

## NM GRADS Program Goals

Through Title IX, GRADS students are insured a safe supported class with a highly qualified teacher, a case manager and a fatherhood mentor to help students reach goals in education, family planning and parenting, as well as healthy relationships. Also integrated in the goals of the program are, instruction in financial literacy, physical, mental and reproductive health care, along with inter-personal skill building and balancing multi-generational roles. The students are supported with safe on-site CYFD licensed Child Development Centers to further assist the pursuit of their education, positive parenting and economic stability objectives.



## NM GRADS COMPONENTS:

### INTERVENTION

NM GRADS provides training, technical assistance, assessment, and resources for all NM GRADS programs. Each site focuses on the ten NM GRADS competencies, including reducing repeat pregnancies. NM GRADS key elements are user friendly for district and school Educational Plans for Student Success that target at-risk youth and teen parents. NM GRADS Competencies are aligned with NM Performance Standards and Benchmarks in Health Education and the National Family And Consumer Sciences.

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Our CYFD licensed Child Development Centers (at 14 sites) model effective parenting in an educationally stimulating setting with highly qualified staff. GRADS CDC's promote healthy best practices including breast feeding, nutrition, developing secure relationships and work with parents to encourage and educate positive life-style choices.

### FATHERHOOD

Young fathers are supported both in the classroom and through additional case management support by fatherhood mentors to meet their unique needs. Through relationship building, father-child focused activities and the 24/7 Dads Curriculum GRADS fathers are supported in their parenting and personal journeys.

### COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

NM GRADS focuses on both short and long term goal setting with young families to support high school graduation. Through dual-credit, advanced placement and alternative educational opportunities, GRADS students receive comprehensive support in College and Career Readiness and develop a Career Plan and Portfolio including letters of recommendation, resumes and certificates.



**Ruby Rocha Hernandez**  
GRADS student from  
Capital HS in Santa Fe  
(Pictured on the right reading to her daughter)



After the birth of my child, I was unable to return to school due to lack of childcare. Because I was enrolled in the GRADS program, I was able to receive homework during weekly home visits with the case manager, who assisted me in securing a place at a safe, high-quality daycare center.

GRADS has helped me since day one. The support of the GRADS program allowed me to successfully complete my junior year as a single mother with a full school schedule and a part time job. Last summer, I was able to enroll in my first dual-credit college course.

GRADS has given me support to help with tough situations and has provided emotional support. My teacher and case managers are really important. They are role models and have pushed me to do better and work harder in school and not give up. GRADS has taught me that everything is possible and that I shouldn't give up because of any barriers in my way. When I graduate in the spring, I intend to enroll in college and eventually become a pediatric surgeon.

My advice to other teen parents? "Remember we can do what we want to do with our futures."

### GRADS Students from Career Prep HS in Shiprock



**Enrique Cabral** Portales High School

GRADS has taught me that everything I do should be for my son. I work during school so I can provide for him. It has also made me push harder in school which will prove that just because I have a child, it doesn't mean I can't finish school.



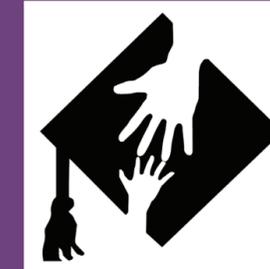
**Mikaela Juarez** Former GRADS Student

I graduated from Hobbs High School in 2015 as an Honor graduate. None of that would have been possible without Ms. Paula and the GRADS Program.

As a senior, I was 8 months pregnant and I had no support from my parents, family, friends, or even the father of my child and his family. I felt everyone believed I wouldn't be able to graduate and wasn't ready to be a mother. When I first met Ms. Paula, she asked me what my plans were. My response to her was "I plan on graduating with honors, going to college for Nursing and be the best mother I can to my baby. Ms. Paula pushed me to meet all my goals. She was always checking my grades and helped me stay on top of them and made sure I kept up with my work while I was on maternity leave.

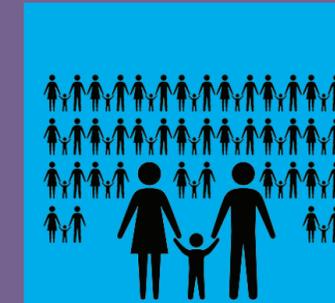
I am now 21 years old and have been working for Ms. Paula for almost 3 years. The GRADS Program helped me grow as a parent and student but also helped me grow as an employee.

## NM GRADS 2017-18 Results



**356**

Young parents were served during the 2017-18 school year



**17,817**  
Young parents served since 1989



**Graduated**

**82%**

of teen mothers enrolled in GRADS, compared to only about 50% of teen mothers nationwide

Diploma Attainment Among Teen Mothers; Child Trends 2010



**5.2%**

Repeat Pregnancy Rate (vs 15% statewide)



**1.9%**

Low Birth Weight Rate (vs 9% statewide)



**98**

Dropouts recruited back to school



Generated approximately **\$400,025** for school districts (a total of \$11,191,274 for over 4,146 GRADS students recruited back to school since NM GRADS began in 1989).

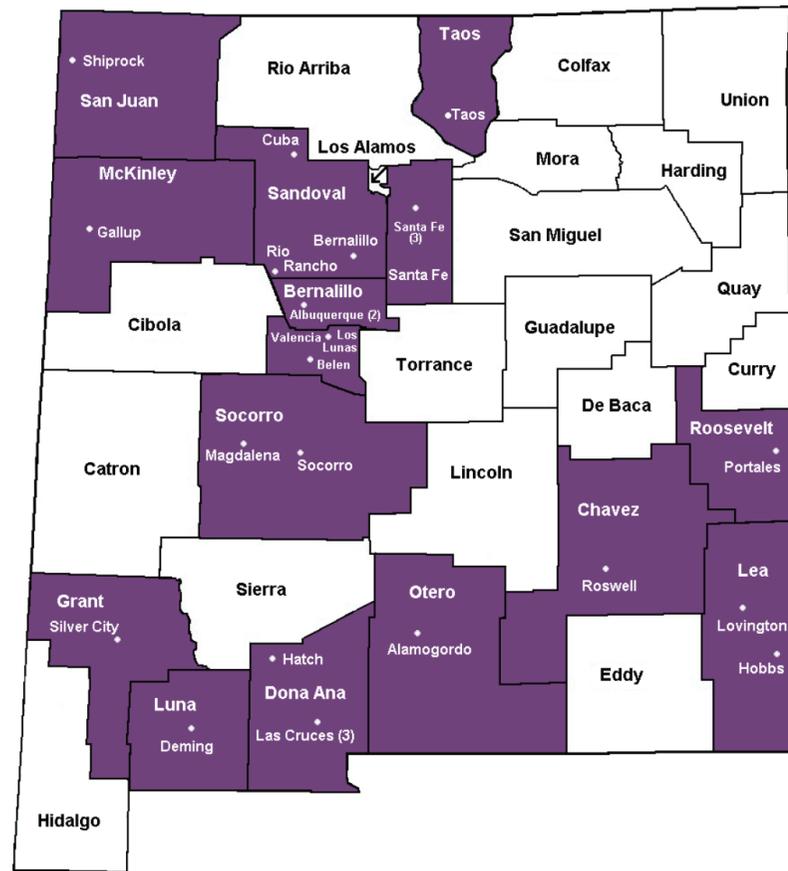
## What is NM GRADS?

The state-wide program began as an in-school program for expectant and parenting teens and has since added on-site Child Development Centers, Career Readiness, Youth Leadership, and Fatherhood. GRADS stands for Graduation, Reality And Dual-role Skills.

NM GRADS is a multi-generational case management model which helps students:

- \* identify and remove barriers contributing to success for themselves and their children,
- \* overcome the cycle of poverty by achieving a high school education, and employability skills,
- \* develop positive parenting and healthy relationship skills.

### Counties with GRADS Sites



**NM GRADS is located in 26 High Schools across the state.**



The NM GRADS Program facilitates graduation and the pursuit of higher education and/or employment, ensures appropriate case management for healthy babies and families, promotes healthy multi-generational parenting skills, fosters leadership, self-sufficiency and good citizenship as contributing members of society, and educates students on ways to reduce risk-taking behaviors for their entire family. GRADS works to remove barriers to ensure successful students become successful parents.

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**NM GRADS**  
Graduation Reality And Dual-role Skills

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# NM GRADS



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