



PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.



FACT SHEET

1. PRE-K OUR WAY IS A NONPROFIT, NONPARTISAN EFFORT THAT HELPS COMMUNITIES BRING NEW JERSEY'S HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K TO THEIR CHILDREN.

- Pre-K Our Way wants to expand the quality preschool model for 3- to 4-year-olds that New Jersey already has—through a law that already exists—but has never been fully implemented.
- Pre-K Our Way is a community-based initiative to bring New Jersey's successful preschool program to more communities so more children are prepared for school and ready for success.
- Pre-K Our Way is not a school and is not connected with any school.
- Pre-K Our Way and New Jersey law support a mixed-delivery system of public supports and public/private implementation. Your community chooses: public pre-k can be implemented through public schools, community for-profit, nonprofit or faith-based providers, or private providers.
- Pre-K Our Way is your way to bring preschool to your children and your community.
- There are only 35 communities with NJ's state-funded, full-day pre-k. **If your community doesn't provide every item listed in the checklist that follows, then your community doesn't have NJ's state-funded, full-day pre-k for all 3- and 4-year-olds in a community.**

Full-day

State-funded

Available to all 3- and 4-year-olds in the community

No waiting list

No fee to attend

2. PRE-K OUR WAY'S MISSION IS SIMPLE.

- Expand New Jersey's existing high-quality preschool to more 3- to 4-year-olds in more of our state's communities.
- Develop the public and political will to expand New Jersey's existing, high-quality pre-k program; fewer than 40 districts—out of more than 600—have New Jersey's existing high-quality public preschool program.
- Increase access and availability: where your children live shouldn't determine whether or not they have access to pre-k; other communities have it—it's time to bring pre-k to your community. In 2008, NJ law provided pre-k to fewer than 40 school districts, but promised to expand pre-k to more communities. 50,000 NJ kids are still waiting—that's not right!

MORE

3. PRE-K OUR WAY WILL DO THREE THINGS.

- Create opinion leaders and supporters—community residents, parents, other family members, early childhood education advocates and educators, media, business and community leaders—to spread the word about the importance of pre-k and the need to offer the program to more of our state’s 3- to 4-year-old children in more communities.
- Educate the legislature on the value of pre-k programs in improving educational outcomes and the need to extend the program to more communities in the state.
- Support a local organizing effort that continues to raise the priority of pre-k expansion so that it is part of the 2017 Gubernatorial and legislative election discussions—and for pre-k expansion to be a priority in the signed 2018-2019 NJ State Budget.

4. PRE-K OUR WAY USES LOCAL OUTREACH TO SPREAD THE WORD, IDENTIFY KEY SUPPORTERS/ADVOCATES AND COMMUNICATE.

- As part of Pre-K Our Way’s 2017 Campaign for Pre-K Expansion in NJ, we’re using small group meetings at key points in the calendar to share previews, insight, information and plans focused on continuing to raise the priority of pre-k expansion as part of the 2017 gubernatorial and legislative discussions and debates. **We believe the time is NOW to lay the foundation for the first months—and first budget—of a new administration in Trenton in 2018.** 50,000 NJ kids are waiting.
- In 2016, Pre-K Our Way co-hosted local community meetings with 80+ local communities across New Jersey. Co-hosted with the support of many of our advocate organizations, including United Way or YMCA organizations in each community, the purpose of each local community meeting was to inform and energize attendees to help bring pre-k their way.
- In 2015, our three regional forums engaged attendees from more than 300 different New Jersey communities across all 21 counties. Attendees used more than 90 breakout sessions to create opportunities to strategize, build alliances and take action to make quality preschool available to children in New Jersey’s communities through use of a central question, ‘What can we do now to ensure that our children are ready for kindergarten?’ and focused on how we can act and work together to expand New Jersey’s existing high-quality pre-k to more 3- to 4-year-olds.
- Pre-K Our Way’s meetings—including Community Communication, local community meetings and regional forums—include parents, neighbors, colleagues, family members, educators and administrators, education advocates, business people, interested citizens, elected officials and others—all committed to making quality preschool available in New Jersey’s communities.

5. PRE-K OUR WAY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT AND ACTION.

- Email your legislators to let them know that you support pre-k expansion. Write personal opinion letters or op-eds to local news outlets, and use social media (personal Facebook, Twitter, blogs, community forums, online commentary in professional or community publications) about the need to bring New Jersey’s existing high-quality pre-k education to more 3- to 4-year-old children in our state.
- Stay informed about progress and upcoming activities; like Pre-K Our Way on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



QUESTIONS? You may reach the Pre-K Our Way team at 609-246-0034, ext. 4 or toll free at 844-335-PREK (844-335-7735). You can also email us at info@prekourway.org.