

2. If not accepted into one or more of these programs, for any reason, the district board of education shall ensure that the dietary requirements listed in (c) below are followed.

(d) District boards of education offering targeted preschool shall ensure that all at-risk children in all settings are offered breakfast, lunch and one snack per day conforming to the 2005 United States Department of Agriculture dietary guidelines for Americans located at www.nal.usda.gov/childcare/Cacfp/index.html regarding meal pattern requirements and nutrition standards.

6A:13A-4.6 Family and community involvement

(a) The district board of education shall ensure that a coordinated system of social services is provided to families of enrolled preschool children and shall describe the system in its five-year preschool program plan and/or annual updates. These services may be offered by:

1. Coordinating the sharing and/or provision of social services among the school district, private providers and local Head Start agencies; or

2. Contracting with a county or regional educational services commission for the social services functions described below where the county or regional educational services commission is approved by the State Board to do so.

(b) The services shall be provided by a combination of social worker(s), family worker(s) and community parent involvement specialist(s) (CPIS), as approved by the Department as part of the school district's five-year preschool program plan and annual updates.

1. For in-district preschool children, a social worker with a Masters in Social Work (MSW) shall be provided for every 250 to 300 preschool children. In school districts with fewer than 250 preschool children, the social worker position may be combined with another position with the same qualifications. The social worker shall, at a minimum:

i. Collaborate with all relevant preschool instructional staff, administrators and support personnel to support the school district family services program;

ii. Coordinate with other available school district resource staff to reach out to families, determine individual family needs, advocate and obtain appropriate community services;

iii. Provide follow-up, including a review of child needs, when necessary;

iv. Facilitate access to community social services, when appropriate;

v. Collaborate with assigned school district personnel to design and provide a parent involvement program based on identified needs and parent survey responses; and

vi. Help parents learn about child development, nutrition, safety and how to support their child's learning.

2. For a private provider or local Head Start agency, a family worker shall be provided for every 45 children. In a private provider or local Head Start agency with fewer than 45 preschool children, this position may be combined with another position. The family worker shall, at a minimum:

i. Collaborate with the school district staff to ensure family involvement and social services activities occur;

ii. Coordinate participation in health and social services designated by the school district to serve the needs of the children and their families;

iii. Provide all requested data to the school district; and

iv. Report to the center director and coordinate social services activities with appropriate district social services staff.

3. For every school district, one CPIS shall be provided. School districts with fewer than 750 enrolled preschool children may combine this position with another position. The CPIS shall, at a minimum:

i. Coordinate the early childhood advisory council;

ii. Evaluate the needs of families;

iii. Coordinate systematic parent involvement plans and activities;

iv. Coordinate work with other community agencies; and

v. Coordinate work with other social service personnel.

(c) The district board of education shall establish a preschool through grade three early childhood advisory council (ECAC) to review preschool program implementation and to support transition as children move from preschool through grade three.

1. The membership of the council shall consist of stakeholders in the community, as well as contracting private providers, the local Head Start agency and parents, with new representation added as needed; and

2. Elected co-chairs shall preside at quarterly council meetings.

6A:13A-4.7 District board of education—fiscal accountability and integrity of preschool program

(a) The district board of education shall ensure the fiscal accountability and integrity of the preschool program.

1. In school districts with eight or more private providers including the local Head Start agency, the district board of education may employ a preschool fiscal specialist.

2. The preschool fiscal specialist shall have auditing, budgeting, and accounting experience and shall report to the early childhood administrator or the supervisor of early childhood programs, and work with the school district business administrator's office.

3. In school districts where a dedicated preschool fiscal specialist is not provided, this position may be combined with another in-district position, provided the qualifications and responsibilities established in this chapter are met.

4. The preschool fiscal specialist shall perform all functions set forth in this chapter, including, at a minimum:

i. Monitor each private provider and/or local Head Start agency for compliance with the preschool program contract;

ii. Track and report teacher certification information;

iii. Monitor expenses and review quarterly expenditure reports in accordance with the approved private provider and/or local Head Start agency budgets; and

iv. Provide financial management assistance to private providers and local Head Start agencies in the development and monitoring of their annual budgets. The preschool fiscal specialist shall collaborate with private providers and/or local Head Start agencies, as applicable, in the development of corrective action plans in response to the findings from an audit and/or a limited review examination.

1. Systematic support for language acquisition for all children, including approaches for helping English language learners acquire English while maintaining their home language within their regularly assigned preschool classroom;

2. A clearly described, systematic and intensive instructional approach for all aspects of development and learning using the strategies and techniques delineated in the Expectations; and

3. Implementation of a comprehensive, performance-based assessment system that is aligned with the preschool curriculum.

6A:13A-5.2 Assessment

(a) The district board of education shall ensure that ongoing assessment in the preschool program is used to:

1. Plan intentional instruction for individuals and groups;

2. Identify children for health and special services;

3. Monitor trends and evaluate programs; and

4. Provide program accountability data, as specified by the Department.

6A:13A-5.3 Screening

(a) The district board of education shall conduct a developmentally-based early childhood screening assessment upon enrollment in preschool to:

1. Identify children with broad indicators of potential problems who may require further assessment; and

2. Determine if a child needs a comprehensive diagnostic assessment.

6A:13A-5.4 Ongoing performance-based assessment of children

(a) The district board of education shall ensure that all preschool classroom teachers conduct ongoing performance-based assessment of children that:

1. Is aligned with the comprehensive curriculum and approved in the five-year preschool program plan and annual updates;

2. Addresses all learning domains;

3. Uses multiple sources of evidence gathered over time;

4. Is used for curriculum planning and reporting to parents; and

5. Is not used to determine the classroom placement of children.

SUBCHAPTER 5. CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

6A:13A-5.1 Curriculum

(a) The district board of education shall ensure implementation of a comprehensive curriculum supported by research, aligned with the Expectations, and linked to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS). The school district's choice of curricula shall be approved by the Department as part of the five-year preschool program plan and annual updates. The program and curriculum shall include, but need not be limited to, the following: