nyaeyc

New York Association for the Education of Young Children

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

New York Association for the Education of Young Children

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on 2024, the New York Association for the Education of Young Children (NYAEYC) is proud to highlight another year of progress, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to those who care for and educate our youngest learners. As the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), NYAEYC serves as a vital professional membership organization for early childhood educators across New York State.

Our work is grounded in the belief that all young children deserve access to high-quality early learning experiences—and that such experiences are made possible by a well-supported, well-prepared, and diverse early childhood workforce. Throughout 2024, NYAEYC continued to lead and support initiatives that elevate the profession, promote developmentally appropriate practice, and strengthen systems that empower educators and benefit children and families.

This annual report provides a snapshot of our shared accomplishments and the collective impact of our members, partners, and communities. We are honored to stand with educators who inspire excellence every day and to advocate for a future where every child—and every childhood educator—can thrive.

Cecilia Scott-Croff
President

Kristen Kerr
Executive Director

NYAEYC OVERVIEW

Mission

The New York Association for the Education of Young Children's mission is to promote excellence in early care and education for New York State children and families through education, advocacy, and the support of the profession.

Vision

All children in New York State have access to high-quality early care and education programs with sufficient resources to meet children's physical, educational, and social/emotional needs in environments that support diversity.
All individuals working in the early care and education profession are well educated, receive equitable compensation, and support in their continuing professional development.
All New York State families have access to affordable, high-quality early care and education programs in which they actively participate.

2024 Strategic Goals

Strategic Priority: Organizational Excellence
Goal 1: NYAEYC is an informed, responsive, experienced and inclusive organization with the capacity to achieve its vision and mission.

Strategic Priority: Advocacy & Policy to Advance High-Quality Early Childhood Education
Goal 2: NYAEYC is instrumental in informing and bridging policy and practice and advocating to ensure all young children have access to an equitable, coordinated and comprehensive system of high-quality early learning.

Strategic Priority: The Profession
Goal 3: Support high-quality early care and education capacity through professional learning opportunities that promote culturally responsive and evidence-based practices and align with New York's early learning framework.

Strategic Priority: Professional Membership and Innovation
Goal 4: NYAEYC engages and supports a dynamic membership that is comprised of the full diversity of early childhood educators.

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

The NYAEYC membership encompasses the NAEYC membership and the benefits offered at the national level. In 2024, NYAEYC provided numerous benefits that allowed its members to access necessary resources and networking opportunities to increase their value. Highlighted member benefits include New York Early Learning Resources, the print *Reporter*, NYAEYC Mini Grant, *Beyond the Pages with NYAEYC* article discussion, and discounts on Conference registration and trainings.

New York Early Learning Resources
Knowledge hub for the business of early care and learning

New York Early Learning Resources is the ultimate member benefit. With a built-in job board to find both talent and jobs, access to telehealth and teletherapy options, and a wealth of information to help administrators, educators, and family/group family childcare educators. From lesson plans to staff management, this benefit has it all.

Beyond the Pages with NYAEYC

Beyond the Pages with NYAEYC is a virtual, facilitator-led discussion series that explores key topics from NAEYC's journals *Teaching Young Children* and *Young Children*. In 2024, NYAEYC hosted three engaging discussions providing members with an opportunity to reflect, connect, and apply what they've read to their professional practice.

Discounts on Conferences and Virtual Trainings

NYAEYC members enjoy exclusive discounts on a range of professional development opportunities, including our Annual Conference, virtual trainings, and credentialing programs. These valuable savings make it easier for educators to invest in their growth, deepen their expertise, and stay connected to their statewide network.

nyaeyc Winter 2024 **Reporter**

The Reporter NYAEYC's biannual print journal, delivered directly to all members. Each issue features relevant articles and practical tools designed to support early childhood professionals in their daily work.

Congratulations to our 2023 - 2024 Mini Grant Recipients

The NYAEYC Mini Grant awards up to $500 to five eligible educators to implement new and innovative programs in their classrooms or early childhood settings. These grants empower educators to bring creative ideas to life and enhance learning experiences for young children across New York State,

Carly Boyles - *The Garden Project: Creating Proficient Readers, and Student Motivation through Early Hands-On Learning Experiences*

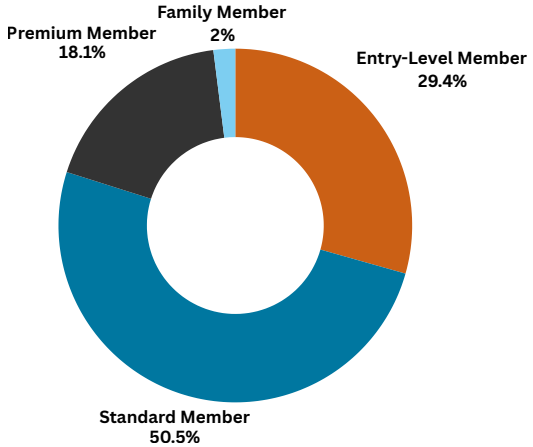
Jennifer D'Agostino - *Language and Literacy: "Around the World" an Expression of Inclusion and Diversity*

Kristin DeTaeye - *My Five Senses!*

Loretta Robinson - *Little Green Thumbs*

Jennifer Weisse - *Enhanced Outdoor Environment*

2024 Membership Breakdown



MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

New in 2025: NYAEYC C•A•R•E•S

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen member engagement and streamline services, NAEYC will implement changes to its membership structure in 2025. These updates are designed to provide a more consistent and simplified experience for members nationwide, with a focus on enhanced digital access, a single member tier, and improved support for professional development.

NYAEYC will continue to work closely with NAEYC to ensure a smooth transition for our members and to advocate for the unique needs of early childhood educators in New York. We are committed to and will continue to serve as a vital resource and advocate for our members during this transition, ensuring New York educators stay connected and well-supported.

Community

Connect with local, state, and nationwide networks of early childhood professionals through online platforms and in-person events.

Advocacy

Advocate for early childhood education, embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion, and amplify your voice through action.

Resources

Access resources like Educating Young Children (a member-only online magazine) and digital content (newsletters, articles, ebooks, and more).

Events

Attend local, state, and national events at a discounted rate and expand your knowledge with access to webinars.

Support

Advance your career with professional development opportunities and access mentorship programs, scholarships, and discounts on books, courses, insurance, and more.

TOP 2024 INITIATIVES

Pyramid Model

The Pyramid Model implementation strategy in New York State focuses on two core priorities: (1) supporting a robust Professional Development Network of trainers, observers, and coaches, and (2) expanding implementation across early childhood programs statewide. State and Regional Coordinators collaboratively manage these efforts, balancing technical assistance, training, and systems-building.

In 2023, a new onboarding process was introduced to enhance accessibility and streamline entry into the Pyramid Model Framework. Despite increased engagement through required Roadmap Sessions and structured training in the Pyramid Model data system (PIDS), growth in implementation was slower than anticipated. Feedback revealed that many programs felt overwhelmed by the intensity and pace of initial requirements.

In response, 2024 efforts focused on intentional implementation readiness, introducing a phased model aligned with national best practices:

1. Exploration: Introduction to Pyramid Model strategies
2. Installation: Preparation for forming Implementation Leadership Teams
3. Initial Implementation: Coaching support and reflective practice begins
4. Full Implementation: Sustained and integrated use of the framework

This refined, gradual approach significantly boosted engagement—doubling the number of participating programs in 2024.

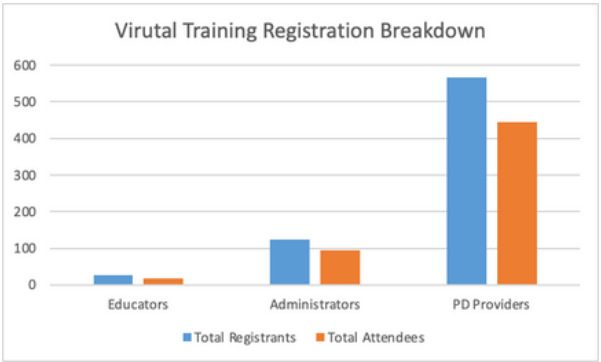
Additionally, statewide consistency and accessibility were improved through:

- Development of updated reference materials for the Professional Development Network
- Launch of a State Training Calendar, offering no-cost training for new and existing staff

Together, these efforts reflect a strategic shift toward sustainable, scalable, and fidelity-based implementation of the Pyramid Model across New York.

Professional Learning

In 2024, NYAEYC proudly hosted 41 virtual training events, drawing over 550 participants from across New York State. These sessions offered meaningful opportunities for educators, administrators, and professional development providers to deepen their knowledge and foster collaboration. NYAEYC also continued to administer the Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential, supporting the growth of Professional Development Specialists, Coaches, and Content Specialists. Of the 130+ applications received, 67 individuals successfully earned their credential. Additionally, 28 new applications were submitted for the Children's Program Administrator Credential, with 10 awarded and 63 currently in progress.



TOP 2024 INITIATIVES

Early Learning Alliance

Since launching in June 2021, the alliance has received 620 applications from programs across New York State, with 49 currently active in 22 counties—most notably Erie, Queens, and Monroe—serving 1,589 children and employing 331 early childhood educators. Of these, 32 programs accept subsidies, supporting 440 subsidized children. Participation is divided into Tier I and Tier II, with 21 programs in Year 1 of Tier I, 13 in Year 2, and 15 in Tier II. To accommodate programs that find the child care management system challenging, Tier II—launched in April 2024—offers continued access to services such as one-on-one support, monthly group meetings, professional development opportunities, and more. Currently, 40 of the 49 programs actively use AllianceCORE. The alliance has also introduced the Alliance Community Connection newsletter to foster community engagement and formalized monthly group meetings covering pedagogical and business coaching topics. Additionally, 141 tablets, 10 laptops, and other tech supports have been distributed to help programs comply with OCFS regulations and effectively use AllianceCORE. Marketing efforts are ongoing to grow Tier II, especially among those connected to Quality Stars NY or NYAEYC.

Advocacy

The New York Association for the Education of Young Children (NYAEYC) actively engages in advocacy efforts to advance high-quality early care and education including equitable access to child care. At the state level, NYAEYC is a proud member of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care, working collaboratively to influence policy, expand funding, and promote state systems that support the early childhood workforce and the families they serve across New York State. At the federal level, NYAEYC aligns with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to advocate for federal investments in early learning, elevate the voices of early childhood professionals, and support legislation that strengthens the early care and education system nationwide. Through these efforts, NYAEYC champions policies that prioritize young children, families, and the educators who support their growth and development.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2024 Annual Conference brought together over 1400 early childhood educators for three days filled with inspiring professional development, engaging vendors, and countless networking opportunities. Attendees enjoyed three captivating keynote speakers—Raelene Ostberg, Prerna Richards, and Diane Craft—each inspiring the audience with a focus on discovering and embracing their JOY. The diagram below shows that the conference attendee breakdown consisted of 25.4% members, 70.4% nonmembers, 3.3% sponsors and exhibitors, and 0.9% students.

2024 Annual Conference

1427 Attendees

5 Sponsors

39 Exhibitors

135 Workshops

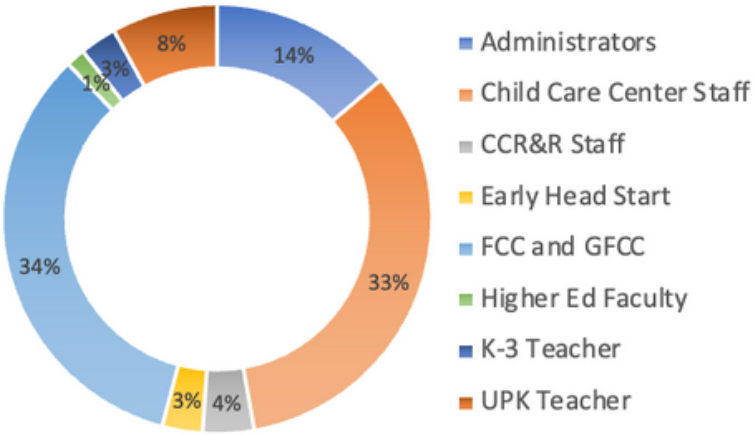
128 Presenters

16.5 Training Hours

205 QUALITYstarsNY Supported Attendees

98 CSEA/Voice Supported Attendees

Attendee Breakdown



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thank you to our generous Conference Sponsors!

GOLD

SILVER

BRONZE

Champions for Children

Each year, NYAEYC proudly honors 3–4 individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to young children and the field of early childhood education. In 2024, three outstanding advocates were recognized, including one posthumously honored for her lasting impact and unwavering commitment to the profession.

Congratulations to our 2024 Champions for Children

Tami Callister
Early Childhood Leader

Gladys Jones
Early Childhood Supporter

We were also honored to posthumously recognize
Mira Berkley
as our Member Leader

Thank you to our Conference Partners!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Expanding Our Impact in New York

Our mission continues to drive meaningful change for early childhood professionals and the children they serve across New York State. In 2024, we strengthened our financial foundation and expanded our reach through strategic programming and partnerships.

Changes from FY 2023

Revenue: 10.4% Increase

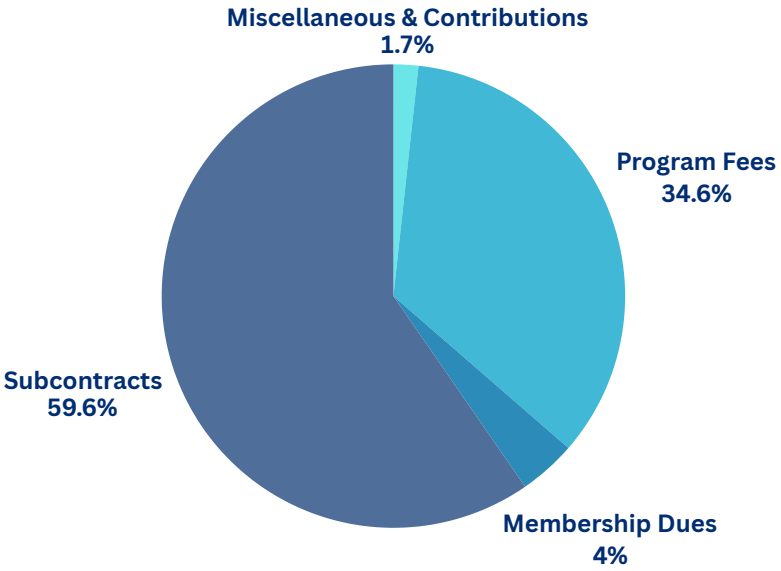
Expenses: 3.2% Decrease

Assets: 27% Increase

Liabilities: 34.3% Decrease

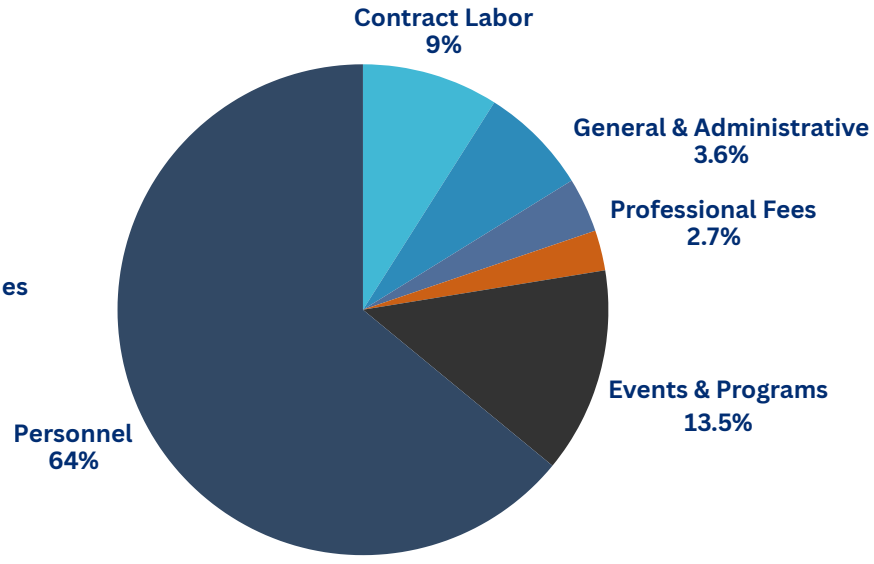
Revenue

(% of Total Revenue: $1,281,899)



Expenses

(% of Total Expenses: $985,376)



NYAEYC 2024
BOARD AND STAFF

Governing Board

Cecilia Scott-Croff
President

Dorey Bridge
President- Elect

Beth Stars
Vice President

Rachel Aulet-McGann
Recording Secretary

Rhya Jerrold,
Treasurer

In Memorial
Stephanie Dockweiler
1961-2024
Accreditation and
Program Improvement

Chieftess Olufemi
Yeshua El
Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion

Jenna Pettinicchi
Governance

Jen Longley
Governance

Debbie Collette-Cromp
Member Services and
Programs

Cristina Medellin
Professional
Preparation and
Development

Olivia Wang
Public Relations
and Marketing

Lynn Lubecki
Public Policy

Heather Sweet
At-Large Member

Gerald Sweeney
At-Large Member

Staff

Kristen Kerr, Executive Director
LaRonda Famodu, Administrative Assistant
Avril Mills, Professional Development Director
Sneh Shah, Member Relations and Communications Coordinator
Kiersten Lasch, Professional Development Project Assistant
Deborah Fitzgerald, Pyramid Model Training Coordinator
Sheridan Povemba, Pyramid Model Training Coordinator
Andrea Baker, Early Learning Alliance Coordinator
Corianne Jankowski, Early Learning Alliance Specialist
John Doemel, Financial Coordinator

JOIN US

Looking for more ways to get involved?

Scan the QR code or visit our website at www.nyaeyc.org!

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