



Giving Every Child A Chance

Dear Parent:

Your child is attending a model preschool that is providing the first step toward a quality education. Now, some state lawmakers want to cut preschool from full to half-day. You can help stop this from happening.

Here are three easy ways:

- 1. Contact Governor Christie and your state legislators. (See below for contact info and a sample message).**
- 2. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper**
- 3. Join ACNJ's e-advocacy campaign to keep up-to-date with developments and send regular messages to your elected officials. Sign up at www.acnj.org.**

What's Happening?

Some legislators want to cut state funding of high-quality preschool, like the kind your child attends. This would mean that your child would no longer be entitled to full-day preschool – only half day. Research shows that half-day programs are not nearly as good at preparing children for kindergarten as full-day ones. Plus, if you're a working parent, this will most likely make it even more difficult for you to juggle your work and parenting responsibilities.

So please take a few minutes to make your voice heard on behalf of your child – and thousands of other children who depend on these great preschools to get ready for kindergarten. **You can make a difference!**



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Sample Message

Date

Dear [Key leader],

High-quality preschool has been proven to help children succeed in school and graduate from high school. Children who attend good preschools are less likely to repeat a grade or need expensive special education services. Pre-k also saves taxpayer dollars by getting children on an early path to school success.

New Jersey has some of the best preschools in the country. Low-income children should be a top priority and should be given the assistance they need to succeed in school. So, please continue to support New Jersey's investment in early childhood education.

Sincerely,
Your Name
Your Town



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Sample Letter to the Editor

Most newspapers have an online form where you can easily submit a letter to the editor. Just type the name of your local paper into a search engine to find the website.

Preschool Pays for Children Most in Need

My child attends a high-quality preschool that is clearly helping (him/her) to get ready for kindergarten. New Jersey has invested in these quality preschools because we know they work. New Jersey preschools are cited around the country as model schools.

Now, some lawmakers want to take these full-day preschools away from our youngest, most needy students of this critical early learning.

That would be a big mistake.

The fact is preschool is one of few strategies that has been proven to help children succeed in school. New Jersey's investment in preschool has resulted in climbing test scores for 4th graders in our poorest districts.

My own child has learned and grown incredibly, thanks to his/her quality preschool.

Governor Christie and the New Jersey Legislature have supported this investment in the past. It's my hope they will continue this support, even in the face of difficult budget decisions. Our children's education depends on it.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Town

Contact Information

The Honorable Chris Christie
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 292-6000
www.state.nj.us/governor/contact

The Honorable Christopher D. Cerf
Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Education
100 River Plaza
Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: (609) 292-4450
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To find your legislator, go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/> and click “Find Your legislator” on the left-hand column, under “Members.”

All of this information is available on our website at www.acnj.org. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact ACNJ. Thanks for your help in ensuring that every New Jersey child has the chance to grow up safe, healthy and educated.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Zalkind
Executive Director