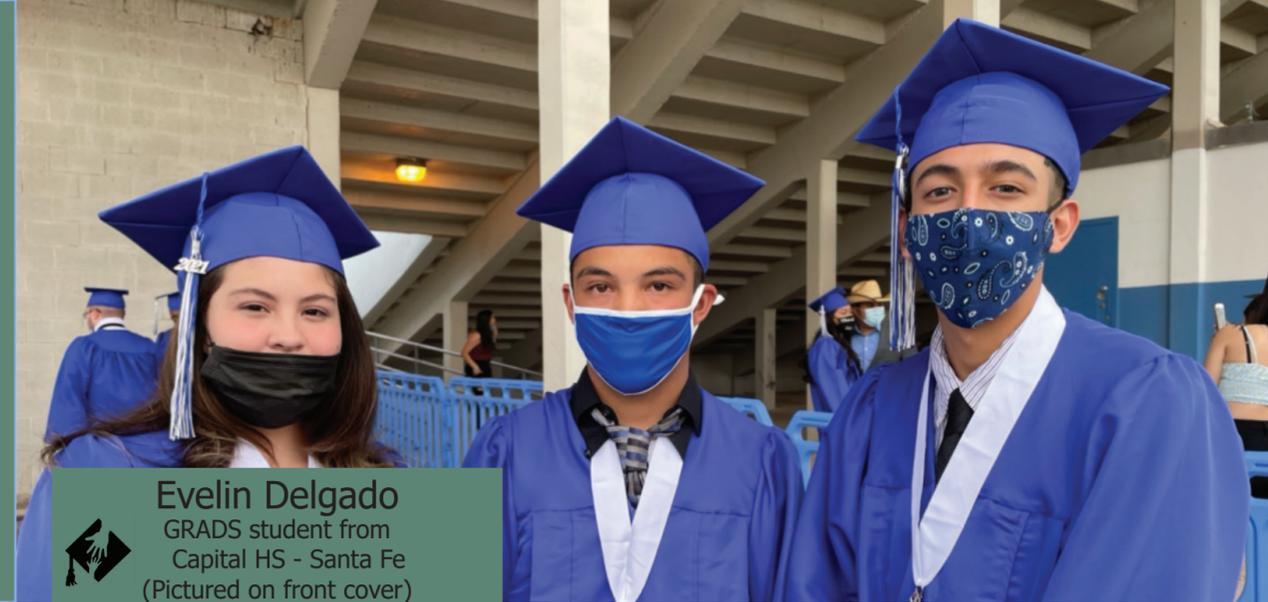


NM GRADS Program Goals

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.



 **Evelin Delgado**
GRADS student from
Capital HS - Santa Fe
(Pictured on front cover)

Evelin Delgado welcomed her daughter at the end of her junior year in high school. She went on to graduate early, at age 17, and immediately enrolled at her local community college. Evelin's dreams of becoming a veterinarian are well underway as she is currently working toward her Associate's in Veterinary Technology. Gifted in math, Evelin's college placement tests landed her in a high level math class which she has enjoyed very much. Evelin has always been passionate about animals and looks forward to pursuing her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at a university in Colorado. Each week she works with her former GRADS teacher in tutoring sessions for 3-5 hours. Evelin is a focused, dedicated, and intelligent student, and has a bright future ahead of her.

Evelin is also a devoted mother to her sweet two-year-old daughter. Together they enjoy reading, singing, dancing, listening to music, and making silly faces at one another. Evelin's daughter always has a smile on her face and is very inquisitive and verbal. Since their local Early Head Start program shut down earlier this year, Evelin has been working with her daughter on at-home educational activities provided by the center and reports that she loves engaging with her daughter this way. A fantastic student and parent, Evelin is positive proof that teen parents can thrive both as caregivers and as students.

GRADS Students from Lovington HS pictured above

 **Idaleese Longoria**, Hobbs HS

Being in the GRADS program was the best decision that I made for both myself and my children. I get to have class with them at the center, and all of the resources that are offered help my children and I. I am graduating this year, and plan on keeping my children in the GRADS Learning Center.

 **Rachel Meijers** Independence HS (Rio Rancho)

I am December 2020 graduate from Independence HS. I transferred to Independence HS when I became pregnant at 15. I decided to enter the GRADS program instead of dropping out and making things more complicated. I was young and I was scared about becoming a mother. I knew I needed help. Joining the GRADS program was truly a blessing. They made sure I had all the resources I needed at home, as well as providing an Early Head Start program for my son. The support they offered has helped me become a better person, not just for myself but also for my son. I now have a closer relationship with my son and have become a better parent.

Because of all the loving support from teachers and staff, I was able to graduate a semester early.

NM GRADS 2020-21 Results



313
Young parents
were served during
the 2020-21
school year



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

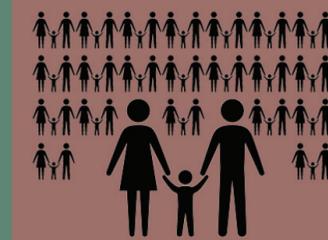
Our CYFD licensed Child Development Centers (at 15 sites) model effective parenting in an educationally stimulating setting with highly qualified staff. GRADS CDC's promote healthy best practices including breast feeding, nutrition, developing secure relationships and work with parents to encourage and 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.



18,950
Young parents
served since
1989



Graduated
63%
of teen mothers
enrolled in GRADS,
compared to only
about 53% of teen
mothers nationwide*

Data Point; Child Trends 2018



3.13%
Repeat Pregnancy
Rate (vs 15%
statewide)



6.3%
Low Birth Weight
Rate (vs 9%
statewide)

*The average graduation rate for teen moms enrolled in NM GRADS the past 5 years was 77%. The 2020-21 school year brought many challenges due to the covid pandemic. Many students were not able to access the 1 on 1 connections that the GRADS model is based on, thus impacting student graduation rates.



Generated approximately **\$189,545** for school districts (a total of \$12,038,580 for over 4,335 GRADS students recruited back to school since NM GRADS began in 1989).

NM GRADS



What is NM GRADS?

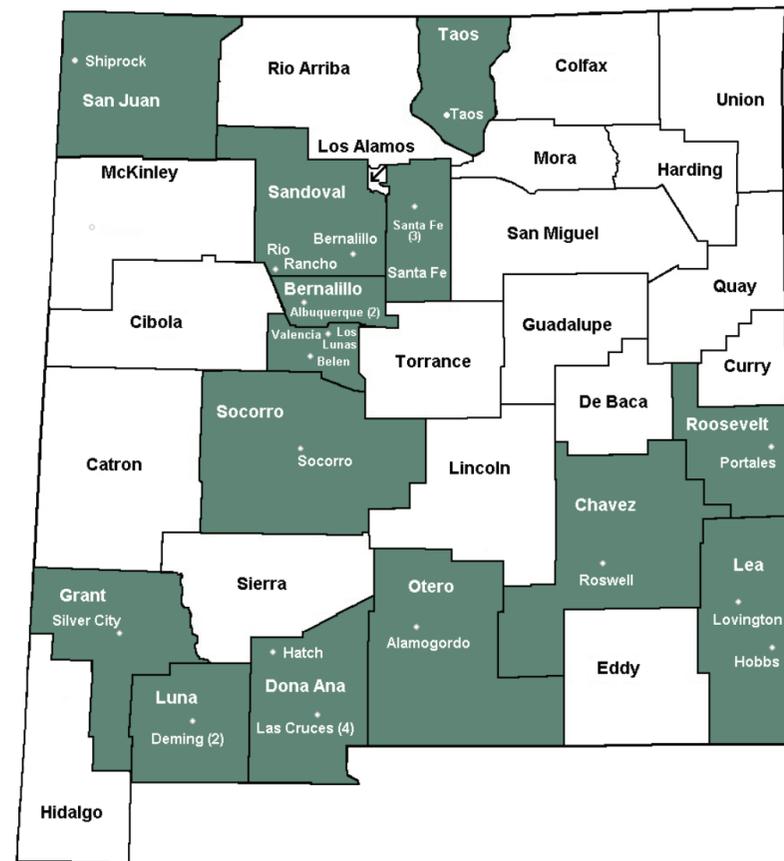
New Mexico GRADS is a state-wide program that began as an in-school program for expectant and parenting teens and has since added on-site Child Development Centers, Career Readiness, Youth Leadership, and Fatherhood. GRADS stands for Graduation, Reality And Dual-role Skills.

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



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.

The NM GRADS program is funded by the NM Legislature and administered and overseen by the NM Public Education Department.



2022

NM GRADS
Graduation Reality And Dual-role Skills

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NM GRADS is in 25 sites and serves students in 33 High Schools across the state.