



PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

www.prekourway.org

PRE-K OUR WAY NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAY 2016



April showers are bringing May (and June) flowers—with more opportunities for supporters like you to take action and bring pre-k YOUR way. Attend a local meeting and get involved. Let your legislators know why YOU value pre-k. See a list of upcoming meetings near you at prekourway.org/local-community-meetings/. Reach out to your legislators, or say thank you to those who already support pre-k expansion by visiting our [Take Action page](#).

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS RELEASES NEW REPORT

This past month, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids – a national, bipartisan, nonprofit, anti-crime organization of more than 5,000 law enforcement leaders, including law enforcement officials in NJ – released their report *Stronger Preschool Key to Cutting New Jersey Prison Bill and Boosting School Success*. In the report, they express support for NJ's current efforts to increase the access to and quality of early education and care throughout our state, and say "we are at a key fork in the road: Policymakers in our state have an outstanding opportunity to offer preschool to thousands more New Jersey children whose parents seek it."

"The choice for New Jersey is simple: Pay for high-quality early education programs now, or pay far more later for the costs of crime in New Jersey." —Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

View the full report [here](#).

STORIES OF SUCCESS: YOUR ZIP CODE SHOULDN'T DETERMINE ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL

A Clifton mother moved her child from Passaic to Clifton, and lost preschool as a result. Growing up in Passaic, she had never had trouble finding preschool—it was never an issue. Once arriving in Clifton with her preschool-aged child, the options disappeared.

[Read Gina's story](#) and then share your own. Watch your email in the coming weeks for another story that underscores the need for fairness in access to pre-k.

COMING SOON TO A COMMUNITY NEAR YOU

Pre-K Our Way has been rapidly adding local community meeting dates throughout the remainder of May and June. For more information on the events and to reserve your spot, visit our [local community meeting page](#). These meetings are an opportunity for your voice to be heard and learn more about what you can do to help expand pre-k access—reserve your space early!

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 local community meeting.

IN THE NEWS

[Lawmakers Push for Pre-K Expansion](#)

NJTV featured coverage of a pre-k expansion roundtable on April 11 in South Amboy, NJ while the [local Atlanticville News](#) delved deeper into why access and fairness are important to a child's future.

[Pre-K Our Way Applauds Assemblyman Giblin for Sponsoring Bipartisan Pre-K Expansion Bill](#)

Pre-K Our Way applauds Assemblyman Thomas Giblin (D-34) for sponsoring bipartisan legislation to expand New Jersey's high-quality preschool program to more than 100 New Jersey communities.

[Hudson County View](#)

According to an anti-poverty panel convened in early April, "(w)e're going to have to find ways to bring our children along and make sure they get the education they need...." One panelist said that "New Jersey has long offered full-day, state-funded pre-K to 3- and 4-year-olds in 35 districts. But experts say that still leaves 45,000 kids — nearly half the total in the state — without."

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: [@FightCrimeInvestinKids](#) released a new report proving what I already know—more kids need #NJpreK.

Tweet: [.@FightCrime](#) released a new report proving what I already know—more kids need #NJpreK

Have questions? Contact us at info@prekourway.org

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