



## PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

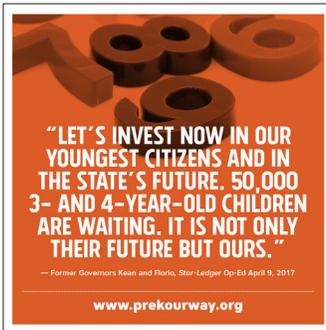
[www.prekourway.org](http://www.prekourway.org)

## PRE-K OUR WAY NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAY 2017



Last week began the month of May, the traditional time every four years when New Jersey focuses on the upcoming gubernatorial election. This year, the first debates are on May 9, with the Primary Election Day set for June 6. **This year, pre-k expansion is part of the NJ gubernatorial discussion!** In addition, here's another indication that pre-k expansion is part of both the gubernatorial and school funding discussions. Read more here: <http://bit.ly/2pLvxdL>



### BIPARTISAN GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE SUPPORT FOR PRE-K EXPANSION!

As planned for 24+ months, this election season includes a new issue: **pre-k expansion is part of the NJ gubernatorial discussion!** Three of the major party candidates publicly support pre-k expansion on their websites, as part of their platforms or in ads. In alpha order, the candidates publicly supporting pre-k expansion are Jack Ciattarelli (R), Jim Johnson (D) and Phil Murphy (D) --- **that's bipartisan gubernatorial candidate support for pre-k expansion in NJ.**

### CAMPAIGN FOR PRE-K EXPANSION ENGAGES THOUSANDS TO ACT

In recent weeks, Pre-K Our Way's Campaign for Pre-K Expansion has reached across the state and into numerous targeted communities. **We've delivered a consistent message: 50,000 NJ 3- and 4- year-olds wait every year for the pre-k promised to them by 2008 NJ state law.** That message - along with examples of the hundreds of communities that should already have access to NJ's pre-k -- has been seen online, on TV and in print. We've **successfully and directly engaged with thousands of people who support pre-k expansion, and they've responded by calling and/or emailing their legislators** to share personal reasons for wanting NJ's pre-k. Elected officials, hopeful candidates, and New Jerseyans in every corner of the state know the phrase *Expand NJ Pre-K Now!*

**Make sure you've signed up to show YOUR support for pre-k expansion in NJ - then invite a friend! <http://bit.ly/2pqBhJK>**

### KUDOS TO UNITED WAY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN NJ

Thanks to United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern NJ for the Week of the Young Child's Op-Ed! We agree with you - **Pre-K Expansion: Give kids the start they deserve.** Across hundreds of NJ communities, there are 50,000 kids waiting! [Read More](#)

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## KIDS SHARE MEMORIES (AND DRAWINGS) ABOUT PRE-K

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To celebrate the Week of the Young Child on April 24-28, Pre-K Our Way asked some NJ kids what they thought about pre-k. What did they remember? What was special? Click here to see more; read their ideas and be inspired!

[View Cards](#)



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## NEW PRE-K STUDY

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NPR provides a recent summary: "Some of the nation's top researchers who've spent their careers studying early childhood education recently got together in Washington with one goal in mind: to cut through the fog of studies and the endless debates over the benefits of preschool. Recently released findings come in a report "[The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects](#)," and the authors represent Georgetown University, Vanderbilt, Duke, Brookings Institution and others. They came away with one clear, strong message: Kids who attend public preschool programs are better prepared for kindergarten than kids who don't." [Read More](#)

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## FINAL THOUGHTS...

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Pre-K Our Way's Campaign for Pre-K Expansion is **only part of an overall and long-planned effort to have funding for pre-k expansion be part of the first budget of a new governor in 2018**. We'll continue to grow bipartisan legislative support, maintain strong and vocal legislative leadership support; we'll continue to benefit from advocate communication across 50+ organizations and 27,000+ individual supporters. Together, there already are hundreds of thousands of voices in support of pre-k expansion in New Jersey. With those voices come eyes! Watch the skies on May 20-21 at the NJ State Seafood Festival in Belmar. The Pre-K Our Way banner will fly above 200,000+ visitors on those dates. Look for it again every summer weekend and holiday starting Memorial Day and flying from Cape May to Sandy Hook. *Expand NJ Pre-K Now!*



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

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