



Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for College Campaign

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

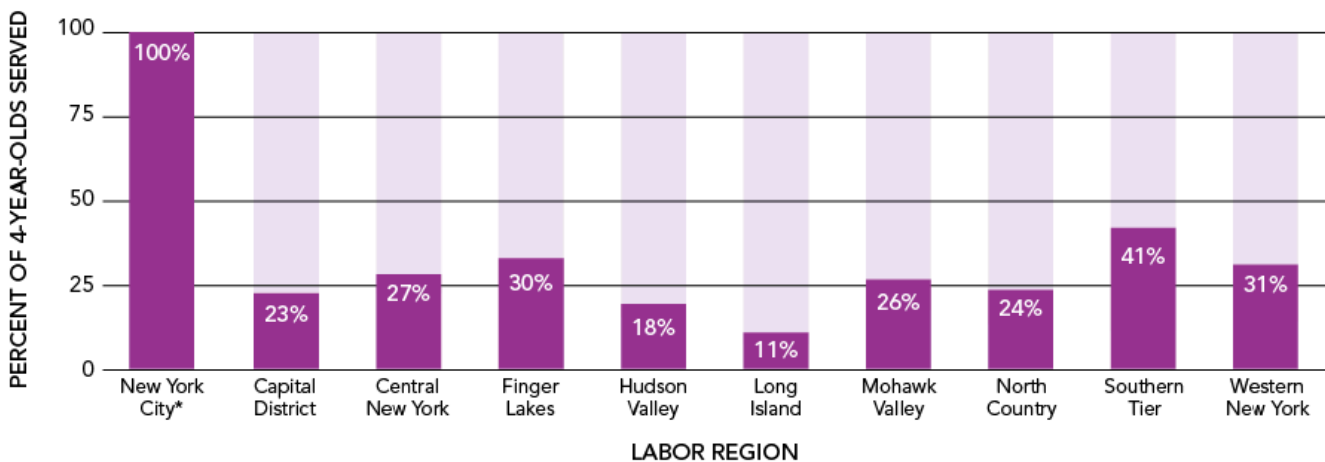
In 2014, state leaders made a bold pledge to make high-quality pre-K available to every 4-year-old in New York State within five years, and to fund every district ready with a plan.

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.

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

### 57 YEARS 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 91 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 and unmet demand. At the current rate of investment, it will take more than 57 years to make pre-K truly universal.

More than 80,000 4-year-olds – mostly outside of New York City – still have no full-day pre-K. The Governor’s proposal for 2019 leaves 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, resulted in new services for just 1583 children.<sup>1</sup>

That included just 930 new full-day seats for 4-year-olds.

Only one district on Long Island received a grant last year, Roosevelt School District, to add 72 seats for 3- and 4-year-olds, 54 more full-day slots for 4-year-olds.

That’s 54 more full-day seats for the Island’s 23,000 4-year-olds expected to enroll. Long Island remains the most under-served region in the state.

But others aren’t far behind. The Hudson Valley has a seat for just 18% of the 4-year-olds expected to enroll.

**THE GOVERNOR’S 2019 PROPOSAL IS TOO MODEST:  
\$15 MILLION STILL LEAVES GENERATIONS OF 4-YEAR-OLDS BEHIND  
(80,000 CHILDREN)**

**WE ARE CALLING ON THE STATE TO MAKE EARLY LEARNING  
A REAL PRIORITY IN 2019 AND BUILD ON THE GOVERNOR’S  
PROPOSAL FOR BOTH PRE-K AND CHILD CARE**

*The Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for College Campaign, led by AQE, CANY, CCI, The Children’s Agenda aligns our agenda with Winning Beginning NY, Empire State Campaign for Child Care and the Campaign for Children in NYC.*

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