NJ Preschool Expansion Plan
Bring the components of New Jersey’s High-Quality State Preschool Program to 17 High-Need Communities through a mixed-delivery system of school-based, private provider and Head Start programs
A quick look inside our high quality classrooms
Warm and responsive teachers that enhance children’s language skills
Classroom centers designed for preschoolers that promote each learning domain
Literacy Skills
3-D creations
Making connections through math and science
Experiences that develop social skills, like independence and self regulation
Organized activities that promote listening, speaking and reasoning skills
Children practicing writing skills in meaningful contexts
Children problem solving and experimenting
Classroom schedules that maximize learning and minimize transition
Engaged families
Facts about the grant

- $70 million over 4 years ($17.5 million per year)
- January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2018
- Grant-Defined Eligible Children
  - 200% of Federal Poverty Level
  - Un-served 4-year-olds (new slots)
  - Under-served 4-year-olds (improved slots)
- Program Requirements
  - Full-day program
  - Mixed-delivery system
  - Small class sizes (15 in each classroom)
  - Certified teachers/assistants with comparable salaries (1 teacher and 1 assistant)
  - Research-based curriculum
  - Comprehensive services
  - Inclusion of children with disabilities
More facts

- 17 “Subgrantees”
- Meet all standards of former Abbott districts
- County per pupil rates
- Community needs assessment
  - Identify Head Start and Community Providers
  - Identify existing district space
- Scholarship funding for uncertified teachers in provider and Head Start settings
## Subgrantees

### Subgrantees Included in the NJ Preschool Expansion Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>District Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATLANTIC</td>
<td>ABSECON CITY, ATLANTIC CITY, EGG HARBOR CITY, GALLOWAY TWP, HAMILTON TWP</td>
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<tr>
<td>BURLINGTON</td>
<td>MOUNT HOLLY TWP</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAMDEN</td>
<td>BELLMAWR BORO, LINDENWOLD BORO</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUMBERLAND</td>
<td>UPPER DEERFIELD TWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOUCESTER</td>
<td>CLAYTON BORO, PAULSBORO BORO</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUDSON</td>
<td>NORTH BERGEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONMOUTH</td>
<td>FREEHOLD BORO</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCEAN</td>
<td>BERKELEY TWP, LAKEWOOD TWP</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASSAIC</td>
<td>CLIFTON CITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOMERSET</td>
<td>BOUND BROOK BORO</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Program Requirements

- Full-day program
- Mixed-delivery system
- Small class sizes (15 in each classroom)
- Certified teachers/assistants with comparable salaries
- Research-based curriculum
- Comprehensive services
- Inclusion of children with disabilities
How we plan to support you

- Assigned early childhood liaison
- Access to free DECE training:
  - Coaches
    - Supports for English Language Learners
    - Inclusion
    - Diversity in EC settings
  - Nurses
  - Intervention and Referral Staff
    - Positive Behavior Supports (for challenging behaviors)
  - Principal/Director and Supervisor training (Leadership Track)
- Professional development through Grow NJ Kids
The Brains Behind our Program

- Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards
  http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/guide/standards.pdf
- Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines
  http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/guide/impguidelines.pdf
- Grow NJ Kids
- New Jersey Administrative Code: 6A:13A, Elements of High Quality Preschool Programs
  http://www.state.nj.us/education/code/current/title6a/chap13a.pdf
- Self Assessment and Validation System
  http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/savs/SAVSFormerAbbott1314.pdf
- Four-year Preschool Program Plan and One-Year Budget (forthcoming)
A Continuous Improvement Cycle Tracks and Supports Implementation

Program and learning standards → Measure & Assess Implementation → Analyze & Plan → Implement Change/PD → Measure & Assess Implementation
Child level

- Screening upon entry to the program to flag for any major learning and development issues, and use of an ongoing performance-based/observational assessment to help teachers teach the preschool standards.
Classroom level

- Teachers, coaches and building administrators/provider directors will use tools to evaluate classroom practices, interactions, and activities (e.g. Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-3 (ECERS-3); Classroom Assessment and Scoring System (CLASS); and Curriculum-specific fidelity tools).
Site/Program level

- Use of Grow NJ Kids, the agreed upon program standards, the state’s Quality Rating Improvement System.

Five categories and five levels within each:  
Category 1: Safe, Healthy Learning Environments  
Category 2: Curriculum and Learning  
Category 3: Family and Community Engagement  
Category 4: Workforce/Professional Development  
Category 5: Administration and Management
District level

School districts will assess the implementation of each program component through:

- A self-assessment (with a validation component). The Self-Assessment Validation System (SAVS) measures the implementation of each component of the Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines and Code.

- Summaries of both classroom evaluations and child performance to inform areas of need and professional development.
State level

Classroom quality and child progress are carefully monitored through:

- Aggregate scores and ratings from GNJK (prospectively).
- University-conducted structured evaluations of classroom quality in a random sample of classrooms every year.
- University-conducted tracking of child outcomes over time.
- Summaries and analysis of district-reported SAVS data, classroom evaluations and child performance.
- Analysis of the number of children served, rates of inclusion, and teacher qualifications.
- Audits of fiscal practices.
K-3 initiatives to increase the chances that the preschool investment works

- Kindergarten Entry Assessment
- Kindergarten Guidelines
  - Kindergarten Seminar
- First through Third Grade Guidelines
  - 1st to 3rd Seminar
What we said we would do by the end of the grant:

- Implement the program and learning standards, and use comprehensive assessment systems, kindergarten entry assessments, as well as support children with disabilities and English language learners.

- Include preschool children with disabilities general education settings.

- Reach a 5.0 or higher on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-3 (ECERS-3).

- All teachers (100%) have their Preschool to Third Grade (P-3) certificate (across all settings, including Head Start and Private Provider settings)
By the end of the grant:

- Serve an additional 1,248 Eligible Children in High-Quality Preschool Programs with Preschool Expansion Grant funding.

- Improve existing slots for 729 Eligible Children and 338 other children in High-Quality Preschool Programs by limiting class sizes, decreasing child to staff ratios, extending the program day, providing Comprehensive Services (through Central Intake and County Councils), and employing/compensating teachers with bachelor’s degrees and preschool certification.

- Implement the elements of the High-Quality State Preschool Program and Grow NJ Kids.