

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **2017 State of Preschool Report Highlights Progress in Nevada *Nevada increases pre-K funding; enrollment, funding, quality remain low***

*New Brunswick, NJ*—A new state-by-state report shows more young children enrolled in public pre-K programs nationwide, with Nevada dramatically increasing pre-K funding and inching forward on enrollment.

*The State of Preschool 2017* annual report finds states heeding the demand for pre-K and expanding access to publicly funded programs in a variety of settings, based on 2016-17 data. But instead of supporting quality early learning with adequate resources, most state programs invest too little to help children catch up with their more advantaged peers by kindergarten.

In Nevada, state pre-K funding increased by almost 44%, but the state still ranks close to the bottom in spending per child. Nevada enrollment also remains low compared to other states, with pre-K programs serving 5% of 4-year-olds and 1% of 3-year-olds statewide.

“Our report highlights which states invest best in their young children and which leave too many children behind,” said NIEER Senior Co-Director Steven Barnett. “Despite impressive investment, Nevada still ranks near the bottom in pre-K enrollment and spending. Efforts on enhancing quality and supporting young Dual Language Learners are positive signs for the future.”

This year’s report includes a special section on policies affecting Dual Language Learners (DLLs), and also highlights changes since 2002, when NIEER began tracking state pre-K. (*see box for NEVADA specifics*)

Enrollment in state-funded preschool programs has more than doubled since 2002, according to the report. Nationally, 43 states, D.C. and Guam now provide publicly funded preschool to more than 1.5 million children. However, funding has failed to keep pace, with spending-per-child *decreasing* when adjusted for inflation.

“Fifteen years ago, only three states and the District of Columbia enrolled more than one-third of their 4-year-olds in publicly funded pre-K,” said Dr. Allison Friedman-Krauss, report co-author. “Today, that is the national average. But progress is patchy – 19 states still enroll less than 10% of their 4-year-olds.”

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### **NEVADA 2016-2017 Fast Facts**

Met 6 of 10 new quality standards benchmarks

Enrolled 1,870 children, an increase of 304 from 2015-16

Total state funding = \$4,838,875, an increase of \$1,466,920 from 2015-16

State spending-per-child = \$2,588, compared to \$2,153 in 2015-16

Nevada provides extra funding for DLLs enrolled in pre-K; 30% of pre-K students are DLLs

#### **National rankings:**

- 38 in access for 4-year-olds
- 28 in access for 3-year-olds
- 40 in state spending per child

*supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions in this report are solely those of the authors. For more information and detailed state-by-state profiles on quality access, and funding, please visit [www.nieer.org](http://www.nieer.org).*

*The National Institute for Early Education Research ([www.nieer.org](http://www.nieer.org)) at the Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, supports early childhood education policy and practice through independent, objective research. For more information, contact: Michelle Ruess [mruess@nieer.org](mailto:mruess@nieer.org) 848-932-4350*