

Initiative to Improve

As someone who has overcome a learning disability that once made school an intimidating place to be, I understand what it takes to make our schools work for all children. And, as the Mayor of a thriving city that brought in almost 5,000 new, private sector jobs during my tenure, I understand the importance of preparing children for the competitive job market. Because of my experiences, I believe "life-long learning" strategies are essential to the future prosperity and economic security of all Connecticut students. As Governor, my initiatives to enhance education across the state will be guided by these goals:

1. Focusing on Early Childhood Education

Providing an opportunity for every child to have access to early childhood education and to attend pre-Kindergarten programs is critical to Connecticut's future.

Under my administration, Stamford was the first city in Connecticut to offer universal access to pre-school. We have offered every four-year old access to pre-school and we are working hard to extend universal access to three-year olds. As Governor, I'll continue these efforts statewide. One way to address the cost factor of expanding what I did in Stamford across the state would be to take a means-tested approach as opposed to a universal approach.

Pre-schools are becoming a necessary extension of our traditional elementary schools. Studies have long shown that children who receive pre-kindergarten education are more likely to graduate from high school, less likely to repeat a grade or need special education classes, and less likely to be disruptive in the classroom and hinder teaching. The investment we make in pre-K education pay us back dramatically. Cost savings from reduced education expenditures later in life, fewer social service costs, and higher economic earning capacity are significant.¹