



PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

GOV. MURPHY PROPOSES SIGNIFICANT FUNDING FOR PRE-K EXPANSION

Governor Murphy used his March 13 Budget Message to include \$83 million for pre-k expansion in his first state budget. Although additional details will be available in the coming days, the \$83 million proposed in the governor's first budget **provides \$50 million in new funding for pre-k expansion for more communities. In addition, it continues funding for the pre-k expansion to 26 districts – approximately \$32 million -- as provided by the legislative leadership for the 2017-2018 school year.**

The \$83 million total proposed funding for pre-k expansion in Governor Murphy's first budget demonstrates commitment to thousands of New Jersey's 3- and 4-year-olds, and commitment to their opportunity for access to New Jersey's high-quality, state-funded, full-day pre-k. **Pre-K Our Way applauds Governor Murphy's action as another important step towards the full- funding of the 2008 law that calls for expansion of pre-k programs to children across the state.**

"The proposed \$83 million pre-k expansion funding in Governor Murphy's first budget provides a significant step in bringing New Jersey's pre-k to thousands of our state's 3- and 4-year-olds and to many more communities," said Sam Crane, spokesperson for Pre-K Our Way.

For 10 years – every year, 50,000 of New Jersey's 3- and 4-year-olds have been promised pre-k. **Governor Murphy's proposed funding for pre-k expansion — \$83 million in total — is a major step toward full expansion of New Jersey's pre-k into hundreds of communities and for the 50,000 children as promised a decade ago.** Crane added, "It'll take time to reach the full expansion promised since 2008, and this year is important. New Jersey's 3- and 4-year-olds have been waiting for 10 years for New Jersey's pre-k. They're ready!"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Following is a link to Governor Murphy's Budget Message as delivered March 13, 2018:

https://prekourway.org/assets/Gov-Murphy-Budget-Address_March-13-2018_PRE-K.mp4

Following is the major section of the Budget Message that presents information re: proposed funding for pre-k expansion:

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“This budget starts New Jersey down a four-year path to expanding pre-K statewide. We will add an additional \$57.6 million to build upon the \$25 million in new funding the Legislature ensured for this current year for a total investment of nearly \$83 million.

Decades of studies tell us that pre-K builds a strong foundation for a child’s educational future. We know it has profound effects on closing the achievement gap. We know it has positive benefits that continue even into adulthood – that every dollar we put into pre-K pays us back many times over throughout that child’s life.

In 2008, the state made a promise to expand pre-K statewide. That promise to our next generation remains unfulfilled. This investment moves us closer to fulfilling it.”