



## PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

[www.prekourway.org](http://www.prekourway.org)

## PRE-K OUR WAY NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER **AUGUST 2017**



Summer in NJ should mean at least a few lazy vacation days. That's why the banner with our message - **Expand NJ Pre-K Now, 50,000 NJ Kids are Waiting** - flies every weekend from Cape May to Sandy Hook!

The \$25 million for pre-k expansion in this year's state budget remains a reason to celebrate - but there's much more to do. Yes, it was the first funding in nearly a decade and an important initial step in the ultimate goal: funding in the first budget of a new governor in 2018. Next step: make that goal a reality! To make that happen, Pre-K Our Way is getting ready for September and beyond. Together, we need to **keep pre-k expansion as a priority in our state**, and have pre-k **be part of the discussions throughout the upcoming elections for governor and legislature**. After all, 50,000 NJ kids are waiting!

### BE STRATEGIC AND BE HEARD!

Pre-k expansion is now a statewide priority. YOU can make it part of the 2018 election season while bringing pre-k to YOUR community!

**Join us for one of two Community Communication meetings: September 19 for North/Central or September 20 for South/Central.** Pre-K Our Way's Community Communication meetings are strategically timed to maximize your time - and success. Join us to **preview strategy and communication for the upcoming gubernatorial and legislative campaign seasons!** Participate in focused discussion, Q&A and networking to **drive results:** pre-k expansion by a new governor and legislature in 2018. Get more info and **register now!** Go to <http://bit.ly/2u59ixA>

### THE PROCESS BEGINS...

*Pre-K Our Way provides public education, develops legislative and gubernatorial support and encourages funding for pre-k expansion as promised by law in 2008. The budget signed on July 4, 2017 provides that the Commissioner of Education will determine which districts will receive funding within the \$25 million included in this year's state budget.*

As part of Pre-K Our Way's commitment to provide public education, Pre-K Our Way shares **news about NJ's newly budgeted pre-k expansion** on our website and social media. Here's what's new in the implementation of \$25 million in pre-k expansion included in this year's state budget:

- On August 1, **NJ DOE provided information for implementation** of the recently budgeted \$25 million for pre-k expansion. Read NJ DOE's Notice of Funding Opportunity: Preschool Education Expansion Aid (PEEA). <http://bit.ly/2uzBiKc>
- The **Star-Ledger reports**, "Districts that already run a pre-K program with partial state support, 108 in total, are eligible to apply for additional funding until August 21, according to the state." <http://bit.ly/2uhVxRg>

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## REPORTS ARE IN ON PRE-K SUCCESS

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North Carolina's NC Pre-K statewide **program shows learning and social skills gains well into elementary school.** Also, **dual language learners 'progress faster than other children in the program.'** Why? High-quality! READ MORE <http://bit.ly/2tL9tQa>

Since 2015 (but ending December 2018), 16 NJ communities across 9 different counties have received funding through a federal government Preschool Development Grant. **NJ's pre-k development federal grants are making a difference!** Read more <http://bit.ly/2v3Zo34>

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## REMEMBER, STAY CONNECTED

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Stay connected with Pre-K Our Way as Summer 2017 winds down via social media and email as we get ready for September and 2018! Please encourage your friends, family members and colleagues to check us out at [www.prekourway.org](http://www.prekourway.org).

Remember, you've made pre-k *expansion a priority in Trenton and throughout our state. Together, there's much more to do!* #50000NJkidsawaiting #ExpandNJPreKNow

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

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