

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 18, 2018

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## **2017 State of Preschool Report Highlights Progress in Oregon** ***Oregon increases pre-K spending, expands enrollment, adds new program***

*New Brunswick, NJ*—A new state-by-state report shows more young children enrolled in public pre-K programs nationwide, with Oregon enrolling 12% of 4-year-olds and 8% of 3-year-olds across the Oregon Head Start Program (OHSP) and the newly created Oregon Preschool Promise program.

*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. 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.

Preschool enrollment and spending in the state increased in large part to the new Preschool Promise program. Oregon remains a leader in state spending per-child spending. OHSP met eight of NIEER's 10 minimum quality standards benchmarks, and Preschool Promise met six.

"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. "Oregon demonstrated a commitment to early education by establishing Preschool Promise. While the state is a leader in funding, further progress is needed to expand access to high-quality pre-K throughout the state."

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

The State of Preschool 2017 *yearbook* was supported with funding provided by

### **OREGON 2016-2017 Fast Facts**

Met 7.7 of 10 new quality standards benchmarks

Oregon enrolled 9,456 children, an increase of 1,616 from 2015-16

Total state funding = \$90,146,488, an increase of \$19,453,047 from 2015-16

State spending-per-child = \$9,533, compared to \$9,017 in 2015-16

Both Oregon pre-K programs collect data on preschoolers' home language

National rankings:

- 31 in access for 4-year-olds
- 12 in access for 3-year-olds
- 3 in state spending per child

*the Heising-Simons Foundation. Data used in the report come from a general survey funded by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The supplemental survey of state policies related to dual language learners and report was 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*