

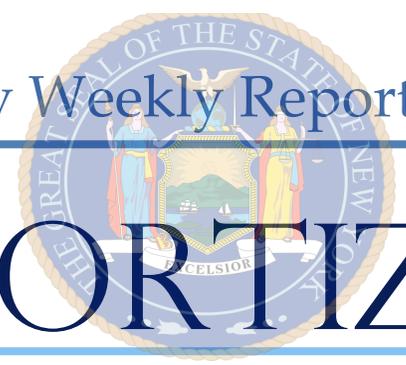


New York State Assembly Weekly Report

From Assistant Speaker

FELIX W. ORTIZ

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Earlier application for fall Pre-K now underway, closes March 4.

With just two weeks left in the first round of applications for Pre-K, I want to urge families to apply right away.

All New York City families with children born in 2012 are eligible to apply to pre-K for the 2016-17 school year. This includes children with disabilities and children whose home language is a language other than English. There are enough free, full-day, high-quality seats to meet the demand of every four-year-old in New York City.

To make the enrollment process even easier, the Department of Education moved up the application timeline so that families can apply more than a month earlier than last year, receiving offer letters over a month sooner in early May.

- **Learn About Available Programs in Every Neighborhood** in the online Pre-K Directory or by calling 311.
- **Complete a Short Application for All Programs:** Complete a simple application online on NYC.gov/prek, over the phone at 718-935-2067, or in person at a Family Welcome Center. The single application allows families to list up to 12 full-day pre-K programs – including DOE district schools, DOE-run Pre-K Centers and New York City Early Education Centers (NYCEECs) – ranking programs of interest in order of preference.

I want to wish everyone celebrating the Chinese New Year a most prosperous and healthy year. I celebrated the Year of the Monkey - Lunar New Year - with New Yorkers across the city!



I want to remind homeowners that the deadline to file an application for the New York State Tax Relief Program (STAR) is Tuesday, March 15th. The deadline applies to both Basic and Enhanced STAR (seniors aged 65 or older).

Please note that applications must be postmarked by the 15th to ensure the property tax exemption takes effect on July 1st of this year.

Senator Terrence Murphy and I listen as Ben Lieberman talks about the need for Evan's Law. Evan's Law is named after Lieberman's son who was in a fatal car accident involving a driver who was distracted



by texting. Evan's Law would allow police to examine cell phone usage at the scene of car accidents to help determine if the use of such a device contributed to the accident. Senator Murphy and I recently introduced the bill (A.8613A) and are working together to advance it in both houses.

I'm excited to welcome the Brooklyn Nets to Sunset Park, Brooklyn in the district that I proudly represent. Sunset Park and all of Brooklyn loves the game of basketball. Now the greatest sports town in America gets even better. The Nets will provide local children with opportunities to experience basketball firsthand. With so many talented children, we expect nothing less. This state-of-the-art training facility will also help strengthen the neighborhood and bring jobs and opportunity for our residents. I look forward to celebrating a basketball championship in Brooklyn.