Improving Child Well-Being in New Mexico

**INDICATOR: Young Children Not in School**

2016 indicator ranking: 38th

Percent of young children not in school: 59%

Number of young children not in school: 34,000

Trends in young children not in school:

- NM: 59%
- US: 65%

WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to 33rd:

- It would take a 2% drop in young children not in school.
- Which means 540 fewer young children not in school.

To move up 5+ rankings to 29th:

- It would take a 3% drop in young children not in school.
- Which means 1,100 fewer young children not in school.

To move up to the top ranking:

- It would take a 42% drop in young children not in school.
- Which means 14,400 fewer young children not in school.

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Increase spending on high-quality pre-K so it is available to all 4-year-olds, is available as a full-day program, and is available for more 3-year-olds.
- Restore eligibility for child care assistance to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Increase funding for child care to incentivize and adequately compensate for quality.
- Increase spending on high-quality home visiting in order to support families while also educating parents on the value of early learning.
- Promote coordination between Head Start, PED, and CYFD on early childhood programs.

*Young children (ages 3 and 4) attending a school or class of institution providing educational experiences (which can include nursery school, preschool, pre-K, Head Start, and kindergarten).

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2016; changes in other states’ outcomes can also influence New Mexico’s future rankings.

Sources: Rankings from: KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2014