

## Pre-Kindergarten Continuation Overview

School Board Meeting March 9, 2017

The Continuation Application for our NM PreK Programs has been released and due for submission on March 17, 2017.

According to the state level PreK Manager at the Early Literacy Bureau at PED, PreK funding should remain at current levels for the 2017-2018 as for this year. Although we are not permitted to request additional student slots for 2017-2018, our program will continue to be funded for 545 children unless otherwise notified after the state budget is finalized. We have been advised to complete our applications with the expectation for the same funding levels as 2016-2017.

For the 2017-2018, we will receive \$3,206.20 per child x 545 student slots for a total of \$1,747,379 for programming. We should continue to receive \$175,000 for transportation. In addition, there is an additional award of \$75,000 for our PreK Consultant. Our total award will be \$1,997,379. Of special note, the new ESSA reauthorization of ESEA now permits the Title II federal budget to support PreK teachers with professional development beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

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. 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.

As previously mentioned, the district is fortunate to receive additional funding which makes it possible for us to upgrade our program with the services of a district level PreK Specialist/Consultant who works directly with our PreK teachers. Along with the Consultant, the PreK program also employs two teacher level positions to support our PreK students and teachers by developing all of our Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

In the event that the state budget finalization calls for a reduction in PreK funding, an amendment to the Continuation Application will be presented to the Gadsden ISD Board of Education for ratification.

Respectfully submitted,

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