

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5908

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 27, 2025

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Amends FY2026 appropriations act to revise various language provisions concerning early childhood education.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year  
2 ending June 30, 2026, P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
3 Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 5800 and Senate Bill No. 2026).

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. The following language provisions in section 1 of P.L. ,  
9 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No.  
10 5800 and Senate Bill No. 2026), the annual appropriations act for  
11 Fiscal Year 2026, are amended to read as follows:

12

13 **34 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
14 *30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development*  
15 *31 Direct Educational Services and Assistance*

16

17 **STATE AID**

18

19 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the  
20 contrary, amounts hereinabove appropriated for Preschool  
21 Education Aid shall be allocated based upon 2025-2026 projected  
22 FTE enrollments, and multiplied by the per pupil allocations,  
23 minus 25 percent of the total amount of Preschool Education Aid  
24 carryover funds identified in the district's fiscal year 2024 audit  
25 summary, as set forth in the February 2025 State Aid notice issued  
26 by the commissioner that remain unspent in the 2024-2025 school  
27 year. A school district that receives Preschool Education Aid for  
28 the first time in the 2025-2026 school year shall demonstrate, in  
29 its application, due diligence in establishing partnerships to  
30 provide its preschool program through a mixed-delivery system in  
31 all licensed child care providers and Head Start programs in its  
32 community or neighboring communities that are willing and able  
33 to meet all preschool program requirements. A school district that  
34 has unspent Preschool Education Aid funds from prior school  
35 years may use those funds **to support transportation costs for**  
36 **resident students enrolled in the preschool program, or for other**  
37 **purposes that may be approved by the commissioner, subject to**  
38 **the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and**  
39 **Accounting. The amount of Preschool Education Aid used for**  
40 **transportation purposes shall not exceed the total cost of providing**  
41 **transportation services to preschool students minus the amount of**  
42 **Transportation Aid attributable to preschool students, as**  
43 **calculated pursuant to section 15 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-**  
44 **57)] for the purposes set forth in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending**  
45 **before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and**  
46 **Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)).**

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

A5908 PINTOR MARIN

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the  
2 contrary, of the amounts hereinabove appropriated for Preschool  
3 Education Aid, an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 shall be  
4 allocated in amounts determined by the Commissioner of  
5 Education pursuant to P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
6 Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and Assembly Bill  
7 No. 5717 (2R)): (1) for the provision of preschool expansion  
8 grants to be allocated by the commissioner to districts in total  
9 additional preschool funding for the purpose of expanding free  
10 access to full-day preschool for resident three- and four-year old  
11 children in accordance with the preschool quality standards issued  
12 by the commissioner and based on a district's demonstration of its  
13 readiness to operate a preschool program consistent with those  
14 standards and; (2) to the Department to address workforce  
15 preparation and training and other ancillary needs related to  
16 preschool expansion. **【In allocating grant funds to school districts,**  
17 **the commissioner shall give preference to districts that**  
18 **demonstrate in their preschool expansion grant applications a**  
19 **planned preschool program that includes a mixed-delivery model**  
20 **of preschool education. A district applying for a grant that does**  
21 **not have a planned mixed-delivery model of preschool education**  
22 **shall demonstrate in its application due diligence to partner with**  
23 **all ready, willing, and able licensed child care providers and Head**  
24 **Start programs in their communities and neighboring**  
25 **communities】 The commissioner shall administer grant funds and**  
26 **other requirements as set forth in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending**  
27 **before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and**  
28 **Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)). Notwithstanding any law, rule, or**  
29 **regulation to the contrary, a district receiving a grant may enter**  
30 **into contracts with licensed child care providers for the provision**  
31 **of preschool education services, which shall be stated in the**  
32 **Notice of Funding Opportunity for preschool expansion grants**  
33 **posted by the department.**

34  
35 The Department of Education, the Department of Children and  
36 Families, and the Department of Human Services shall maintain  
37 the following lists on the departments' Internet websites as set  
38 forth in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
39 Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)):  
40 current districts with State-funded preschool; districts eligible to  
41 apply for Preschool Education Aid and licensed child care  
42 providers and Head Start programs in each eligible district's  
43 community and in neighboring communities, including contact  
44 information for the providers and programs. The Department of  
45 Education, the Department of Children and Families, and the  
46 Department of Human Services shall update such lists each year  
47 **【by April 1st】 as set forth in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending**

A5908 PINTOR MARIN

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1 before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and  
2 Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)).

3

4 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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9 The bill amends the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations act.

10 The bill amends various language provisions concerning

11 Preschool Education Aid to align that language with legislation

12 that modifies the allocation of Preschool Education Aid.