



## PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

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### **PRE-K EXPANSION GROUP APPLAUDS NEW JERSEY STATE CHAMBER'S DECISION TO SUPPORT AS AN ADVOCATE ORGANIZATION**

*State Chamber supports NJ's pre-k expansion promised in 2008, but never funded*

FLORHAM PARK, N.J.–Pre-K Our Way, a nonprofit, statewide effort that helps New Jersey's communities bring high-quality pre-k to their children, applauds the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce for its recent decision to support expansion of New Jersey's existing high quality pre-k program. The State Chamber now joins 50+ individual advocate organizations, including the New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, the YMCA Alliance in New Jersey, United Ways of New Jersey and New Jersey Teachers of English Speakers of Other Languages and New Jersey Bilingual Educators in supporting the implementation of the existing 2008 law that called for expansion. In addition, a Leadership Group comprised of nearly a dozen statewide leaders guides the effort, and includes former Governors Thomas H. Kean and James J. Florio.

"Pre-K Our Way thanks the entire New Jersey State Chamber Board and, especially, Board Chair Amy Mansue and President and CEO Tom Bracken for their leadership in supporting this issue" said M. Brian Maher, a member of Pre-K Our Way's Leadership Group. "Access to pre-k is proven to provide our kids with a strong and lasting foundation. A law passed in 2008 provided high-quality pre-k to three and four-year-old children in only 35 communities, and also promised access to high-quality pre-k to more than 50,000 additional three and four-year-olds each year. That law was never funded."

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Pre-K Our Way, a nonpartisan and nonprofit community-based organization, coordinated through a diverse group of business leaders, parents, foundations, early childhood educators, community leaders interested citizens and elected officials, engages communities on expanding NJ's existing high-quality public preschool for their children. The law passed in 2008 would provide state-funded, full-day pre-k expansion in virtually every NJ community. 50,000 children have waited every year since, and that's not right. Visit our website at [www.prekourway.org](http://www.prekourway.org) for more information.