



Heinrich has long championed efforts to bolster childhood education in New Mexico.

In 2014, [Heinrich was the first member of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to publicly support unlocking investments from the state's Land Grant Permanent Fund](#) to sustainably support early childhood education. After the New Mexico Legislature and voters in the state passed the necessary state constitutional amendment to unlock these investments, Heinrich successfully led the effort to secure Congressional authorization of the amendment through his [New Mexico Education Enhancement Act](#), which passed in the Omnibus Appropriations Agreement for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23).

In September 2021, Heinrich [announced nearly \\$17 million in federal funding to support Head Start services across New Mexico](#). Head Start promotes school readiness of children under the age of five from low-income families through education, health, social and other services.

In November 2023, Heinrich [announced \\$10 million in federal funds to improve early childhood education](#) and care in New Mexico through supporting comprehensive initiatives aimed at bolstering New Mexico's early childhood infrastructure.

In August 2024, Heinrich and the N.M. Delegation [welcomed \\$191,000 for New Mexico](#) to protect children from lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities.

In May 2024, Heinrich and the N.M. Delegation [welcomed \\$2,858,376 from the U.S. Department of Labor \(DOL\)](#) to expand access to apprenticeship opportunities, prepare more New Mexicans for quality jobs, and strengthen the local workforce.

In FY25 funding, Heinrich secured a [\\$3,000,000 Congressionally Directed Spending request by him and U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján for HELP New Mexico, Inc.](#) to renovate classroom spaces to expand early childhood services in Luna County.

In [FY26 government funding](#), Heinrich successfully secured and passed into law:

- \$273,000 for the Early Childhood Center of Excellence at Santa Fe Community College to expand the APRENDE Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program.
- \$250,000 for the Three Rivers Education Foundation to provide early childhood literacy training and resources.
- \$500,000 for the Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico, in partnership with Explora Science Center and Children's Museum, to offer Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) programs.
- \$333,000 for Las Cumbres Community Services to expand its Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program and serve additional families in northern New Mexico.

In 2024, as then-Chairman of the U.S. Joint Economic Committee (JEC), Heinrich [released a report on the benefits of early childhood education](#) and [held a hearing to highlight the importance of investing in early education](#), featuring New Mexico Speaker of the House Javier Martínez as one of the witnesses.

Heinrich also [cosponsored the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Enhancement Act](#) to alleviate childcare costs for working families. The legislation permanently expands childcare tax credits by increasing the maximum credit amount to \$4,000 per child, automatically adjusted to keep pace with inflation, and ensure working families can benefit from the tax credit by making it refundable — allowing families to receive up to \$8,000 each.

In 2023, [Heinrich introduced the Working Families Tax Relief Act](#) to permanently expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

In 2024, Heinrich [released a statement blasting Senate Republicans](#) for [blocking a tax package](#) that would have expanded the Child Tax Credit for 16 million children, provided tax support for businesses to invest in research, development, and manufacturing, and more.

In September 2023, Heinrich [introduced the Child Care Stabilization Act](#), which provides \$16 billion in mandatory funding each year for the next five years to continue the successful Child Care Stabilization Grant program. This investment ensures childcare providers continue to receive a stable and reliable source of funding to help them deliver high-quality and affordable childcare for working families across the country.

In June 2023, Heinrich [introduced the Apprenticeship Pathways Act](#) to create pathways to careers for high school students by expanding access to apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeships offer a direct path to acquiring in-demand skills, and early exposure to industries can encourage more students to pursue careers in those professions.

Expanding apprenticeship programs for high school students can help address workforce shortages and ensure a sustainable workforce pipeline.

In May 2023, Heinrich [introduced the Living Schoolyards Act](#) to support schools in New Mexico as they re-envision their outdoor spaces to create more hands-on learning opportunities, strengthen local ecological systems, and give every child a place to learn and play outside.

In May 2024, at a [roundtable conversation with local educators in Albuquerque](#), Heinrich announced his [Educator Down Payment Assistance Act](#), legislation designed to help more educators and school staff in New Mexico purchase a home, and keep teachers in the communities where they teach.

In April 2024, Heinrich [cosponsored](#) the Retaining Educators Takes Added Investment Now (RETAIN) Act, legislation to improve teacher pay and retention, and address the shortage of early childhood and K-12 teachers in New Mexico and nationwide.

In March 2024, Heinrich [introduced](#) the Literacy Improvement for Transformation (LIFT) Act, legislation that aims to improve literacy outcomes for all students by ensuring that every K-12 public school has at least one full-time reading or literacy specialist on staff.

In February 2024, Heinrich [introduced](#) the Pre-Apprenticeships To Hardhats (PATH) Act, legislation to strengthen the pipeline for careers in New Mexico, address rising workforce shortages, and grow the state's economy through quality pre-apprenticeship programs.

Last August, Heinrich [reintroduced](#) the Child Care for Working Families Act, comprehensive legislation to expand access to pre-K, and support full-day, full-year Head Start programs and increased wages for Head Start workers.

Last November, Heinrich [demanded answers](#) regarding delays in disbursing Head Start funds by the Trump administration, which the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found violated the Impoundment Control Act. In the letter, Heinrich highlighted how these delays forced programs to reduce services, temporarily close classrooms, lay off staff, and left thousands of children and families without critical early learning and family support. Heinrich also called for immediate clarification on authorization of the delays, legal rationale, and measures to prevent recurrence, as well as assurances that Head Start programs can continue providing inclusive services for children with disabilities.

Last April, Heinrich [blasted](#) the Trump administration's attacks on Head Start and demanded U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F.

Kennedy Jr. to immediately unfreeze Head Start funding and reverse firings of early childhood education workers.

Last March, Heinrich [sent a letter](#) to U.S. Department of Education Secretary Linda McMahon demanding that the Education Department immediately reinstate \$600 million in federal funding intended to strengthen our educator workforce and improve student learning. In New Mexico, the Three Rivers Education Foundation is an educational nonprofit that partners with Eastern New Mexico University and New Mexican school districts to support educators through Education Department partnership grants. Thanks to these federal grants, aspiring teachers can pursue a Master of Education degree while receiving a livable wage. However, Trump gutted these federal grants, impacting nearly \$17 million.

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