



PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

STATE BUDGET AGREEMENT INCLUDES NEARLY \$83 MILLION FOR PRE-K EXPANSION

Signals Major Step in Funding Pre-K Expansion in NJ

Late on June 30, Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Coughlin agreed to a State Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018. Although additional details will be available in the coming days, the pre-k expansion funding is identical to that proposed in the Governor's March 13 Budget Address and in the Legislative Budget separately proposed and approved on June 21, 2018 by the State Senate and General Assembly. The agreement reached on June 30, 2018 **provides for nearly \$83 million in pre-k expansion funding: \$25 million for totally new expansion communities for the 2018-2019 school year, \$25 million in continued funding for the 26 expansion districts opened in the just-concluded school year and nearly \$33 million for the original 35 school districts (formerly known as Abbott, plus 4) as the first increase in funding for them in nearly a decade.**

The agreed upon funding for pre-k expansion in Governor Murphy's first budget demonstrates commitment to thousands of New Jersey's 3- and 4-year-olds, and commitment to their opportunity for access to New Jersey's high-quality, state-funded, full-day pre-k. **Pre-K Our Way applauds Governor Murphy and the Legislature for the major step towards the full funding of the 2008 law that calls for expansion of pre-k programs to children across our state.**

"The pre-k expansion funding agreed to by Governor Murphy and Legislative Leaders signals a major step in bringing New Jersey's pre-k to thousands of our state's 3- and 4-year-olds and to many more communities," said Sam Crane, spokesperson for Pre-K Our Way. "We want to thank Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Coughlin for their steadfast support for expanding state-funded pre-k in New Jersey."

For 10 years – every year, 50,000 of New Jersey's 3- and 4-year-olds have been promised pre-k. **The agreement for the 2018-2019 year reflects a major step toward full expansion of New Jersey's pre-k into hundreds of communities and for the 50,000 children as promised a decade ago.** Crane added, "It'll take time to reach the full expansion promised since 2008. **In his March 2018 Budget Address, Governor Murphy committed to funding universal pre-k throughout our state within four years.**

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This expansion funding for the 2018-2019 year is a major step. New Jersey's 3- and 4-year-olds have been waiting for 10 years for New Jersey's pre-k. They're ready!"

In the coming weeks and similar to last year's expansion grant process, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJ DOE) is expected to announce how they'll determine eligibility, application, schedule and award. **The exact districts that will receive pre-k expansion funding from the \$25 million in new expansion funding will be determined by NJ DOE.** Pre-K Our Way's focus is to raise the priority of pre-k expansion in our state and to secure state funding; it is not involved in implementation. However, **information will be shared on our website and in social media when it becomes available from NJ DOE.** Be sure to check for updates at www.prekourway.org and follow us on social media on Facebook and Twitter.