

NJ Preschool Expansion Plan



The Goal



Bring the components of New Jersey's High-Quality State Preschool Program to 17 High-Need Communities through a mixed-delivery system of school-based, private provider and Head Start programs

A quick look inside our high quality classrooms



Warm and responsive teachers that enhance children's language skills



Classroom centers designed for preschoolers that promote each learning domain



Literacy Skills



3-D creations



Making connections through math and science



Experiences that develop social skills, like independence and self regulation



Organized activities that promote listening, speaking and reasoning skills



Children practicing writing skills in meaningful contexts



Children problem solving and experimenting



Classroom schedules that maximize learning and minimize transition



Engaged families



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



- **17 “Subgrantees”**
- **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
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

Program Requirements



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How we plan to support you



- **Assigned early childhood liaison**
- **Access to free DECE training:**
 - **Coaches**
 - Supports for English Language Learners
 - Inclusion
 - Diversity in EC settings
 - **Nurses**
 - **Intervention and Referral Staff**
 - Positive Behavior Supports (for challenging behaviors)
 - **Principal/Director and Supervisor training (Leadership Track)**
- **Professional development through Grow NJ Kids**

The Brains Behind our Program



- **Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards**
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/guide/standards.pdf>
- **Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines**
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/guide/impguidelines.pdf>
- **Grow NJ Kids**
<http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/programs/child/grow/Self%20Assessment121814pdf.pdf>
- **New Jersey Administrative Code: 6A:13A, Elements of High Quality Preschool Programs**
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/code/current/title6a/chap13a.pdf>
- **Self Assessment and Validation System**
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/savs/SAVSFormerAbbott1314.pdf>
- **Four-year Preschool Program Plan and One-Year Budget (forthcoming)**

A Continuous Improvement Cycle Tracks and Supports Implementation



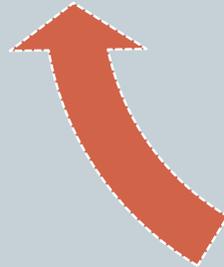
Program and learning standards



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 agreed upon program standards, the state's Quality Rating Improvement System.

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



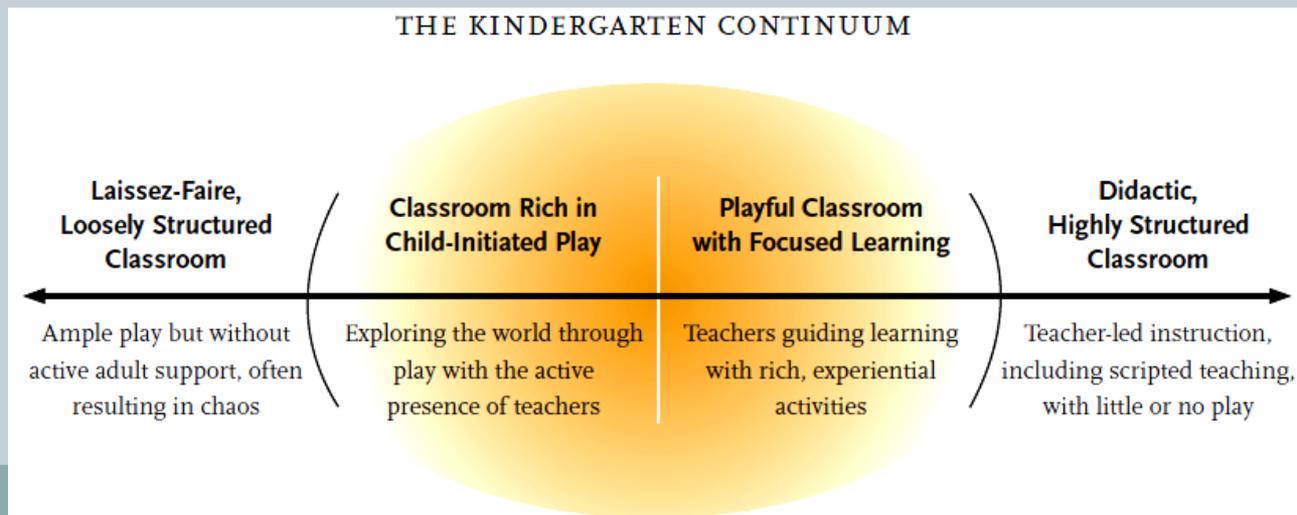
Classroom quality and child progress are carefully monitored through:

- 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:

- Implement the program and learning standards, and use comprehensive assessment systems, kindergarten entry assessments, as well as support children with disabilities and English language learners.
- Include 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%) have their Preschool to Third Grade (P-3) certificate (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.**
- **Implement the elements of the High-Quality State Preschool Program and Grow NJ Kids.**