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GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES \$10.4 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT 3-YEAR-OLD PRE-K IN 25 HIGH-NEED SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Funding Will Allow More Than 1,500 Children to Enroll in High-Quality Pre-K

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced \$10.4 million has been awarded to 25 high-need school districts to increase access to quality pre-kindergarten for more than 1,500 three-year-old students across New York. As included in the Governor's [2016 Built to Lead Agenda](#), this funding aims to support the expansion of pre-k as part of the State's ongoing efforts to promote early education, specifically in high-need districts, and improve the academic future for all students.

"Every child deserves a fair shot at a high-quality education," **Governor Cuomo said.** "This funding will help level the academic playing field for children in these underprivileged communities, giving them opportunity to succeed, thrive and ultimately lead in New York."

Funding was awarded to school districts based on the quality of the application and other factors, including district and student need, efforts to target the highest need students, and efforts to maximize total number of children served in pre-kindergarten programs.

"Research shows that as much as half of the achievement gap is already established before students enter first grade," **said Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa.** "Investing in high-quality prekindergarten programs can narrow the achievement gap between low-income and affluent youth and have a positive long-term impact on children's lives. Giving our children a quality head start is simply the right thing to do."

"We know that prekindergarten makes a huge difference in preparing children for school," **said State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia.** "High-quality prekindergarten programs, especially those that provide full-day services and serve low-income or high need students, help those students stay on track to graduate from high school and, over the long term, significantly reduce costs for remedial education, social services, health and criminal justice programs."

Funding awarded by district is included below:

District	Award
Addison Central School District	\$310,040
Auburn City School District	\$820,384
Bath Central School District	\$306,161
Beekmantown Central School District	\$213,408
Canajoharie Central School District	\$150,475
Chateaugay Central School District	\$176,000
Cohoes City School District	\$263,147
Copenhagen Central School District	\$144,000
Dansville Central School District	\$198,487
Dunkirk City School District	\$692,168
Fillmore Central School District	\$211,782
Genesee Valley Central School District	\$203,065
Jordan-Elbridge Central School District	\$510,912
Lackawanna City School District	\$583,859
Lansingburgh Central School District	\$126,369
Middleburgh Central School District	\$125,303
Monticello Central School District	\$248,982
Odessa-Montour Central School District	\$266,217
Penn Yan Central School District	\$216,000
Rome City School District	\$1,147,527
Sodus Central School District	\$179,665
Syracuse City School District	\$1,245,461
Watertown Central School District	\$1,075,968
Whitney Point Central School District	\$453,438
Yonkers City School District	\$492,592
Total	\$10,361,410

Since 2011, Governor Cuomo has more than doubled the State's commitment to early childhood education to improve the academic future of young people across New York. Early learning can bridge achievement gaps and provide benefits in the earliest stages of youth and throughout adulthood. Studies from the National Institute for Early Education Research show that children who participate in high quality early childhood education programs have higher cognitive test scores from the toddler years to age 21, higher academic achievement in both reading and math, and are more likely to attend a four-year college and be gainfully employed.