

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **2018 State of Preschool Report Shows Slow Growth in Hawaii** ***Access remains low, Quality high with increased investment***

New Brunswick, NJ—Hawaii increased state preschool funding, but access remained at just 2% of 4-year-olds—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.

Hawaii requires state pre-K teachers to have a BA, as well as salary and benefit parity with K-3 teachers. The state continues to work toward addressing the critical shortage of qualified teachers, including investing in professional development.

“Nationally, we are disappointed by the lack of progress,” said NIEER Founder and Senior Co-Director Steven Barnett, Ph.D. “Hawaii has been standing still since the program began in 2015. The state is working to build a sustainable infrastructure to ensure quality as it grows the program, but too many children are missing out as the state has been slow to expand access.”

This year’s report includes a special section on policies affecting the preschool teacher workforce, focusing on salary and benefit parity. (*see box for Hawaii 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](http://www.nieer.org).

### **Hawaii 2017-18 Fast Facts**

Met 7 of 10 quality standards benchmarks

Enrolled 373 children, a decrease of 3 from 2016-17

Total state funding = \$2,597,734 an increase of \$11,861 from 2016-17

State spending-per-child = \$6,964 compared to \$6,877 in 2016-17

Requires a BA with K-3 salary and benefit parity for lead teachers

National rankings:

- 45 in access for 4-year-olds
- 11 in state spending per child

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