

New Mexico Early Childhood Policy Platform

In 2010, the New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children (NMAEYC) and New Mexico Voices for Children (NM Voices), working with the Birth to Five Policy Alliance (now the Alliance for Early Success), drafted the “New Mexico Early Childhood Public Policy Platform” to create a broad and general framework of key issues in early childhood. The broad outline of the platform would remain the same from year to year; while the specifics of each area would be filled in annually to create a Public Policy Agenda for each year. The Platform and the Agenda would be used to educate legislators, candidates to statewide offices, and the general public about the importance of early childhood as a priority for New Mexico.

The draft document was approved and signed by NMAEYC and NM Voices, the NM Early Childhood Alliance, the Decade of the Child, and many other organizations.

Throughout 2011, the NM Public Policy Platform was taken on the road to a number of communities around the state for comment and review. The final 2011 New Mexico Early Childhood Policy Platform garnered the support of over 80 supporting organizations and has been used to frame the legislative agenda for a number of Early Childhood advocacy organizations for several years. NMAEYC uses the Platform to frame its annual EC Public Policy Agenda and to request support of the annual Agenda from other EC groups.

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Mission: Every child will get a great start in life. New Mexico will increase investments in early care and education so children thrive and find success in school and their lives.

- **Expand access to high quality early care, education and health services for ALL children, starting with the most underserved and at-risk populations.**
- **Invest in and support professional development and continue quality improvements for early childhood professionals and programs.**
- **Support families’ roles as their child’s first and most important teachers beginning with prenatal care and family engagement.**
- **Develop stable and long-term funding sources for the full continuum of early childhood services.**