



New York's
Action Plan
for Young Children
and Families



Introduction



It is time for New York to create:
a coordinated early care and
education system that provides
high quality programs, services
and supports to children birth to
five and their families.



Introduction



A shared vision, goals and action steps are created by New York leaders from:

public education and early childhood programs, curriculum and child development, school funding and capital investment, organized labor, colleges and universities, scientists and physicians, business and parents.



Introduction



New York's Action Plan is:

A living document that will be adapted to changing needs, yet guided by the statement of principles.



Vision: Access for All



“The number of women in the work-force who have preschool children has increased by more than five times, from 12% just after World War II to 64% in 1999.”

—Joan Lombardi



Vision: Access for All



Young children have access to the early care and education services that they and their families need

Goal 1: Free, full-day preschool for all 4-year-olds, with plans to expand to 3-year-olds

Goal 2: Ongoing commitment to expand high quality child care for all children and families

Goal 3: Expansion of Infant Toddler Technical Assistance Centers to promote quality care for children from birth to age 3



Vision: Family Supports



“We believe, and certainly everyone should agree, that the parent is the first and most important teacher for each child.”

—Pat Myers, NYS Association for the Education of Young Children



Vision: Family Supports



Every community offers families an array of supports and services they need to raise healthy children

Goal 4: Home visiting programs in every county

Goal 5: Employers more responsive to workers' family needs

Goal 6: Family support principles used by programs statewide



Vision: Rigorous Quality



“When employees are comfortable and confident in the quality and staff of their early care program, they are mentally engaged in the workplace and more productive. Quality education benefits everyone. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

—Donna Klein, Marriott Corporation, Corporate Voices



Vision: Rigorous Quality



Each program meets consistent, rigorous standards, promotes inclusion, and is accountable for its performance

Goal 7: Work group established to develop program standards for early learning

Goal 8: Accreditation projects and other quality improvement approaches expanded statewide

Goal 9: Strong connections among higher education, professional development programs, and community quality-improvement efforts



Vision: Prepared Professionals



“There are many people out there who are great child care workers and who leave because they cannot afford to stay. It’s sad that in New York State, a person can make more money and receive better benefits working at McDonald’s.”

—Letter to *The Business Review*



Vision: Prepared Professionals



Every early care and education professional is well prepared, has access to ongoing professional development, and is well compensated

Goal 10: Completion of analyses of current workforce

Goal 11: Participation in credentialing programs

Goal 12: Articulation agreements between 2- and 4-year colleges statewide

Goal 13: Programs to provide additional compensation



Vision: Coordinating Bodies



“There should be a ‘door’ to child care in every community, a ‘first stop’ for parents, providers, and policy-makers.”

—Joan Lombardi



Vision: Coordinating Bodies



A statewide coordinating body and community counterparts plan, assess, improve, and sustain local programs

Goal 14: State-level coordinating body established in legislation

Goal 15: Replication of model efforts to build coordination local delivery systems

Goal 16: Uniform data collection and reporting system established in legislation



Vision: Adequate Finances



“In New York State, the average cost of full-day child care for a 4-year-old is \$8,060 a year. That’s almost twice the cost of a year’s tuition at the University at Albany.”

—Children’s Defense Fund-NY

Vision: Adequate Finances



Adequate financial resources support the system, drawing on public investment, private sources, and reasonable family contributions

Goal 17: Financing commission established in legislation

Goal 18: Increased and fully used federal and state funds

Goal 19: Low or no fees for families meeting federal poverty benchmarks



Investments in Early Care and Education



- **Current annual investment: \$4.7 billion.**
- **Estimated annual cost: \$6.5 billion.**



Moving Forward



Goal: Pre-K –12 system

- Early Education takes its rightful place as a public responsibility in New York, alongside K-12 and higher education.

Join us in this work





Winning Beginning

A graphic of a teal crayon with a black eraser tip, positioned as if it has just finished drawing a wavy blue line that underlines the word 'Winning'.

Center for Early Care and Education

150 State Street, 4th Floor, Albany, NY 12207 • Telephone 518/463-1896 x23 • Fax 518/463-3364
email: kvictorson@scaany.org • www.winningbeginningny.org