

New York Calls on the Governor to Create an Early Learning Commission

An Early Learning Commission, created at the highest levels of state government, is needed to galvanize support for expanded and coherent investment in high quality early childhood services, to ensure we make the most of every dollar invested.

Why New York Needs an Early Learning Commission

New York has made a good start, but funding and oversight are not coordinated, making it hard for families to access services, for policymakers to effectively allocate resources and to assess children's progress. The state needs a more systematic approach, one that links investment to quality improvements. Other states have effectively used such commissions to set priorities and foster effective changes.

How the Commission Would Work

With the backing of the governor, commissioners will make specific recommendations for system-wide structural and regulatory reforms, to ease access for children and lift the quality of services.

What the Early Learning Commission Must Do

This high-profile commission can reach across the usual boundaries among state agencies, address duplicative and conflicting regulation and align funding, oversight and regulations to realize the Regents' vision that every child, beginning at birth - no matter the background, language or special need - gets off to a healthy start and has the skills they need to succeed in today's global economy.

Who the Members of the Commission Would Be

Members of the commission should include representatives from state agencies, such as the State Education Department, the Office of Children's and Family Services and Department of Health. In addition, the commission should include legislative staff, early care and education experts and advocates, parents, business, labor and higher education leaders and others with a keen interest in seeing that every child gets off to a good start.

Winning Beginning NY is an early care and education coalition of more than 60 organizations and individuals committed to quality early learning opportunities for all children, beginning at birth. It was established in 2006 bringing together the Child Care That *Works* campaign and the PreK Coalition. The consortium has launched a statewide campaign to inform policymakers and the public about the many benefits of early learning to children, families and society and to build broad-based support for making investment in quality early education, child care, Head Start and public prekindergarten a top priority in New York State. The coalition is co-convened by Child Care, Inc. the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children and the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy.

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