



## Talking points for the Early Childhood Education campaign:

### 1) **Redirect competitive grant funds to increase Universal Prekindergarten funding by \$53 million as proposed by the New York State Board of Regents.**

- Competitive grants are experimental and we need to invest in things we know are a proven success, such as Pre-K. Adding \$53 million to Pre-K funding could provide up to 14,000 additional Pre-K slots for four-year-olds, prepare qualified teachers and provide technical support. Investing \$53 million now will save NYS between \$22 million and \$32 million by reducing grade repetition, disciplinary referrals special education costs.

Students that participate in quality early care and learning programs are more likely to:

- Graduate from high school
- Attend college and get higher paying jobs
- Avoid teen pregnancy
- Avoid welfare dependency
- Avoid delinquency and/or crime

### 2) **Support the Executive Budget's proposal of \$93 million in child care subsidies.**

- This money will make up for the loss of federal funds and prevent the loss of 19,000 child care subsidies across NYS.
- Even with the Governor's add of \$93 million, the system overall is still down \$70 million from FY 2009-2010. As a result of this decrease in funding, families have experienced:
  - Increased parent fees
  - Fewer available subsidies
  - Fewer child care options as programs struggle with rate changes and delayed payments.
- Therefore, we request an advance on the proposed \$215M (Executive Budget 2012-13) in child care preservation funds for FY 2013-2014.

### 3) **Invest \$20 million in QUALITYstarsNY (QSNY)**

- QSNY is a cost effective rating and improvement system that is designed to help parents access the best possible care for their child while raising the quality of all early care and learning programs.

- We use rating systems every day to make decisions about restaurants, movies, and buying a new car. Yet parents don't have all the information they need to help them make a decision in choosing an early learning program for their child.
- More than two dozen states have already adopted similar programs.

**Budget Requests (“Asks”) for Legislators:**

- 1) Will you work to redirect the funds from the competitive grants to increase Pre-K funding by \$53 million as proposed by the New York State Board of Regents?
- 2) Will you agree to support the \$93 million for child care subsidies as included in the Executive Budget?
- 3) Will you invest \$20 million in QUALITYstarsNY so that NYS can begin to implement the rating and improvement system?