



2021 New Mexico Early Childhood Survey Summary Statement

A recent poll of the New Mexico electorate reveals that the overwhelming majority of New Mexicans (72%) believes that the state legislature needs to pass legislation so that New Mexico voters can approve a constitutional amendment to raise the distribution from the Land Grant Permanent Fund for early childhood programs. When asked if the constitutional amendment were to be put before voters, **75% of respondents indicated that they would support using 1% of the Permanent Fund each year to provide more funds for early childhood programs.** Only 11% of respondents indicated that they would vote to oppose the constitutional amendment, with 14% undecided at this point.

New Mexicans are motivated to support expanding early childhood programs due to the severe challenges many New Mexican families have faced due to the COVID-19 health pandemic. For example, 74% of respondents agree (48% strongly agree) with the statement “the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed that creating a level playing field for all New Mexico’s children is even more important. This has provided an opportunity for state leaders to fundamentally reform the state’s education system by investing in early childhood programs to address poverty at the root and help to create long-term life opportunities for children.” Finally, a robust 83% of respondents find the following statement convincing, “the single greatest investment we can make to build New Mexico’s economy is to educate our children. Today’s students are tomorrow’s work-force. Early childhood education can unleash our state’s potential if children are provided access to high quality programs like childcare, preschool and home visiting for families with a new baby. It’s time we invest in proven solutions that support our children in being successful in life.”

This poll of 500 randomly drawn New Mexico registered voters conducted January 3 – January 9, 2021 provides the most up-to-date data on New Mexican’s attitudes toward expanding access to early childhood programming by slightly raising the distribution from the state’s permanent fund. Surveys were conducted with respondents in a blended approach including web-based and telephone interviews (both landlines and cell phones) and was available in both English and Spanish at respondent’s discretion. Voters were identified and confirmed to be registered voters from the voter file based on their registration date and vote history. Data were compared to the best-known estimates of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS) for demographic profile of New Mexico registered voters and post-stratification weights were applied to bring the data into direct balance with Census estimates. The poll carries a margin of error of 4.4%

The poll was led by Dr. Gabriel Sanchez and Dr. Matt Barreto from LD Insights, LLC. Dr. Sanchez is a leading expert of New Mexico politics and policy and has led numerous surveys focused on early childhood both in New Mexico and nationally. In 2020 Sanchez directed multiple surveys of New Mexico voters on education, health, covid, and electoral politics. Sanchez was joined by Dr. Barreto who is coming off of a very successful effort as the lead Latino pollster for the Biden Presidential campaign and continues to advise the Biden Transition Team.