

Division of Early Childhood Education and Family Engagement Guidance on the Use of Curricular Enhancements

The Division of Early Childhood Education and Family Engagement state-funded school district preschool programs must adopt a comprehensive, evidence-based curricula model that is aligned with the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards. Districts should be working toward fidelity and full implementation of their chosen curriculum before including additional curricular enhancements. Once implemented, curricular enhancements will become part of the DECEFE monitoring and assessment of the preschool program.

When a district is choosing a curricular enhancement, they should ensure that the materials are:

- i. Based on scientific research and include standardized training procedures to support implementation;
- ii. Aligned with the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards;
- iii. Content-rich;
- iv. Part of a structure that promotes measurable progress toward learning and development; and,
- v. Organized within a scope and sequence of developmental progression that ensures appropriate learning experiences based on how young children learn.

If state-funded school district preschool program administrators are considering curricular enhancements, the Division of Early Childhood Education and Family Engagement requires administrators to:

- i. Ensure that staff receive support to effectively blend enhancement materials with curricula;
- ii. Provide professional development, feedback, and support for effective implementation;
- iii. Monitor the fidelity of implementation; and
- iv. Collect evidence that child outcomes improve with the addition of the curricular enhancements.