



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

September 5, 2019

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As members representing districts outside of New York City, we respectfully request that you fully fund Universal Full-day Pre-K for the entire state in your 2020-21 Executive Budget. As you know, New York City has a very robust and successful program. School districts in the rest of the state deserve the same.

New York City is allocated \$300 million under the “Statewide Universal Full-day Pre-K program.” While districts outside of New York City enroll more than half of the public school students in the state, these districts are only allocated \$40 million in funding, which is awarded through a competitive grant process.

Many districts outside of New York City want to participate in this program, but are unable to do so due to the lack of funding. In the first round of grant applications in 2015, thirty districts applied and did not receive funding, many of which were highly rated and eligible. There were also several districts that never even applied due to the lack of available funding.

The benefits of pre-K are clear. Children who attend pre-K are better prepared for kindergarten and have improved academic outcomes compared to children who do not. A recent study of pre-K in North Carolina found that attending pre-K reduced the likelihood that a child would be placed in special education by a third and that the advantages of attending a high-quality pre-K program last through the eighth grade.¹ Fully funding Universal Full-day Pre-K for the rest of the state would ensure that all New York children can benefit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy R. Paulin
88th District

Thomas J. Abinanti
92nd District

Didi Barrett
106th District

Harry B. Bronson
138th District

David Buchwald
93rd District

Patrick B. Burke
142nd District

Marianne Buttenschon
119th District

Kevin A. Cahill
103rd District

Taylor Darling
18th District

Anthony D'Urso
16th District

Steve Englebright
4th District

Patricia A. Fahy
109th District

Sandra R. Galef
95th District

David F. Gantt
137th District

Judy A. Griffin
21st District

Aileen M. Gunther
100th District

Pamela J. Hunter
128th District

Jonathan G. Jacobson
104th District

Ellen C. Jaffee
97th District

Kimberly Jean-Pierre
11th District

Billy Jones
115th District

Charles D. Lavine
13th District

Barbara S. Lifton
125th District

Donna A. Lupardo
123rd District

William B. Magnarelli
129th District

John T. McDonald, III.
108th District

Karen M. McMahon
146th District

Steven Otis
91st District

J. Gary Pretlow
89th District

Phillip Ramos
6th District

Jamie Romeo
136th District

Sean Ryan
149th District

Angelo Santabarbara
111th District

Nader Sayegh
90th District

Robin L. Schimminger
140th District

Michaelle C. Solages
22nd District

Phillip Steck
110th District

Steve Stern
10th District

Al Stirpe
127th District

Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
1st District

Monica P. Wallace
143rd District

Carrie Woerner
113th District

Kenneth P. Zebrowski
96th District

Cc: Carl Heastie, Speaker of the Assembly
Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Temporary President of the Senate
Michael Benedetto, Assembly Education Committee Chair
Shelley Mayer, Senate Education Committee Chair
Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to the Governor
Robert Mujica, Director of the Budget
Kumiki Gibson, Counsel to the Governor
Beth Garvey, Special Counsel and Senior Advisor to the Governor
Blake Washington, Secretary to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Matthew Golden, Deputy Director of Budget Studies, Assembly Ways and Means Committee

ⁱ Kenneth Dodge, et. al., *Evaluation of North Carolina Early Childhood Program among Middle School Students*. (January 2019) (Duke University, unpublished working paper). Available at: <https://duke.app.box.com/s/ospjbc5z1021crd5i1cn48vzi3htu57g>