



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department

Request for Information (RFI) For NM PreK Web-Based Assessment Tool

RFI No.: 2026-00255

Release Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Submission Due: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 3:00 pm MT

Submit all applications electronically to:

ececd.rfp@ececd.nm.gov

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) oversees the NM PreK program, a high-quality, voluntary program that is available to families in New Mexico with eligible 3- and 4-year-old children, regardless of income. NM PreK utilizes a mixed-delivery system of providers (i.e., child care centers, Head Start, Tribal, and school-based programs) that apply to become NM PreK programs through a competitive grant process. Chosen programs must implement the NM PreK Program Standards (available at: [Pre-K-Program-Standards-FINAL-6.pdf](#))

NM PreK has grown significantly in the past several years under the leadership of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and through significant investments from the New Mexico Legislature. In Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), NM PreK served 4,940 3-year-olds and 13,436 4-year-olds, for a total of 18,376 children. In FY26, NM PreK expanded to serve 20,163 children.

NM PreK programs are required to implement research-based curriculum aligned with the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines and utilize assessments –formative and summative. Formative assessments are conducted throughout the instructional period to gauge student understanding and guide instruction. Summative assessments are given at the end of an instructional period to evaluate what students have learned.

NM PreK programs have been required to use the state-developed Early Childhood Outcomes Tool (ECOT) to document children’s developmental outcomes at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year and a portfolio model to document observations ongoing throughout the year. During FY25, ECECD changed the assessment requirements to no longer require the portfolio and instead give programs flexibility around formative assessment practices. ECECD plans to roll out a replacement for the ECOT, as the tool is out of date and there is no effective or efficient way to systematically collect and analyze the data at the program and state levels. ECECD seeks to replace the ECOT with a formative and summative assessment tool that measures all areas of development three times per school year (Fall, Winter and Spring)_and which provides classroom educators, program administrators, and state administrators with easy-to-use dashboards and reports that support efficient and effective analysis that will inform instruction, professional development, and technical assistance needs at the program and state levels.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to solicit information to establish current requirements for a web-based assessment tool. ECECD will gather information from qualified early childhood vendors, professionals, and PreK providers regarding comprehensive developmental assessment tools suitable for use in NM PreK programs. The information gathered during this process shall inform future procurement and implementation strategies that align with the state’s vision for equitable, culturally responsive, and developmentally appropriate early learning. The RFI is for planning purposes only and does not obligate ECECD to issue a solicitation or award a contract.

The goal of this RFI is to identify high-quality, research-based, developmental assessment tools that:

- Align with New Mexico’s Early Learning Guidelines and NM PreK standards.
- Support instructional planning and family engagement.

- Provide actionable data for educators, administrators, and policymakers.

III. **TARGET RESPONDENTS**

ECECD invites responses to this RFI from:

- Early childhood assessment vendors with proven tools for PreK populations.
- Early childhood professionals with expertise in developmental screening and assessment.
- PreK providers currently using or evaluating assessment tools in classroom settings.

IV. **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

ECECD will make every effort to adhere to the following schedule. These dates are subject to extension at the discretion of ECECD. Dates indicated in this sequence of events are estimates only and may be subject to change without necessitating an amendment to this Request for Information.

Action	Responsible Party	Due Date
Issuance of Request for Information	ECECD	Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Deadline for questions	Respondents	Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 5:00 pm MT
Post written responses to questions	ECECD	Tuesday, March 24, 2026
Response Submission Deadline	Respondents	Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 3:00 pm MT

V. **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPONSES TO THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Interested individuals or entities shall:

- Submit questions about this RFI via email to Crystal Bowers at ececd.rfp@ececd.nm.gov no later than 5:00 pm MT on March 18, 2026. Answers will be posted on the ECECD website and can be found at: <https://www.nmeccd.org/grants-rfps-and-procurement-opportunities/>
- Submit RFI responses via email to Crystal Bowers at ececd.rfp@ececd.nm.gov no later than 3:00 pm on April 8, 2026.
- When submitting response via email, clearly identify the subject line of the email: RFI-Web-Based Assessment Tool for PreK.

VI. **REQUESTED INFORMATION**

The response shall be in a narrative format and address the following:

- Organization Information
 - Organization name.
 - Name, title, and email address of the contact person.
 - Address of the organization.
 - Website for the organization.
- Executive Summary

Provide the organization mission, overview of the tool, organizational capability and capacity.
- Program Alignment and Design

1. How does your tool align with NM PreK standards and culturally responsive practices?
2. Is the tool appropriate for both 3- and 4-year-olds in inclusive settings?

D. Developmental Domains

1. Describe how the following domains are assessed:
 - a. Cognitive development
 - b. Language and literacy
 - c. Social-emotional development
 - d. Physical development
 - e. Approaches to learning
2. Provide evidence that the assessments capture holistic child progress and inform instructional planning.

E. Inclusivity and Equity

1. Demonstrate how assessments are inclusive of diverse populations, including dual language learners, children with disabilities, and children from varied cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
2. Include strategies for equitable access, culturally responsive practices, and family engagement.

F. Assessment Methodology

1. Describe the assessment approach (e.g., observational, play-based, formative).
2. How is the tool administered and how often?

G. Technology and Data Systems

1. What are the requirements to maintain the system/tool?
 1. Is the tool available digitally? Describe platform compatibility (desktop, tablet, mobile).
 2. What data security and privacy protocols are in place (e.g., FERPA, HIPAA compliance)?
 3. Can the tool integrate with existing NM PreK data systems?
 5. How do you license the tool (e.g., enterprise license, per user licensing, etc.)?
 6. Describe any current or emerging innovative features that are part of the tool (such as AI, adaptive learning, predictive analytics).

H. Reporting and Analytics

1. Describe how data will be used to inform instruction, support individualized learning, and track progress toward kindergarten readiness.
2. What types of reports are generated (child-level, classroom, program-wide)?
3. Does the tool support longitudinal tracking?
4. Outline reporting mechanisms for educators, families, and administrators.
5. Are reports customizable and accessible to families?

I. Educator Support

1. What training and professional development are offered?
2. Is ongoing technical assistance available?

3. How user-friendly is the interface for educators?

J. Family Engagement

1. How does the tool support communication with families?
2. Are reports and resources available in multiple languages?
3. Can families contribute observations or feedback?

K. Research and Validation

1. Provide evidence of reliability and validity.
2. Share any third-party evaluations or peer-reviewed studies.
3. Provide a listing of states, school districts or other PreK providers using the tool, if applicable.

L. Cost Structure

1. Outline pricing models (per child, site license, etc.).
2. Include information on implementation, training, and maintenance costs.

M. Transition and Integration with Existing Programs

1. Explain compatibility with NM PreK systems and potential strategies for issues with interoperability.
2. Describe proposed steps for transitioning from ECOT to minimize disruptions.
3. Share anticipated barriers, mitigation strategies, lessons learned in other contexts.

N. Implementation and Scalability

1. Describe the typical implementation timeline and staffing needs.
2. Can the tool scale for statewide use?
3. What supports are in place for rural or under-resourced programs?

O. Maintenance and Sustainability

Describe project management support for ongoing implementation needs including updates, technical support, long-term sustainability, continuous improvement.

P. Respondents may provide additional Information such as case studies, success stories, unique insights.

The agency requests that potential offerors be prepared to provide a demonstration for stakeholder review. The demonstration may be delivered live and recorded for future viewing or submitted in a pre-recorded format. In all cases, the demonstration must be suitable for distribution and review by stakeholders. Demonstrations will held at the sole discretion of ECECD.

VII. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Submission of a response to this RFI constitutes acceptance of, and consent to, the following general requirements:

A. No Obligation

This RFI in no manner obligates ECECD to issue a resulting award (contract), or to the eventual rental, license, lease or purchase of any services or equipment that may be described, implied, or proposed in any response to this RFI.

B. Governing Law

This RFI and any subsequent RFP that may be issued by ECECD shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

C. Clarifications

Any inquiries or requests for clarification related to this RFI should be directed to Crystal Bowers at ececd.rfp@ececd.nm.gov or by phone at 505-490-2825.

D. Response Preparation Cost

Any cost incurred by the respondent in the preparation, transmittal or presentation of any response or material submitted in response to this RFI will be borne solely by the respondent.

E. Use of Information

ECECD reserves all rights available to it by law. If an RFP or other type of solicitation results from this RFI, respondents to this RFI are hereby notified that all information, documentation, and any specific content or approaches included in RFI responses will be analyzed, may appear in various reports and may be used in the resulting solicitation. Therefore, do not submit any proprietary or confidential information. ECECD cannot guarantee the confidentiality of ANY information submitted.

F. Eligibility to Participate in Subsequent Procurement

If ECECD decides to issue an RFP or other form of solicitation, those parties who choose to respond to this RFI, as well as those parties who choose not to respond to this RFI, will be eligible to participate in that procurement.

G. Public Inspection

All data, material, and documentation submitted to ECECD, pursuant to the RFI, shall be subject to public inspection in accordance with the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. No documents will be returned once submitted to ECECD.

H. Acceptance

The State of New Mexico reserves the right to reject responses that arrive late, or do not meet all the specified requirements.

I. Disclaimer

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation. Responses will be used to inform the Agency's procurement strategy. Respondents will not be compensated for their submissions.

VIII. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ECECD

A. Release RFI, collect list of interested responses, facilitate review of the responses with designated ECECD Staff.

B. ECECD may utilize the information obtained from the RFI process to direct the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the web-based assessment tool for PreK.

C. Provide any support and information to the individuals, experts, or entities in their work related to the developmental assessment.

D. The main point of contact for this RFI for ECECD is: Crystal Bowers, Chief Procurement Officer
ececd.rfp@ececd.nm.gov
505-490-2825