New York’s Action Plan for Young Children and Families
Introduction

*It is time for New York to create:* a coordinated early care and education system that provides high quality programs, services and supports to children birth to five and their families.
Introduction

A shared vision, goals and action steps are created by New York leaders from:

public education and early childhood programs, curriculum and child development, school funding and capital investment, organized labor, colleges and universities, scientists and physicians, business and parents.
New York’s Action Plan is:
A living document that will be adapted to changing needs, yet guided by the statement of principles.
"The number of women in the work-force who have preschool children has increased by more than five times, from 12% just after World War II to 64% in 1999."

—Joan Lombardi
Vision: Access for All

Young children have access to the early care and education services that they and their families need

**Goal 1:** Free, full-day preschool for all 4-year-olds, with plans to expand to 3-year-olds

**Goal 2:** Ongoing commitment to expand high quality child care for all children and families

**Goal 3:** Expansion of Infant Toddler Technical Assistance Centers to promote quality care for children from birth to age 3
Vision: Family Supports

“We believe, and certainly everyone should agree, that the parent is the first and most important teacher for each child.”

—Pat Myers, NYS Association for the Education of Young Children
Vision: Family Supports

Every community offers families an array of supports and services they need to raise healthy children

**Goal 4:** Home visiting programs in every county

**Goal 5:** Employers more responsive to workers’ family needs

**Goal 6:** Family support principles used by programs statewide
Vision: Rigorous Quality

“When employees are comfortable and confident in the quality and staff of their early care program, they are mentally engaged in the workplace and more productive. Quality education benefits everyone. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

—Donna Klein, Marriott Corporation, Corporate Voices
Vision: Rigorous Quality

Each program meets consistent, rigorous standards, promotes inclusion, and is accountable for its performance

**Goal 7:** Work group established to develop program standards for early learning

**Goal 8:** Accreditation projects and other quality improvement approaches expanded statewide

**Goal 9:** Strong connections among higher education, professional development programs, and community quality-improvement efforts
Vision: Prepared Professionals

“There are many people out there who are great child care workers and who leave because they cannot afford to stay. It’s sad that in New York State, a person can make more money and receive better benefits working at McDonald’s.”

—Letter to The Business Review
Vision: Prepared Professionals

Every early care and education professional is well prepared, has access to ongoing professional development, and is well compensated.

**Goal 10:** Completion of analyses of current workforce

**Goal 11:** Participation in credentialing programs

**Goal 12:** Articulation agreements between 2- and 4-year colleges statewide

**Goal 13:** Programs to provide additional compensation
Vision: Coordinating Bodies

“There should be a ‘door’ to child care in every community, a ‘first stop’ for parents, providers, and policy-makers.”

—Joan Lombardi
A statewide coordinating body and community counterparts plan, assess, improve, and sustain local programs

**Goal 14:** State-level coordinating body established in legislation

**Goal 15:** Replication of model efforts to build coordination local delivery systems

**Goal 16:** Uniform data collection and reporting system established in legislation
Vision: Adequate Finances

“In New York State, the average cost of full-day child care for a 4-year-old is $8,060 a year. That’s almost twice the cost of a year’s tuition at the University at Albany.”

—Children’s Defense Fund-NY
Vision: Adequate Finances

Adequate financial resources support the system, drawing on public investment, private sources, and reasonable family contributions

**Goal 17:** Financing commission established in legislation

**Goal 18:** Increased and fully used federal and state funds

**Goal 19:** Low or no fees for families meeting federal poverty benchmarks
Investments in Early Care and Education

• Current annual investment: $4.7 billion.

• Estimated annual cost: $6.5 billion.
Goal: Pre-K –12 system

- Early Education takes its rightful place as a public responsibility in New York, alongside K-12 and higher education.

Join us in this work
Center for Early Care and Education
150 State Street, 4th Floor, Albany, NY 12207 • Telephone 518/463-1896 x23 • Fax 518/463-3364
email: kvictorson@scaany.org • www.winningbeginningny.org