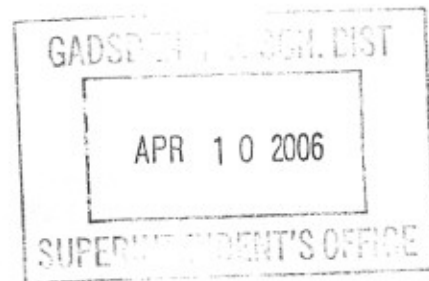




STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
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DR. VERONICA C. GARCÍA  
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION



BILL RICHARDSON  
Governor

April 5, 2006

Mr. Ronald Haugen  
Superintendent  
Gadsden Independent Schools  
P.O. Drawer 70  
Anthony, NM 88021

Dear Mr. Haugen:

I am pleased to announce the opportunity for continuation and expansion of the Full Day Kindergarten *Plus* Pilot Project currently being implemented in your district. As you know, this pilot project is designed to examine the efficacy of an extended kindergarten program for students most in need.

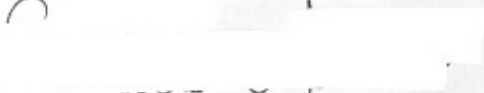
House Bill 43, sponsored by Representative Mimi Stewart, was passed by the 2006 Legislature and signed into law by Governor Richardson. This legislation extends the original 3-year kindergarten *plus* pilot project to a 6-year study ending in 2009. House Bill 43 also provides for expansion of the project in the four original pilot school districts (Albuquerque, Gadsden, Gallup-McKinley and Las Cruces). In accordance with this legislation, Gadsden Independent Schools may expand the kindergarten *plus* program by adding additional classes or schools or both.

Gadsden Independent Schools may apply for continuation and/or expansion funding up to \$200,000.00. Existing full-day kindergarten programs may be extended by a minimum of forty instructional days and up to a maximum of four months. Funding will be available upon approval of your district's application and will continue through June 30, 2007.

Your district's application may be submitted at any time between April 5 and May 19, 2006, but no later than close of business on May 19, 2006. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and funds will be awarded upon approval. Please feel free to contact Karen Ehlert, Education Administrator with the Early Literacy Bureau, at 505-827-9972 or via email at [karen.ehlert@state.nm.us](mailto:karen.ehlert@state.nm.us) for additional information.

We are looking forward to working together on the continuation and expansion of the Kindergarten *Plus* initiative to narrow the achievement gap for an increasing number of our young New Mexico students.

Truly,

  
Veronica C. García, Ed.D.  
Secretary of Education

VCG/ke

Enclosure: 2006-2007 Application for Continuation and  
Expansion of Kindergarten *Plus* Pilot Project

cc: Dr. Catherine Cross Maple, Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
Dr. Patricia E. Parkinson, Assistant Secretary for Instructional Support Services  
Dr. Lana Paolillo, Bureau Chief, Early Literacy Bureau  
Karen Ehlert, Education Administrator, Early Literacy Bureau