

New York State Education Department Office of P-12 Education
Office of Early Learning Newsletter

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**GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES \$15 MILLION
TO SUPPORT PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS STATEWIDE**

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced \$15 million has been awarded to 32 high-need school districts to increase access to high-quality prekindergarten for over 2,000 three- and four-year-old children across New York State (NYS). This funding will support the expansion of prekindergarten to high-need or underserved districts as part of the State's ongoing efforts to promote early education and improve the academic future for all students. Nine districts have been awarded prekindergarten for the first time: Candor, Deruyter, Duanesburg, Gananda, Geneseo, Niagara-Wheatfield, Sackets Harbor, Westport, and York. For the complete list of tentative awardees, please visit [NYSED's Funding Opportunities webpage](#).

**NYS Board of Regents Early Childhood Workgroup's
Blue Ribbon Committee Final Recommendations**

The NYS Board of Regents is engaged in an effort to better align the State's early care, preschool and early childhood educational policies and create a comprehensive plan to ensure that all children in NYS get a healthy start from birth, become ready for kindergarten, stay on track to graduate from high school, and are successful in life. To this end, in 2017, the Board of Regents Early Childhood Workgroup established a Blue Ribbon Committee of over 60 national and state experts who have developed recommendations to address early care and education in NYS.

The overarching vision of the NYS Board of Regents Early Childhood Work Group's Blue Ribbon Committee is to transform the birth to age eight early care and education system in the State of New York. The Committee envisions a New York where ALL CHILDREN thrive from birth, flourish in preschool, enter the school age program on a trajectory of success, and are academically proficient in third grade by growing up healthy and having opportunities for high-quality early learning experiences that are culturally, linguistically and developmentally appropriate.

The following Report, under the direction of the New York State Board of Regents Early Childhood Workgroup, reflects a deliberate and comprehensive process designed to give all children in our state the fairness of an even start. [ECBRC Final Report 2018 \(pdf\)](#)

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OEL UPDATE

The Office of Early Learning closed out 2018 with farewells to both Betsy Kenney & Lynnette Pannucci as they embrace retirement. We thank them for their service and dedication and wish them well on the exciting adventures that lie ahead!

Culturally Responsive Instruction

The American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association and the First Amendment Center have collaborated on how religious holidays and traditions should be treated in the classroom:



- Have an approach that is academic rather than devotional.
- Focus on awareness of religions rather than acceptance of any one religion.
- Sponsor study about religion rather than the practice of religion.
- Expose students to a diversity of religious views rather than imposing any particular view.
- Educate about all religions rather than promoting or denigrating any religion.
- Inform students about various beliefs rather than conforming students to any particular belief.

For more information, see Colorín Colorado's [Culturally Responsive Instruction for Holiday and Religious Celebrations](#).

At a Glance Next Generation ELA Standards Documents

The *Next Generation ELA Standards at a Glance* Documents provide an overview of the progression of standards across grade levels (PK-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12). The NYS Education Department created these documents to support curriculum development, instructional design, and to further stakeholders' understanding of the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards. With these resources, educators and families can efficiently view the standards that precede and follow a grade level. Please see the chart below as an example:

Key Ideas and Details

PK	K	1	2
PKR1: Participate in discussions about a text.	KR1: Develop and answer questions about a text.	1R1: Develop and answer questions about key ideas and details in a text.	2R1: Develop and answer questions to demonstrate an understanding of key ideas and details in a text.
PKR2: Retell stories or share information from a text.	KR2: Retell stories or share key details from a text.	1R2: Identify a main topic or central idea in a text and retell important details.	2R2: Identify a main topic or central idea and retell key details in a text; summarize portions of a text.
PKR3: Develop and answer questions about characters, major events, and pieces of information in a text.	KR3: Identify characters, settings, major events in a story, or pieces of information in a text.	1R3: Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, or pieces of information in a text.	2R3: In literary texts, describe how characters respond to major events and challenges. In informational texts, describe the connections among ideas, concepts, or a series of events.

The grade-level introductions are easily accessible via the [Curriculum & Instruction website](#). Please note that each grade-level introduction includes the range of reading experiences and text complexity expectations for that grade.

Special Education Guidance Available



In conjunction with the NYSED's Office of Special Education Preschool Policy Unit, the Office of Early Learning (OEL) developed a guide to assist parents, educators and providers in the navigation of the special education system for children from birth to third grade. It includes an overview of the Early Intervention Program (EIP) and programs and services available to preschool children and school age students with disabilities in New York State. This resource can be downloaded by visiting our website and clicking on the pdf document titled [A Resource to Special Education Support Services](#).

Family Tip Sheets

OEL has been developing a series of tip sheets that districts and agencies can send home to families. The first five in the series are available and cover the following topics: Getting Ready for School (that incorporates Health/Nutrition practices); Play; Talking with Your Child; Reading; and Simple Science. These tip sheets can be found on the [OEL Parent Resources webpage](#).

Future tip sheets are being developed on feelings, math, transitions, writing and the importance of spending time outdoors.

Training Opportunities

Train the Trainer: Positive Solutions for Families

Supporting families is an essential part of the Pyramid Model. A series of six modules, called Positive Solutions for Families, has been developed to help parents to promote positive and effective parenting behaviors to in turn promote children's social and emotional development and address the challenging behavior and mental health needs of their children. This one-day workshop provides an overview of Positive Solutions for Families. Participants will learn about, discuss and practice all components within the six modules. After attending, participants will be able to conduct the six modules with parents in their program.

Trainer: Deb Collette- Comp

Location: Turning Stone Resort and Casino

Date/Time: April 4, 2019 from 9:00-4:00pm

Participants MUST have attended parts 1 and 2 of the Pyramid Training to attend and will be asked to show a certificate or record of attendance. Please send proof of attendance to Rebecca.Stahl@nysed.gov. Registration is limited to 30 participants, there will be a waitlist. Please register on the [Event Brite website](#). For additional information and questions, send an e-mail to Rebecca.Stahl@nysed.gov. *Please note that this training is separate from the NYAEYC conference, which will require a different registration. Please go to the [NYAEYC Conference Website](#) for more details.*

Introduction to Coaching Early Childhood Professionals

In this 2-day professional development session, participants will learn what makes coaching such an effective professional development strategy. They will learn coaching strategies to support the professional development of individuals at their site. This training is grounded in the NYS Coaching Competencies and builds on Practice-Based Coaching. It prepares individuals to support professional growth in the practices described in the NYS Core Body of Knowledge: Core Competencies for Early Childhood Educators. It is aligned with the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social and Emotional Growth. This training provides you with the background knowledge and skills that support you in obtaining the NYAEYC Training and Technical Assistance Coach Designation.

Trainer: Tami Callister

Location: Turning Stone Resort and Casino

Dates/Times: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 10:00am-5:00pm and Thursday, April 4, 2019, 9:00am-4:00pm

[Introduction to Coaching Early Childhood Professionals Registration Link](#)

Please note that this training is separate from the NYAEYC conference, which will require a different registration. Please go to the [NYAEYC Conference Website](#) for more details.

Physical Activity and Nutrition Early Care and Education Training of Trainers (TOT) program

Most young children spend time outside of their home, making the early care and education (ECE) setting an ideal place to reach young children and encourage good nutrition and physical activity. Implementing nutrition and physical activity best practices into the ECE setting can support healthy eating and quality physical activity while improving facility-level policies, practices, and environments and can directly influence what young children eat and drink and their participation in physical activity while in care.

In response, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is pleased to offer the **Physical Activity and Nutrition Early Care and Education Training of Trainers (TOT) program** to develop a cadre of master trainers! These master trainers will be expected to be our state's leaders in promoting physical activity and nutrition standards for infants, toddlers and preschoolers to staff at ECE settings.

What's the TOT program?

The TOT program will be kicked off with a two-day, in-person training in Albany, NY in March 2019. Participants will learn strategies and tools to implement and integrate physical activity and nutrition standards into the ECE setting. Participants will go on to receive on-going technical assistance through follow-up monthly coaching calls (virtual) from April – September 2019. The master trainers will be expected to apply content from the TOT into at least one Physical Activity (PA) and one Nutrition training, integrate PA and Nutrition content into existing ECE trainings, and/or assist providers to integrate PA and Nutrition into their standards by September 29, 2019.

Who should participate?

Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) staff and IT Specialists,
Head Start and YMCA staff,
NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) licensors,
QUALITYstarsNY Quality Improvement Specialists,
Trainers from three-year-old Pre-K and Pre-K programs, and
Child care program trainers, staff and providers

What's the time commitment?

a) Attend two-day in-person training:

Day 1: Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 10:00 am - 5:30 pm

Strategies for implementing and integrating physical activity standards into ECE settings with Diane Craft, PhD

Day 2: Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Strategies for implementing and integrating nutrition standards into ECE settings with Dana Youkilis, MS, RDN

Location:

Hilton Garden Inn Albany Medical Center - 62 New Scotland Ave, Albany, NY 12208

b) Participate in monthly coaching calls following the training, which includes one 60-minute virtual session per month from April – September 2019.

How much does it cost?

There is **no cost** for attending the two- day, in-person training and reimbursement will be provided for travel (transportation or mileage), hotel (one night on 3/26, lodging on 3/25 may be considered for driving distances over 4 hours pending availability of funds) and meals (breakfast and dinner). There is also no cost for the on-going monthly coaching calls.

I'm interested. How do I apply?

Please complete the following requirements by **January 30, 2019**:

1. Complete the short application on [Survey Monkey](#) – this should take 10-15 minutes.
2. Send an e-mail to Theresa.Cohen@health.ny.gov to request an *Applicant and Employer Agreement* form.

For questions and additional information, please contact:

Theresa A. Cohen, Nutrition Coordinator, State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program

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