

Preparation of a Pre-Kindergarten Utilization and Capacity Study for Rio Rancho Public School, Rio Rancho, NM

Rio Rancho Public Schools (RRPS) and the New Mexico Public Schools Facilities Authority (PSFA) engaged Architectural Research Consultants, Incorporated (ARC) to evaluate districtwide Pre-Kindergarten needs and options for expanding preschool within existing facilities. The study focuses on Shining Stars Preschool and the potential to add Pre-K classrooms at Puesta del Sol Elementary and other elementary campuses while updating enrollment, capacity, and utilization data across the district.

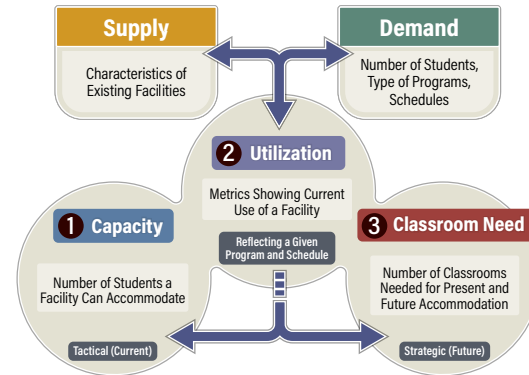
RRPS serves approximately 16,500 students across 21 schools and projects a 9.8 percent enrollment decline over ten years, including an 8.9 percent drop in K-5 enrollment as Sandoval County’s population ages and birth rates fall. Elementary schools hold substantial excess general capacity, but the district has relatively few classrooms that meet current state standards for Pre-K and Kindergarten. This constraint limits the district’s ability to transition from half-day to full-day preschool. Shining Stars operates 31 classrooms and, under a half-day model, can accommodate projected Pre-K demand on its own.

ARC’s projections show that a future full-day Pre-K model beginning in 2027–28 would push total Pre-K enrollment to a peak of roughly 845 students before stabilizing around 775, creating a need for approximately 22–26 additional state-compliant classrooms beyond those already in use. The study outlines two paths: continue half-day Pre-K at Shining Stars with no major capital changes, or transition to full-day Pre-K by using Shining Stars as a central hub and creating new capacity through targeted additions at selected elementary schools or a new preschool facility.

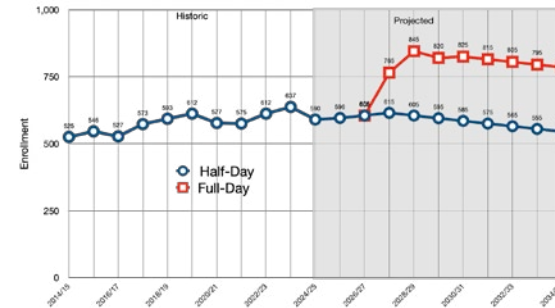
Schedule: 2026

Client: Rio Rancho Public Schools and New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority

Right: Utilization and Capacity Analysis Process



Right: Half-Day and Full-Day Pre-K Enrollment Projections



Below: Options to Accommodate Pre-K Enrollment

