

Winning Beginning NY Op-Ed Template

This template should be revised to reflect any local issues.

Every child deserves a winning beginning. And high-quality early care and learning programs can lay that foundation.

There will be a new governor and several new legislators in office come November. **(Is there a local legislative race?)** These leaders must invest in our state's children and families—beginning prenatally.

The fact is—children who start behind stay behind. But children with a high-quality early learning experience have an advantage. They are 40% less likely to need remedial services, 30% more likely to graduate from high school, and 200% more likely to go on to college.

These are important gains—both for our children and for the future of our state. To compete in an increasingly global marketplace, New York must invest in our future workforce. In the short-term, programs like home visiting, child care, and afterschool programs also produce immediate benefits, preventing child abuse, strengthening families, and allowing parents to work outside the home. In hard economic times, we cannot turn our backs on families.

As a member of *Winning Beginning NY*, the state's early care and learning coalition, I support the coalition's mission to improve the well-being of children, families, and communities across the state. Our policymakers should, too.