

CHAPTER 13A
ELEMENTS OF HIGH QUALITY
PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Authority

P.L. 2007, c. 260.

Source and Effective Date

R.2009 d.334, effective October 8, 2009.
See: 41 N.J.R. 2530(a), 41 N.J.R. 4077(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1b, Chapter 13A, Elements of High Quality Preschool Programs, expires on October 8, 2016. See: 43 N.J.R. 1203(a).

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 13A, Elements of High Quality Preschool Programs, was adopted as special new rules by R.2008 d.189, effective June 13, 2008. See: 40 N.J.R. 4348(a).

Chapter 13A, Elements of High Quality Preschool Programs, was readopted as R.2009 d.334, effective October 8, 2009. As a part of R.2009 d.334, Subchapter 3, Preschool Program Plan and Annual Updates, was renamed Program Planning, effective November 2, 2009. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR A HIGH QUALITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

6A:13A-1.1 Purpose and applicability of rules

(a) State-funded preschool programs in each school district shall include the elements established in this chapter as essential for the implementation of a high-quality preschool program as a condition of receipt of preschool education aid. This shall include, but not be limited to, all positions, supports, services, materials and supplies. The school district shall ensure that preschool programs offered in-district and by contracted private providers and local Head Start agencies receiving preschool funding meet all applicable requirements.

(b) The purpose of these rules is to implement high-quality preschool programs pursuant to P.L. 2007, c. 260. These rules shall supercede N.J.A.C. 6A:10 and 6A:10A, where inconsistencies occur.

(c) The district board of education shall ensure the inclusion of preschool children with disabilities in general education settings to the maximum extent possible.

Case Notes

District was not entitled to additional preschool funding for certain technology expenses. Although the need for basic internet and telephone connectivity was beyond serious dispute, the need for funding over and above amounts ordinarily provided to support preschool technology was not properly demonstrated; Board was required to first address its basic technological needs, then assess how best to use remaining funds (Initial Decision adopted in part, rejected in part, 2008 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 206). Bd. of Educ. of Elizabeth v. N.J. State Dept. of Educ., OAL Dkt. No. EDU 03055-08, 2008 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 659, Commissioner's Decision (April 21, 2008).

6A:13A-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, as used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings:

“Above-scale meal” means a meal served to a child whose household exceeds the eligibility criteria for either free or reduced price meals, pursuant to the definition in this section.

“At-risk children” means children who are eligible for pre-school programs as defined by age- and income-eligibility pursuant to P.L. 2007, c. 260, section 12(a).

“Child and Adult Care Food Program” or “CACFP” means the Federally assisted meal program operated in regulated child care settings.

“Classroom quality assessment instrument” means a reliable and valid tool approved by the Department with a set of criteria and a rubric for scoring used to evaluate components of classroom quality ranging from the nature of teacher-child interactions to the availability of materials and activities that support early learning and development.

“Community and parent involvement specialist” or “CPIS” means a position to coordinate family/school partnerships for the preschool program.

“Comprehensive curriculum” means a preschool curriculum that addresses all domains of learning and is aligned to the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards of Quality, also defined in this section.

“Comprehensive preschool educational program” means the delivery of the school district’s comprehensive curriculum articulated in the Department approved five-year preschool program plan that occurs within the school day and that provides the comparable teacher/child contact time in contracted private provider and local Head Start agencies as is provided in-district.

“Consultation model” means an approach for specialists from various disciplines to guide classroom teachers in the use of enhanced methods and strategies for working with children.

“District-wide” means the school district’s entire preschool program as implemented across all in-district, contracted private provider and local Head Start agency settings.

“Early childhood advisory council” or “ECAC” means an advisory group of community stakeholders interested in the education and welfare of children in preschool through grade three that is convened by the school district.

“Early Childhood Program Aid” (ECPA) means State aid described at N.J.A.C. 6A:23-5.4, that was authorized pursuant to repealed N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-16, and was distributed to all school districts with high concentrations of low-income students for the purpose of providing preschool, full-day kindergarten and other early childhood programs and services.

“Early Launch to Learning Initiative” (ELLI) means competitive awards offered by the Department from 2005-2006 through the 2008-2009 school year to certain school districts.

“English language learners” or “ELL” means a child whose home language is not English or who primarily speaks a language other than English in the home.

“Fiscal specialist” means a district board of education position for managing the financial aspects of the school district’s contractual obligations with contracted private providers and local Head Start agencies.

“Five-year preschool program plan and annual updates” means the school district’s programmatic plan beginning with the 2009-2010 school year with annual updates, to implement the preschool program, meeting the provisions set forth in this chapter.

“Free and/or reduced price meal” means a meal served under the program to a child from a household eligible for such benefits under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service guidelines, pursuant to the eligibility criteria found at 24 U.S.C. §1771 et seq. and §§1751 et seq. and the pricing guidelines found at 7 CFR Part 245.

“Full-day preschool” means a preschool program consisting of a six-hour comprehensive educational program and day in accordance with the school district’s grade one through 12 daily school calendar and not exceeding the 10-month academic period. Preschool shall be considered a specialized program, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.

“Head Start” means a Federally funded national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

“In-district” means that portion of a school district’s pre-school program staffed by district board of education employees as opposed to a contracted private provider or local Head Start agency.

“Limited review examination” means an examination limited in scope to a review of specific financial statement items or particular risk areas.

“Master teacher” means a position for modeling, coaching, observing and providing feedback to teaching staff in pre-school programs.

“Multidisciplinary team approach” means a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated effort by team members from different specialties.

“National School Breakfast Program” means the Federally assisted meal program operated in public and private non-profit schools administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§1771 et seq.