



ECAC Membership Meeting
March 19, 2026



**Early Childhood
Advisory Council**

Welcome

New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

March 19, 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: The Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY, Meeting Rooms 2-3

Agenda Item	Topic	Presenters	Time
Welcome & Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • NYS Early Childhood Leadership & Policy Summit, May 18-19, Albany • Vaccine Guidance for Young Children - Nathan Graber, NYS Department of Health • Strong Starts Court Initiative Update - Kelly Dodd, United Way of New York State (ECAC Representative) • ECAC Statute Review - Elana Marton, NYS Council on Children & Families 	Patty Persell & Dona Anderson	10:30 am - 11:00 am
Governor's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Budget Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Peter Hatch, Deputy Secretary for Human Services & Mental Hygiene, Office of the Governor o Avery Cohen, Assistant Secretary for Human Services & Mental Hygiene, Office of the Governor 	Peter Hatch & Avery Cohen	11:00 am - 11:15 am
State Agency Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Education Department, Office of Early Learning • NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services • NYS Department of State, Office of New Americans • NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Early Intervention 	Erik Sweet Nora Yates Laura Gonzalez-Murphy Ray Pierce	11:15 am - 12:00 pm
Advocacy Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Advocacy Updates 	Brigit Hurley	12:00 pm - 12:15 pm
<p>Networking Lunch on your own 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm</p> <p>Quick Field Trip to The Empire State Museum (located at the end of the Empire Plaza)</p> <p>Fashion & Faith: Hats of the Great Migration – Stephanie Woodard will give a guided tour to those interested</p>			
Committee Worktime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop 2026 Recommendations List • Use ECAC Recommendation Screener Tool 	Committee Co-Leads	1:15 pm - 2:45 pm
Committee Report Outs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees with recommendation topics to share will present to the full ECAC for reflections and discussion 	Committee Co-Leads	2:45 pm - 3:15 pm
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps • Closing Remarks 	Dona Anderson & Patty Persell	3:15 pm - 3:30 pm



**Early Childhood
Advisory Council**

Thank you for your ECAC service!

- **Kelvin Chan, Black Family Philanthropies**

Early Childhood Summit for Policymakers

- Generated by the NY State Team from the Hunt Institute.
- Funded by the NYS PDGB5 grant.
- CCF formed a small steering committee with state agency commissioners and legislators to plan a summit for shared learning.
- Moving policymakers to a new level of understanding.
- ECAC represented by Dona, Patty, and Dede (who is on the Hunt Institute's NY State Team).
- Some ECAC members may be called on to share on a particular topic.

Vaccine Guidance for Young Children

**Dr. Nathan Graber
NYS Department of Health**





**Department
of Health**

Vaccine Confidence

- **Nathan Graber, MD, MPH**

- **3/19/2026 Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting Albany, NY**

**Most parents vaccinate their
children following their
pediatricians' recommendations**



Department
of Health

THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINES

• Vaccines enable children to engage in activities crucial to their development, such as attending school and participating in sports.



What do vaccines do?

- Protect health of vaccinated and others around who may not be able to be vaccinated.
- Control the spread of illness
- Greatly reduce symptoms and likelihood of complications if person contracts illness
- In the past 50 years, on average, six lives every minute of every day have been saved by vaccines.

SCHOOL VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

School Immunization Requirements

"All kids going to public, private and religious schools, pre-K and day care, must get all required vaccinations unless they have a valid medical exemption"

Within 14 days of the first day of school or day care, parents must:

Show proof of their child's up-to-date vaccinations, OR

Provide a valid medical exemption from vaccination.

In order to attend or remain in school or day care, children who are unvaccinated or overdue must receive at least the first dose of all required vaccines within the first 14 days. They also must receive subsequent vaccines in the series within a 14-day period of when they are due to complete the immunization series.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Schools Page: health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools
2025-26 School Year New York State Immunization Requirements for
School Entrance/Attendance: health.ny.gov/publications/2370n.pdf
Spanish: health.ny.gov/publications/2405n.pdf
Arabic: health.ny.gov/publications/2497.pdf
Bengali: health.ny.gov/publications/2498.pdf
Burmese: health.ny.gov/publications/17387.pdf
Chinese: health.ny.gov/publications/2491.pdf
French: health.ny.gov/publications/17378.pdf
Haitian Creole: health.ny.gov/publications/2492.pdf
Hindi: health.ny.gov/publications/17388.pdf
Italian: health.ny.gov/publications/2493.pdf
Japanese: health.ny.gov/publications/17389.pdf
Korean: health.ny.gov/publications/2494.pdf
Nepali: health.ny.gov/publications/17390.pdf
Polish: health.ny.gov/publications/17093.pdf
Russian: health.ny.gov/publications/2495.pdf
Urdu: health.ny.gov/publications/17385.pdf
Yiddish: health.ny.gov/publications/17092.pdf



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MULTIPLE VACCINES ON SAME DAY

- Scientific data show that receiving several vaccines at the same time is safe
- All required vaccines can be received on the same day, including live vaccines
- CDC Safety, Multiple Vaccines at Once: [cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/about/multiples.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/about/multiples.html)



OPINION POLL ON CDC SCHEDULE CHANGES

[KFF Tracking Poll on Health Information and Trust: Trust in the CDC and Views of Federal Childhood Vaccine Schedule Changes \(2/6/26\)](#):

Key takeaways:

- **Half the public have heard about the changes to the federal childhood vaccine schedule.**
- **More say they expect the changes will hurt children than help them (54% vs. 26%).**
- **Public trust in the CDC on vaccine information remains at its lowest point**
- **Fewer than half of adults say they trust the agency at least a fair amount,**
- **Public and parental confidence in the safety of the MMR and polio vaccines remains high for most people. But fewer are confident in the safety of the vaccines that are no longer universally recommended.**



Department
of Health

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONFIRMS THAT CHILDHOOD VACCINATION POLICIES REMAIN UNCHANGED

New York State Maintaining Existing Policies

ALBANY, N.Y. (January 6, 2026) - **The New York State Department of Health today confirmed that New York State's existing childhood vaccination policies, including school immunization requirements, remain unchanged** at this time following a recent federal announcement revising routine childhood immunization recommendations.

There is no change to vaccine access, insurance coverage, liability protections or the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, which continues to provide vaccines at no cost to eligible children.

"Despite changes announced at the federal level, New York State's long-standing, childhood vaccine requirements remain the same," **State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said**. "There was no new science, safety data or discovery presented by the federal government. New Yorkers can continue to be confident that vaccines offer the best protection from preventable childhood diseases."

Health care providers in New York State should continue their existing, evidence-based immunization practices.

The Department remains committed to ensuring widespread access to vaccines and will continue to monitor federal actions and provide clear, timely guidance to health care providers and the public as appropriate.

JOINT STATEMENT NYS/NYC



JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH
Commissioner



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Michelle Morse, MD, MPH
Acting Health Commissioner

January 28, 2026

Dear Colleague:

On Monday, January 26, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published the **Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule: United States, 2026**. This evidence based schedule recommends routine immunization for protection against **18 diseases**, including RSV, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, rotavirus, influenza, and meningococcal disease.

The New York State Department of Health and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) endorse the 2026 AAP immunization schedule and encourage its use in daily practice.

- **Providers** can access the AAP schedule at <https://aap.org/ImmunizationSchedule>.
- **Families** can find information and schedules at <https://healthychildren.org/immunizationschedules>.
- There are no changes to New York State and New York City school immunization requirements and related policies, vaccine access, insurance coverage, or the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC).

While the 2026 AAP recommendations remain largely consistent with prior AAP guidance issued in August 2025, they differ from the recently updated immunization schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Recent changes to the CDC immunization schedule depart from longstanding scientific evidence and are unfounded and unreliable. By contrast, the AAP childhood and adolescent immunization schedules continue to recommend immunizations based on rigorous research and the specific disease risks and health care delivery context in the U.S.

The AAP schedule has been formally endorsed by 12 leading medical and healthcare organizations: American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM), American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), American Medical Association (AMA), American Pharmacists Association (APhA), Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP), National Medical Association (NMA), Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS), Pediatric Pharmacy Association (PPA), and Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM).

New York's immunization policies are based on peer reviewed research and public health expertise, ensuring the best protection against preventable diseases for children, families, and communities. By endorsing the AAP schedule, we reaffirm our commitment to these principles. We appreciate your continued partnership in safeguarding the health and well-being of New York's children.

Sincerely,

James V. McDonald, M.D., M.P.H.
New York State Health Commissioner

Michelle Morse, M.D., M.P.H.
New York City Health Commissioner

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONFIRMS THAT CHILDHOOD VACCINATION POLICIES REMAIN UNCHANGED

Albany, N.Y. (January 29, 2026)

**New York State and New York City Health Departments Endorse 2026
American Academy of Pediatrics Recommended Childhood and
Adolescent Immunization Schedule**

**American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Science-Based
Recommendations Protect Children Against Preventable Diseases**

Vaccines Continue to be Covered by Insurance

**New York State and New York City School Immunization Requirements
Remain Unchanged**

AAP SCHEDULE

Table 1 Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger, United States, 2026

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

These recommendations must be read with the Notes that follow. For those who fall behind or start late, provide catch-up vaccination at the earliest opportunity as indicated by the outlined purple bars. To determine minimum intervals between doses, see the catch-up schedule (Table 2).

Vaccine and other immunizing agents	Birth	1 mos	2 mos	4 mos	6 mos	8 mos	9 mos	12 mos	15 mos	18 mos	19–23 mos	2–3 yrs	4–6 yrs	7–10 yrs	11–12 yrs	13–15 yrs	16 yrs	17–18 yrs	
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV-mAb [nirsevimab, clesrovimab])	1 dose during RSV season depending on maternal RSV vaccination status (See Notes)			1 dose nirsevimab during RSV season (See Notes)															
Hepatitis B (HepB)	1 st dose	2 nd dose		3 rd dose															
Rotavirus (RV): RV1 (2-dose series), RV5 (3-dose series)		1 st dose	2 nd dose	See Notes															
Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (DTaP <7 yrs)		1 st dose	2 nd dose	3 rd dose		4 th dose				5 th dose									
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)		1 st dose	2 nd dose	See Notes		3 rd or 4 th dose (See Notes)													
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV15, PCV20)		1 st dose	2 nd dose	3 rd dose		4 th dose													
Inactivated poliovirus (IPV)		1 st dose	2 nd dose	3 rd dose							4 th dose		See Notes						
COVID-19 (1vCOV-mRNA, 1vCOV-aPS)	1 or more doses of 2025–2026 vaccine (See Notes)											1 or more doses of 2025–2026 vaccine (See Notes)							
Influenza	1 or 2 doses annually (See Notes)											1 dose annually (See Notes)							
Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)	See Notes					1 st dose				2 nd dose									
Varicella (VAR)	1 st dose									2 nd dose									
Hepatitis A (HepA)	See Notes					2-dose series (See Notes)													
Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap ≥7 yrs)												1 dose							
Human papillomavirus (HPV)												2-dose series		See Notes					
Meningococcal (MenACWY-CRM ≥2 mos, MenACWY-TT ≥2years)	See Notes											1 st dose		2 nd dose					
Meningococcal B (MenB-4C, MenB-FHbp)												See Notes							
Respiratory syncytial virus vaccine (RSV [Abrysvo])												Seasonal administration during pregnancy if not previously vaccinated							
Dengue (DEN4CYD: 9–16 yrs)												Seropositive in areas with endemic dengue (See Notes)							
Mpox																			



<https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf>

- Range of recommended ages for all children
- Range of recommended ages for catch-up vaccination
- Range of recommended ages for certain high-risk groups or populations
- Recommended vaccination for those who desire protection
- Recommended vaccination based on shared clinical decision-making

LATEST VACCINE UPDATE

STATEMENT FROM STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER DR. JAMES McDONALD ON FEDERAL JUDGE'S RULING IN AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS V. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES CASE

ALBANY, N.Y. (March 16, 2026) – “It is encouraging to see the court acknowledge the flaws of the hastily formed Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and their lack of expertise in vaccines.

“The New York State Department of Health remains committed to rigorous science and medicine, which confirms that our currently recommended vaccines provide the best protection against preventable diseases.”

COMMUNICATING THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATION

- Reach out to all parents/guardians encouraging them to keep their children up to date on their vaccines
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed resources that schools can use for this purpose
- Consider including some of these resources in electronic newsletters or emails to parents/guardians

Newsletter Template

Use this suggested language in emails or digital communications with parents. Include the [resources for parents](#) above to educate parents about the importance of childhood immunizations.

Stay on track with your child's vaccinations

As a parent, you want to keep your children safe. Routine childhood vaccinations are an important way to ensure that your child and community remain healthy and protected against serious diseases, like measles and whooping cough.

[YOUR ORGANIZATION] encourages parents to make sure children are up to date on routinely recommended vaccines. Well-child visits and check-ups are essential for routine vaccination.

You can also review the [2023 easy-to-read immunization schedule](#) recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If you're pregnant, now is a great time to find a doctor for your baby and schedule a visit to discuss any questions you have about vaccines.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/childhood/stayingontrack.html>



Department of Health

How Early Care and Education Can Help Children Keep Their Vaccinations Up-to-Date: A TOOLKIT FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROVIDERS

March 2024



CATCH UP ON CHECKUPS AND ROUTINE VACCINES

As your family gets back to routines, it's important for your child to catch up on checkups and recommended vaccines to help protect their health now and in the future.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends children stay on track with routine vaccinations to help protect them from serious diseases like measles and whooping cough.

WELL-CHILD CHECKUPS ARE ESSENTIAL

- The doctor tracks your child's growth and development
- You can ask the doctor questions about your child's health
- Your child gets recommended vaccinations

VACCINATION HELPS PROTECT YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

- Routine vaccinations during childhood help prevent 14 diseases
- Among children born from 1994-2018, vaccinations will prevent an estimated 936,000 early deaths, 8 million hospitalizations, and 419 million illnesses

Help protect your child's health by keeping them on track with recommended vaccinations.
Have questions about vaccines? Talk to your child's doctor.
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/routine

Keeps It That Way

CDC's Childhood Vaccination Communication Effort

Overview

Keeping up to date with vaccines is one of the best ways to protect children from serious diseases. Routine childhood vaccination in the United States has been very successful in preventing illness and death. Serious diseases such as diphtheria, mumps, and rubella, once common at young ages, are now practically unheard of. **Let's keep it that way.**

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends children keep up to date on their childhood vaccinations and well-child visits. This helps children stay healthy for school, childcare, and beyond.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created the "Keeps It That Way" communication effort to raise awareness about vaccine-preventable diseases. It invites parents to learn more about the diseases and the protection vaccines can provide to children's health. This effort is informed by feedback from parents and caregivers of young children representative of the general public, including those living in rural areas.

"Keeps It That Way" creatively educates about the diseases, provides information on symptoms and complications, and encourages parents and caregivers to talk to their child's healthcare provider and keep their child up to date on all recommended vaccines. This effort will reach parents and caregivers through jurisdictional and partner promotion, traditional media, social media, and digital paid media.*

* Digital paid media geographic: July - September 2024: Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.



Sample Social Media and Downloadable Posters
Customizable, unbranded materials are available for partners and jurisdictions. Email cdc@keepsitthatway.gov.

Learn more about "Keeps It That Way."



He thinks "Measles" is a cartoon character.

Childhood vaccinations keep it that way

LET'S RISE TOOLKITS FOR ROUTINE IMMUNIZATIONS | PHF

Take Action to Get Routine Vaccinations Back on Track



Evidence-based Strategies and Resources to Increase Routine Vaccination Rates and Confidence

This toolkit supports healthcare providers such as pediatricians, family medicine physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and others.

[Download](#)



Ways Schools Can Support Routine Vaccination Catch-Up Among School-Aged Children

This toolkit supports educational professionals such as superintendents, school administrators, school nurses, and *all* school health staff.

[Download](#)



How Early Care and Education Can Help Children Keep Their Vaccinations Up-to-Date

This toolkit supports early care and education providers across various settings, including center-based childcare, family childcare, Head Start, or other early learning, early intervention, and preschool/pre-kindergarten programs delivered in schools, homes, or other settings.

[Download](#)



Department
of Health

ALL ABOUT THE AAP RECOMMENDED IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE - HEALTHYCHILDREN.ORG

All About the AAP Recommended Immunization Schedule

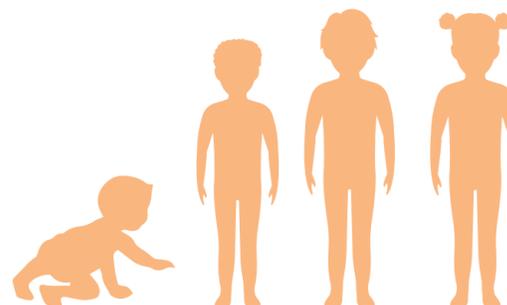
Your pediatrician cares about your child's health and development. To help keep kids healthy, they follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule.



You can view and download the 2026 AAP vaccine recommendations by age here:

- Birth through 6 years
- 7 through 18 years

Childhood Immunization Discussion Guides



NEW PARENT COURSE
Protecting Your Child: The Complete Guide to Childhood Immunizations
 healthychildren.org

For New Parents | The Complete Guide to Childhood Vaccinations...
 American Academy of Pediatrics
 6 videos Last updated on Feb 18, 2025

Play Comments

Why do babies and children need vaccines to

NEW PARENT COURSE
Protecting Your Child: The Complete Guide to Childhood Immunizations
 healthychildren.org 0:27

1 Introduction to Protecting Your Child: The Complete Childhood Vaccinations | AAP

LESSON 1
Childhood Immunization Schedule for Ages 0-6
 healthychildren.org 10:36

2 Childhood Immunization Schedule for Ages 0-6 | AAP

LESSON 2
Myths vs. Facts on Childhood Immunizations
 healthychildren.org 6:48

3 Myths vs. Facts on Childhood Immunizations | Lesson 2 | AAP

LESSON 3
How Do Vaccines Work?
 healthychildren.org

4 How Do Vaccines Work? | Lesson 3 | AAP

Follow Pediatricians for Trustworthy Content on Children's Health

As you read up on things that affect your child's health, you may come across false rumors or outdated ideas—especially on the internet and social media. It's important to find trustworthy, up-to-date information. That can be hard when the internet and social media can elevate falsehoods and products that claim to improve kids' health. Pediatricians, on the other hand, chose their demanding profession because they care deeply about children and families.

Tap here for a printable version of this list.



Dr. Tanya Altmann, MD, FAAP
 Pediatrician in California

- @drtanyasaltmann
- @DrTanyaAltmann
- @drtanyasaltmann



Dr. Edith Bracho-Sanchez, MD, FAAP
 Primary Care Pediatrician in New York

- @doctora_edith
- Healthy Children Podcast



Dr. Ari Brown, MD, FAAP
 Pediatrician in Texas

- @aribrownmd
- @baby41book
- @aribrownmd



Dr. Scott Hadland, MD, FAAP
 Pediatrician/Adolescent Medicine Specialist in Massachusetts

- @drscottheadland
- @DrScottHadland



Dr. Meghan Martin, MD, FAAP
 Pediatric Emergency Physician in Florida

- @drbeschgem10
- @drbeschgem10
- @beschgem10

LESS EFFECTIVE BUT IMPORTANT

Office of Children and Family Services

- Wash hands and surfaces frequently
- Complete daily health check
- Encourage children and staff to stay home when sick
- Teach children and staff respiratory hygiene measures (cough into elbow, use clean tissue, use gloves when needed, sanitize surfaces and toys regularly, wash hands)
- Encourage thorough hand washing
- Encourage vaccination



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CONTACTS

Online School Assessment Survey: OSAS@health.ny.gov

New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS): nysiis@health.ny.gov

NYS Division of Vaccine Excellence: (518) 473-4437

County Health Departments:
health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information/

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:
School Unit Hotline: (347) 396-2433

New York City Immunization Compliance:
School_Immunizations@health.nyc.gov

Citywide Immunization Registry: cir@health.nyc.gov



Department
of Health

REGIONAL CONTACTS

Capital District Regional Office: 518-473-4437

Central NY Regional Office: 315-477-8164

Buffalo Office: 716-847-4501

Rochester Office: 585-423-8097

New Rochelle Office: 914-654-7149

Middletown Office: 845-794-2045

Central Islip Office: 631-851-3096



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Strong Starts Court Initiative Update

Kelly Dodd, ECAC Liaison



Strong Starts Court Initiative

Update to the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council

March 2026

Introduction and Background

The Strong Starts Court Initiative is a specialized problem-solving court-based approach to working with families with children ages birth to three

- Brings clinical expertise in early childhood and infant mental health into the court process, including clinical assessments, reports and targeted service planning
- Convenes the whole court team to prevent the removal of children, reduce future court involvement, strengthen parent child relationships, and interrupt intergenerational cycles of trauma
- Works to enhance system responses to families with young children utilizing local steering committees, Statewide Advisory Committee, quarterly trainings, and program materials

History and Statewide Expansion

Strong Starts began as a pilot in the Bronx in 2015 in partnership with the Unified Court System and has since expanded to all five boroughs and Westchester and Erie Counties.



Impact and Funding of Program

Program Evaluations have shown the impact of Strong Starts

- Increase in protective factors for families
- Judges and practitioners apply what they have learned to other cases
- Reduction in future child protection cases
- Reduction in family separation and an increase in children being returned to their original caregiver within one year

Funding of Strong Starts

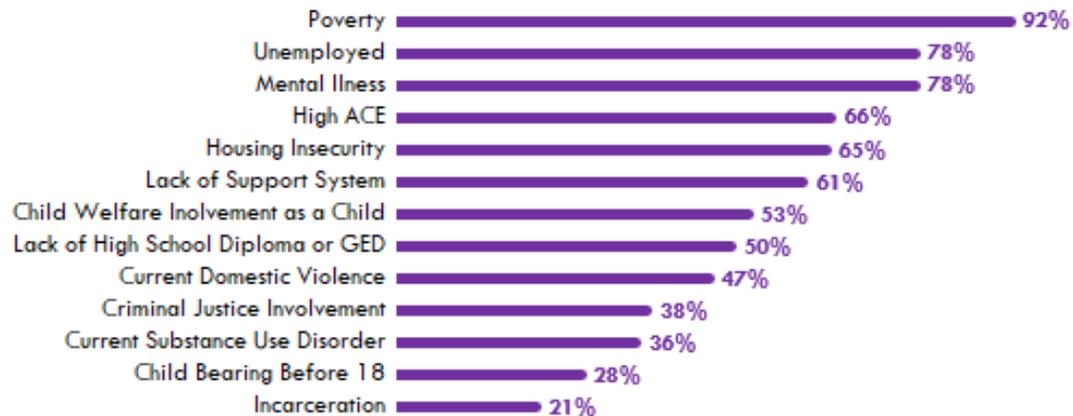
- Initial funding included only private philanthropic sources
- Statewide expansion began with a federal grant from HRSA
- Goal to scale and sustain the model with a public/private partnership with state funding

Updates and Lessons Learned After 10 Years of Strong Starts

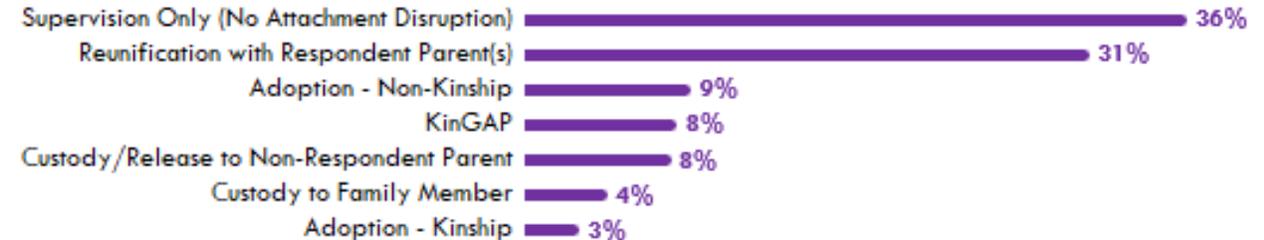
Strong Starts Data/Outcomes

Strong Starts has served 388 children and closed 260 cases since 2015
Currently, Strong Starts supports 119 children across all seven counties.

Risk Factors for Active SSCI Cases (n=119)



Permanency Outcomes for Children with Closed Cases (n=260)



Program Updates & Lessons Learned

Strong Starts 10th Anniversary Panel

- In June 2025, the Center brought together a multidisciplinary group of partners who have collaborated with Strong Starts closely to share their experience with the model
- Panelists reflected on Strong Starts' impact, shared best practices, and discussed cross-disciplinary approaches to supporting families with young children

Strong Starts in the State of the Judiciary

- In February 2026, Strong Starts was featured in the State of Judiciary – New York State Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson championed the program as an evidence-based approach that all courts could benefit from
- Strong Starts Director, Kiran Malpe, introduced former participant, Tiffany Bracken who shared her story, including the impact Strong Starts had

Program Updates & Lessons Learned

Statewide Advisory Committee

- Committee was established in 2023 and has developed workgroups to pursue various recommendations to support families with young children
- Committee is currently reviewing the structure and membership list to pursue its overarching goal to expand Strong Starts and strengthen early childhood systems
- Zero to Three will help facilitate next meeting to be scheduled May 2026

The Parent Hub

- Launched in November 2025, the Hub coordinates with programs across the Center to identify and address the needs of families wherever they show up
- Leverages expertise of Strong Starts, the Hub provides consultations on Family Court legal information; infant mental health and early childhood clinical issues; and community-based resources for families

Next Steps for Strong Starts

Strong Starts vision and goals for the next 5-10 years includes:

- Statewide expansion of infant/toddler courts across all New York State counties
- Strategies to share best practices and incorporate early childhood development and infant/toddler mental health principles to strengthen early childhood systems statewide
- Increased upstream prevention efforts such as consultations for community-based programs, as well as during child protective investigations and child safety conferences
- Incorporating Strong Starts on other case types in Family Court such as juvenile delinquency and custody/visitation matters



**Council on Children
and Families**

Review of ECAC Law

ELANA MARTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL

MARCH 23, 2026

ECAC Law (SSL Section 483-g)

- Purpose: To promote a comprehensive and high-quality early childhood system.
- Established within the New York State Council on Children and Families.
- Members appointed by the governor, with representation from:

State Agencies	Other Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office of Children and Family Services• State Education Department• Department of Health• Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance• Office of Mental Health• Office for People with Developmental Disabilities• Empire State Development Corporation• Division of Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head Start Collaboration Office• Local education agencies• Local providers of early childhood education & development services• Institutions of higher education• Head Start agencies• Business community• Other entities identified by the governor

- Governor designates the two ECAC chairpersons.

ECAC LAW HIGHLIGHTS (SSL Section 483-g)

Conduct

periodic **needs assessment** concerning the **quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services** for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of high-quality pre-K services for low-income children in the state.

Identify

opportunities for, and barriers to, **collaboration and coordination among federally and state funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services**, including collaboration and coordination among state agencies responsible for administering such programs.

Develop

recommendations for **increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs**, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations.

ECAC LAW HIGHLIGHTS (SSL Section 483-g)

Develop

recommendations regarding the establishment of a **unified data collection system** for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the state.

Develop

recommendations regarding **statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators** in the state.

Assess

the **capacity and effectiveness of two-year and four-year public and private institutions of higher education** in the state **to support the development of early childhood educators**, including the extent to which such institutions have articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a head start or pre-K program.

ECAC LAW HIGHLIGHTS (SSL Section 483-g)

Develop and implement

strategies to **engage business and civic leaders and organizations in early learning planning and advocacy** at the state and local level.

Increase

business, civic and public awareness of the importance of early childhood education to promote the cost benefit of investments in learning and the hosting of an **annual economic summit on early childhood investment**.

Develop

recommendations to **increase public-private investments in early childhood and strategies for maximizing resources**.

Recommend

improvements in state early learning standards and undertake efforts to **develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards**, as appropriate.

ECAC LAW HIGHLIGHTS (SSL Section 483-g)

Other responsibilities of the ECAC:

- Serve on **workgroups** to carry out duties. Workgroups established, as needed, except must have standing permanent workgroup on early learning investment.
- Hold **public hearings** and opportunity for public comment on activities.
- Submit a **statewide strategic report**.
- Meet to **review implementation of recommendations and any changes in state and local needs**.

ECAC Member Expectations*

- Working together and with others by sharing knowledge, listening, learning, researching, and striving to build consensus to promote a comprehensive and high-quality early childhood system.
- Attending and actively participating in quarterly ECAC membership meetings.
- Acting as ambassadors to bring current information back to your agencies, organizations, and communities.
- Developing and helping to advance the ECAC Strategic Plan.
- Serving on ECAC committees to draft recommendations. Approval of recommendations and other reports shall require a consensus-based decision by a quorum of ECAC members present at a quarterly meeting.
- Participating in ECAC public hearings.
- Serving as a liaison to other Early Childhood initiatives.

* Sources: *ECAC Member By-Laws and ECAC Member Manual*

2030 CENSUS: PREPARATIONS GETTING UNDERWAY

Children under 5 among the most undercounted.

Not counting young children can affect them for years.

Stay tuned for opportunities to support a complete count!

New York State Budget



Peter Hatch, Deputy Secretary for Human Services & Mental Hygiene, Office of the Governor

Avery Cohen, Assistant Secretary for Human Services & Mental Hygiene, Office of the Governor

2026 State of the State and Executive Budget

Building Universal Child Care Together

NEW YORK HAS ALREADY...

- More than doubled the number of children served by child care vouchers in just four years, with an almost 25 percent increase in the past 12 months alone.
- Provided more than \$8.6 billion for child care, including more than doubling funding for subsidies.
- Dramatically expanded the number of families who are eligible by increasing the maximum income from 200% of federal poverty level (roughly \$64,000 for a family of four) to the maximum allowed under federal law (85% of statewide median income or roughly \$114,000 for a family of four).
- Made child care more affordable by capping costs at \$15 per week for most families receiving Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) subsidies.
- Increased reimbursement rates for providers by nearly 50%, helping retain staff and provide quality care for children across the state.
- Creating thousands of child care seats and new centers with more than \$150M in capital funding.

BUILDING TOWARDS UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE

- Governor Hochul proposes a phase in of Universal Child Care to ensure access to high-quality affordable care for all children under 5.
- In 2026, Governor Hochul has proposed a substantial investment to expand on the CCAP for low income families and to expand UPK statewide and 3K in NYC to ensure access for even more families.
- Governor Hochul is also investing in new models of child care programs to build capacity statewide as well as piloting local programs, taking steps towards providing universally affordable child care in NYS

SFY 27: 4.5 BILLION FOR CHILD CARE AND PRE-K SERVICES

- **Expanding Access to Low-Cost, Affordable Child Care Assistance Program**
 - \$1.2 billion additional investment, bringing the total available for subsidies to over \$3 billion this year – 40% increase from SFY26
- **Piloting Innovative Community Care Models across NY Counties**
 - Total of \$66 million
 - Partnering with Dutchess, Monroe and Broome Counties to expand child care; with focus on 0-3 year olds
- **Launch of 2-Care and Reaching Universal 3K Access in NYC**
 - Offer free child care for 2-year-olds in NYC - Governor and Mayor will partner
 - State will fund the first two years
 - 2,000 seats in high-need communities in year one:
 - Manhattan, (Washington Heights, Inwood, Hamilton Heights)
 - Queens (Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, Richmond Hill, Howard Beach, Woodhaven, Rockaways)
 - Bronx (Fordham, Belmont, Norwood, Morris Heights, Van Cortlandt Village and Kingsbridge)
 - Brooklyn (Canarsie, Remsen Village, Brownsville, Oceanville)
 - Investments from FY27 will also strengthen and fix 3-year-old pre-K program



SFY 27: 4.5 BILLION FOR CHILD CARE AND PRE-K SERVICES

- **Truly Universal Pre-K for ROS**
 - Universal Pre-K for four-year-olds by start of '28-'29 school year
 - Funding new seats increasing funds for existing seats
- **Office of Child Care and Early Education**
 - Oversee and support roll-out of UPK, 3K, launch of 2-Care and other innovative care options
- **Supporting the Workforce through Early Childhood Educator Preparation**
 - Expanding existing workforce scholarships, seeking opportunities for the new Workforce Pell grants, and directing SUNY and CUNY to expand and streamline ECE programs
- **Child and Dependent Care Credit**
 - Will expand and simplify the CDCC to provide an additional average benefit of \$575 for 230,000 tax filers

CCAP INVESTMENTS in SFY 2027 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

- The Executive Budget includes **\$2.4 billion** for FFY 2027 base CCAP
 - **\$475 million** for FFY 2026 and FFY 2027 for New York City
 - **155 million** for FFY 2026 for counties outside of New York City
- **164%** increase in State funding for child care subsidies over just four years, from \$832 million to \$2.4 billion.
- During this time, the local Maintenance of Effort (MOE) has stayed flat outside of New York City. In counties outside of New York City, the local government contribution to child care subsidies is \$15 million – just 2.1 percent of the \$743 million contributed by the State for child care subsidies in those counties

ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE INVESTMENTS IN SFY2027 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

- \$73 million to begin contract-based child care program for two-year-olds in NYC
- \$66 million to develop and administer child care pilot programs in Dutchess, Monroe and Broome counties. These programs will be jointly administered by the local districts and local child care coordinating entities.
- \$1.5 million invested for the creation of the Office of Child Care and Early Education to coordinate the implementation of universal child care, continued investments in 3K, the launch of 2-Care, and workforce supports.
- \$1 million to help communities adopt zoning regulations that will increase child care capacity
- \$35 million to support OCFS's agency operations for child care (54 more FTEs)



Executive Chamber

State Agency Updates

NYS Education Department

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

NYS Department of State, Office of New Americans

NYS Department of Health

ECAC Meeting

March 19, 2026

**Erik Sweet, Executive
Director, Office of
Early Learning**

Proposed UPK Changes in NYS Budget 2027

**Summary of Key
Elements of
Proposal: Changes:
Fiscal, Regulations,
etc.**



PURPOSE

A required tool to be utilized annually when reviewing curriculum and instruction for evidence and scientifically based reading instruction



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

New York State Education Department Prekindergarten–3rd Grade Literacy Instructional Best Practices

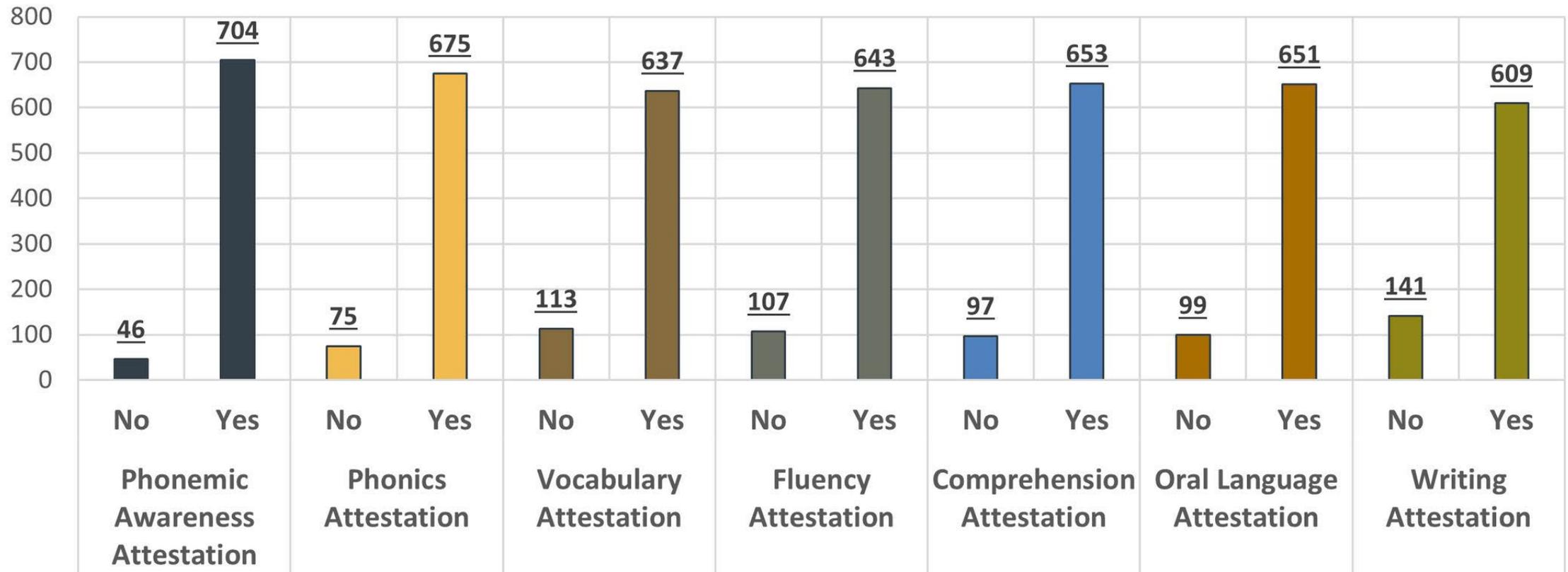




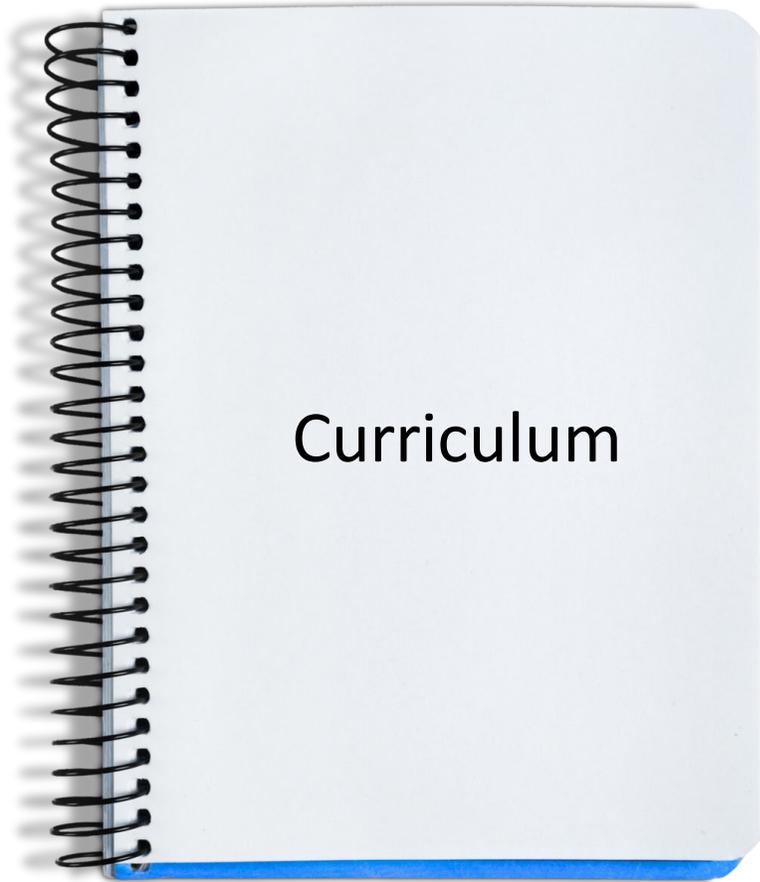
2025 NYS P-3 Literacy Attestation Data Report

Results

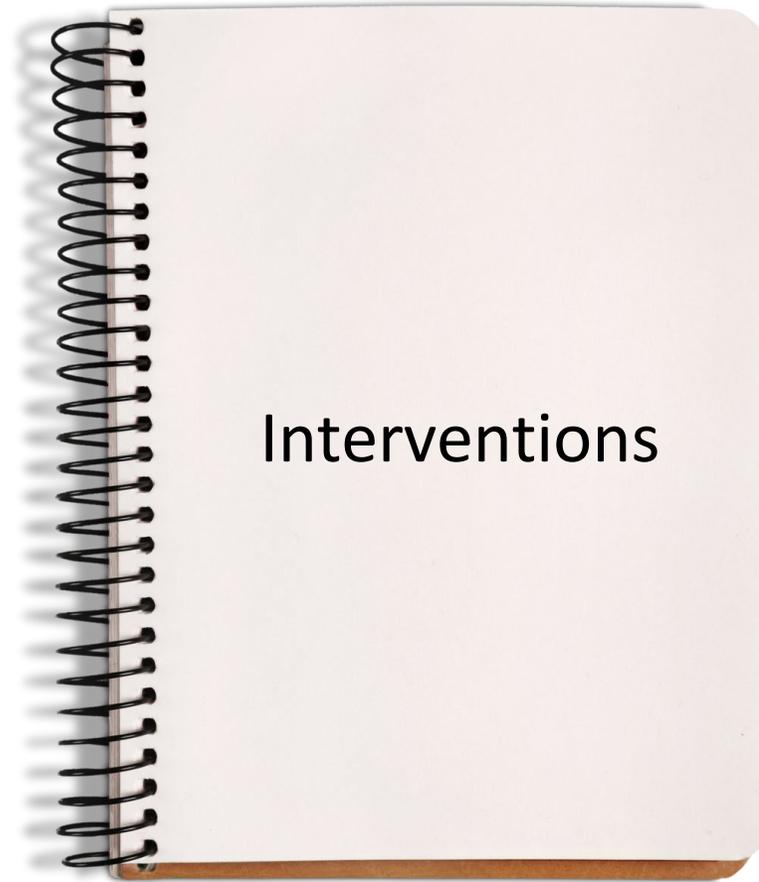
2025 NYS Literacy Attestation Prekindergarten - 3rd Grade



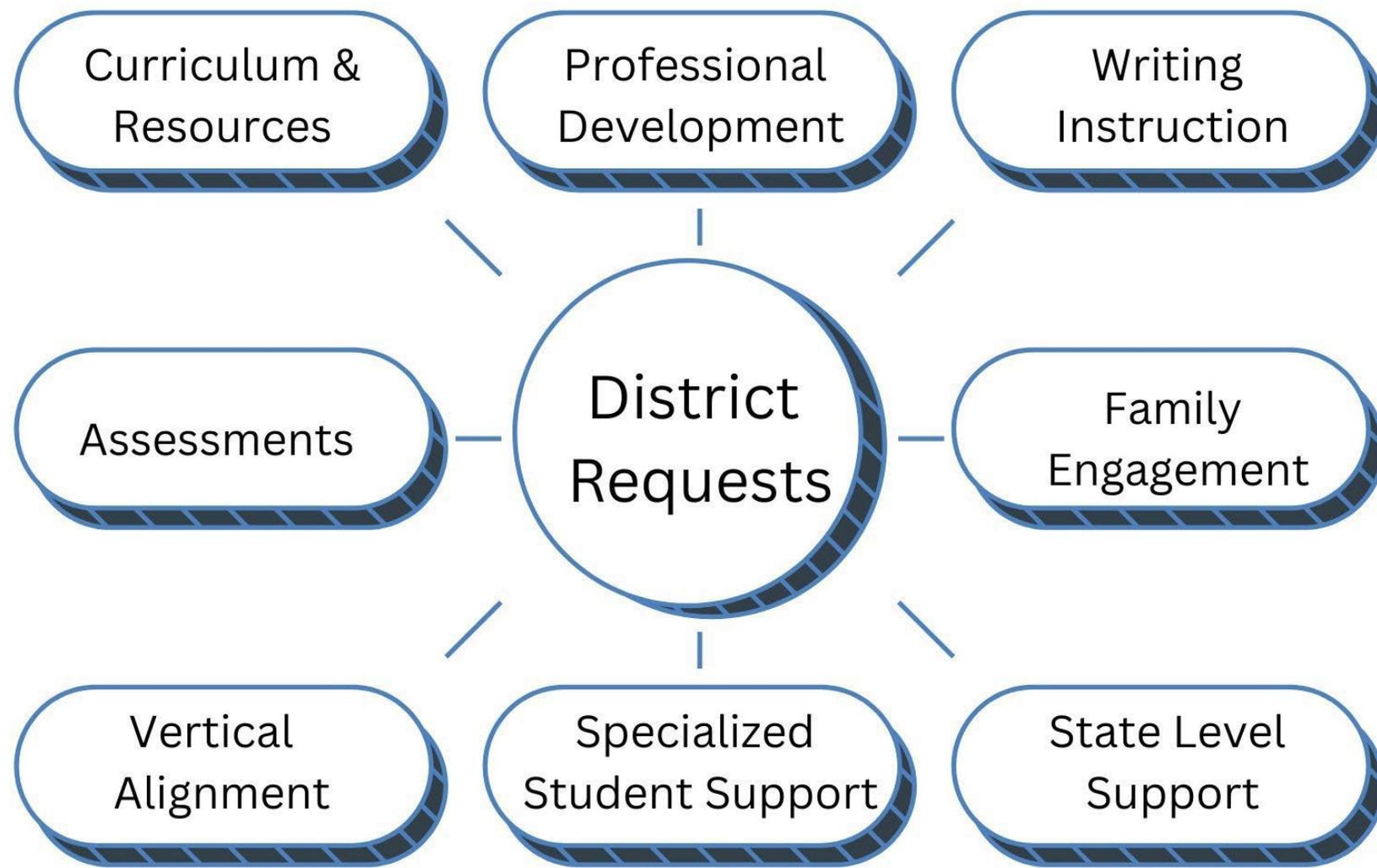
Appendix



Curriculum



Interventions



Next Steps for P-3 Literacy Attestation

- ✓ Districts—ongoing analysis and review
- ✓ Department focus on areas of need
 - Writing
 - Vocabulary
 - Fluency
- ✓ Work with partners to support educator needs
- ✓ Engage and utilize NYS Libraries & Public Broadcasting



Prekindergarten to Kindergarten Transition



NYS ED Office of Early Learning

Prekindergarten to Kindergarten Transition Toolkit

For Administrators and Educators

The transition toolkit is a resource for administrators and educators providing a structured approach to planning, implementing, and evaluating transition activities. It aims to ensure all stakeholders are prepared, engaged, and working collaboratively to support children's successful entry into Kindergarten and promote positive educational outcomes.

Attendance Resources

Attendance Matters

Every day counts!

Attending school regularly and on time helps children develop relationships, feel better about school, and themselves.

Did you know...?

Missing just **one** or **two** days of preschool or kindergarten every few weeks can make it **more difficult** to:

- Gain early reading and math skills
- Be prepared for kindergarten/first grade
- Build relationships
- Develop good attendance habits in high school and college

This summer, start establishing routines!

- Create morning and evening routines:
 - Set a bed and wake up time a few weeks before the first day of school
 - Lay out clothes--let your child choose!
 - Pack bookbag the night before
- Start a countdown to the first day
- Visit the school and meet the teacher
- Make sure immunizations are up to date
- Read to your child each night, in your home language, and use books to address concerns in playful ways
- Create a pick up/drop off schedule with neighbors
- Ask questions!

Consider this!

Missing 1 day every 2 weeks = 20 days per year
 1 day per week = 40 days per year
 2 days per week = 80 days per year



Tier 1

BE HERE, LEARN MORE

Attendance Opens Every Door

Did You Know? Regular attendance in preschool and kindergarten is crucial. Missing a few days can impact reading and math skill development. Starting good attendance habits early supports academic and social growth, ensuring a brighter future.

Why it Matters

Chronic absenteeism among U.S. students rose to 30% in the 2021-22 school year, nearly doubling from 2018-19. This trend leads to missed learning opportunities and weakens relationships with teachers, negatively affecting academic growth.

What You Can Do

YEAR BEFORE

- visiting the new school or classroom
- meeting the teachers and staff
- setting up home visits
- read books all about school
- have a countdown for the 1st day

DAY BEFORE

- set expectations for home to school
- organize transportation
- prepare materials and clothes
- set a morning and bedtime routine
- review the schedule for the day

AFTER EVERY DAY

- ask your child about their day, what they learned, and who they met
- assess any health needs
- check backpack for school updates and notices

3 in 10 students were chronically absent across the United States in the 2021-2022 school year



Tier 2

Support Your Child's Success in Prekindergarten

Form the Habit of Good Attendance

Punctuality in school sets the tone for a day of adventures, learning, and friendships. By showing up on time, kids kickstart their day with a bang, dive into exciting activities, and never miss a beat in class or on the playground. Plus, being a regular attendee sends a powerful message about the value of education. Teachers can keep tabs on progress, provide a helping hand, and build strong bonds with those who show up like clockwork, paving the way for bright futures.

What you can do:

Establish a Routine

- Wake up at the same time each day
- Have a healthy breakfast
- Create a calming bedtime routine
- Involve children in creating the routine to empower them to take ownership
- Regularly review and adjust the routine to meet their evolving needs, foster security and time management skills

Make Attendance a Priority

- Attend school except when genuinely sick
- Missing school means missing valuable learning experiences
- Each day offers opportunities for growth and education

Positive Reinforcement

- Praise your child for milestones (e.g., a week or month without absences)
- Implement a reward system, use small incentives like stickers or extra playtime
- Emphasize the importance of regular attendance to highlight the role of attendance in their learning and growth



Tier 3



NAVIGATING PREK DAY 2026

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday May 7th, 2026
New York State Museum
Albany, NY

Save the date for our annual Navigating PreK Day! District administrators and business officials can join us for a day of inspiring speakers, engaging workshops, and valuable networking opportunities.

[Register Here!](#)



SAVE THE DATE 2026 Early Learning Institute

Presented by NYSED's Office of Early Learning



 July 16th, 2026	 9:00am - 4:00pm	 NYS Museum Albany, NY
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SESSIONS TO INCLUDE:

- Literacy
- Portrait of a Graduate
- P-3 Transitions
-and more!

[REGISTER HERE
BEGINNING
FEBRUARY 5TH](#)



NYS Education Department
Office of Early Learning



Please Subscribe: Office of Early Learning



OEL P-3 Newsletter



UPK Newsletter



**NYS Office of Children and
Family Services, Division of
Child Care Services**

Nora Yates



Office of Children
and Family Services

DIVISION OF CHILD CARE SERVICES ECAC MARCH 2026 MEETING

MARCH 19, 2026

AGENDA

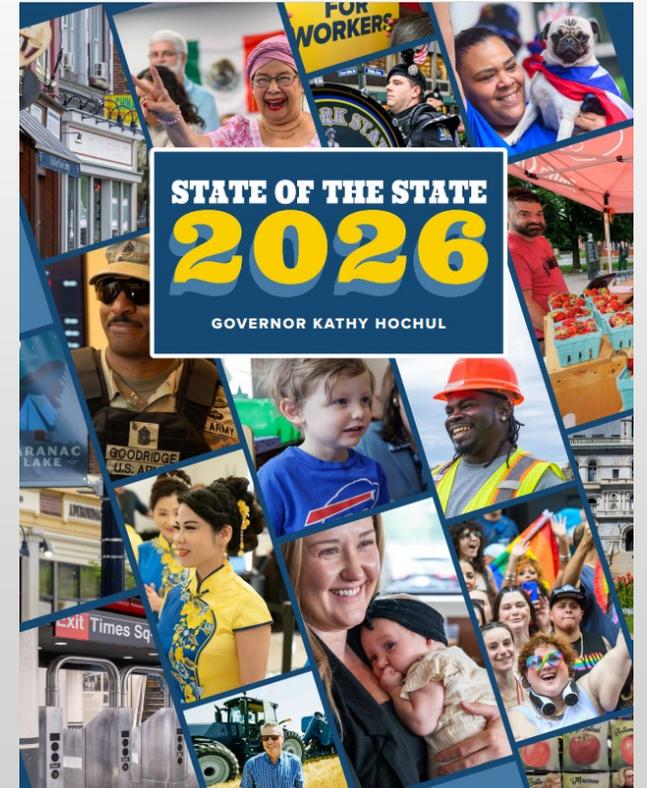
- Welcome!
- Executive Budget and Federal Update
- February Community Conversations Recap: Immunizations and common winter illnesses
- 2025 Child Care Provider Survey Results
- Additional Updates
- Questions

EXECUTIVE BUDGET UPDATE

EXECUTIVE BUDGET UPDATE

\$1.7 B increased investment, total FY 27 investment is anticipated to be \$4.5 billion for child care and Pre-K services statewide

- Continuing access to Low-cost, Affordable Child Care Assistance program
 - \$1.2 billion increased investment, bringing the total available for subsidies to over \$3 billion. This is a 40% increase from what was made available in the FY 26 Enacted Budget
- Piloting Innovative Community Care Models across NY Counties
 - Total of \$66 million
 - Will partner with Dutchess, Monroe and Broome Counties to expand child care; with particular focus on 0-3 year-olds
- Launch of 2-Care and Reaching Universal 3k Access in NYC
 - Offer child care for two-year-olds in NYC- Governor and Mayor will partner
 - State will fund the first two years
 - First year will focus on high-needs areas in NYC, with full expansion by year four
 - Strengthen and fix 3-year-old program



FEDERAL UPDATE

- On January 6, New York State received notice from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) stating that the CCDF funding allocated to New York was being temporarily restricted until additional data was provided and deemed sufficient. Four other states received similar letters and requests on CCDF funding.
- The five states that received the letters filed an injunction on 1/8/26 to rescind the funding freeze, and on 1/9/26, the states were granted a temporary restraining order (TRO). On 1/23/26, the TRO was extended through 2/6/26.
- There continues to be **no programmatic changes to CCAP** to communicate at this time.
- OCFS will continue to provide updates as they become available.

24-OCFS-LCM-16-R5

- The following districts are receiving additional allocations upon release of this fifth revised LCM for FY25: Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Genesee, Greene, Herkimer, Jefferson, Madison, Onondaga, Orleans, Otsego, Rensselaer, Rockland, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tompkins, Warren, Wayne, and Wyoming.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS RECAP

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS TOPICS AND OBJECTIVES

- Immunizations
 - Vaccine Overview
 - Brief Review of Common Immunization Charts
 - Medical Exemption Overview
 - Obtaining HCS, NYSIIS, and CIR access
 - Review NYSIIS Report Data
 - NYS Child Day Care Immunization Survey
- Common Winter Illness
 - Overview
 - Incubation Period
 - Common Symptoms
 - Illness Management and Prevention

UPCOMING HEALTH WEBINAR SERIES!

- Upcoming Health Webinar to be delivered in April of 2026!
 - Join our Director of Child Health, Paula Hayes, to review immunization requirements in child care.
- Send questions to ocfs.sm.DCCSinfo@ocfs.ny.gov with the subject line “IMMUNIZATION” in the subject line

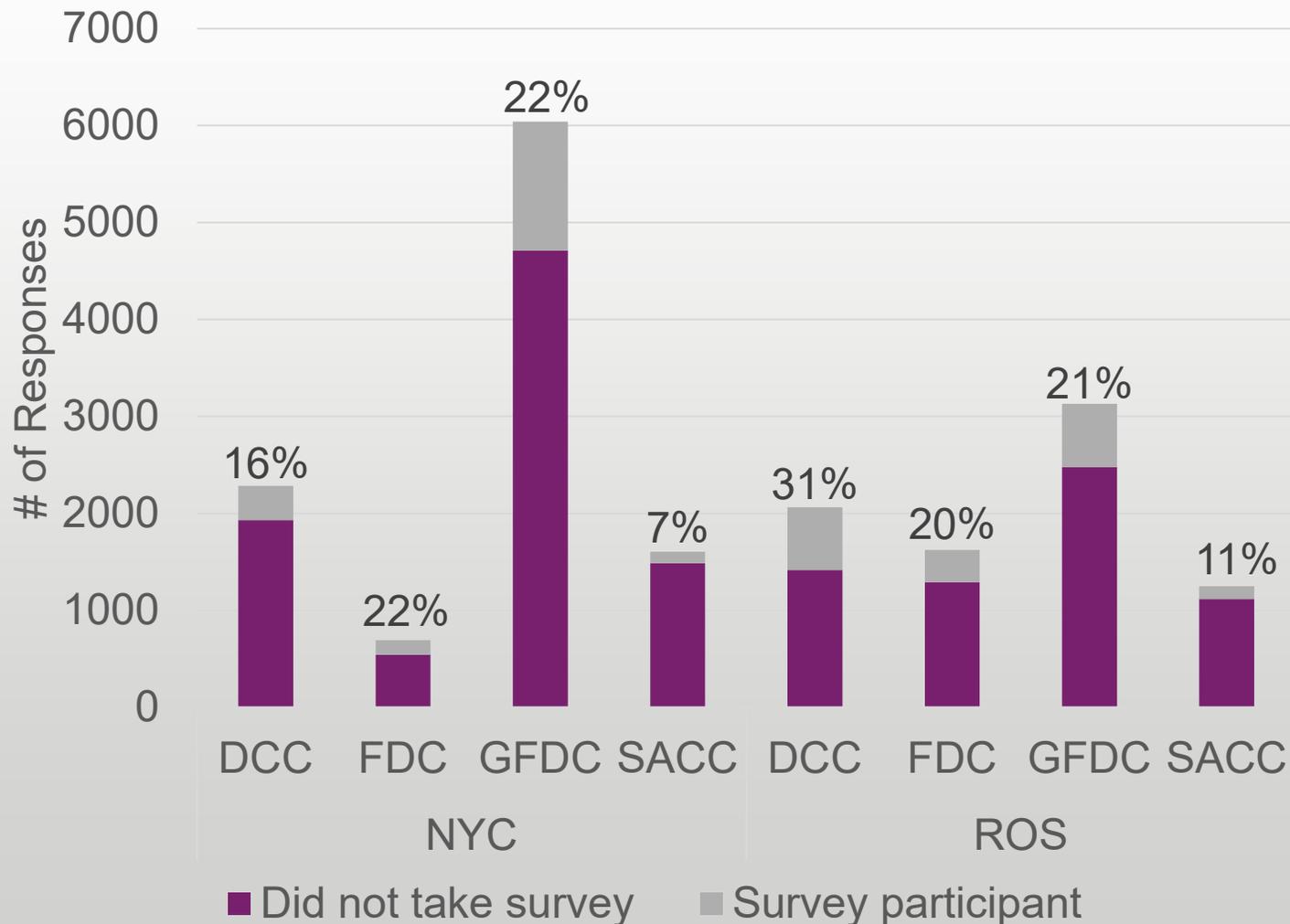


2025 CHILD CARE PROVIDER SURVEY RESULTS

SURVEY DETAILS

- Objective: Increase knowledge of enrollment, staffing, and wages
- Population: Eligible participants were all licensed, registered, and permitted child care providers and programs as of October 8, 2025
- Limitations: Of the 18,680 providers who received the survey, there was a 20% response rate
- Data Collected: 10/8/2025 – 11/7/2025
- Note: *Results are compared to similar questions on the 2024 Workforce Retention Grant (WRG) Survey.*

RESPONSE RATES

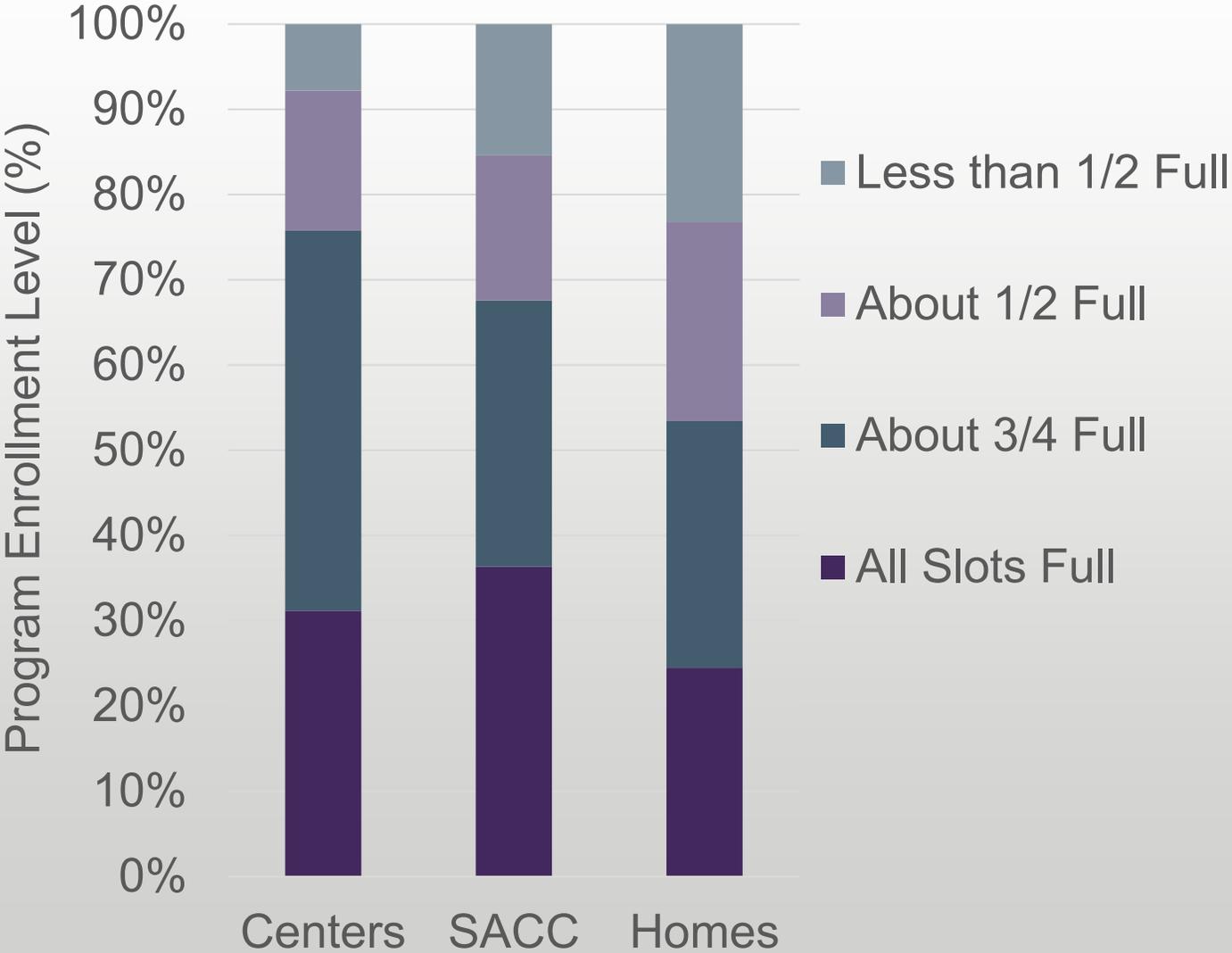


- 20% of eligible providers participated (3,719 / 18,680). *Including full and partial responses.*
- SACC programs had the fewest survey participants.

PROVIDERS FROM ALL REGIONS RESPONDED:

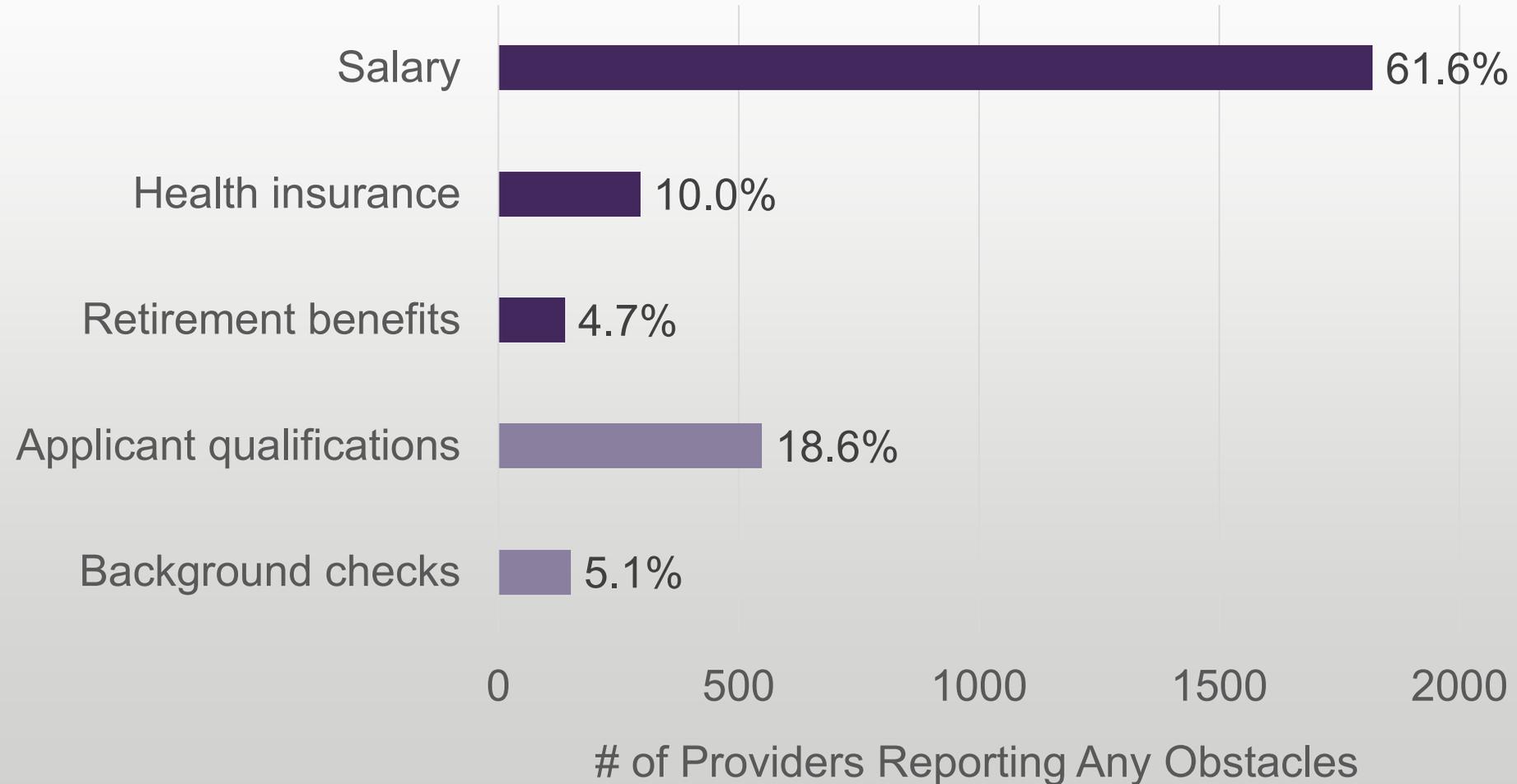
Region	FDC & GFDC	DCC & GDC	SACC	Total
ARO	116	80	21	217
BRO	74	108	28	210
LIRO	259	150	14	423
NYCDOH	1,480	355	120	1,955
RRO	173	73	20	266
SRO	196	83	26	305
WRO	167	152	24	343
Total	2,465	1,001	253	3,719

CURRENT ENROLLMENT BY MODALITY



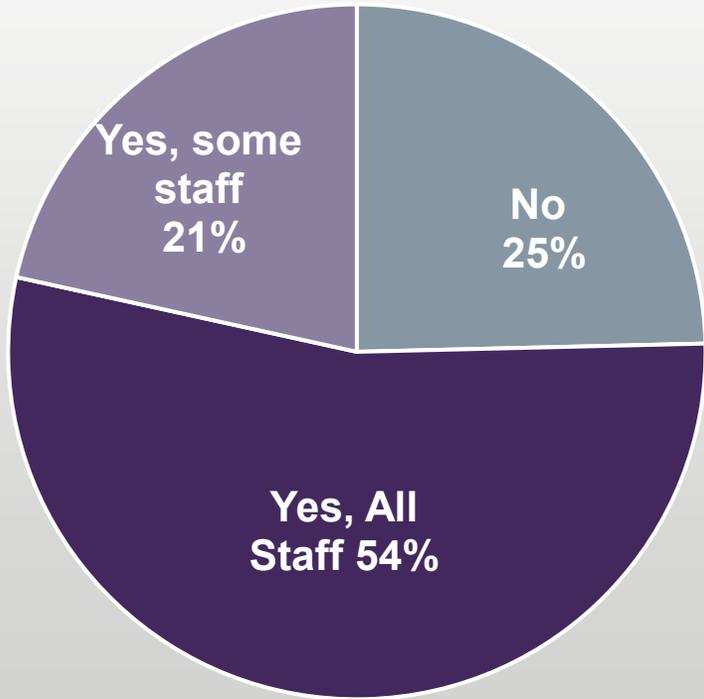
- “High” Enrollment Level (3/4 or higher):
 - 76% Centers
 - 68% of SACCs
 - 54% Homes
- Comparison to 2024 Survey: Pattern by modality is the same, but enrollment levels are generally lower in 2025.

BIGGEST OBSTACLES TO HIRING NEW STAFF

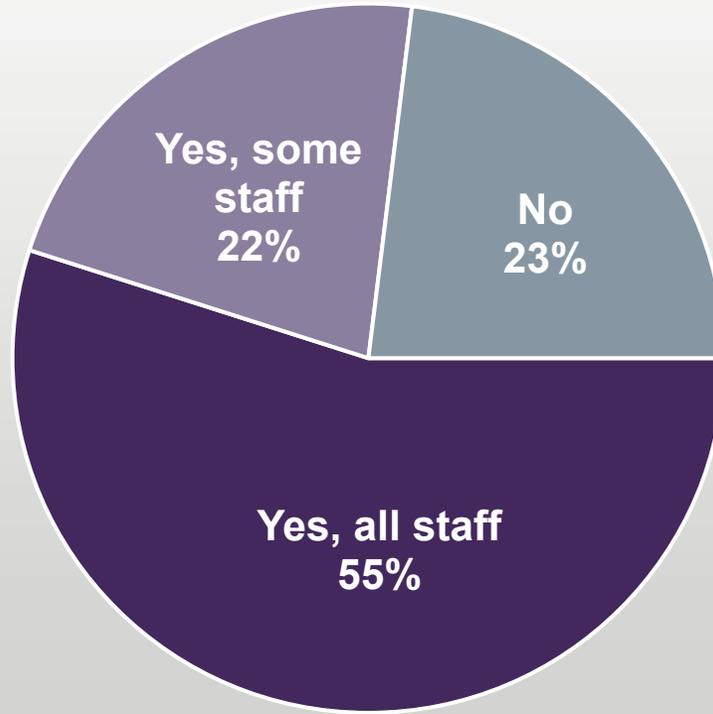


“ARE STAFF PAID ABOVE MINIMUM WAGE?”

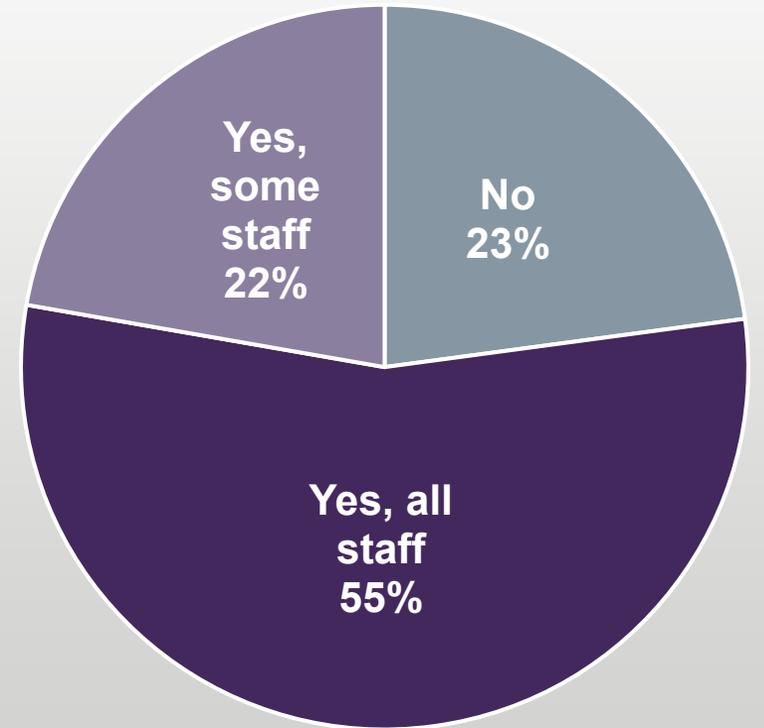
2022 Stabilization Survey



2024 WRG Survey

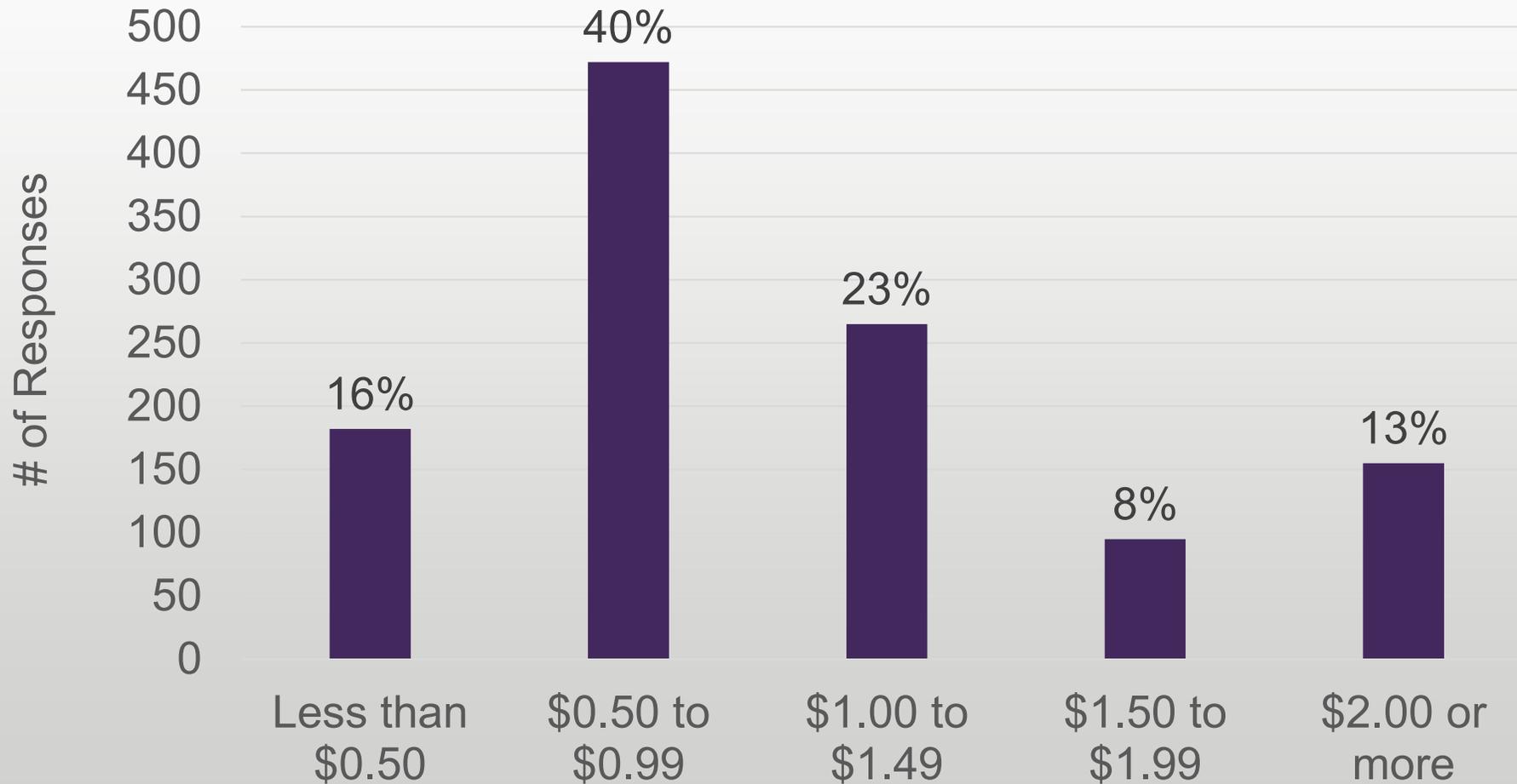


2025 CC Provider Survey



HOW MUCH WERE RAISES, IF GIVEN?

Size of Raises *Per Hour*



- Over half of raises (56%) were less than \$1 per hour.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

MARKET RATE SURVEY (MRS) QUESTIONS - REVIEW

- Seeking feedback on draft Market Rate Survey questions
- Email will be sent on March 20th with the draft survey questions
- Feedback is due back by April 10th, 2026!
- Plan is to begin MRS data collection in September 2026



INTRODUCING THE SATARC!

- OCFS has awarded the contract to the New York State Network for Youth Success to launch the School-Age Technical Assistance Resource Center (SATARC), which will offer technical support to over 175 OCFS funded after-school programs
- Is a statewide center aimed at enhancing the quality, stability and sustainability of OCFS funder after-school and expanded learning programs which includes:
 - Increasing enrollment and attendance
 - Providing TA around staffing, transportation, family needs and complex reporting
- Implement a data system, Pathwise, which is being used by NYS 21st Century Community Learning Centers

2026 OCFS NYAEYC CONFERENCE TRACK

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

- 1:00-2:30 PM- Introduction to the Facility Application Management System (FAMS)

Thursday, April 23, 2026

- 10:00-11:30 AM- Regional Office Leadership: Building Foundations through Communication
- 1:00-2:30 PM- Emergency Plans for Child Care Providers
- 3:00-4:30 PM- Conversations about the Impact Project

Friday April 24, 2026

- 8:30-10:00 AM OCFS Division of Child Care Services-News You Can Use with SUNY/ECLC
- 10:30 AM- 12:00 PM Updates to the Child Care Assistance Program
- 1:30-3:00 PM From Big Ideas to Everyday Realities: Shaping Child Care, Communities, and Change

FREE VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: SUPERVISION IN CHILD CARE

Don't miss this important training opportunity!

SUPERVISION IN CHILD CARE:

*The Principles of "Environment"
and "Staff Positioning"*

Available in English and Spanish.

Thursday, February 19th 1pm - 2:15pm
Friday, February 27th 1pm - 2:15pm
Tuesday, March 3rd 1pm - 2:15pm
Wednesday, March 11th 1pm - 2:15pm

Register today for this important new virtual training focusing on how environment and staffing impact supervision in child care.



Learn ways to implement the strategies of active supervision to keep children safe and pre-

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**



Office of Children
and Family Services

Send questions to:
ecetp@albany.edu

No-cost training opportunity. Participants receive 1.25 training hours upon successful completion of the training.
NYS Office of Children and Family Services | Early Childhood Education and Training Program (ECETP)

¿Su personal ya ha recibido capacitación en la serie de Supervisión activa?

Estos cursos ya están disponibles para los capacitadores de On-Demand:

- *Supervisión activa en el cuidado infantil*
- *Supervisión en el cuidado infantil: Los principios de "Entorno" y "Posicionar al personal"*

¿Quién puede aplicar para ser capacitador de On-Demand?

Personal calificado en centros de cuidado infantil, programas de cuidado de niños en edad escolar, proveedores de cuidado diurno familiar grupal y familiar, y programas de grupos legalmente exentos inscritos, al igual que Agencias de Recursos y Referencias de Cuidado Infantil (CCRR)/Centros de Recursos para el Cuidado Infantil (CCRC).

Beneficios de la capacitación de On-Demand:

- Acceda las 24 horas, los 7 días de la semana a una selección de capacitaciones previamente grabadas y cursos de aprendizaje en línea actuales.
- Reciba crédito para cumplir con los requisitos de capacitaciones.*
- Los cursos tienen actividades y videos informativos, y brindan la oportunidad de debatir e interactuar en grupo.
- ¡Capacite al personal cuando lo crea conveniente!



*Tenga en cuenta que, debido a las responsabilidades asociadas a facilitar la capacitación de On-Demand, los capacitadores no son elegibles para recibir crédito o certificados por la capacitación.

¿Preguntas? Consúltenos por la capacitación de On-Demand en ecetp@albany.edu

¿Quiere ver qué opciones hay disponibles?

Haga clic aquí para ver una lista completa de los cursos.

HAGA CLIC AQUÍ
para obtener más información sobre la capacitación de On-Demand.



Office of Children
and Family Services

Join us for the second training in the Active Supervision in Child Care Training series, *The Principles of Environment and Staff Supervision*.

- Explore how the child care environment and staffing patterns impact active supervision and children's safety.
- Available in English and Spanish
- Participants receive 1.25 training hours upon completion.

Registration is open on ECETP:

<https://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/FindTraining.aspx?Prog=VC>

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

What is Youth Mental Health First Aid?

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis.

Learn how to respond with the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (ALGEE):

Assess for risk of suicide or harm.

Listen nonjudgmentally.

Give reassurance and information.

Encourage appropriate professional help.

Encourage self-help and other support strategies

Youth with major depression do not receive any medical treatment

64.1%

SOURCE: MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA

REGISTRATION



HOW TO REGISTER

Use QR Code or Click [Here](#)

2 hours of Pre-Work

TRAINING DAYS

4/21/26 & 4/22/26
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
ZOOM



Join the Mental Health Association in New York State for Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.

- Learn how to help a youth who is experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or in crisis.
- Training days: April 21 & April 22, 2026 via ZOOM

Register using the QR code or link below:

<https://www.mentalhealthdnys.org/ymhfa-event-registration-nys-ocfs-leaps/>

NEW YORK STATE CHILD TAX CREDIT (EMPIRE STATE CHILD CREDIT ESCC)

On January 26th, the Governor's historic expansion of New York State's child tax credit went into effect.

- Families with children under 4 years old can access up to \$1,000 per child, in addition to \$330 per child between the ages of 4 and 16.
- Next year, for those kids ages 4 to 16, the credit will increase to \$500 per child.
- The Governor also eliminated the minimum income requirement, also known as the wage phase-in, so the lowest income households can now obtain the full credit, including households whose income is so low they have no tax filing obligation.
- Filing for the credit will not affect other benefits families may receive such as SNAP or Medicaid.

OTDA has developed a messaging toolkit to speak directly to New Yorkers

Messaging toolkit and key information: on.ny.gov/childcredit



NEW YORK STATE Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

GET UP TO
\$1,000
per qualifying child under age 4

\$330
per qualifying child
ages 4-16

Empire State Child Credit

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a full-year New York State resident
- Have at least one child under 17 years old on Dec. 31, 2025
- File a New York State income tax return

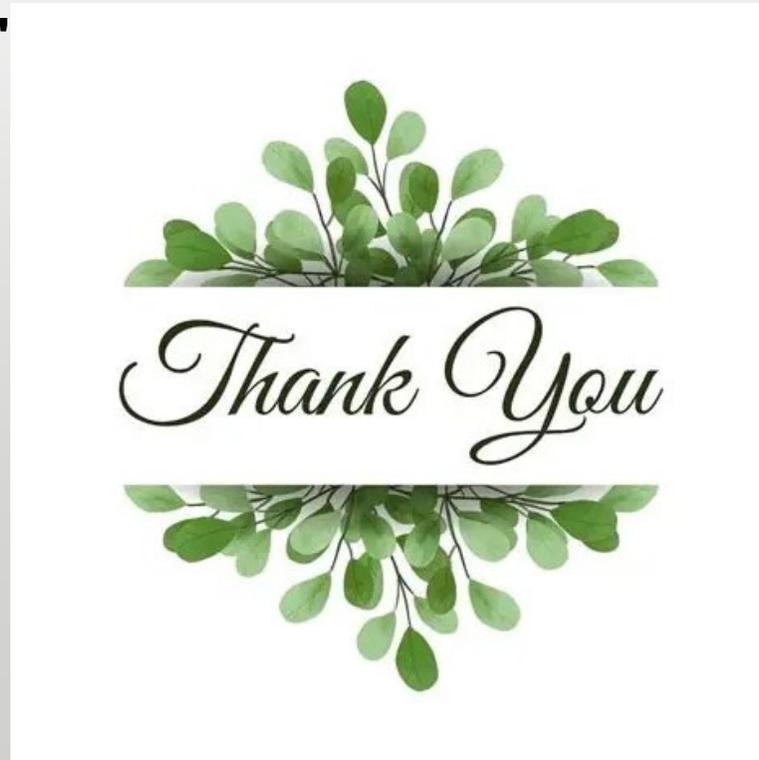
LEARN MORE: [ON.NY.GOV/CHILDCREDIT](https://on.ny.gov/childcredit)

QUESTIONS?



2026 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

- **Upcoming Stakeholder Meeting**
 - **Tuesday March 24th at 2pm**
 - **Monday, May 18th 1:00-2:00 PM**
- Please submit your questions to ocfs.sm.dccsinfo@ocfs.ny.gov.
- Please put "**Stakeholder**"



**NYS Department of State,
Office of New Americans**

Laura Gonzalez-Murphy

**NYS Department of Health,
Bureau of Early Intervention**

Ray Pierce

Advocacy Updates

Brigit Hurley



**Early Childhood
Advisory Council**

Lunch Break
See you
Back at 1:15

Fashion **& FAITH**



HATS OF THE GREAT MIGRATION



**GALLERY
OPENING**

ECAC Committee Worktime

- Develop 2026 Recommendations
- Use ECAC Recommendation Screener Tool
- Prepare to share with full group

Committee Report Outs: Reflection & Discussion

ECAC Meeting Survey



NEXT STEPS

2026 ECAC Meetings

June 11	10:30 am - 3:30 pm	Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12242
September 17	10:30 am- 3:30 pm	Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12242
December 10	10:30 am- 3:30 pm	Virtual



**Early Childhood
Advisory Council**



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