



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 3, 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: 3 p.m. July 7, 2023 for July 10 session
12 p.m. July 10, 2023 for July 11 session

Release of 2023-2024 Preschool Expansion Notice of Funding Opportunity

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to release the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) [2023-2024 Application for Preschool Expansion Aid](#) document, located on the NJDOE [Preschool webpage](#) in the Early Childhood Education section. The NFO is offered to local educational agencies (LEAs) for the 2023-2024 school year. **This opportunity is open to any LEA in the state of New Jersey that is not currently receiving preschool expansion aid and offers full-day kindergarten to students.** LEAs already offering a state-funded general education preschool program with Early Childhood Program Aid or Early Launch to Learn (ECPA/ELLI) may apply to expand the program to serve more children, or to offer longer hours. Non-operating LEAs are eligible to apply in collaboration with the LEA who provides the educational program to their kindergarten students. Charter school eligibility is contingent upon the approval to serve preschool in their charter agreement.

Note: First-time applicants must demonstrate due diligence in establishing partnerships to provide its preschool program through a mixed-delivery system in licensed childcare providers and Head Start programs in its community or neighboring communities that are willing and able to meet all preschool program requirements.

Mandatory Technical Assistance Workshop

In order to apply, LEAs must attend a mandatory technical assistance session. There are two virtual sessions to choose from, Monday, July 10, 2023 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. or Tuesday, July 11, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. It is recommended that LEAs identify a team of administrators to participate in the technical assistance workshop. The last 30 minutes of each session will be spent discussing the budget portion of the application. LEAs must send a minimum of one staff member or consultant to be eligible to apply. If LEAs plan to apply collaboratively, a staff member or consultant from each LEA in the collaboration must attend. Please email doeearlychild@doe.nj.gov with the session you wish to attend and the names and email addresses of the representative(s) for the virtual meeting. A link to the selected session will be sent. LEAs are only required to attend one of the two sessions and must stay for the duration of the presentation. The sessions are identical, so there is no need to attend both. **The registration deadline for the July 10th session is 3 p.m. on Friday, July 7, 2023. The deadline to register for the July 11th session is 12 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2023.**

Application Submission

Completed applications will be due by 12 p.m. on August 11, 2023, via [Homeroom](#). NJDOE will **not accept a late proposal**. The responsibility for a timely submission resides with the applicant. The applicant LEA will not be eligible for an award if the proposal is **incomplete** or **received after the due date**.

Award Selection

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

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

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