



PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

www.prekourway.org

PRE-K OUR WAY NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016



It's been a busy month meeting with local communities and listening to your stories about why it's time to bring pre-k YOUR way. Read some of the stories [here](#), and check out upcoming meetings near you at prekourway.org/local-community-meetings/.

RAISE YOUR VOICE AND BE HEARD

Pre-K Our Way has two upcoming meetings on April 13 in Perth Amboy for South Amboy, South River and Carteret, and April 20 for Belleville. The meetings will be co-hosted with the Raritan Bay Area YMCA and Programs for Parents, Essex County Child Care Resources, respectively.

For more information on the events and to reserve your spot, visit <https://prekourway.org/local-community-meetings/>. These meetings are an opportunity for your voice to be heard and to learn more about how New Jersey is taking steps toward expanded pre-k access—reserve your space early!

In recent weeks, Pre-K Our Way has co-hosted multiple local community meetings with Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA and the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, as well as with the Human Services Advisory Council. Attendees included people from more than 25 different communities eligible for pre-k expansion, including Beverly City, Delanco Township, Maple Shade, Mount Holly Township, New Hanover, Riverside Township, Washington Township, Atlantic City, Brigantine, Buena, Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor Township, Hamilton, Mullica, Somers Point, Ventnor, Weymouth Township, Absecon, Galloway Township, Commercial Township, Deerfield Township, Downe Township, Lawrence Township, Maurice River Township and Upper Deerfield Township.

Visit prekourway.org to stay updated on local community events and to watch for a meeting near you! You can also contact milan@prekourway.org if you or your organization is interested in co-hosting a community meeting.

STORIES OF SUCCESS: CLIFTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Clifton School District understands that where a child lives shouldn't determine whether or not they have access to high-quality preschool. In fact, more than 150 students were recently added to its public preschool program using a federal preschool expansion grant for this school year. Pre-k expansion of NJ's existing high-quality pre-k program would ensure Clifton, and more communities around the state, could make pre-k available permanently to more children.

[Read Clifton's story](#) and then share your own. Watch your email in the coming weeks for another story of success.

EXPANSION BILLS: AN UPDATE

Visit Pre-K Our Way's website for an understanding of recent bills introduced to expand pre-k and what happens now at prekourway.org/pre-k-expansion-bills-explanation/. While the recent bill introductions — and the March 3 State Senate Education Committee hearing — were an important step in expanding preschool for 3- and 4-year-old children, it is only the beginning of a long process of education—both education of legislators and the public to build and develop public will and public support. Both the Assembly and State Senate bills are currently in review—Pre-K Our Way will keep you updated!

Want to bring pre-k your way? You can thank each of the specific legislators for their sponsorship of pre-k expansion. Call or email each individually through one visit to prekourway.org/take-action/; let them know you appreciate their efforts in ensuring pre-k comes YOUR way.

IN THE NEWS

Advocacy Group Promotes More Public Preschool

Pre-K Our Way is engaging with local communities to hear their opinions on why they want to bring pre-k their way and provide more information on expansion of the 2008 preschool access law.

State Funded Pre-K: Free for All?

A bill was introduced by state legislators seeking to expand New Jersey's high-quality pre-k program, currently thriving in fewer than 40 communities, to more than 100 additional school districts.

Poll: Would You Wait 2 Days In Line for Your Child's Pre-K Registration?

The determination of preschooler parents to enter their children into New Jersey's high-quality pre-k program drives parents to extreme measures for admissions. And even then, New Jersey just doesn't have the capacity.

Pre-K Our Way Seeks to Expand Pre-K Programs in NJ

Brian Maher, a NJ businessman and Pre-K Our Way Leadership Group member discusses his hopes for expansion of pre-k programs to more communities in New Jersey, and the need to provide fairness in access for this important first step in education.

Wake Up with Jeremy Interview with Sam Crane of "Pre-K Our Way"

Sam Crane of Pre-K Our Way was interviewed on Wake Up with Jeremy of WOBN-AM 1160 and 1310 on March 29, 2016. Sam explains the need for New Jersey to expand its high-quality pre-k program to more 3- and 4-year-olds across New Jersey communities.

LET'S GET SOCIAL

Want to show your support? Share one of our pre-drafted posts or tweets and inspire others in New Jersey to bring pre-k their way.

Facebook Post: Why do I want to bring pre-k MY way? Visit prekourway.org/our-supporters/ to see. It's time to bring pre-k OUR way. #NJpreK

Tweet: Why do I want to bring pre-k MY way? Visit prekourway.org/our-supporters/ to see. It's time to bring pre-k OUR way. #NJpreK

Have questions? Contact us at info@prekourway.org

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