

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **2018 State of Preschool Report Shows Progress Stalled in Michigan State Meets All Quality Standards, Looking Ahead to Expanding Pre-K Access**

*New Brunswick, NJ*— Michigan is one of just 3 states to meet all 10 benchmarks for minimum pre-K quality standards. However, enrollment fell compared to last year, as more children were served in full-day, rather than part-day programs, and funding declined after adjusting for inflation according to new research from 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. Michigan does not provide state pre-K teachers salary or benefit parity with K-3 teachers.

“Nationally, we are disappointed by the lack of progress,” said NIEER Founder and Senior Co-Director Steven Barnett, Ph.D. “Michigan’s commitment to serve more children in full-day programs is a move in the right direction. But increased investments are needed to maintain quality and expand access to more children.”

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

Enrollment has more than doubled since 2002—with almost 1.6 million children enrolled nationwide—but expansion has slowed in recent years. In Michigan and other 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.

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).

### **Michigan 2017-18 Fast Facts**

Met 10 of 10 quality standards benchmarks

Enrolled 37,325 children, a decrease of 1,046 from 2016-17

Total state funding = \$243,900,000, an inflation-adjusted decrease of \$8 million from 2016-17

State spending-per-child = \$6,534, compared to \$6,575 in 2016-17

No state policies for pre-K teacher salary or benefit parity with K-3

National rankings:

- 18 in access for 4-year-olds
- 14 in state spending per child

*The National Institute for Early Education Research (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*