

## Governor Phil Murphy

# Murphy Administration Announces Grant Funding for 30 More Projects to Expand Preschool Capacity Statewide

11/9/2023

*Funding for Creation, Expansion and Renovation of Preschool Facilities Further Advances Governor Murphy's Goal of Providing Universal Pre-K throughout New Jersey*

**ATLANTIC CITY** – As part of his continued commitment to ensuring universal access to high-quality, full-day preschool throughout New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy announced at today's New Jersey Education Association Convention the awarding of \$51.9 million in federal grant funding from the state to 23 school districts to support 30 projects that will enable the creation, expansion, and renovation of preschool facilities statewide.

One of the challenges that certain school districts have identified as an obstacle in establishing high-quality preschool has been a lack of adequate facilities. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2023 budget included \$120 million for grants for preschool facilities expansion, supported by federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars – marking the first time that preschool facility expansion grants were available to Regular Operating Districts.

"This funding will enable more districts to expand their capacity to offer full-day preschool programming to more students, building upon our efforts to provide every 3- and 4-year-old child in our state with access to high-quality pre-K," **said Governor Murphy**. "Equitable access to early childhood education across the board is key to ensuring the long-term success of our children and our state as a whole. My Administration will continue to work toward bringing free, full-day pre-K to every district throughout New Jersey."

"Governor Murphy's preschool facilities grant funding underscores our commitment to delivery high-quality, full-day preschool across the state," **said Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education**. "Ultimately, this funding will increase capacity, a barrier that some communities have faced in the effort to bring high-quality preschool to each community. This funding will also support our initiative to ensure that school districts can provide an enriching, high-quality preschool environment for the benefit of generations of students for years to come."

High-quality, full-day preschool programs provide smaller class sizes inclusive of students with special needs and are led by a certified teacher and aide.

The 30 projects that have qualified for these preliminary grants had a total need of nearly \$113.5 million in estimated project costs. Of that amount, the New Jersey Department of Education will cover approximately \$51.9 million as the State's share of preschool facilities in those districts; the State share is set at a minimum of 40 percent of the total estimated project costs.

"We know that expanded early childhood education is one of the best investments we can make in our children's success and our future prosperity as a state," **said New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) President Sean M. Spiller**. "As a matter of equity and educational justice, we need to keep expanding those opportunities until every family that wants pre-k has access to it. We commend Gov. Murphy for his commitment, which we know will pay dividends for generations to come."

  
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A second round of funding may be announced at a later date with the remaining funding for preschool facility grants.

Preliminary award amounts including both the State and local share for each project range from approximately \$113,000 to over \$13 million. The following is a list of the 30 projects receiving a preliminary grant award:

<b>County</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Atlantic	Egg Harbor Twp.	Davenport Elementary Interior Alterations
Atlantic	Linwood City	Seaview Elementary Preschool Addition
Bergen	Elmwood Park	Gantner Ave. School Preschool Addition
Bergen	Elmwood Park	Gilbert Ave. School Preschool Addition
Bergen	Elmwood Park	16th Ave. Preschool Addition
Bergen	Englewood City	Quales School Conversion
Bergen	Englewood City	Grieco Elementary Toilet Rooms
Bergen	Glen Rock Borough	Glen Rock Middle/High School Interior Alterations
Bergen	Teaneck	Teaneck Bryant School Preschool Addition
Bergen	Teaneck	Teaneck Bryant School Interior Alterations
Burlington	Riverside	Riverside New Early Childhood Center
Camden	Cherry Hill	Malberg ECC Addition
Camden	Cherry Hill	Malberg Construct Toilet Rooms
Camden	Cherry Hill	Kilmer Preschool Addition
Cape May	Lower Twp.	Douglas School Interior Renovations
Cumberland	Upper Deerfield	Seabrook School Preschool Addition
Essex	West Orange	St. Cloud Renovations
Middlesex	Jamesburg	JFK Addition and Alterations
Middlesex	Piscataway	Eisenhower Elementary Preschool Addition
Middlesex	South River	Preschool Addition to Administration Building
Monmouth	Holmdel Twp.	Village Elementary Interior Alterations
Monmouth	Keyport	Keyport Central School Preschool Playground
Monmouth	Matawan-Aberdeen Regional	Cambridge Park Renovations

County	District	Amount
Ocean	Manchester Twp.	Ridgeway Elementary Preschool Addition
Ocean	Plumsted Twp.	Woehr Interior Alterations
Somerset	North Plainfield	East and Elementary Preschool Addition
Somerset	Somerville Borough	Van Derveer Preschool Addition
Somerset	Somerville Borough	Van Derveer Interior Alterations
Sussex	Montague Twp.	Montague Twp. School Preschool Addition
Warren	Washington Twp.	Brass Castle School Interior Alterations

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