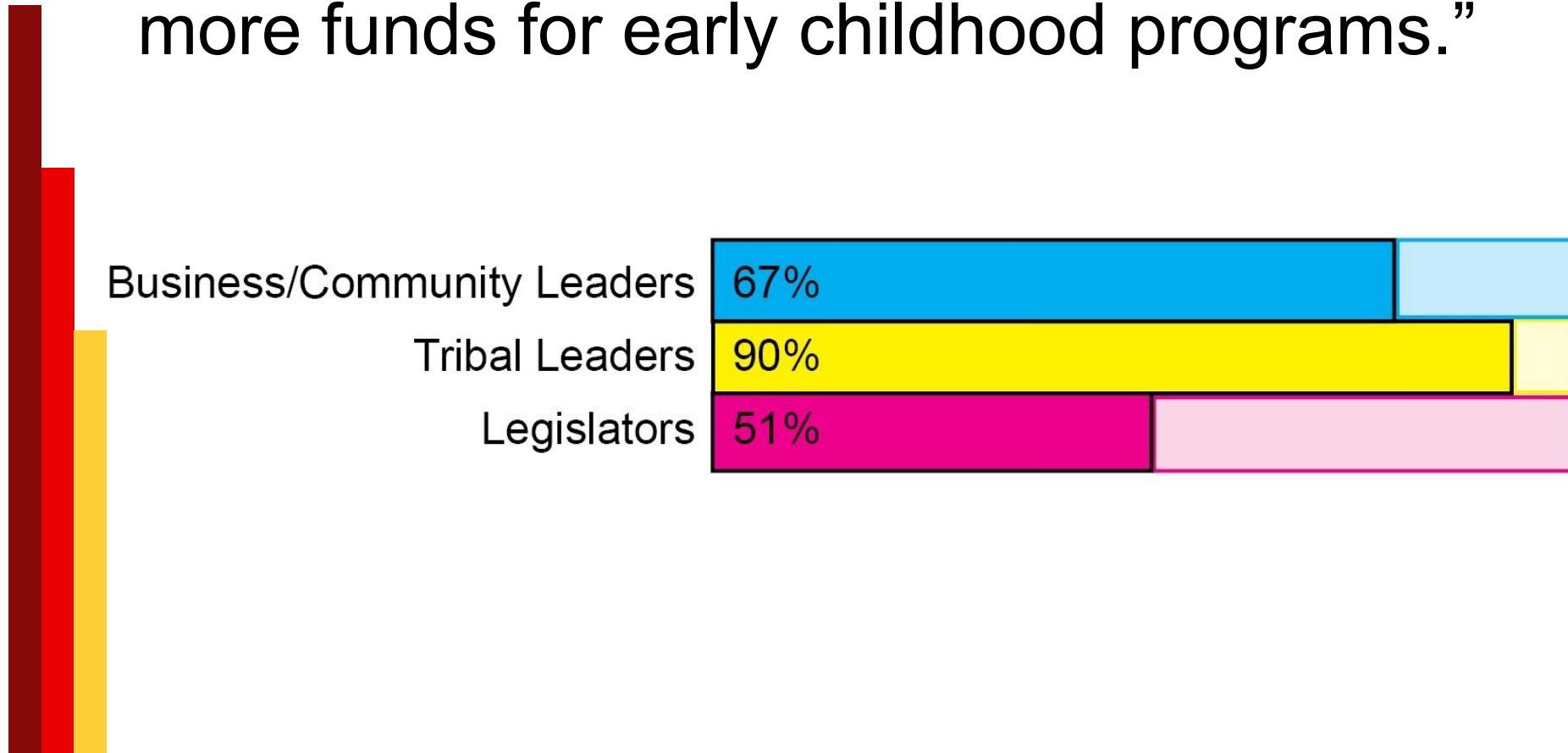
Poll: Are we doing enough?

“New Mexico is *doing too little* to ensure children enter kindergarten with the skills they need to do their best in school.”



Poll: Should we invest more?

“The state of New Mexico should dedicate more funds for early childhood programs.”




Poll: Invest Land Grant Fund?

“Do you support funding early childhood programs by dedicating a percentage of NM’s Land Grant Fund?”



Viewpoint Learning: Findings

5 town hall meetings throughout NM

- 
- A sense of urgency for early childhood opportunities
 - Research findings are powerful
 - Solutions are in our grasp
 - Any approach must support parents
 - Programs should be universally available and on a sliding scale

Doing nothing is NOT an option

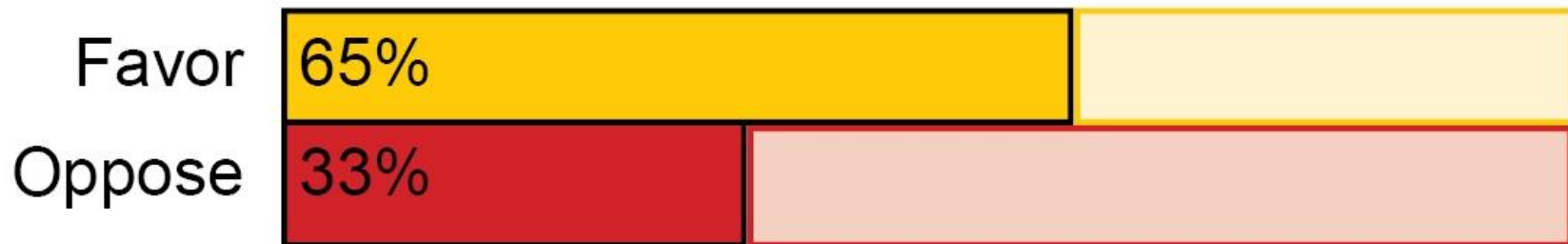
Viewpoint Learning: Quotes

- *“New revenue is necessary.”*
- *“New Mexico has to do more to help all parents and families, and all of New Mexico will benefit in the long run.”*
- *“Why don’t we make our children a priority? We’ll never get off the bottom of the barrel if we don’t get that priority straight. Why isn’t that important to the people in charge?”*

Doing nothing is NOT an option

Viewpoint Learning: Poll

“Please indicate whether you favor or oppose funding early childhood through increased payments from the state’s Land Grant Fund.”



Broad legislative support

SJR-10 had 14 Senate co-sponsors including:

- Education Committee Chair
- Sen. Majority Leader
- Sen. Majority Whip
- Several Committee Chairs

Additional support by:

- Attorney General
- State Auditor

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 10
2 50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011
3 INTRODUCED BY
4 *Charles & Concepcion* *Cynthia Romo*
5 *Reynold* *Mark* *PFW*
6 *James* *2011*
7 *Mary James Garcia*
8
9
10 A JOINT RESOLUTION
11 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO
12 TEMPORARILY INCREASE THE DISTRIBUTION FROM THE LAND GRANT
13 PERMANENT FUNDS, TO REQUIRE A PORTION OF THE INCREASED
14 DISTRIBUTION FROM THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND TO BE USED FOR
15 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS OPERATED BY THE PUBLIC
16 SCHOOLS OR PURSUANT TO CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE STATE AND PRIVATE
17 ENTITIES, TO INDEFINITELY EXTEND ANOTHER DISTRIBUTION, WITH THE
18 REQUIREMENT THAT THE PORTION OF THE DISTRIBUTION FROM THE
19 PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND BE USED TO IMPLEMENT AND MAINTAIN
20 EDUCATIONAL REFORMS AND TO SUSPEND THE DISTRIBUTIONS IF THE
21 AVERAGE VALUE OF THE FUNDS IS LESS THAN EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS
22 (\$8,000,000,000) OR IF THE LEGISLATURE, BY A VOTE OF THREE-
23 FIFTHS OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE, VOTES TO SUSPEND
24 THE DISTRIBUTION.
25
.183487.6

RULES
THURSDAY
JUDICIARY
THURSDAY
FINANCE

Broad NM community support

AFSCME

Albuquerque Interfaith

American Federation of Teachers NM

Cuidando Los Niños

Economic Council Helping Others
(ECHO) Inc.

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – NM

National Education Association

NM Association for the Education of
Young Children

NM Childcare and Education
Association

NM Campaign to End Child
Homelessness

NM Community Foundation

NM Conference of Catholic Bishops

NewMexicoKids Network

New Mexico Pediatric Society

New Mexico School Board Association

New Mexico School Superintendent
Association

New Mexico Voices for Children

OLÉ Working Parents Association

Parents Reaching Out

Partnership for Community Action

Paso a Paso Network

Prosperity Works

St. Joseph Community Health

Teaching Solutions NM

UNM Continuing Education

UNM Family Development Program

Youth Development, Inc.

A young girl with two braids is looking down at a book she is holding. The image is in grayscale and has a semi-transparent dark overlay. The text is overlaid on the top left and bottom left of the image.

Change the early years...

and you change everything!

It's time to develop a system that aligns, integrates & coordinates what happens from birth through third grade so children are ready to learn and succeed.

Thank you!

Your feedback is welcome

For more information, please visit:

www.investinkidsnow.com



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