

NJ Preschool Expansion Plan



The Goal



Bring the components of New Jersey's High-Quality State Preschool Program to 19 High-Need Communities through a mixed-delivery system of school-based, private provider and Head Start programs

Facts about the grant



- **\$70 million over 4 years (\$17.5 million per year)**
- **January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2018**
- **Grant-Defined Eligible Children**
 - 200% of Federal Poverty Level
 - Un-served 4-year-olds (new slots)
 - Under-served 4-year-olds (improved slots)
- **Program Requirements**
 - Full-day program
 - Mixed-delivery system
 - Small class sizes (15 in each classroom)
 - Certified teachers/assistants with comparable salaries (1 teacher and 1 assistant)
 - Research-based curriculum
 - Comprehensive services
 - Inclusion of children with disabilities

More facts



- **19 “Subgrantees”**
 - 4 Northern School Districts
 - 1 Central School District
 - 14 Southern School Districts
- **Meet all standards of former Abbott districts**
- **County per pupil rates**
- **Community needs assessment**
 - Identify Head Start and Community Providers
 - Identify existing district space
- **Scholarship funding for uncertified teachers in provider and Head Start settings**

Subgrantees

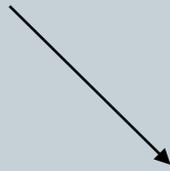


Subgrantees Included in the NJ Preschool Expansion Plan	
County	District Name
ATLANTIC	ABSECON CITY, ATLANTIC CITY, EGG HARBOR CITY, GALLOWAY TWP, HAMILTON TWP
BURLINGTON	MOUNT HOLLY TWP
CAMDEN	BELLMAWR BORO, LINDENWOLD BORO
CAPE MAY	MIDDLE TWP
CUMBERLAND	UPPER DEERFIELD TWP
GLOUCESTER	CLAYTON BORO, PAULSBORO BORO
HUDSON	NORTH BERGEN
MONMOUTH	FREEHOLD BORO
OCEAN	BERKELEY TWP, LAKEWOOD TWP
PASSAIC	CLIFTON CITY
SOMERSET	BOUND BROOK BORO
UNION	LINDEN CITY

A Continuous Improvement Cycle Tracks and Supports Implementation



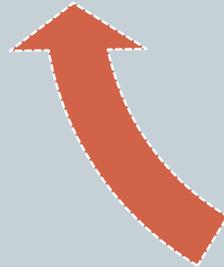
Program and learning standards



Measure &
Assess
Implementation



Analyze & Plan



Implement
Change/PD



Child level



- Screening upon entry to the program to flag for any major learning and development issues, and use of an ongoing performance-based/observational assessment to help teachers teach the preschool standards.

Classroom level

- Teachers, coaches and building administrators/provider directors will use tools to evaluate classroom practices, interactions, and activities (e.g. Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-3 (ECERS-3); Classroom Assessment and Scoring System (CLASS); and Curriculum-specific fidelity tools).



Site/Program level



- Use of Grow NJ Kids, the state's Quality Rating Improvement System (agreed upon standards across Departments of Human Services, Education, Children and Families and Health).

Five categories and five levels within each:

Category 1: Safe, Healthy Learning Environments

Category 2: Curriculum and Learning

Category 3: Family and Community Engagement

Category 4: Workforce/Professional Development

Category 5: Administration and Management



District level



School districts will assess the implementation of each program component through:

- A self-assessment (with a validation component). The Self-Assessment Validation System (SAVS) measures the implementation of each component of the Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines and Code.
- Summaries of both classroom evaluations and child performance to inform areas of need and professional development.



State level



Classroom quality and child progress are carefully monitored through:

- Aggregate scores and ratings from GNJK (prospectively).
- University-conducted structured evaluations of classroom quality in a random sample of classrooms every year.
- University-conducted tracking of child outcomes over time.
- Summaries and analysis of district-reported SAVS data, classroom evaluations and child performance.
- Analysis of the number of children served, rates of inclusion, and teacher qualifications.
- Audits of fiscal practices.

K-3 initiatives to increase the chances that the preschool investment works



- Kindergarten Entry Assessment
- Kindergarten Guidelines
 - Kindergarten Seminar
- First through Third Grade Guidelines
 - 1st to 3rd Seminar

What we said we would do by the end of the grant:

- Prepare teachers and leaders to implement the program and learning standards, use comprehensive assessment systems and kindergarten entry assessments, support children with disabilities and support English language learners.
- Include 60% of preschool children with disabilities general education settings.
- Reach a 5.0 or higher on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-3 (ECERS-3).
- All teachers (100%) will have their Preschool to Third Grade (P-3) certificate or equivalent (across all settings, including Head Start and Private Provider settings)



By the end of the grant:



- **Serve an additional 1,248 Eligible Children in High-Quality Preschool Programs with Preschool Expansion Grant funding.**
- **Improve existing slots for 729 Eligible Children and 338 other children in High-Quality Preschool Programs by limiting class sizes, decreasing child to staff ratios, extending the program day, providing Comprehensive Services (through Central Intake and County Councils), and employing/compensating teachers with bachelor's degrees and preschool certification.**

By the end of the grant:



- **Implement the elements of the High-Quality State Preschool Program and Grow NJ Kids.**
- **Implement the NJKEA to improve the efficacy of kindergarten classrooms, and have teachers enroll in the Kindergarten Seminar.**
- **Implement the First through Third Grade Guidelines.**