

Pre-Kindergarten Continuation Overview

School Board Meeting March 10, 2016

The Pre-Kindergarten Program in GISD is fortunate to learn that our funding will remain the same for the 2016-2017 as for this year. Although we are not permitted to request additional student slots for 2016-2017, our program continues to be funded for 550 children. During the current year we have, at times, had a very small waiting lists, but with student attrition we have been able to serve all families wishing to enroll their children in one of our four PreK Centers.

As in the past year, we will receive \$3,206.20 per child x 550 student slots for a total of \$1,763,410 for programming. In addition, we will continue to receive \$175,000 for transportation. Our total award will remain at \$1,938,410. Of special note, we have learned that the new ESSA reauthorization of ESEA now permits the Title II federal budget to support PreK teachers with professional development.

As you are aware, our GISD PreK Program is a full Inclusion Program for children with an IEP. Every PreK teacher is required to hold the NM *Early Childhood-Education, Birth-Grade Three License (250)* issued by the PED. This license is a Special Education license for Early Childhood. NM PreK continues to require our Instructional Assistants to hold an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. With these certification and licensing requirements, our PreK staff is considered Highly Qualified.

We were fortunate to receive additional funding last year which made it possible for us to upgrade our current program by adding a district level PreK Specialist/Consultant who works directly with our PreK teachers. In addition, we have been able to add one Instructional Assistant per campus to provide additional support for our Inclusion children. Along with these new staff members, we have also added two teacher level positions to support our PreK students and teachers by developing all of our Individual Education Plans (IEPs). These new positions will continue for the 2016-2017 year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fields, Director of Federal Programs
District Level Pre-Kindergarten Administrator