



Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for College Campaign

KEEP THE PROMISE FOR FULL-DAY PRE-K Every Child Deserves the Opportunity to Succeed!

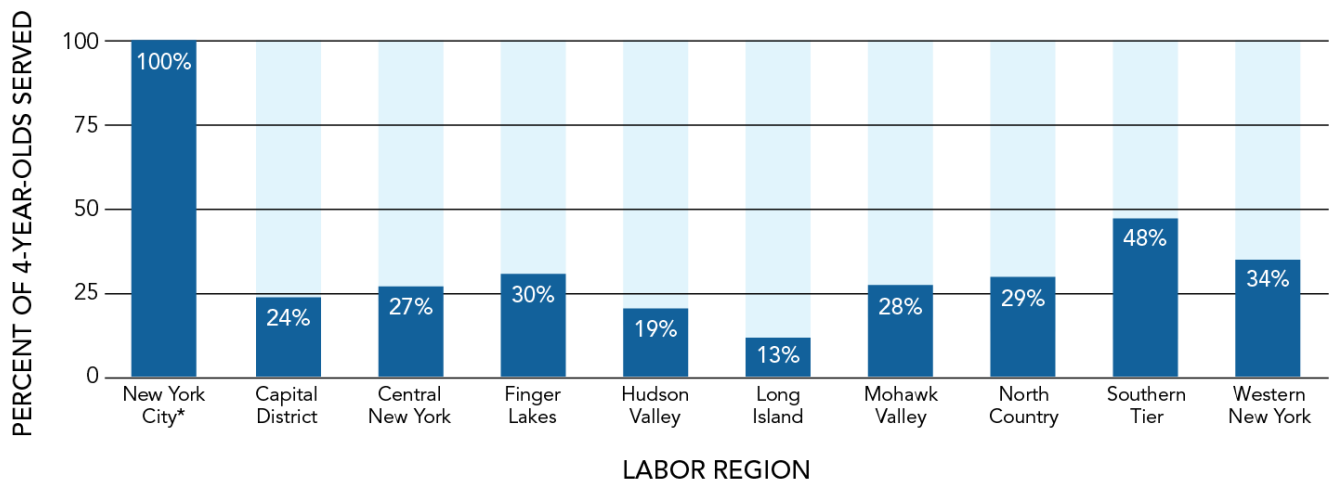
In 2014, state leaders made a bold pledge to make high-quality pre-K available to every 4-year-old in New York State within five years, and to fund every district ready with a plan.

That year, state leaders made a down payment of \$340 million toward meeting that goal, with \$300 million earmarked for New York City's groundbreaking Pre-K for All programs.

With each passing year, the promise rings more hollow, with state policymakers scaling back expansion plans to nearly a halt.

MORE THAN FIVE DECADES TO FULL-DAY PRE-K FOR EVERY 4-YEAR-OLD

Current Access to Full-Day Pre-K by Region



Pre-K enrollment data provided by New York State Education Department (NYSED). The number of 4-year-olds expected to enroll in full-day kindergarten is based on the following assumptions: 85 percent of children attending kindergarten, minus children enrolled in 4410 special education schools.

*NYSED estimates that New York City currently serves about 98 percent of all 4-year-olds expected to enroll. The City has adopted an official policy of universal access, however, with the promise of a full-day seat to every 4-year-old who seeks to enroll.

The Governor's proposal to add just \$15 million for pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds, falls dismally short of rising need. At the current rate of investment, it will take more than five decades to make pre-K truly universal.

Nearly 77,000 4-year-olds – mostly outside of New York City – still have no full-day pre-K.

The Governor’s proposal to add just \$15 million for pre-K expansion is far too modest, leaving glaring inequities in place, between New York City and the rest of the state.

Last year’s investment in pre-K expansion, also \$15 million for pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds, produced just 752 new full-day seats for 4-year-olds outside New York City.¹ Last fall, 90 school districts gave formal notice of interest in adding pre-K services. Only 26 received funding.

Just one district on Long Island received a grant last year. That district, Freeport Union School District, plans to convert 125 part-day seats for 4-year-olds to full-day.

That is 125 more full-day seats for 4-year-olds on Long Island. Yet more than 25,000 four-year-olds still lack full-day pre-K. Long Island remains the most under-served region in the state.

Other regions aren’t far behind. The Hudson Valley has a full-day seat for just 19% of the 4-year-olds expected to enroll.

**THE GOVERNOR’S 2020 PROPOSAL IS TOO MODEST:
\$15 MILLION STILL LEAVES GENERATIONS OF 4-YEAR-OLDS BEHIND
(NEARLY 77,000 CHILDREN)**

**WE ARE CALLING ON THE STATE TO MAKE EARLY LEARNING
A REAL PRIORITY IN 2020 AND BUILD ON THE GOVERNOR’S BUDGET
IN BOTH PRE-K AND CHILD CARE**

*The Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for College Campaign, led by AQE, CANY, CCI aligns our agenda with Winning Beginning NY, Empire State Campaign for Child Care and the Campaign for Children in NYC.
For more information, contact bholcomb@ccinyc.org.*

¹ Data on pre-K seats added in 2018 provided by the Office of Early Learning, New York State Education Department.