Keep the Promise of Quality Pre-K for All New York’s Children

The Governor’s proposal to add just $15 million for pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds falls dismally short of rising need and unmet demand. Nearly 77,000 four-year-olds still lack full-day pre-K. At the current rate of investment, it will take more than five decades to make pre-K truly universal.

EXPAND ACCESS TO FULL-DAY QUALITY PRE-K

• Add $150 million for quality pre-K for both 3- and 4-year-olds. Keep the program open to all districts and build on the Governor’s proposal to add services for 15,000 children. Prioritize the needs of at-risk children in their communities. The investment should include:
  ▪ $125 million to expand access for 15,000 preschoolers with funding levels sufficient to assure quality in all settings, appropriating at a minimum of $10,000 per child for classroom serving 4-year-olds and $12,000 for 3-year-olds.
  ▪ $25 million to enhance quality and eliminate barriers to expansion, including an investment in regional technical assistance centers to meet the highest quality standards and partnerships between school districts and community programs.

• Increase the reimbursement rates for Preschool Special Education and evaluations by at least 10% to ensure services for every child in need of them.

• Protect and build on the state’s current $857.2 million investment in pre-K. Include appropriate resources to support each child, including those with developmental delays and disabilities, emergent multi-lingual learners and those who are homeless.

STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE PRE-K

• Include appropriate funding to support qualified teachers and staff in all settings and fund the Regents’ proposal for $2 million investment in regional early childhood technical assistance centers.

INCLUDE APPROPRIATE INVESTMENT IN K-12 AID

• Pre-K must be followed by a continuum of quality education to prepare children for college and careers.

The Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for College Campaign sees child care and pre-K as companion investments and fully supports the agenda for child care and home visitation developed by Empire State Child Care Campaign and the Winning Beginning NY coalition.