

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **2018 State of Preschool Report Shows Lack of Progress in Guam** ***Pre-K Enrollment, spending remain steady in Guam***

New Brunswick, NJ—Guam served 2% of the territory’s 4-year-olds, remaining far below the national average, according to new research by the National Institute for Early Education Research.

*The State of Preschool 2018* annual report, based on 2017-18 academic year data, finds just a third of 4-year-olds and 5.5 percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in public preschool programs nationwide—virtually no change in years. State funding is failing to keep pace with even the slow increases in enrollment and state spending per child has *decreased*, when adjusted for inflation. Inadequate funding undermines classroom quality, and most states fail to pay pre-K teachers comparably to K-3 teachers.

Enrollment in Guam’s preschool program has remained constant since its inception in 2015. Guam requires the same salary schedule and benefits for pre-K teachers as K-3, and recently implemented a classroom embedded coaching program.

“Nationally, we are disappointed by the lack of progress,” said NIEER Founder and Senior Co-Director Steven Barnett, Ph.D. “Guam is just getting started on preschool and needs to increase funding to expand access while continuing to improve quality.”

This year’s report includes a special section on policies affecting the preschool teacher workforce, focusing on salary and benefit parity. (*see box for Guam specifics*)

Enrollment has more than doubled since 2002—with almost 1.6 million children enrolled nationwide—but expansion has slowed in recent years. In some states, slow growth is due to a shift from part-day to full-day programs, which can better support child development as well as family work schedules, but nevertheless leaves many children unserved.

### **Guam 2017-18 Fast Facts**

Met 6 of 10 quality standards benchmarks

Enrolled 71 children, the same number as 2016-17

Total state funding = \$362,973 a decrease of \$7,014 from 2016-17

State spending-per-child = \$5,112, compared to \$5,211 in 2016-17

Requires same salary schedule and benefits as K-3

The State of Preschool 2018 yearbook was supported with funding provided by the Heising-Simons Foundation. 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