

## Governor Phil Murphy

# Governor Murphy and DOE Announce Over \$26 Million to Expand High-Quality Preschool in 27 School Districts

09/8/2022

**TRENTON** – Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) today announced that 27 school districts will receive Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) to establish or expand access to high-quality preschool programs in the 2022-2023 school year. The over \$26 million, which was allocated in the FY2023 Budget, ensures that nearly 2,150 additional three- and four-year-old children will have access to a preschool classroom by increasing New Jersey's preschool seats to nearly 70,000. Today's announcement builds on Governor Murphy's long-term commitment to early education and the eventual goal of providing universal preschool to every three- and four-year-old in New Jersey.

"We know that providing children with access to preschool programs creates short and long term educational and economic benefits for families," **said Governor Phil Murphy**. "When we invest in preschool education, we also invest in our youth and in the future success of the State of New Jersey for decades to come. Today's announcement is another step toward universal preschool and a brighter future for New Jersey's youngest learners."

"I am excited to work with the 27 school districts receiving this funding to create and expand their community's preschool programs," **said Dr. Angelica Allen McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education**. "Governor Murphy's continued budget allowance for high-quality preschool allows many young children an opportunity to attend preschool and reap the benefits of starting school earlier."

In July 2022, the NJDOE broadened the number of districts that could apply for PEA funding from those with 20 percent of students coming from lower-income families (defined by being eligible for free or reduced priced lunch) to districts with 10 percent of students who meet the income eligibility standards.

Schools receiving today's grant award demonstrated to DOE that they can provide a high-quality preschool program to enrolled students. A high-quality preschool program is defined by a full-day program with a certificated teacher, an aide, and small classes that are inclusive of children with special needs who have an individualized education program.

The FY2023 Budget appropriated \$40 million to support grant awards to districts expanding existing preschool programs or districts creating new preschool programs. The remaining FY2023 PEA funding will be awarded at a later date.

Districts receiving today's funding will begin their programs in early October 2022. The following is a list of the 27 school districts receiving PEA funding for preschool programs:

County	District	Amount
Atlantic	Linwood	\$360,797
Bergen	Ridgefield Park	\$235,920
Burlington	Eastampton	\$548,400
Burlington	Palmyra	\$507,270
Burlington	Mt Laurel	\$1,562,610
Camden	Voorhees	\$1,002,410
Camden	Pine Hill	\$539,469
Camden	Winslow Twp.	\$2,329,944
Essex	Montclair	\$970,555
Essex	Nutley	\$1,228,170
Essex	West Orange	\$1,894,659
Gloucester	Pitman	\$972,648
Gloucester	Deptford	\$2,261,099
Gloucester	Woodbury	\$521,395
Hunterdon	Kingwood	\$154,429
Hunterdon	Milford	\$168,468
Monmouth	Howell	\$2,286,405
Monmouth	West Long Branch	\$249,426

County	District	Amount
Ocean	Eagleswood	\$527,448
Ocean	Manchester	\$3,076,056
Ocean	Plumsted	\$700,648
Passaic	Prospect Park	\$1,363,323
Salem	Alloway	\$364,743
Union	Springfield	\$1,219,050
Warren	Oxford	\$349,674
Warren	Pohatcong	\$322,776
Warren	Franklin	\$363,123
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$26,080,915</b>

## Governor Phil Murphy

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Office of Governor PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-292-6000

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