

Advancing Quality Pre-K in ALL States



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Advancing Quality Pre-K for All



- In 2001, Pew Charitable Trusts started its initiative “*Advancing Quality Pre-Kindergarten for All*,” to encourage quality early learning opportunities for all 3 and 4 year olds
- Research-backed, broad support, focused, ripe
- Now at mid-point of initiative
- Public education campaigns in over half the states
- In 2004, 14 states increased opportunities for pre-k
In 2005, 26 states did so – half the states had Republican governors, half had Democrats

**What we *don't* mean by
quality pre-k for all**

High pressure
Academic only
Same size fits all
Only in schools
Ignore parents
Mandatory
Silver bullet

What we *do* mean

Fun – “can I go to pre-K?”
Social/emotional
development
Core for all plus more for
at-risk
Diverse settings, parent
choice
Support parents
Absolutely voluntary
Essential but not sufficient

What the Trusts' initiative can offer

- Infrastructure of organizations
- Technical assistance and financial support
- Help with communications and messages
- Peer network
- Research including state data
- Help in engaging key constituencies (business, law enforcement, K-12, seniors, physicians, media)

Bottom line...



Each state needs to make its own decisions about how to support kids and families but if pre-k seems like a good idea...

- Momentum is growing
- Many ways to start
- Window of opportunity is open now