



PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

www.prekourway.org

PRE-K OUR WAY NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2019



NJ's pre-k expansion arrived at Summer 2019 with a bang - and that 'bang' was from more than July's holiday fireworks:

- **Pre-k expansion received confirmed state budget funding for a 3rd consecutive year** - that's a cumulative total of approximately \$170-175 million in new pre-k expansion funding in only three years! **Thank you to Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Coughlin and bipartisan support from the legislature for continued leadership in making NJ's state-funded, full-day pre-k a statewide priority!**
- **150+ local school districts met the 20% at-risk eligibility level to apply for pre-k expansion funding;** they were notified directly by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) weeks earlier than the past two years, enabling earlier preparation by districts
- NJDOE's July 9 mandatory Technical Assistance meetings - the first part of the pre-k expansion application process - were held in a larger location than planned due to a high registration count (and a great turnout)!

Before the summer season officially began, NJ's commitment to state-funded, full-day pre-k remained evident:

- **Appointment of a newly created post of Assistant Commissioner, Division of Early Childhood Education effective July 1.** As NJSpotlight wrote upon Cary Booker's appointment to the position, **"This is the first time in nearly a decade that early childhood has been put at an assistant commissioner level" and it "is a move that seeks to affirm the emphasis ...on expanding preschool."**
- Gov Murphy shared that the position "would ensure a return on investment, and deepen the impact of pre-k education." He added that the new position's focus would enable our state to **continue "to strengthen the quality of existing programs" as pre-k expansion becomes available to more children in more communities.**

Like many in our state, Pre-K Our Way's coming months will be filled with preparations for the balance of 2019 - and next year. We'll be monitoring important activity:

- The **NJDOE's application deadline for a district to apply for pre-k expansion funding is August 1 at 4PM.** Awards will be announced directly to districts on September 3, with state-funded-full-day pre-k classes beginning not later than October 1. (Note that only districts with representatives at the mandatory July 9 NJDOE Technical Assistance meeting remain eligible to apply for funding.)

As you enjoy the warmer weather, **take a moment to celebrate the continued success of pre-k expansion in our state!**

Thanks to your support in the past few years, there are 110+ school districts with state-funded, full-day pre-k; those communities already know that they have it for their kids as pre-k funding is - for them, now part of their regular school funding thanks to expansion. Thanks to the recently signed state-budget, there are many dozens of additional districts that will be working throughout the next few weeks to apply for that same opportunity for pre-k for the 3- and 4-year-olds in their communities.

CONTINUES

If you haven't already, please **follow us on social media at [Facebook.com/PreKOurWay](https://www.facebook.com/PreKOurWay) and on Twitter at [@PreKOurWay](https://twitter.com/PreKOurWay) and check out our [website](https://www.prekourway.org)**. Watch for breaking news and updated information throughout the summer months. We promise to bring you news asap in September when NJDOE announces the funding awards. As always, we promise to keep you engaged as NJ's pre-k expansion continues to grow as a priority throughout our state - September is only a short time away!

In closing, the latest round of pre-k expansion funding in the state budget means more pre-k seats for more of our state's 3- and 4-year-olds. Nevertheless, **there will be districts that remain waiting - and kids who remain waiting for pre-k expansion funding for a chance for their future**. With you, *Pre-K Our Way* remains ready to work strategically to bring pre-k expansion funding to every at-risk 3- and 4-year-old in our state. **Governor Murphy has committed to universal pre-k within four years, and we are ready to remind him of that commitment.**

Many thanks,

Maryanne
for the Pre-K Our Way team

**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](https://www.prekourway.org)**

Have questions? Contact us at info@prekourway.org Tel. 609.246.0034 Toll Free: 844.335.PREK (7735)
PRE-K OUR WAY (C) 2014 PRE-K OUR WAY, INC. A NJ Nonprofit Corporation. All rights reserved.