

# OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING TOP 10 GREATEST HITS *of the* 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR

*The following is a highlight of the resources produced by the Office of Early Learning in the 2024-2025 school year.*



## 1 P-3 Literacy Resources

This year, the Office of Early Learning (OEL) created multiple literacy resources available at the link above. This included the P-3 Literacy Instructional Best Practices Guide, P-3 Literacy Attestation Memo, and recordings of the Literacy Webinar Event that took place on January 7th, 2025.



## 2 2024- 2025 Early Learning Webinar Series

The Office of Early Learning offered a P-3 webinar series that focused on resources and tools for classroom teachers, school administrators, and P-3 educators. Webinars covered various topics including science, behavior, inclusion, and multilingual learners.

## 3 P-3 Learning Continuum Webinars

A series of webinars were created to support understanding and use of the P-3 Instructional Toolkit. These webinars give an overview of the toolkit and highlight how several districts across New York State have used it to increase the use of effective, equitable P-3 instructional strategies.

## 4 Science Everywhere

Science Everywhere is an early learning initiative that emphasizes inquiry-based learning for young children. Led by the Office of Early Learning and Office of Cultural Education, the program fosters children's love for science and nature through hands-on learning experiences.



## 5 Kindergarten Transition Toolkit

The transition toolkit is a resource to aid in planning, implementing, and evaluating Kindergarten 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.



## 6 P-3 Cultural Connections

In collaboration with the Office of Cultural Education, the Cultural Connections digital resource kit was created to help New York State schools and early childhood programs connect students with cultural institutions like museums and science centers to enhance STEAM and history learning through hands-on cultural experiences.

## **7** UPK Consolidation Report

The 2024-2025 State budget directed the Education Commissioner to study and recommend ways to streamline New York's complex prekindergarten funding. This report supports the goal of offering full-day PreK to all four-year-olds by 2030 and three-year-olds by 2035 by identifying key barriers, including complicated PreK funding and related laws.

## **8** EML Guidance Tip Sheet

This guidance was designed to support programs and classrooms in implementing practices for developing the language and literacy of Emergent Multilingual Learners through culturally responsive approaches.

## **9** CR-S PreK Tip Sheet

As an extension of the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework, this guidance was designed to support prekindergarten educators in creating student-centered early learning environments that honor, reflect, and affirm the student diversity found in our classrooms today.

## **10** Outreach, Recruitment, and Lottery Guidance

This document provides guidance to help school districts with outreach and recruitment of eligible children for prekindergarten programs. It also covers conducting enrollment lotteries and notifying families of results when applicable. Districts are expected to adapt this guidance based on their local circumstances, resources, and populations served.

# **SPECIAL EVENTS**

## **Navigating UPK Day 2025**

On May 8th, 2025 the Office of Early Learning hosted its 3rd Annual Navigating PreK Day. Over 170 attendees attended for a day of inspiring speakers, engaging workshops, and networking opportunities.



## **UPK Collaboration Council**

OEL and OCFS jointly collaborated this year to form the UPK Collaboration Council. This group met throughout the year both in-person and virtually to compile a report of actionable steps to improve prekindergarten collaboration for all stakeholders.



**Let us know how we can continue to support you in the 2025-2026 school year! We would love to hear from you: [OEL@nysed.gov](mailto:OEL@nysed.gov)**