



August 21, 2008

Honorable David Paterson
Governor of New York
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

On behalf of *Winning Beginning NY*, the state’s early care and education coalition, we are writing to thank you for exempting child care subsidies and Pre-K programs from the 6% across-the-board budget cuts.


We know that you are faced with addressing a devastating state fiscal situation. Therefore, it is all the more heartening that you chose to hold harmless these critically important programs.

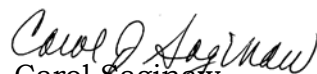
We know that you understand the importance of early learning and we look forward to working with you to address our state’s budget deficit in the coming months. We hope that one of your solutions will be to examine cost neutral initiatives—such as allowing school districts to provide full-day Pre-K programs, a strategy that would expand high-quality early learning without costing a penny.


We also hope that you will consider further investments in early learning initiatives such as home visiting—which prepares parents and children for success in school and life but the funding for which was cut in this budget cycle. We wish to reiterate our stance that investments in programs that support very young children, such as home visiting, infant/toddler care, and a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), are investments in the future of children, families, and the state of New York.

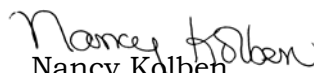
Thank you.

Sincerely,


Karen Schimke
President and CEO
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy


Carol Saginaw
Executive Director
NYS Child Care Coordinating Council


Kristen Kerr
Executive Director
NYS Association for the Education
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Nancy Kolben
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cc: Robert Jaffe, Mark Leinung, Duffy Palmer, Kristin Proud