



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 15, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors of Curriculum and Instruction, Early Childhood Supervisors, School Business Administrators  
From: Cary A. Booker, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Early Childhood Services  
Deadline: Register for Mandatory Technical Assistance by December 19, 2023

## Release of 2023-2024 Preschool Expansion Notice of Funding Opportunity-Round Two

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), is pleased to release the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NFO\)](#) to eligible local educational agencies (LEA) for the 2023-2024 school year. This opportunity is open to LEAs in the state of New Jersey that are not currently receiving preschool expansion aid and offer full-day kindergarten to students. LEAs offering a state-funded general education preschool program with Early Childhood Program Aid or Early Launch to Learn (ECPA/ELLI) are encouraged to expand the current program to serve more children or to offer longer hours. Non-operating districts are eligible to apply in collaboration with the LEA who provides the educational program to kindergarten students. Charter schools must currently be approved to serve preschool children.

### Mandatory Technical Assistance Workshop

LEAs are required to attend a mandatory technical assistance session in order to apply. Recorded virtual sessions will be available for viewing from Wednesday, December 20 through Friday, December 22. It is recommended that LEAs identify a team of administrators to participate in the technical assistance workshop. The last 30 minutes will be spent discussing the budget portion of the application; therefore, school business administrators may wish to participate in that portion. At a minimum, LEAs must send one staff member or consultant to be eligible to apply. If an LEA plans to apply collaboratively, a staff member or consultant from each LEA in the collaboration must attend. Please email [doeearlychild@doe.nj.gov](mailto:doeearlychild@doe.nj.gov) and a link will be sent to you prior to the sessions. LEAs who previously attended the technical assistance sessions held on July 10 or July 11, 2023, are not required to attend. **The registration deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.**

### Application Submission

Completed applications will be due by 12:00 p.m. on January 12, 2024, via [Homeroom](#). The NJDOE will **not accept a late proposal**. The responsibility for a timely submission resides with the applicant. The applicant's LEA will not be eligible for an award if the proposal is **incomplete** or **received after the due date**.

### Due Dates are as follows:

**Applications due by 12:00 p.m. on January 12, 2024**

**Notification to district February 2, 2024**

**Program implementation on or before June 30, 2024 (Please note: Preschool Expansion Aid funds the 180 day school year, summer programs would need to be funded with alternative sources)**

### Award Selection

LEAs that have higher free and reduced-price lunch (FRPL) percentages will be prioritized for consideration. Priority consideration will be based on:

- LEAs at 20 percent FRPL or above, with successful applications, will receive priority funding.
- LEAs at 15-19 percent FRPL, with successful applications, will be eligible to receive funding in the second round of consideration.
- LEAs at 10-14 percent FRPL, with successful applications, will be eligible to receive funding in the third round of consideration.
- LEAs with less than ten percent FRPL, with successful applications, will be eligible to receive funding in the final round of consideration.

Eligible applications who meet the cut score will be ranked and funded in descending order, from highest to lowest score and utilizing the priority rankings identified above, until available funds have been used. Reviewers will use the points indicated in each section to score the application content.

**Contact Information**

Questions may be directed to the Office of Preschool Education at [doeearlychild@doe.nj.gov](mailto:doeearlychild@doe.nj.gov).

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- NJDOE Staff
- Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
- Garden State Coalition of Schools
- NJ LEE Group