



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INC.
Elev8 NM: A FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS APPROACH

For forty years YDI has provided educational, developmental, and humanitarian assistance to children, youth, and families in New Mexico. In 2011, YDI incorporated a full-service community schools approach as part of their mission, connecting the Elev8 NM initiative to YDI’s more than 50 programs already in place. Implemented in 2007, Elev8 NM supports five middle schools across three school districts. In Albuquerque, Elev8 is in **Wilson Middle School (SE ABQ)**, **Grant Middle School (NE ABQ)**, and the **Native American Community Academy**. Statewide, Elev8 is also at **Gadsden Middle School (Anthony)** and at **Laguna Middle School (Pueblo of Laguna)**.

Elev8 NM focuses on increasing learning time, engaging families, strengthening community and school connections, and coordinating resources along three core components:

EXTENDED LEARNING: Extended learning opportunities before and after school support academic achievement by offering a diverse choice of relevant, structured learning activities that are engaging, challenging, and connected to the classroom.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH: School-based health centers (SBHCs) provide students and families with easily accessible, age-appropriate preventive, physical, behavioral, and oral health services regardless of ability to pay.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORTS: Family engagement encourages parents to become full partners with the school and increase involvement with their child’s education. Family support services and resources on school campuses are designed to promote economic stability, good health, and continuing education...based on need.

The Middle School Need!

While New Mexico has seen improvement in the rate of several key risk behaviors over recent years, serious concerns remain, especially in alcohol use at an early age, suicide attempts, and violence.

- 73% of middle schools in NM did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress;
- 10.8% of 6-8 graders ever had sexual intercourse, constituting a rate increase of 233%;
- 18% of middle school students are habitually truant; 31% in Albuquerque;
- 8.6% of NM 6-8 graders binge drink, constituting a rate increase of 286%;
- 31% of NM 6-8 graders have been bullied at school;
- NM is ranked 11th in the nation for students skipping school because they felt unsafe;
- Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among 5-14 year olds.

2009 YRRS Report
-NMPED data



Full-Service Community Schools are a pathway to college & career:

- ✓ Healthy children miss fewer school days and do better in school
- ✓ Students succeed when families have support
- ✓ Extended learning programs improve student learning, reduce risky activities, and keep students safe

Elev8 New Mexico – an initiative of Youth Development Inc.



The Benefit of Elev8 NM:

Elev8 Parents are actively involved. At Gadsden Middle School, almost half of the families were engaged in school through home visits conducted by the Elev8 Family Resource Center. Furthermore, a 2009 study conducted by Public Private Ventures found that Elev8 parents were more involved in school than non-Elev8 parents.

Elev8 students' basic health needs are being met. 7,000 student visits made to Elev8 NM school-based health centers. Dental visits at the school-based health centers have nearly doubled this year over last year at Grant and Wilson/NACA.

Elev8 students achieve. At Laguna Middle School, an increase in math, nearing proficiency from 2008 to 2009. In the same school a 214% increase in proficiency from 7th to 8th grade.

Elev8 students are engaged in school. 51% of Elev8 students reported three absences or less for the school year.

Elev8 students have access to caring adults. 67% of Elev8 students reported a caring adult outside their home who knows what is going on in school and in their lives.

Elev8 improves school safety. Arrests at Wilson Middle School declined from an average 60 per school year five years ago, to only 1 reported this past year.

Elev8 Supported Family Benefits. Laguna Middle School families received \$414,000 in benefits through their family advocate model.

Elev8 School Based Health Centers are among the top in the state based on productivity factors.

- 100% of the entire school population is being served by the Laguna SBHC.
 - Behavioral Health continues to be the overall top service in Elev8 NM schools at 44% of **all** SBHC visits.
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Community Partners:

- Albuquerque Bernalillo County Community Schools
- Albuquerque Public Schools
- Bernalillo County Extension Services 4-H
- Central New Mexico Community College
- Citizen Schools
- Gadsden Independent School District
- Laguna Department of Education
- New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community
- National Indian Youth Leadership Project
- New Mexico Afterschool Alliance
- New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care
- New Mexico Center for Law on Poverty
- New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department
- New Mexico Department of Health
- New Mexico Human Services Department
- New Mexico Public Education Department
- Prosperity Works
- Rio Grande Educational Collaborative
- Single Stop USA
- UNM Center for Education Policy Research
- UNM Community Learning & Public Service
- UNM Department of Family & Community Medicine
- UNM Department of Pediatrics
- YMCA of Central New Mexico