



Christie Administration Announces New Jersey to Receive Federal Preschool Grant of up to \$17.5 Million Annually

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – The Christie Administration today announced that New Jersey was selected to receive a federal grant to provide quality preschool to more than 2,300 children in 19 communities. New Jersey was one of 18 states selected to receive a Preschool Development Grant of up to \$17.5 million a year, to be renewed annually for up to four years. The grants are being awarded jointly by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

With expansion funding through the Preschool Development Grant, New Jersey will bring the components of its high-quality state preschool program, which is now operating in 35 school districts, to 19 additional communities. This funding will help more preschool programs hire certified teachers; implement a developmentally appropriate curriculum; provide coaches to support preschool educators to work with children with disabilities and English language learners; and reduce class size.

"New Jersey has a long history of supporting high-quality preschool for the state's most vulnerable children," said Acting Education Commissioner David C. Hespe. "Our preschool program is nationally recognized for its sustained impact on children and families in high-need communities throughout the state. We are committed to using high-quality preschool access as a key lever in closing the achievement gap, and we're pleased we can extend the benefits of this program to even more at-risk children in our state."

The funding will provide a mixed-delivery preschool system of school-based, private-provider and Head Start programs, enhancing the learning and development of 4-year-old children from families at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty line.

The grant will –

- Implement the components of a high-quality preschool program in 19 participating New Jersey school districts (see chart below)
- Provide up to \$17.5 million a year for four years (to be renewed annually)
- Serve an estimated additional 1,248 eligible children in high-quality preschool programs with Preschool Development Grant funding
- Improve existing preschool programs that are being delivered to 1,067 children
- Participating school districts will take part in other initiatives to raise quality for preschool through third grade (e.g., participate in Grow NJ Kids, the state's quality rating improvement system that will provide communities with ratings of preschool programs; receive staff training to support kindergarten to third-grade instruction).

New Jersey's existing high-quality preschool program operates in some of the highest-need communities in the state, including school districts that had been designated as 'Abbott' districts. The grant funding will allow New Jersey to expand preschool programs in 19 additional high-need school districts, including –

County	District
ATLANTIC	Absecon, Atlantic City, Egg Harbor City, Galloway Township, Hamilton
BURLINGTON	Mount Holly Township
CAMDEN	Bellmawr, Lindenwold
CAPE MAY	Middle Township
CUMBERLAND	Upper Deerfield Township
GLOUCESTER	Clayton, Paulsboro
HUDSON	North Bergen
MONMOUTH	Freehold Borough

OCEAN	Berkeley Township, Lakewood Township
PASSAIC	Clifton City
SOMERSET	Bound Brook
UNION	Linden City

Additional information is available on the U.S. Department of Education's [preschool grants web page](#).