

Day One Everything Changes

Winning Beginning NY is on board with Governor-elect Spitzer's goal that on day one everything changes. We look forward to working with our new administration to make sure New York's early care and education is the best in the nation. *Winning Beginning NY* is an early care and education coalition of more than 60 organizations and individuals committed to quality early learning opportunities for all children birth-to-five. It is co-convened by Child Care, Inc., the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children and the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. We look forward to working for effective early care and education from day one.

Ten Keys to Effective PreK in New York State

- 🔑 Draft legislation that authorizes a voluntary statewide prekindergarten program for all three and four-year-olds, as recommended by the Board of Regents.
- 🔑 Create a consistent funding stream for prekindergarten through a "foundation formula" that is parallel and linked with the K-12 funding formula for all school districts. Such a formula-based approach, which would address both fiscal capacity and student need, is endorsed by the Board of Regents as well as the Alliance for Quality Education and the Campaign for Fiscal Equity.
- 🔑 Consolidate funding streams and program requirements for universal prekindergarten, targeted prekindergarten and supplemental prekindergarten as recommended by the Board of Regents.
- 🔑 Maximize the collaboration with community-based organizations, as required in current legislation, so that services will be contracted outside the public schools with child care, Head Start and pre-school special education.
- 🔑 Require that funding for community based organizations be adjusted annually to reflect increased cost of quality services including appropriate compensation for teachers.
- 🔑 Make prekindergarten services available in all settings for both part and full school days with appropriate funding for each of these options.
- 🔑 Ensure that prekindergarten teachers are highly qualified by requiring certification of teachers in each classroom, supporting equity in compensation between schools districts and community-based organizations and investing in professional development.

- 🔑 Require that prekindergarten planning and implementation is guided by an advisory council that includes early childhood leaders in child care and Head Start and others, in order to assure quality, expand access and maximize full day options to support the needs of working families.
- 🔑 Make social and health supports, currently available in schools, accessible to all prekindergarten children regardless of setting.
- 🔑 Require that transportation be available for all prekindergarten settings as it currently is for K-12 pursuant to education law.

The “10 Keys” build upon research indicating that children who participate in quality early childhood programs have less need for special education and remediation throughout their schooling, earn more and are incarcerated less in adulthood. Investment in early learning is a cost-effective strategy that pays dividends to the children who participate, to the school district and to society.

Clearly, developmentally appropriate and adequately funded prekindergarten is a proven and effective educational strategy for closing the achievement gap. This proven track record, when considered together with the lawsuit brought by the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, current Regents’ policy and the Regents’ recent State Aid proposal, leads to one unmistakable conclusion:

The Time for Effective PreK Reform is NOW!

Winning Beginning NY is an early care and education coalition of more than 60 organizations and individuals committed to quality early learning opportunities for all children, beginning at birth. It was established in 2006 bringing together the Child Care That *Works* campaign and the PreK Coalition. The consortium has launched a statewide campaign to inform policymakers and the public about the many benefits of early learning to children, families and society and to build broad-based support for making investment in quality early education, child care, Head Start and public prekindergarten a top priority in New York State. The coalition is co-convened by Child Care, Inc. the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children and the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy.

For more information, please contact:

Nancy Kolben, Executive Director
Child Care, Inc.
212.929.7604 x3010
nkolben@childcareinc.org

Carol Saginaw, Executive Director
New York State Child Care Coordinating
Council
518.690.4217 x27
csaginaw@nysccccc.org

Karen Schimke, President/CEO
Schuyler Center for Analysis & Advocacy
518.463.1896 x25
kschimke@scaany.org

Kristen Kerr, Executive Director
New York State Association for the Education of
Young Children
518.867.3517
consultaeyc@capital.net