

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

