

MEMORANDUM

February 27, 2008

TO: Chief School Administrators
School Business Administrators/Board Secretaries

FROM: Jacqueline Jones, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Early Childhood Education

Yut'se Thomas, Director 
Office of School Funding

SUBJECT: FY 2008-2009 Preschool Education Aid

Your preliminary preschool education aid for fiscal year 2008-2009 has been determined under the School Funding Reform Act of 2008. The calculation is described below.

In the case of a school district that received Early Launch to Learning Initiative (ELLI) aid in the 2007-2008 school year, for the 2008-2009 school year the district shall receive preschool education aid in an amount equal to the district's allocation of Early Launch to Learning Initiative aid in the 2007-2008 school year.

In the case of a school district that received Early Childhood Program Aid in the 2007-2008 school year but did not receive Preschool Expansion Aid or Education Opportunity Aid in that year, for the 2008-2009 school year the district will receive Preschool Education Aid equal to the greater of the district's 2007-2008 amount of Early Childhood Program Aid for preschool or the district's 2007-2008 per pupil allocation of Early Childhood Program Aid as included in the district's original 2007-2008 budget certified for taxes, inflated by the CPI, and multiplied by the district's projected preschool enrollment. However, if the district is able to demonstrate in the five-year plan submitted to the commissioner that it has the capacity to offer a full-day three- or four-year-old program, or a full-day three- and four-year-old program, in the 2008-2009 school year, the commissioner may approve the funding of the full-day program calculated in accordance with the provisions of section twelve of the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 based upon projected preschool enrollment. The district shall be informed of the commissioner's determination upon approval of the five-year plan.

In the case of a school district that received Preschool Expansion Aid or Education Opportunity aid in the 2007-2008 school year, for the 2008-2009 school year the district shall receive Preschool Education Aid in an amount equal to the preschool budget approved by the commissioner for the 2008-2009 school year. Preschool Education Aid for the 2008-2009 school year shall be adjusted following receipt of the Application for State School Aid in October 2008.

Payments will be included with the districts' General Fund Payment and made in twenty (20) bi-monthly installments beginning in September 2008. If you have any questions or need further clarification about the FY 2008-2009 preschool education aid budget, please call the Division of Early Childhood Education at (609) 777-2074 or your county office. If you have any questions about the payment of preschool education aid, please call Gautam Nanavati at (609) 777-4488.

JJ/YT/K:\~INDIVIDUAL STAFF FOLDERS\David\State Funding Formula\State preschool education aid MEMORANDUM 2-27-08.doc

Attachment

c: Commissioner Lucille E. Davy
Willa Spicer
John Hart
William King
Katie Attwood
Rochelle Hendricks
County Superintendents
County School Business Administrators
Erika Leak
Robert Ortley
Ellen Wolock