KEEP THE PROMISE FOR FULL-DAY PRE-K
Every Child Deserves the Opportunity to Succeed!

In 2014, state leaders made a bold pledge to make high-quality pre-K available to every 4-year-old in New York State within five years, and to fund every district ready with a plan.

That year, state leaders made a down payment of $340 million toward meeting that goal, with $300 million earmarked for New York City’s groundbreaking Pre-K for All programs.

But with each passing year, the promise rings hollow, with state policymakers scaling back expansion plans to nearly a halt.

57 YEARS TO FULL-DAY PRE-K FOR EVERY 4-YEAR-OLD?
Current Access to Full-Day Pre-K by Region

The Governor’s proposal to add just $15 million for pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds, falls dismally short of rising need and unmet demand. At the current rate of investment, it will take more than 57 years to make pre-K truly universal.
More than 80,000 4-year-olds – mostly outside of New York City – still have no full-day pre-K. The Governor’s proposal for 2019 leaves glaring inequities in place, between New York City and the rest of the state.

Last year’s investment in pre-K expansion, also $15 million for pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds, resulted in new services for just 1583 children.¹

That included just 930 new full-day seats for 4-year-olds.

Only one district on Long Island received a grant last year, Roosevelt School District, to add 72 seats for 3- and 4-year-olds, 54 more full-day slots for 4-year-olds.

That’s 54 more full-day seats for the Island’s 23,000 4-year-olds expected to enroll. Long Island remains the most under-served region in the state.

But others aren’t far behind. The Hudson Valley has a seat for just 18% of the 4-year-olds expected to enroll.

THE GOVERNOR’S 2019 PROPOSAL IS TOO MODEST: $15 MILLION STILL LEAVES GENERATIONS OF 4-YEAR-OLDS BEHIND (80,000 CHILDREN)

WE ARE CALLING ON THE STATE TO MAKE EARLY LEARNING A REAL PRIORITY IN 2019 AND BUILD ON THE GOVERNOR’S PROPOSAL FOR BOTH PRE-K AND CHILD CARE

¹ Data on pre-K seats added in 2018 provided by the Office of Early Learning, New York State Education Department.