



Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for College Campaign

In This Year's Budget, Lawmakers Have the Opportunity To...

Bring some stability for families in New York's struggling child care system. Quicken the pace of expansion of Pre-K and include transportation. Provide essential supports to young New Yorkers with special needs.

Research is clear about the importance of early childhood: invest now or pay later. **We urge state lawmakers, at a minimum, to make the following investments in the 2019-2020 Final Enacted Budget:**

Child Care

1. Ensure **\$20 million ADDED** by the Senate and Assembly for child care subsidies is included in the final enacted budget.
2. MAINTAIN **\$26 million** included in the Executive, Senate, and Assembly budget bills to increase subsidy reimbursement rates.

Pre-K

1. Ensure **\$15 million ADDED** by the Assembly in new funding for 3- and 4-year-olds and the Senate and Assembly proposals to extend the Statewide Universal Full-Day program for five years, are included in the final budget.
2. Ensure the **Assembly proposal for Pre-K transportation** is included in the final budget.

Pre-School Special Education

1. Include **Assembly** proposal to **increase pre-school special education** rates by at least **5%** in the final budget.

Early Intervention

1. Include Governor's proposed **five percent (5%) increase for Early Intervention** reimbursement rates for occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists in this year's Executive Budget **and Assembly's** proposal to extend increase to **all Early Intervention** service providers.
2. Ensure at least **\$16 million, included by Senate and Assembly, and ideally \$25 million**, for a Covered Lives proposal to help cover cost of EI services by assessing a fee on private health insurance companies instead of sending them individual claims, which they often deny, is included in the final budget.

(March 26, 2019)