

New York State

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Leading the Way



All children should have complete and equal access to high-quality pre-school educational opportunities.

Parents and families play an integral role in pre-school education and high-quality programs must include attention to the unique developmental nature of the social/emotional, physical and academic experience of young children in a manner that addresses the whole child.

Further, there are still too many school districts without full-day kindergarten. In a time of fluctuating revenues, districts may be forced to offer half day or no kindergarten if they experience fiscal distress. We must not let this occur.

One district without full-day kindergarten is one too many. And one district without universal pre-k is one too many.

Supporting Our Youngest Learners

NYS PTA fully supports:

- The proposal and any needed allocation for additional full-day kindergarten conversion aid, to incentivize the last school districts with half-day kindergarten programs to establish full-day kindergarten programs in the 2018-19 school year;
- The suggested \$15 million increase in prekindergarten funding to expand programming for three and four year olds; and
- The proposal for \$5 million for implementation of the QUALITYstarsNY program.

Importantly, NYS PTA continues to call for true universal prekindergarten for all public school students, with necessary transportation funding.

We also support the First 1,000 Days of Life proposal, which expands access to services and improve health outcomes for children covered by Medicaid and their families.

Finding new and unique ways to support ALL children, birth through adulthood, is critical to our mission and should continue to be a priority of New York State.

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