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2018 State of Preschool Report Shows Progress Stalled in New York *NYC Moving Forward as State Pre-K Spending, Enrollment Slips*

New Brunswick, NJ— New York preschool spending and enrollment exceed national averages, as recent rapid growth slowed over the past year, 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.

New York state pre-k enrolls more than half of the state’s 4-year-olds. New York requires state pre-K teachers to hold a BA but does not provide them compensation parity with K-3 teachers. 2017-2018 was a tough year but New York has made considerable progress since adding \$15 million each year since and an additional \$25 million to sustain their federal Preschool Development Grant.

“Nationally, we are disappointed by the lack of progress,” said NIEER Founder and Senior Co-Director Steven Barnett, Ph.D. “New York is moving in the right direction, following New York City’s lead on universal access to high-quality, full-day pre-K. But enhancing quality will require a commitment to parity for all pre-K teachers.”

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

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.

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 848-932-4350

New York 2017-18 Fast Facts

Met 7 of 10 quality standards benchmarks

Enrolled 121,572 children, a decrease of 1,299 from 2016-17

Total state funding = \$796,699,144, a decrease of \$22 million from 2016-17

State spending-per-child = \$6,553, compared to \$6,665 in 2016-17

Requires at least a BA, but no salary or benefit parity with K-3

National rankings:

- 9 in access for 4-year-olds
- 22 in access for 3-year-olds
- 13 in state spending per child