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2017 State of Preschool Report Shows Progress in New York *NYC Leads, Will the Rest of the State Follow?*

New Brunswick, NJ—A new state-by-state report shows more young children enrolled in public pre-K programs nationwide, with New York providing preschool to more than half of the state’s 4-year-olds.

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.

New York continued expanding access and funding for preschool. State-funded pre-K met 7 of NIEER’s 10 minimum quality standards benchmarks. The state also received a federal Preschool Development Grant which helped expand enrollment and enhance quality. However, state pre-K funding basically held steady, adjusting for inflation.

“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. “In New York, much of the expanded enrollment and enhanced quality was spearheaded by New York City. The state has supported this expansion and more, but continued growth is needed to bring full access to every community.”

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 New York 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 the Heising-Simons Foundation. Data used in the report come from a general survey funded by the National Center for

NEW YORK 2016-2017 Fast Facts

Met 7 of 10 new quality standards benchmarks

New York enrolled 122,871 children, an increase of 2,802 from 2015-16

Total state funding exceeded \$791.7 million, an increase of \$2.62 million from 2015-16

State spending-per-child = \$6,443, compared to \$6,572 in 2015-16

New York has a high % of children speaking languages other than English but *does not* collect home language of preschoolers

National rankings:

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

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.

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

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