

May 2006

Leadership Matters:  
Governors' Pre-K Proposals  
Fiscal Year 2007



May 2006

pre[k]now

Dear Colleague:

I am proud to share the news that in 2006 more leaders than ever before are embracing pre-kindergarten as the first step in education reform in their states. This year, 23 governors and the mayor of the District of Columbia – up four from FY06 – have proposed to increase pre-k funding by an average of 25 percent. These governors hail from across the nation and across the political spectrum. *Leadership Matters: Governors' Pre-K Proposals Fiscal Year 2007* recognizes these governors for their commitments to sound economic policy, responsible school reform, and better futures for our nation's children.

This report looks to governors' own words from their state of state addresses as well as their budgets and policy initiatives to bring you the high- and lowlights in this year's pre-k proposals. From the broad, national picture to regional and local snapshots, we reveal the leaders, the followers, and those lost in the wilderness.

Most governors are facing far better revenue projections than they were a year ago, and many are putting those dollars to work toward unprecedented improvements and expansions for pre-k.

Others, however, continue to lag the field or, worse, to undercut pre-k legislative and advocacy efforts, and this report calls them to account. Six governors in the Northern Plains and Mountain states are anticipating budget surpluses in the hundreds of millions of dollars while failing to provide state funding for high-quality pre-k. Elsewhere, in regions where pre-k is growing rapidly, certain governors continue to refuse children this vital foundation for kindergarten and life success.

This year's wealth of gubernatorial initiatives reflects public sentiment on pre-k, and, as the election season heats up, smart incumbent governors are touting their leadership on the issue. Some governors, perhaps motivated by poll numbers showing overwhelming voter support for early education, are talking about pre-k for the first time.

Pre-K Now looks forward to another successful year for the movement, and we invite all our nation's governors to participate in this remarkable national transformation in education. Our message is simple: pre-k prepares children for kindergarten, and when children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn, we all benefit.



Libby Doggett, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Pre-K Now

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**A**cross the country, governors are recognizing high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten as a proven school-reform strategy. This year, 24 leaders prioritized this effort by proposing increased funding to expand and enhance their states' pre-k programs. These investments promise to improve both K-12 systems and children's opportunities for success in kindergarten and in life.

This report reviews the state of the state addresses and proposed budgets of our nation's governors and the mayor of the District of Columbia to assess their individual commitments to high-quality pre-k for all.

## Introduction

In states across the nation, smart governors, Republican and Democrat alike, ushered in 2006 with bold leadership in the movement for high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all. This year, 24 governors – as compared with 17 in 2005 – named early education as a priority in their state of the state addresses, and most backed their rhetoric with pre-k funding increases, totaling nearly \$250 million. These leaders understand that when children arrive prepared for kindergarten, public schools, state economies, and, most importantly, children benefit.

These gubernatorial commitments were bolstered by a welcome trend: favorable state-revenue forecasts. Forty-eight of the 50 states are likely to enjoy stable or growing incomes for the remainder of FY06.<sup>1</sup>

As this year's midterm elections gear up, research shows that voters overwhelmingly support state funding for pre-k and the growing numbers of policymakers who champion it,<sup>2</sup> facts that promise to enlist and elect still more committed pre-k leaders.

With *Leadership Matters*, Pre-K Now examines the pre-k proposals of governors around the country. We commend the innovative and tenacious and expose the intransigent and uninspired. This year, we begin with three governors who have stepped up to lead their states on pre-k.

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**Kentucky** Gov. Ernie Fletcher (R)

Much of a child's future success depends on those first years. An investment here will give students, who may be at risk of falling behind, renewed hope.

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## New Leaders

Every year, more governors recognize the wisdom of state investment in pre-k. In 2006, three state executives stand out for their new pre-k commitments.

**Kentucky: Governor Ernie Fletcher (R)** recommended a 46 percent increase of \$23.5 million for the *Kentucky Preschool Program*. In his state of the state remarks, Governor Fletcher offered a succinct explanation of his stance on pre-k, noting that this new commitment is part of "...a series of steps to make us more competitive globally and with our southern neighbors. And basic to getting competitive is improving education...."<sup>3</sup>

**Michigan: Governor Jennifer Granholm (D)** proposed an increase for the *Michigan School Readiness Program* of \$28.7 million, which will fund services for 8,000 additional children. Emphasizing her pre-k commitment, Governor Granholm said in her state of the state address, "We know that the biggest opportunity to secure your baby's success later in life comes early – before your little one even enters kindergarten."<sup>4</sup>

**Washington: Governor Christine Gregoire (D)** is proposing an FY07 increase of over \$2.2 million for her state's *Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program*, raising total funding to just over \$31 million. Additionally, in February, she won bipartisan passage in the legislature for a new cabinet-level Department of Early Learning. In her state of the state address, Governor Gregoire explained the importance of these initiatives. "We need to stop falling behind the rest of the country. We need to make sure our children are ready to learn when they hit kindergarten."<sup>5</sup> By prioritizing governance, she has laid a solid foundation for expanding early learning in Washington.





## The Pre-K Vanguard

Pre-K Now has identified four governors whose enduring commitments, bold policies, and records of success in building and growing high-quality programs set the gold standard in pre-k leadership.

**Illinois: Governor Rod Blagojevich (D)** has proposed annual increases of \$45 million for each of the next three years for early childhood, including \$40 million for high-quality pre-k and five million dollars to expand services to at-risk children from birth to age three. This initiative has established Governor Blagojevich as the nation's premier pre-k champion, and should, eventually, make Illinois the first state in the nation to offer voluntary pre-k to every three and four year old.

**Connecticut: Governor M. Jodi Rell (R)** is proposing a midterm budget adjustment of four million additional dollars to expand pre-k access. She also issued an executive order to create a state Early Childhood Research and Policy Council, which will explore strategies for future expansions.

**North Carolina: Governor Mike Easley (D)** is proposing an 19 percent FY07 increase for the state's high-quality pre-k program, *More at Four*. The increase will likely be funded through North Carolina's new education lottery, which Governor Easley championed last year.

**Pennsylvania: Governor Ed Rendell (D)** recommended a 50 percent, \$15 million increase in funding for *Head Start* that will serve 1,540 new children. The governor also proposed an increase of \$50 million for the state's *Accountability Grants* program, which funds a variety of educational services including pre-k. Governor Rendell's FY07 pre-k proposals are bolstered by a recent report documenting substantial returns, both financial and educational, on Pennsylvania's early education investment.<sup>6</sup>

## Returning Champions

In 2005, Pre-K Now named five governors as "New Leaders" on pre-k. Of these, three have continued their efforts and are earning a place among the pre-k elite; one has regrettably chosen not to build on last year's gains; and one is bravely using pre-k to help combat the impacts of one of the most devastating natural disasters in our nation's history:

**Iowa: Governor Tom Vilsack (D)** has recommended adding a new pre-k program called *Strong Start* with initial funding of \$15 million. The program would be financed through the state's school funding formula. His 2005 pre-k proposals met staunch resistance in the legislature, and this year promises another tough fight.

**New Mexico: Governor Bill Richardson (D)** has proposed an increase of 228 percent for *New Mexico Pre-K*, including \$10 million in recurring funds. The state program was established in 2005 after a legislative struggle. With this year's budget recommendation, the governor is seeking to expand upon last year's hard-won gains.

**Tennessee: Governor Phil Bredesen (D)** proposed a 57 percent increase for the *Voluntary Pre-K for Tennessee* program, which, thanks largely to the governor's inclusive, bipartisan approach in 2005, is poised to win broad support.

**Table 1: Pre-K Accolades**

Top Five Proposed Increases for FY07

State	Governor	Percentage Increase
New Mexico	Bill Richardson	228%
Iowa	Tom Vilsack	133%
Tennessee	Phil Bredesen	57%
Pennsylvania	Ed Rendell	50%
Kentucky	Ernie Fletcher	45%

**Hawaii: Governor Linda Lingle (R)** proposed flat funding for her state's *Open Doors* pre-k program. This year, her administration plans to focus on quality improvements. Unfortunately, the governor missed a key opportunity to sell that effort to legislators and the public by failing to mention the issue in her state of the state address.

**Louisiana: Governor Kathleen Blanco (D)** has pinpointed pre-k as a priority program for the state's recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Despite reduced demand, resulting from large-scale relocations, and the widespread loss of schools, pre-k centers, and teachers, the governor has proposed to fund the high-quality *LA4* pre-k program at only \$2 million below its FY06 operational budget.

### Pre-K Quality Counts

Annual increases are important to the improvement of every pre-k system, but just as important is how those dollars are spent. Individual governors, legislators, and educators must evaluate the specific needs of their state's system when establishing spending priorities. In this process, the rush to expand access has sometimes overshadowed the development of high-quality programs. More recently, leaders have recognized that pre-k's effectiveness depends upon high quality standards, especially small class sizes, low teacher-child ratios, and rigorous qualifications for teachers and instructional aides.<sup>7</sup>

In their annual review of state pre-k systems, the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) found that, in 2004-05, 12 states had pre-k programs that met eight or more of 10 quality benchmarks, compared with only five states four years ago. Arkansas is still the only state with a program that meets all 10. In contrast, 19 states had programs that met five or fewer benchmarks in 2004-05.<sup>8</sup>

Table 2 shows the five states with the greatest proposed increased investment for FY07 and their average program quality according to the NIEER criteria. Currently, only two, Tennessee and Kentucky, offer high-quality programs. Pennsylvania met fewer than three of NIEER's quality benchmarks, but late last year, the state took the critical step of establishing broad new quality standards for its pre-k program. These standards are expected to go into effect in the 2006-07 school year and should generate rapid improvement. New Mexico's pre-k program also met only a

few NIEER benchmarks. However, that figure reflects the state's former early education system, not *New Mexico Pre-K*, which was launched in 2005-06 and features high quality standards and an ambitious professional-development program. In 2007, NIEER will provide its first evaluation of this new program and should find significantly higher quality. In Iowa, however, pre-k remains mired in mediocrity.

**Table 2: Program Quality in States with Largest Proposed Increases**

State	NIEER Benchmarks	BA Degree Required in all Settings
Tennessee	9	Yes
Kentucky	8	Yes
Iowa	5	No
New Mexico	4*	No**
Pennsylvania	2.5 <sup>‡</sup>	No

Source: W. Steven Barnett, Hustedt, Jason T., Robin, Kenneth B., and Schulman, Karen L., *The State of Preschool: 2005 State Preschool Yearbook* (New Brunswick: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2006), 222. <http://nieer.org/yearbook/pdf/yearbook.pdf>.

\* This figure represents the quality of New Mexico's former early education system and is not reflective of *New Mexico Pre-K*, which launched in 2005.

\*\* *New Mexico Pre-K* is in the second year of a five-year phase-in plan for a BA requirement.

‡ This figure is for the 2004-05 school year. In December 2005, Pennsylvania instituted new quality standards, which Pre-K Now expects will produce quick and substantial improvement.

## Pound Foolish

Three governors, whose states are expected to show increased revenues in FY07, opted not to invest any of those new dollars in pre-k. In Alabama, Florida, and New York, current pre-k expenditures already fall well short of what is needed by the children and families in these states. Unfortunately, these governors are passing up the rare opportunity to convert present revenue growth into long-term prosperity by investing in pre-k, an effective, fiscally responsible, school-reform strategy.

**Alabama: Governor Bob Riley (R)** had the means to significantly improve and expand pre-k in FY07. As the governor noted in his state of the state address, “We are spending more on education than ever before. \$1 billion more with record amounts going into our classrooms.” However, even with such substantial dollars available, the governor chose only to convert last year’s \$1 million conditional appropriation for pre-k into a recurring allocation. While the transition of dollars from conditional to permanent is an important step, his unwillingness to allot new dollars for pre-k signals a resistance to the evidence of pre-k’s benefits acknowledged for years by other Southern leaders.

**New York: Governor George Pataki (R)** is operating under a nine-year-old pre-k-for-all legislative mandate. For Governor Pataki, however, disregard for the state’s pre-k system is an entrenched policy dating to 2001. Despite optimistic revenue forecasts for FY07, the governor’s budget recommended continued flat funding. In April, the legislature sent a final budget to the governor, which rejected his proposal and instead increased state pre-k funding by \$50 million. Under pressure from advocates and legislators, Governor Pataki acquiesced and enacted the new pre-k appropriation.

**Florida: Governor Jeb Bush (R)** is also required by law to provide pre-k for all. His state’s fledgling program suffers from poor quality standards and lower-than-expected participation rates. Unfortunately, rather than tapping growing revenues to truly address these problems, Governor Bush has proposed only a .04 percent increase, which will raise the per-child appropriation by a paltry \$140 – not nearly enough to measurably improve program quality.





## Empty Rhetoric

This year, three governors distinguished themselves by their disingenuous statements on pre-k. Consequently, Missouri and South Carolina may face another year without adequate pre-k funding or needed leadership. While in Vermont, spurious accusations and political finger pointing are putting high-quality pre-k in real jeopardy.

**Missouri: Governor Matt Blunt (R)**, in his state of the state address, noted, “Learning does not begin in kindergarten” and identified education from pre-k to college as “the number one fiscal priority of state government.” He went so far as to state that, “At a young age, children’s minds are eager to learn, and as a state we should look for opportunities to foster that desire for knowledge.”<sup>10</sup> However, this proved mere pandering. In his FY07 budget, Governor Blunt flat funded the *Missouri Preschool Project (MPP)*. This year, Missouri early learning advocates will have to fight once again to preserve the state’s small and vulnerable pre-k program. Governor Blunt has made clear his understanding that pre-k is crucial to children’s school and life success; so his choice to flat fund early education seems to signal his indifference.

**South Carolina: Governor Mark Sanford (R)** delivered his state of the state address in the shadow of a December 2005 South Carolina circuit court decision that mandated expansion of state-funded pre-k. In response to the court ruling, the governor first pronounced himself “a proponent of early childhood education” and then proceeded to all but flat fund the state program, pawning the bulk of the responsibility off on “the private sector’s capacity.” He went on to say that the state should “focus [its] finite resources ... to the programs that produce the best outcomes ... before going to the taxpayer asking for

more money.”<sup>11</sup> With South Carolina in strong fiscal shape and pre-k a proven education-reform measure, Governor Sanford has options beyond new taxes or reliance on the private sector. His abdication leaves one wondering which programs – or for that matter, which outcomes – this early learning proponent would embrace.

**Vermont: Governor James Douglas (R)** proposed removing pre-k from the state’s school funding formula into which it was folded just two years ago. In his 2006 state of the state address, Governor Douglas asked members of the general assembly to “reconsider the decision” to include pre-k in the school funding formula and to decline to “further increase the cost of education and the growing tax bills that accompany those costs.”<sup>12</sup> Rather than celebrating the benefits of this educationally savvy approach to pre-k funding, Governor Douglas is callously exploiting children’s futures to instigate citizens’ tax fears.

## The Pre-K Wilderness

Of the 10 states that still offer no state-funded pre-k, six have FY07 revenue projections that are among the most positive in the nation, while only one, Rhode Island, is facing a tough fiscal future.<sup>13</sup> These windfalls have inspired many elaborate new budgetary proposals, but none includes building children's futures through high-quality pre-k. In each case, the cost of such a program would be a fraction of available funds but would pay dividends for decades to come.

On the current governors' watch, more than 350,000 children in the 10 states that comprise the pre-k wilderness have been deprived of opportunities afforded to many children in other states.

**Idaho: Governor Dirk Kempthorne (R)**, since 1999, has presided over the denial of this critical educational service to more than 90,000 young children.

**Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer (D)**, **New Hampshire Governor John Lynch (D)**, **Utah Governor Jon Huntsman (R)**, and **Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels (R)** were all first-year governors in 2005. In a single year, these four state executives have fated nearly 140,000 children to enter kindergarten without the strong foundation of high-quality pre-k.

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**Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack (D)**

The future will be challenging,  
and if we finish the good work we  
started in early childhood  
education ... our children will be  
prepared for that challenging future.

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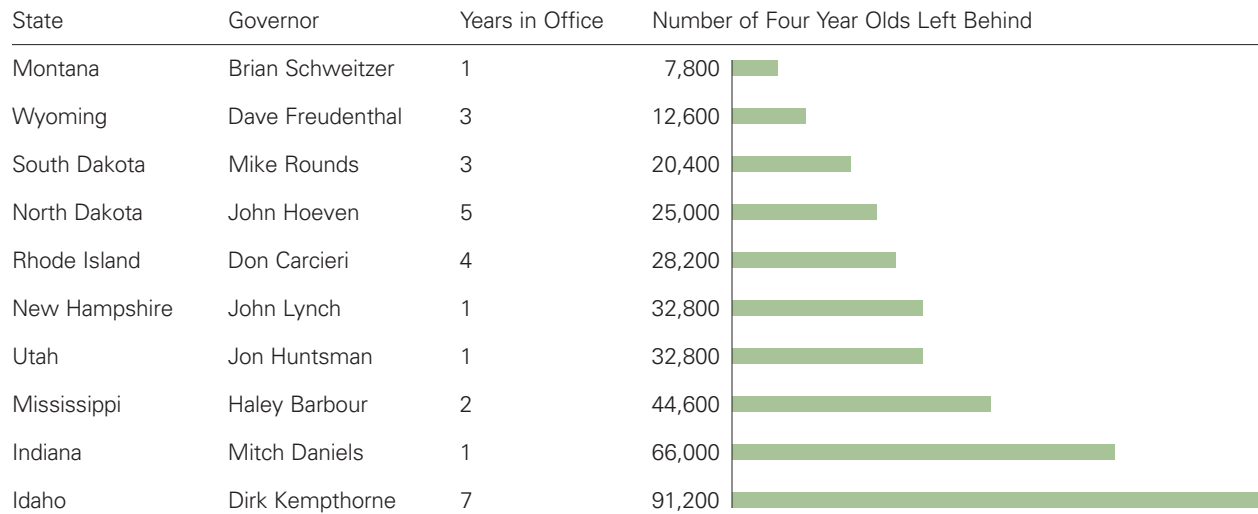
The pre-k wilderness is not merely an educational condition. In fact, many of these states are largely rural. According to a recent study, "Rural children are 60 percent more likely than non-rural children to be placed in special education in kindergarten."<sup>14</sup> Research has consistently shown that high-quality pre-k reduces the number of special education placements.<sup>15</sup> Such findings serve to underscore both the urgent need for pre-k in these states and the scope of the gubernatorial negligence.

However, not all the news in these states is bad. This year did offer reason for hope in two pre-k wilderness states:

**South Dakota: Governor Mike Rounds (R)** failed to mention pre-k in his state of the state address, but in a series of January press conferences, he announced the 2010 Education Initiative, which includes a pre-k component called *Starting Strong*. Under the plan, in FY08, he will pursue the legislative authority to design a pre-k system for four year olds not served by *Head Start* or Title I, and funding for the program would begin in FY09.

**Wyoming: Governor Dave Freudenthal (D)** discussed pre-k extensively in his state of the state address, noting that early childhood education was "the top priority recommendation" of a two-year study by "citizens, legislative committees, and professionals in the field," and arguing that "if we do nothing, our grandchildren will live in a society of neglected children and struggling families."<sup>16</sup> With these remarks, the governor continued his long-running efforts to persuade a resistant legislature of the importance of pre-k and to secure support for a modest early education system.

Pre-K Now hopes that these proposals and the needed funding will be realized so that children in Wyoming and South Dakota can begin to emerge from the pre-k wilderness.

**Figure 1: Wilderness State Children Left Behind**

According to U.S. Census and individual state data, during the current governors' tenures, 361,400 four year olds in the 10 pre-k wilderness states have entered kindergarten without the benefit of a high-quality, state-funded pre-k education.

Source: Various federal, state, and independent reports.<sup>17</sup>

### Full-Day Kindergarten

This year, both Governor Ruth Ann Minner (D) of Delaware and Governor Janet Napolitano (D) of Arizona recommended substantial new funding to provide full-day kindergarten. These proposals demonstrate a clear understanding on the part of both governors that early learning provides a critical foundation for children's school and life success. Full-day kindergarten is an important ingredient in early childhood education, but it can only be fully effective if children arrive prepared to make the most of the opportunity. In Delaware, this full-day kindergarten proposal was accompanied by a slight increase in funding for pre-k. In Arizona, early learning advocates are now campaigning for a November 2006 ballot initiative that will generate new tobacco tax revenue, earmarked for early childhood services including pre-k.

## Pre-K on the Campaign Trail

According to a recent poll, 84 percent of voters believe that pre-k prepares children to succeed in school and should be a priority investment.<sup>18</sup> Given these findings, it's hardly surprising that candidates are increasingly viewing support for pre-k as a winning campaign strategy.

Twenty-six of this year's 36 gubernatorial races include incumbent candidates. Of these incumbents, 15 mentioned pre-k in their state of the state addresses; although some of these have yet to back up their words with substantive proposals to support pre-k. Only two of the incumbents are from states with no pre-k programs. While both of these governors have remained silent on the issue, their major opponents are finding that support for pre-k is important to their campaigns.

In 2005, pre-k figured prominently in one state's off-year gubernatorial race. Virginia Governor Tim Kaine (D) won his election campaigning on pre-k. During his campaign, Governor Kaine proposed *Start Strong*, a pre-k-for-all initiative. The high level of public support for pre-k fueled Governor Kaine's initiative; 81 percent of Virginia voters rate expanding access to high-quality pre-k as important.<sup>19</sup> For FY07, Governor Kaine inherited the biennium budget proposed by his predecessor, Mark Warner, and as a result has offered no funding for the program this year. The governor has indicated that he will seek a \$74 million inaugural investment for *Start Strong* in FY08, followed by annual increases toward a total appropriation of \$300 million per year.

Also this year, 10 states and the District of Columbia have open races for their chief executives. In these races, with no incumbents to cite a pre-k record, candidates have the opportunity to embrace this popular policy from the start. A number of the candidates in these races are already on record in support of pre-k.

Pre-K Now encourages all this year's candidates to declare their support for this essential program, and we hope, in 2007, to be featuring many more executives as bold leaders in the national movement for high-quality, voluntary pre-k for all.

## Conclusion

Nationwide, pre-k is proving a winning strategy for governors, both in the polls and at them. More importantly, it is a proven strategy for bettering state budgets, public education systems, and children's lives. This year, politically astute and financially and socially responsible governors around the country are tapping growing revenues to establish, expand, and improve high-quality state pre-k programs. A few governors have not yet recognized the broad public support for pre-k, a political miscalculation they may come to regret. Only 10 states still offer no such services, and sadly, the majority of their governors, even while enjoying some of the nation's best fiscal outlooks, have not seen fit to champion pre-k. Each of these states is just one leader – just one visionary governor – away from a brighter future. With this report, Pre-K Now hopes to inspire new, bold leadership to make the promise of pre-k a reality for thousands more children in years to come.

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**Virginia** Gov. Tim Kaine (D)

We know that most of a child's brain develops before the age of five. But nearly all of the money we now spend on education is spent after that point.







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## Governors' State of the State Addresses and FY07 Budget Proposals for Pre-K





This chart documents proposed pre-k investment in governors' budgets in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It compares FY06 final appropriations with governors' recommendations for FY07. In addition, the chart notes if governors mentioned pre-k or early education in their state of the state addresses.







State, Governor, & Proposed Percent Change	State of the State Mentions Pre-K or Early Education	Proposal
<b>Alabama</b> Gov. Bob Riley (R)  <b>32%</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Increased</b> investment in the <i>School Readiness Program</i> from \$3.30 million to \$4.36 million by making permanent last year's \$1.1 million conditional appropriation.
<b>Alaska</b> Gov. Frank Murkowski (R)  <b>0.1%</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Negligibly increased</b> state funding for <i>Head Start</i> from \$6.330 million to \$6.338 million with a cost of living adjustment to maintain the same level of service. Also proposed \$750,000 for the Early Learning Task Force.
<b>Arizona</b> Gov. Janet Napolitano (D)  <b>0%</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Flat funded</b> the <i>Early Childhood State Block Grant</i> , of which school districts spent an estimated \$12 million on pre-k in FY06. Recommended a significant increase of \$105.4 million for full-day kindergarten. Advocates are campaigning for a November 2006 ballot initiative to increase the cigarette tax by \$.80 per pack to fund various early childhood services including pre-k.









State, Governor, & Proposed Percent Change	State of the State Mentions Pre-K or Early Education	Proposal
Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R)	Did not give a state of the state address in 2006	<b>Flat funded</b> the <i>Arkansas Better Chance</i> program at \$71.2 million, the level of the legislature's FY06 appropriation.
 0%		
California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R)	<b>No</b>	<b>Increased</b> the <i>State Preschool Program</i> from \$347 million to \$369 million with cost-of-living and growth adjustments to maintain the current level of service.
 6%		
Colorado Gov. Bill Owens (R)	<b>No</b>	<b>Increased</b> the <i>Preschool Program</i> from \$33.18 million to \$33.95 million.
 2%		
Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell (R)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Increased</b> the <i>School Readiness Initiative</i> from \$62.1 million to \$66.1 million to serve 500 additional children and to make expansion grants available. Also established, by executive order, the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council.
 6%		
Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner (D)	<b>No</b>	<b>Increased</b> the pre-k portion of the <i>Early Childhood Assistance Program</i> from \$5.28 million to \$5.69 million.
 8%		
Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R)	<b>No</b>	<b>Negligibly increased</b> funding for <i>Voluntary Pre-K</i> from \$387 million to \$387.1 million.
 0.04%		






State, Governor, & Proposed Percent Change	State of the State Mentions Pre-K or Early Education	Proposal
<p>Georgia</p> <p>Gov. Sonny Perdue (R)</p>  <p>4%</p>	No	<p><b>Increased</b> funding for the <i>Georgia Pre-K Program</i> from \$290 million to \$302 million which will raise the number of children served by 1,000 to 75,000.</p>
<p>Hawaii</p> <p>Gov. Linda Lingle (R)</p>  <p>0%</p>	No	<p><b>Flat funded</b> the <i>Preschool Open Doors Project</i> at \$8.2 million.</p>
<p>Idaho</p> <p>Gov. Dirk Kempthorne (R)</p>  <p>N/A</p>	No	<p>No state-funded pre-k program or state investment in <i>Head Start</i>. Current state law prohibits Idaho schools from using state funds to provide pre-k. Governor Kempthorne was recently named to a federal cabinet post.</p>
<p>Illinois</p> <p>Gov. Rod Blagojevich (D)</p>  <p>16%</p>	Yes	<p><b>Increased</b> investment in the <i>Prekindergarten Program</i> from \$243.2 million to \$283.2 million. This is the first year of a plan to achieve pre-k for all three and four year olds, adding 32,000 children over the next three years. The Early Childhood Block Grant includes an additional 11 percent (\$5 million per annum) set aside for child development and family support services to at-risk infants and toddlers.</p>
<p>Indiana</p> <p>Gov. Mitch Daniels (R)</p>  <p>N/A</p>	No	<p>No state-funded pre-k program or state investment in <i>Head Start</i>.</p>
<p>Iowa</p> <p>Gov. Tom Vilsack (D)</p>  <p>133%</p>	Yes	<p>Proposed a new initiative, <i>Strong Start</i>, with <b>new funding</b> of \$15 million for voluntary pre-k access. <b>Flat Funded</b> the <i>Shared Visions Preschool</i> program at \$11.27 million.</p>






State, Governor, & Proposed Percent Change	State of the State Mentions Pre-K or Early Education	Proposal
<p>Kansas</p> <p>Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (D)</p>  <p>13%</p>	No	<p>Proposed a new initiative, the <i>Pre-K Pilot</i>, through the Children’s Cabinet with <b>new funding</b> of \$2 million. The pilot will create approximately 600 new spaces and will meet all 10 of the NIEER quality benchmarks. <b>Flat funded</b> the <i>Four-Year-Old At-Risk Preschool Program</i> at \$15.1 million.</p>
<p>Kentucky</p> <p>Gov. Ernie Fletcher (R)</p>  <p>46%</p>	Yes	<p><b>Increased</b> funding for the <i>Kentucky Preschool Program</i> from \$51.6 million to \$75.1 million.</p>
<p>Louisiana</p> <p>Gov. Kathleen Blanco (D)</p>  <p>-3%</p>	Yes	<p><b>Decreased</b> funding for <i>LA4</i> from \$55 million to \$53 million because of reduced population and <b>flat funded</b> the <i>Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development</i> and <i>8(g)</i> programs at \$8.5 million and \$14 million, respectively.</p>
<p>Maine</p> <p>Gov. John Baldacci (D)</p> <p>Funding based on enrollment</p>	Yes	<p><i>Two Year Kindergarten</i> pre-k program investments are part of the school funding formula; FY06 and FY07 figures are not available.</p>
<p>Maryland</p> <p>Gov. Robert Ehrlich (R)</p> <p>Funding based on enrollment</p>	Yes	<p>The <i>Extended Elementary Education Program</i> is being discontinued and funds for pre-k will be included in the school funding formula. Public schools will be required to provide pre-k for all economically disadvantaged children by the 2007-08 school year. <b>Flat funded</b> <i>Head Start</i> at \$3 million.</p>
<p>Massachusetts</p> <p>Gov. Mitt Romney (R)</p>  <p>-2%</p>	No	<p><b>Flat funded</b> the <i>Community Partnerships</i> program at \$68.63 million and <b>decreased</b> state funding for <i>Head Start</i> from \$7.5 million to \$6.2 million.</p>





State, Governor, & Proposed Percent Change	State of the State Mentions Pre-K or Early Education	Proposal
<p>Michigan</p> <p>Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D)</p>  <p>34%</p>	Yes	<p><b>Increased</b> investment in the <i>Michigan School Readiness Program</i> from \$85 million to \$113.7 million, adding 8,000 children.</p>
<p>Minnesota</p> <p>Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R)</p>  <p>2%</p>	Yes	<p><b>Slightly increased</b> investment in the <i>Early Childhood Family Education Program</i> (which includes pre-k) from \$9 million to \$9.02 million and <b>flat funded</b> the <i>Learning Readiness Program</i> at \$19.1 million. <b>Increased</b> state funding of <i>Head Start</i> from \$14.4 million to \$15.1 million.</p>
<p>Mississippi</p> <p>Gov. Haley Barbour (R)</p>  <p>N/A</p>	Yes	<p>No state-funded pre-k program or state investment in <i>Head Start</i>.</p>
<p>Missouri</p> <p>Gov. Matt Blunt (R)</p>  <p>0%</p>	Yes	<p><b>Flat funded</b> the <i>Missouri Preschool Project</i> at \$14.8 million.</p>
<p>Montana</p> <p>Gov. Brian Schweitzer (D)</p>  <p>N/A</p>	<p>Did not give a state of the state address in 2006</p>	<p>No state-funded pre-k program or state investment in <i>Head Start</i>.</p>
<p>Nebraska</p> <p>Gov. Dave Heineman (R)</p>  <p>0%</p>	No	<p><b>Flat funded</b> the <i>Nebraska Early Childhood Grant Programs</i> at \$3.8 million.</p>

State, Governor, & Proposed Percent Change	State of the State Mentions Pre-K or Early Education	Proposal
Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn (R)	Did not give a state of the state address in 2006	<b>Slightly increased</b> funding for the <i>Nevada Early Childhood Education Comprehensive Plan</i> from \$3.03 million to \$3.15 million.
 <b>4%</b>		
New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch (D)	<b>No</b>	No state-funded pre-k program or state investment in <i>Head Start</i> .
 <b>N/A</b>		
New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine (D)	<b>Yes</b> Did not give a state of the state address but mentioned pre-k in his budget address	<b>Increased</b> investment in <i>Abbott Preschools</i> from \$530.7 million to \$552.3 million, <b>flat funded</b> <i>Early Childhood Program Aid</i> at \$30 million, and <b>decreased</b> investment in the <i>Early Launch to Learning Initiative</i> from \$4 million to \$3 million, for an overall increase of \$20.6 million.
 <b>4%</b>		
New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson (D)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Increased</b> investment in <i>New Mexico Pre-K</i> from \$5 million to \$16.4 million.
 <b>228%</b>		
New York Gov. George Pataki (R)	<b>No</b>	<b>Flat funded</b> both the <i>Targeted Pre-K</i> and <i>Universal Pre-K</i> programs at a total of \$251.5 million. After the governor released his budget proposals, the legislature passed a bill featuring a \$50 million increase for pre-k. The governor opted not to veto the increase.
 <b>0%</b>		
North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley (D)	Did not give a state of the state address in 2006	<b>Increased</b> funding for <i>More at Four</i> from \$66.6 million to \$79.1 million. This figure could increase when the expansion budget proposals are released. The current \$10.4 million pre-k investment through local <i>Smart Start</i> partnerships is also likely to be sustained or increased.
 <b>19%</b>		



State, Governor, & Proposed Percent Change	State of the State Mentions Pre-K or Early Education	Proposal
<p>North Dakota</p> <p>Gov. John Hoeven (R)</p>	<p>Did not give a state of the state address in 2006</p>	<p>No state-funded pre-k program or state investment in <i>Head Start</i>.</p>
<p> N/A</p>		
<p>Ohio</p> <p>Gov. Bob Taft (R)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p><b>Flat funded</b> <i>Early Childhood Education</i> at \$19 million. Transferred federal TANF funds to the <i>Early Learning Initiative</i>, increasing total program funding from \$106.5 million to \$127.4 million.</p>
<p> 0%</p>		
<p>Oklahoma</p> <p>Gov. Brad Henry (D)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><i>Early Childhood 4-Year-Old Program</i> investments are part of the school funding formula; FY06 and FY07 figures are not available. <b>Flat funded</b> <i>Head Start</i> at \$3.5 million.</p>
<p>Funding based on enrollment</p>		
<p>Oregon</p> <p>Gov. Ted Kulongoski (D)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>Flat funded</b> <i>Head Start Pre-Kindergarten Program</i> at \$27.7 million across both years of the biennium budget.</p>
<p> 0%</p>		
<p>Pennsylvania</p> <p>Gov. Ed Rendell (D)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>Increased</b> state investment in <i>Head Start</i> from \$30 million to \$45 million to serve 1,540 new children. Also increased funding for <i>Accountability Grants</i> from \$200 million to \$250 million. <i>Accountability Grants</i> are available for a variety of educational programs including pre-k.</p>
<p> 50%</p>		
<p>Rhode Island</p> <p>Gov. Don Carcieri (R)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No state-funded pre-k program.</p>
<p> N/A</p>		

State, Governor, & Proposed Percent Change	State of the State Mentions Pre-K or Early Education	Proposal
<p>South Carolina</p> <p>Gov. Mark Sanford (R)</p>  <p>3%</p>	Yes	<p><b>Slightly increased</b> investment in the <i>Half-Day Child Development Program (4K)</i> from \$21.8 million to \$22.5 million. Additional funding through <i>First Steps</i> can be added to 4K through decisions made by local planning boards. This additional funding totaled \$4.6 million in FY05.</p>
<p>South Dakota</p> <p>Gov. Mike Rounds (R)</p>  <p>N/A</p>	No	<p>No state-funded pre-k program or state investment in <i>Head Start</i>. The governor has proposed the <i>Starting Strong</i> pre-k program for four year olds not already served by <i>Head Start</i> or Title 1. His plan is to seek legislative approval for this program in FY08 and begin funding in FY09.</p>
<p>Tennessee</p> <p>Gov. Phil Bredesen (D)</p>  <p>57%</p>	Yes	<p><b>Increased</b> funding for the <i>Early Childhood Education and Parent Involvement Program</i> from \$35 million to \$55 million to add 250 new classrooms.</p>
<p>Texas</p> <p>Gov. Rick Perry (R)</p>  <p>0%</p>	<p>Did not give a state of the state address in 2006</p>	<p><b>Flat funded</b> the <i>Public School Pre-Kindergarten Program</i>.</p>
<p>Utah</p> <p>Gov. Jon Huntsman (R)</p>  <p>N/A</p>	No	<p>No state-funded pre-k program or state investment in <i>Head Start</i>.</p>
<p>Vermont</p> <p>Gov. James Douglas (R)</p> <p>Funding based on enrollment</p>	Yes	<p>Pre-k investments are part of the school funding formula; FY06 and FY07 figures are not available.</p>

State, Governor, & Proposed Percent Change	State of the State Mentions Pre-K or Early Education	Proposal
<p>Virginia</p> <p>Gov. Tim Kaine (D)</p>  <p>20%</p>	Yes	<p>Governor Kaine inherits a biennium budget from his predecessor. The budget of the previous governor, Mark Warner, will <b>increase</b> the actual expenditures from \$38.5 million to \$46.3 million.</p>
<p>Washington</p> <p>Gov. Christine Gregoire (D)</p>  <p>8%</p>	Yes	<p><b>Increased</b> investment in the <i>Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program</i> from \$28.8 million to \$31.1 million.</p>
<p>West Virginia</p> <p>Gov. Joe Manchin (D)</p> <p>Funding based on enrollment</p>	No	<p><i>Public School Early Childhood Education Program</i> investments are part of the school funding formula; FY06 and FY07 figures are not available.</p>
<p>Wisconsin</p> <p>Gov. Jim Doyle (D)</p> <p>Funding based on enrollment</p>	Yes	<p><i>4-Year-Old Kindergarten investments</i> are part of the school funding formula; FY06 and FY07 figures are not available.</p>
<p>Wyoming</p> <p>Gov. Dave Freudenthal (D)</p>  <p>N/A</p>	Yes	<p>No state-funded pre-k program or state investment in <i>Head Start</i>.</p>
<p>Washington, DC</p> <p>Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D)</p>  <p>5%</p>	<p>Has not yet given a state of the District address in 2006</p>	<p><b>Increased</b> investment from \$44 million to \$46 million. Pre-k investments are part of the school funding formula and the Department of Human Services Office of Early Childhood Development.</p>

## Endnotes

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## Acknowledgements

This report was researched by L. Carol Scott and written by Jennifer V. Doctors for Pre-K Now.

Pre-K Now thanks the following individuals for their contributions to this report: Jesse Bailey, Libby Doggett, Ph.D., DeDe Dunevant, Danielle Gonzales, Don Owens, Stephanie Rubin, J.D., and Larrisa Wilkinson, as well as state advocates, budget officers, and department of education personnel for their assistance in compiling the data.

Pre-K Now is a project of The Pew Charitable Trusts and other funders to advance high-quality pre-k for all children. The findings and opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Trusts.

## Pre-K Now at a Glance

### **Mission**

Pre-K Now collaborates with advocates and policymakers to lead a movement for high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three and four year olds.

### **Vision**

Pre-K Now's vision is a nation in which every child enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.

### **Location**

Washington, DC

### **Leadership**

Libby Doggett, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

### **Media Contact**

Don Owens  
Senior Communications Manager  
dowens@preknow.org  
202.862.9863 voice  
202.302.5928 mobile

### **Funders**

The Pew Charitable Trusts  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
CityBridge Foundation  
The Schumann Fund for New Jersey

### **Pre-K Now Key Differentiators**

- Focuses exclusively on pre-k
- Provides the most up-to-date gauge of the pre-k pulse in any state
- Offers nationwide access to pre-k advocates
- Monitors and distributes daily pre-k newsclips
- Provides a national perspective on local pre-k issues
- Provides outreach, policy, and Spanish-language information targeted to the Latino community
- Leads a national movement which has gained significant momentum in the last five years

### **The Case for Pre-K**

- Pre-k benefits all children academically, socially, and emotionally.
- High-quality pre-k for all nets a high return on investment in children and the community.
- The most important brain development occurs by age five.
- Pre-k is the first step to improving K-12 education.



Pre-K Now

1025 F Street, NW  
Suite 900  
Washington, DC  
20004

202.862.9871 voice  
202.862.9870 fax

[www.preknow.org](http://www.preknow.org)

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