



Empire State Campaign for Child Care 2023 Legislative Session Priorities

In her State of the State address, Governor Hochul correctly stated that New York State has built a burdensome child care system that places too many barriers between families and the child care they need. While her Executive Budget proposal took strong steps to address some of these barriers, significant strides are still needed to achieve a truly supportive system of universal child care that meets the needs of all of our families and child care educators.

The following legislative priorities are incremental steps on the path to our vision for universal child care – a thriving system that is free to all families, provides high quality early education to New York’s children, and compensates child care educators with the dignified wages and benefits they deserve.

Presumptive Eligibility – [A.4099 \(Clark\)/ S.4667 \(Brouk\)](#)

Across the state, newly employed parents face long wait times to be approved for child care assistance that put their jobs at risk. Presumptive eligibility will allow those families to begin receiving the care they need right away.

Automatic Market Rate Increases – [A.2019 \(Clark\)/S.3070 \(Ramos\)](#)

Parents cannot afford the true cost of high quality child care. Yet right now, New York ties the rates child care programs are paid by the state to the tuition charged to families – even though [federal guidance](#) states that we do not have to. This proposal will ensure that every child care program receives the full rate each time it is raised, helping them keep up with inflation and minimum wage.

Decouple Subsidy Payment from Hours Worked – [A.4986 \(Hevesi\)/ S.5327 \(Brisport\)](#)

This proposal corrects last year’s legislation, which offers enhanced early education opportunities for children, provides stable reliable child care for families, and more stability for providers, by allowing parents who work part-time or fluctuating hours access to full-time child care assistance.

Pay Differentials for Specialized Care – [S.4079 \(Brisport\) / A.1734 \(Clark\)](#)

This legislation would require all districts to pay a 15% differential for providing care to children from families experiencing homelessness and for children who need care during non-traditional hours (evenings, nights, and weekends).

Extend Eligibility to All Immigrant Children – [Bill Pending \(Cruz\)/S.4522 \(Brisport\)](#)

Tens of thousands of immigrant children are currently excluded from child care assistance due to no fault of their own. Including these children will provide stability to families, consistent early care and education for children, and move us closer to truly universal child care.