



PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.



HELP BRING PRE-K OUR WAY

In 2008, NJ law provided pre-k to 35 school districts but promised to expand pre-k to more communities. The first funding for that promise occurred nearly a decade later – in mid-2017 for the 2017-2018 school year. Additional funding was included in the three budgets to date of the Murphy Administration. Although nearly 150 communities now have NJ’s pre-k, there are tens of thousands of 3- and 4-year-olds across hundreds of communities still waiting for access to NJ’s pre-k. Our goal for the *next* school year – 2021-2022 – is to have more than 200 districts with state-funded, full-day pre-k!

Pre-K Our Way’s strategic messaging, targeted communication and focused engagement efforts helped pre-k expansion become a NJ priority! Want confirmation of that? In his September 2019 announcement of more pre-k expansion districts, Governor Murphy said, “I am proud that we are now bringing about the greatest growth in preschool that this state has seen so far this century.” Need additional confirmation? In the FY21 State Budget, Governor Murphy and the Legislature continued ‘expanding expansion’ in existing districts and provided \$10 million in funding for *new* districts during the 2020-2021 school year.

WE NEED HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K IN OUR COMMUNITY

We all agree: high-quality preschool is essential for our children to be prepared for school and ready for success. New Jersey has one of the best, most successful and high-quality public preschool programs in the country. Pre-K Our Way is working with local communities –and you – to expand public pre-k programs to tens of thousands of 3- and 4-year-olds throughout New Jersey – and to secure the funding to make that expansion a reality.

Together, we want the state’s existing high-quality pre-k program – available in nearly 150 communities – available to families who now choose between working a second job to pay for pre-k vs. being able to have access to state-funded programs available in other communities in NJ – just not in theirs. Where your children live shouldn’t determine whether or not they have access to high-quality public pre-k.

“There are a few priority reforms we need to make to improve education in our state. One of our highest priorities should be the availability of a quality pre-k program for all of our children. These programs offer our best hope for future success in school and life.”

TOM KEAN Former Governor of New Jersey

“The investment we make today in the education of our youngest citizens will yield real results for both our children’s and state’s future. Assuring that our children enter school ready to learn should be our highest priority.”

JIM FLORIO Former Governor of New Jersey

MORE

PRE-K OUR WAY IS A NONPARTISAN COMMUNITY EFFORT

Pre-K Our Way is a nonprofit advocacy organization coordinated through a diverse group of local business leaders, foundations, early childhood educators, local leaders and elected officials who are determined to make sure each child gets a strong start in life through effective early childhood education. That's why Pre-K Our Way is championed by former Republican Governor Tom Kean and former Democratic Governor Jim Florio – and welcomes the support of anyone who wants to put children before politics.

NEW JERSEY'S PRE-K PROGRAM MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

Access to high-quality preschool is critically important for children in our community. When it's available, those who get it do better in school; those who don't start behind and have trouble catching up. Children who experience one or two years of New Jersey's high-quality preschool demonstrate greater proficiencies in language arts and math in the 5th grade than those who didn't attend an early education program. In fact, children who attend New Jersey's pre-k programs achieve at a higher rate, with a 20-40% increase in elementary school test scores. They struggle less in school – they are 40% less likely to repeat a grade – and they overcome barriers to learning to the point where schools see a 31% drop in the need for expensive special education services.

TOGETHER WE CAN BRING PRE-K OUR WAY

New Jersey has many challenges and important priorities – and pre-k expansion has become one of our state's priorities. Your children won't get pre-k unless state leaders know you want it—and hear you loud and clear. Let them know that you support pre-k expansion because tens of thousands of NJ kids are still waiting!



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Like Pre-K Our Way on Facebook and follow @PreKOurWay on Twitter and sign up for email updates at www.prekourway.org.



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Learn more. Get involved. Sign up for updates. Download the tools you need to bring quality pre-k to our communities. Visit www.prekourway.org today. Email us at info@prekourway.org or call us at 609-246-0034 ext 2.