



PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

PRE-K OUR WAY NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019



In his just-delivered 2019 Budget Address, Governor Murphy continued NJ's commitment to pre-k expansion and proposed more funding for it - \$68 million!

As always, additional details will become clear in the next few days. However, we wanted to share the news that **pre-k expansion remains a statewide priority, and there is pre-k expansion funding in the governor's proposed budget!**

On Sunday, the *Burlington County Times* wrote, "Crafting a balanced, multibillion-dollar spending plan is no easy feat, even in the best of the times, and these are not the best of the times for the state's finances...revenue growth has lagged behind expectations." In that environment, **keeping pre-k's hard-won place as a statewide priority has been vitally important.**

Throughout the first year of his administration, Governor Murphy has been a consistent supporter of New Jersey's high-quality, state-funded, full-day pre-k. In his first Budget Address - delivered March 2018 - the governor committed to full expansion (and universal pre-k) within four years. While visiting a new pre-k expansion district in early 2019, Governor Murphy made it personal, "I am committed to continuing pre-k expansion" in our state.

In the recent March 5, 2019 Budget Address, Governor Murphy made several references to New Jersey's continued commitment to pre-k expansion: "we're able to continue to invest more in our public school classrooms and pre-k..." and "...together, we are fundamentally redefining public education with greater access to pre-k...". In addition, a preschool teacher was one of the nine New Jerseyans joining First Lady Tammy Murphy as a special guest to "embody the values and themes that Governor Murphy (highlighted) in his speech." As details become available in the coming weeks, we'll share more information about the governor's proposed pre-k expansion funding for the new budget. For now, here's a link to the Budget Address: <https://www.insidernj.com/governor-murphys-full-fiscal-year-2020-budget-address-blueprint-middle-class/>

In closing, **New Jersey's 3- and 4-year-olds are fortunate: Governor Murphy and the legislative leadership support pre-k expansion.** Thanks to them - and thanks to your strong support - there are 113 communities with state-funded, full-day pre-k. That's great!

During the coming budget discussions and throughout the spring, Pre-K Our Way will maintain the focus on New Jersey's 3- and 4-year-olds. There are tens of thousands of kids across hundreds of communities that remain waiting for access to NJ's pre-k. Our message today and to be shared more prominently in the coming weeks: **It's time to significantly fund pre-k expansion - NOW!**

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