



## PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

## PRE-K OUR WAY NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FALL 2018



After more than a decade, this is **the first school year with pre-k expansion as a priority** in New Jersey!

Consider this: only two years ago, there were 35 communities with state-funded, full-day pre-k. Last school year, a few thousand additional 3- and 4-year-olds in another 26 communities received that opportunity. This year - after two rounds of awards, one announced in late August and another this week - **there are now more than 100 communities with access to NJ's pre-k**. There's more to do, but this is an important moment for NJ's 3- and 4-year-olds, and for our state! **Two groups of pre-k expansion districts in one school year has never happened - until now!**

Thanks go to Governor Murphy and the legislative leadership - and to YOU. Working together, **pre-k expansion has a raised priority and the governor and legislative leadership express public and private commitment to continued investment in pre-k expansion**. *Celebrate!*

### AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

In late August, the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE), announced pre-k expansion funding awards to 31 school districts. This week, NJDOE announced another round of awards to bring the total number of school districts with state-funded, full-day pre-k to more than 100.

The **school districts with NJ's pre-k** include **original Abbott districts, new expansion districts from last year and the current year, districts moving to bring pre-k to even more children in a community** after an initial dive into expansion last year and **districts nearing the end of their federal grant** for 4-year-old pre-k.

School districts that received August funding began class at varying dates throughout September or no later than early October. Districts that received October funding will begin classes not later than January 2, 2019.

NJDOE continues to support and encourage mixed delivery for a school district's pre-k expansion. **Read how mixed delivery is part of NJ's pre-k!**

### CELEBRATIONS START!



Pittsgrove is just one community celebrating pre-k expansion. Here's some of what was shared by their Community Parent Involvement Specialist:

"On the morning of September 20, 2018, the Pittsgrove Township Preschool Program celebrated receiving additional funding... for the 2018-2019 school year. This is the second year we are receiving the grant. The grant has allowed us to continue providing early childhood education to three and four-year-old children. The district is continuing its partnership with Building Blocks Learning Center, a private provider in Pittsgrove.

This year we were also able to...partner with another private provider in our community, Firm Foundations, located within the town of Elmer. This funding has afforded us the opportunity to serve more preschool children. Two additional preschool classrooms have been added...The two additional classrooms began the program on Thursday, September 6, 2018."

Want to share YOUR story and celebration pictures? Email Pre-K Our Way at [info@prekourway.org](mailto:info@prekourway.org).

---

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Pre-K Our Way continues to work with a clear focus: maintain pre-k expansion's hard-won place as a New Jersey priority, and secure significant funding for it in the state budget. **Governor Murphy used his first budget address in March 2018 to commit to universal pre-k and promise access to it within four years.** *Pre-K Our Way is focused on making that promise happen.* How? Watch our social media, website and emails in the coming weeks!

---

## PRE-K IN THE NEWS

Below are links to some of the **news stories - and even a video - announcing and celebrating pre-k expansion** for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have one for your community, please share it with us at [info@prekourway.org](mailto:info@prekourway.org)!

<https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/governor-murphy-announces-20-6-million-preschool-expansion-aid-31-school-districts/>

<https://why.org/articles/new-jersey-boosts-preschool-funding-for-31-districts/>

<https://www.tapinto.net/sections/education/articles/piscataway-schools-to-expand-prek-program-with-pee-a-grant>

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/morristown/975k-state-aid-morris-schools-expand-pre-k>

<https://www.tapinto.net/sections/education/articles/rahway-schools-receive-state-funding-for-preschool-expansion>

<https://villagegreennj.com/towns/south-orange/south-orange-maplewood-district-details-impact-of-1-4m-preschool-expansion-grant/>

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/maplewood/nj-delivers-big-boost-preschool-south-orange-maplewood>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S5ZUD-b4CWHuqoA-nqpYGP-yGP9P4tVE/view>

Follow us at [Facebook.com/PreKOurWay](https://www.facebook.com/PreKOurWay)

Follow us on Twitter at [@PreKOurWay](https://twitter.com/PreKOurWay)

Get involved at [prekourway.org](http://prekourway.org)

**Have questions? Contact us at [info@prekourway.org](mailto:info@prekourway.org)**

**Tel. 609.246.0034 EXT. 2 Toll Free: 844.335.PREK (7735)**

PRE-K OUR WAY © 2014 PRE-K OUR WAY, INC. A NJ Nonprofit Corporation. All rights reserved.