

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

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The Office of Early Learning Welcomes a New Director



Jason Breslin, NBCT, was appointed in November 2019 as the Director for the Office of Early Learning. Mr. Breslin brings nearly 13 years of experience in the field of education, most recently as an Associate in Education Improvement Services in both the Office of Accountability and the Office of Innovation and School Reform with the New York State Education Department. Prior to coming to the Department, Mr. Breslin worked as an Instructional Coach for Capital Region BOCES as well as a Nationally Certified Early Childhood Education Teacher. Mr. Breslin

holds NYS certification in Early Childhood Education, Childhood Education and Literacy Education. He also holds certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as an Early Childhood Generalist since 2014. Mr. Breslin holds a Master of Science in Literacy as well as a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and Childhood Education from the College of Saint Rose. Mr. Breslin can be reached at 518-474-1931 or at jason.breslin@nysed.gov.

GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES \$15 MILLION TO SUPPORT PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS STATEWIDE

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced \$15 million in funding to 26 school districts to increase access to high-quality pre-kindergarten for over 2,000 three- and four-year-old children across New York. This funding will also support the expansion of pre-k to high-need and underserved school districts as part of the state's ongoing effort to promote early education and improve academic outcomes for all students.

"New York is making an unprecedented commitment to universal pre-kindergarten for children living in high-need and underserved school districts," **Governor Cuomo said.** "This funding will help ensure more children than ever before are able to attend pre-k and enjoy the proven benefits of early childhood education into adulthood." Congratulations to the awardees listed on page 2.

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OEL UPDATE

The Office of Early Learning wishes a farewell to Estralita Cromartie Collesides, Michele Kinzel-Peles, and Michael Montoya as they move to other positions in NYSED and Rebecca Stahl who has moved to a position outside NYSED. We thank them for their service and dedication and wish them well in their new positions! We would like to welcome the newest member of the OEL team, Jason Gish.

School District Awardees for EPK Round 4

Amsterdam City School District	Lyncourt Union Free School District
Batavia City School District	Lyndonville Central School District
Bolivar-Richburg Central School District	Niagara Falls City School District
Brocton Central School District	New York City Public Schools
Chittenango Central School District	Peru Central School District
Dansville Central School District	Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School
East Ramapo Central School District (Spring Valley)	Rensselaer City School District
Freeport Union Free School District	Rochester City School District
Geneva City School District	Schenectady City School District
Gorham-Middlesex Central School District (Marcus Whitman)	Waverly Central School District
Greenwich Central School District	Wheatland-Chili Central School District
Honeoye Central School District	Whitney Point Central School District
Hornell City School District	Windsor Central School

Standards Resources

The [New York State Prekindergarten, Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade Learning Standards: A Resource for School Success](#) are now available. These grade-specific resources consolidate all learning standards into one comprehensive document that provides a uniform format to make them easily accessible for teachers, specialists, administrators and parents.

From a planning perspective, these documents highlight the importance of addressing children's development and learning across all developmental domains. These resources are not a curriculum, assessment, or set of teaching strategies but rather, resources for the learning that students should accomplish by the end of prekindergarten, kindergarten, first, and second grade. These resources should be used in conjunction with the full articulation of the standards.



Please refer to the [New York State Next Generation Learning Standards](#) website for additional information on learning standards, including:

- [New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards](#)
- [New York State Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards](#)
- [Next Generation Learning Standards Roadmap and Implementation Timeline](#)
- [Next Generation Standards Supporting All Students Conferences Professional Development Toolkits](#)



Parent Resource: Protective Factors Quick Cards

This five-card set is designed to give parents a quick overview of the Protective Factors and remind them of the strengths they have as parents. The Five Protective Factors are: parental resilience; social connections; concrete support in times of need; knowledge of parenting and child development; and social/emotional competencies of children. These factors help strengthen families and build resiliency in the face of risk factors such as poverty and community

violence. We know from the research that families effectively support children when they have these protective factors in place. Simple suggestions on each card put this family strengthening approach into day to day language for parents. This resource is available by contacting Prevent Child Abuse New York at info@preventchildabuseny.org

NYSB5 Statewide Media Campaign

As a part of the Maximizing Parent Choice and Knowledge activity of the NYSB5 initial grant, the NYS Council on Children and Families created a media campaign to support parents learning the early childhood system in New York State. The NYSB5 Statewide Media Campaign includes *Talking is Teaching* posters in public spaces around the state that promote positive, nurturing parent and child interactions and the [NYS Parent Portal](#) website that encompasses all of The Council's websites and resources designed to assist parents and caregivers. Become part of the campaign! Share the Talking is Teaching posters that you see in the community by using the **#NYSLovesTalkingisTeaching** hashtag on social media and share the NYS Parent Portal link with families that you know.

The Center on the Developing Child Releases New Podcast

[The Center on the Developing Child](#) at Harvard University has released a Premier Podcast Episode, [Brain Architecture: Laying the Foundation](#). Brains are built over time, from the bottom up, and healthy brain architecture provides the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. But what makes a strong or weak foundation? And what can we do in the early years to ensure children have strong brain architecture? In the first episode of the Center's new podcast, *The Brain Architects*, learn about the science behind how brains are built and what it means to build a strong brain. Additionally, listen as a panel of experts discusses the practical side of building brain architecture, and what any parent or caregiver can do to help give children's brains a strong foundation.

Transition Summit Opportunities

As part of the PDGB5 2020 grant (NYSB5), local community teams can apply to host regional [Kindergarten Transition Summits](#), which will include "mini-grants to communities who are ready and able to host this next round of Kindergarten Transition Summits. On March 5th, an orientation for community teams will be held in the Albany area to learn about how to conduct and host a Kindergarten Transition Summit in 2020 and the mini-grant application process. Community teams may include representatives from school districts, early education programs, the CCR&R, colleges, health care providers, libraries and other agencies.

Registration for the orientation will close **February 20, 2020** at 5pm or when maximum room capacity has been reached.

NYS What's Great in Our State Nominations for Children's Mental Health Work

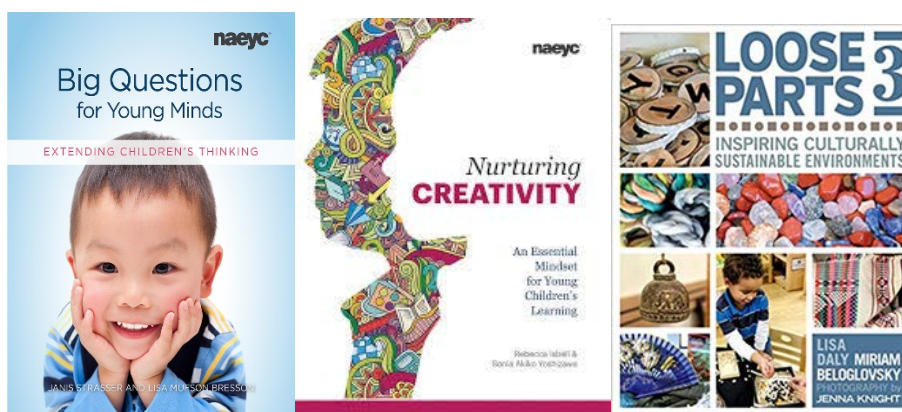
As part of the 2020 New York State What's Great in Our State (WGiOS) celebration on May 5, 2020, the planning committee for the [Children's Mental Health Awareness Day](#) event is seeking nominations to honor individuals, communities, schools, and organizations across New York State that are making a difference in the field of children and youth mental health.

This year's theme is "20/20: Children's Mental Health Coming into Focus." The annual recognition focuses on the following six categories: Youth/Young Adult, Family/Caregiver, Lifetime, Systems of Care Community, Organization or Community Group, and School.

Please contact Kate Provencher via email at Kathryn.Provencher@omh.ny.gov for more information. **The deadline for nominations is February 24, 2020.** Awardees will be recognized at the WGiOS celebration event on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, from 8:30 am to 3:30 p.m., at the [Glen Sanders Mansion](#) in Scotia, New York. The day will include workshops as well as recognition of the 2020 Honorees.

Coming Soon- Professional Development Videos

In November and December of 2019, OEL in partnership with WMHT and CUNY offered professional learning opportunities that provided strategies to support the development of 21st Century learning skills for P-3 educators, instructional coaches, and administrators. Four of the sessions were recorded and will be coming soon to the [OEL website](#). Presentations that will be available include Janis Strasser, Rebecca Isbell, and Miriam Beloglovsky whose books are below and were featured during the event.



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