



Region II
26 Federal Plaza, Rm 4114
New York, NY 10278

October 28, 2008

Head Start Director & Title
Grantee Name
Street Address
City, State Zip

Dear Grantee:

The Administration for Children and Families, Region II Office of Head Start, and the New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education, are dedicated to improving collaboration between state-funded preschool and Head Start programs and to enhancing the quality of preschool programs for low-income children. Many of the 400 Head Start sites providing educational and support services to approximately 17,000 young children and their families collaborate with multiple school districts. These collaborations call for ongoing dialogue about curriculum and training choices.

Both New Jersey state-funded and Head Start preschool programs must adopt a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum model that is aligned with the *New Jersey Preschool Teaching & Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality* and the *Head Start Child Outcomes Framework*, respectively. In addition, the curriculum should offer standardized training procedures and curriculum materials to support implementation.

As school districts select curriculum models for preschool expansion and collaborate with Head Start agencies, several options are available. The district may:

- Develop a system of ongoing support whereby the Head Start agency continues using its selected curriculum (which may be different from the curriculum chosen by the district but is one of the models approved by the Department of Education); or
- Consider adopting the curriculum that the Head Start agency is already implementing; or
- Discuss whether the Head Start agency is interested in changing its curriculum.

As preschool expansion moves forward, partnerships between school districts and Head Start agencies will continue to grow. As a guiding principle, school districts and Head Start programs should work collaboratively to meet state and federal regulations and maintain and enhance the quality of services to all children. Continued collaboration between Head Start programs and local school districts will help to ensure success for the children and families that we serve.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Jones
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Early Childhood Education
New Jersey Department of Education

Matthew Schottenfeld
Regional Program Manager
Region II – Office of Head Start