

Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant

Building a Strong Foundation for New Mexico



Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge is ...

- A 4-year \$37.5 million federal grant awarded in January, 2013
- Bringing together everyone that works on behalf of New Mexico's young children — agencies and organizations, providers and families — to improve the early education system
- Building the foundation where more children are ready for school, reading at grade-level, graduating from high school, and growing into engaged citizens and productive workers

*RTT–ELC is Building a Strong Foundation
for New Mexico by ...*

- Raising Quality
- Investing in Communities
- Promoting Accountability
- Supporting Schools in Meeting Each Child's Needs



*RTT–ELC is Raising the Quality of Early Learning Programs through **FOCUS TQRIS** (Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System)*

FOCUS TQRIS is a 5-star rating that will provide families with the information needed to choose quality early learning programs. It includes:

- A stronger emphasis on the full participation of every child
- Effective teaching
- Promoting early learning and development outcomes for each child across the early learning system

RTT–ELC is Raising Quality through Professional Development

Quality programs begin with an educated workforce.
Through RTT–ELC, we're ...

- Creating opportunities for early childhood staff to earn an Associate, Bachelor, Master or Ph.D. degree
- Ensuring early learning teachers, assistants and providers have the knowledge and skills needed through higher education enhancements
- Providing training in best practices
- Developing a consistent set of competencies

*RTT–ELC is Investing in Communities by Identifying **Early Childhood Investment Zones***

Identified where New Mexico children are at the most risks and where investments in programs, services and greater access to high quality early learning programs are needed.

- The identified communities touch every region of New Mexico ranging from frontier to urban population centers
- Early Childhood Investment Zones are located within 11 counties and 35 school districts

RTT–ELC is Promoting Accountability with the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)

ECIDS will ...

- Pull together data from across all early learning programs
- Enable informed decision-making about programs and policies
- Identify short and long term outcomes of early learning interventions for continuous improvement in programs
- Measure individual child outcomes over time – from preschool through high school and beyond

*RTT–ELC is Supporting Schools in
Meeting Each Child’s Needs with the
Kindergarten Observation Tool (KOT)*

KOT helps teachers at the beginning of school better understand a child’s strength in:

- Learning
- Well-being
- Social development
- Conceptual understanding



RTT–ELC is...

Ensuring all Children Thrive by Five!

For more information, be involved or stay in touch:

Visit www.earlylearningnm.org

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