

# QUALITYstarsNY:

## Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for College

A Campaign by Winning Beginning NY and Public Policy and Education Fund of NY

### WHY QUALITY MATTERS: Key to a Winning Beginning

#### Benefits of QUALITYstarsNY:

- Gives parents information to help them choose the best care for their children
- Sets clear standards and establishes a data system to insure accountability
- Ensures tax dollars are being invested in programs that work
- Creates universal system to assess, improve and communicate the quality of the state's early childhood programs
- Provides struggling programs with a roadmap and access to support and resources to ensure improvement

#### What is QUALITYstarsNY?

QUALITYstarsNY is a comprehensive initiative to ensure that our young children - the 1.5 million New Yorkers under age six - have the opportunity for high quality early learning experiences.

Quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) are designed to evaluate program quality based on universal standards for early childhood settings; communicate program quality to families by assigning them to "star ratings" similar to those used in other consumer ratings; and help programs continually improve quality through targeted supports.

**Economic Impact:** Every dollar invested in quality early care and learning programs for children generates \$1.86 in additional spending in New York State, creating jobs and supporting local economies.

Over time, this investment translates into big savings. Universal Pre-K can lower costs for school districts by up to \$828 million each year. And studies show that every dollar spent on high quality early education saves \$7 over time: in school remediation, healthcare, welfare, unemployment, incarceration and other taxpayer costs.

Early care and learning - including child care, Pre-Kindergarten, Early Head Start/Head Start, and after school programs - is an essential tool in New York State's economic recovery. As new jobs are created, parents need access to safe, affordable child care options to be productive workers.

**IN 2011 NEW YORK MUST:**  
**RESTORE CHILD CARE FUNDING (\$55 MILLION REDUCTION IN GOVERNOR'S BUDGET) AND ENSURE A COMMITMENT TO FUND PRE-K FOR ALL FOUR-YEAR OLDS CURRENTLY ENROLLED ACROSS THE STATE. NEW YORK MUST ALSO INCREASE FUNDING FOR QUALITYSTARSNY TO \$3 MILLION.**



**PUBLIC POLICY AND  
EDUCATION FUND** OF NEW YORK

**Winning Beginning** NY  
*an early care and learning coalition*

