



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**For Immediate Release**

**Date:** April 30, 2026

**Contact:** [Michael Yaple](#)

(609) 376-9072

## **New Jersey’s Preschool Strategy Delivers Results, State Stays Committed to High-Quality Early Learning**

**Trenton, NJ** – Dr. Lily Laux, Commissioner of Education, today issued a statement regarding New Jersey’s performance in the annual “[State of Preschool Yearbook](#)” published by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER).

The NIEER report said New Jersey’s preschool program “has long served as a model for other states,” specifically citing the investment and the focus on high-quality programming. The report also noted that New Jersey has expanded parental choice by creating a “mixed delivery” system that, where appropriate, provides preschool through both the public school setting as well as through community providers like childcare centers and private preschools.

“New Jersey’s strong performance in the annual NIEER *2025 State of Preschool Yearbook* report shows that our investments are paying off. High-quality preschool programs deliver real, long-term benefits for children,” said **Education Commissioner Dr. Lily Laux**. “This research reinforces our commitment to expanding and strengthening programs that work for students. By continuing to invest in high-quality, community-based preschool, we are giving young learners a strong foundation for future success.”

In recent years, hundreds of school districts throughout New Jersey have implemented state-funded preschool programs that meet standards established by the New Jersey Department of Education. Governor Sherrill’s proposed Fiscal Year 2027 State Budget would increase Preschool Education Aid by 9.3 percent, to a record level of \$1.4 billion, including \$4.5 million to expand high-quality preschool programs into new school districts. A high-quality program is defined as providing a full-day program with a certified teacher, an aide, a curriculum aligned with the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards, and small classes that are inclusive of children with special needs who have an Individualized Education Program.

For more information, see the [NIEER news release](#) on New Jersey.

