

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Announces Commitment to Universal Pre-K for New Jersey

09/16/2021

Governor Also Announces \$17 Million in Funds to Bring High-Quality Pre-K to 19 More School Districts

PALISADES PARK – Building on his commitment to expand early childhood education in New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy today announced that the state will commit to providing universal pre-K to all families across the state over the next several years. Today's round of funding establishes or expands high-quality pre-K programs in 19 additional school districts across the state. The Department of Education will develop a Strategic Plan that will set a roadmap for further pre-K expansion throughout the state.

"Investing in early childhood education lays the foundation for a bright future for our early learners," **said Governor Murphy**. "Our Administration is committed to ensuring that every New Jersey child receives a high-quality education starting with pre-K. While we still have a long way to go to achieve pre-K for all, today's expansion further demonstrates our commitment to reaching as many students as possible."

The Governor's Universal Pre-K Strategic Plan, led by the Department of Education, will focus on the following:

- Prioritizing districts and setting a timeline for expansion;
- Ensuring students have appropriate facilities and quality programming;
- Involving childcare providers and Head Start in planning to avoid displacing existing high-quality early learning centers;
- Optimizing funding streams, including federal funds from the federal Build Back Better Plan; and
- Utilizing best practices from other states that offer expanded/universal pre-k programs.

In addition to vision for pre-K statewide, Governor Murphy announced 19 school districts have been awarded \$17 million in pre-K expansion funding for the 2021-2022 school year. This latest round of funding was announced during a visit today to the Dr. Charles Smith Early Childhood Center in Palisades Park, which received \$823,860 in state funding.

"Research has shown that children's trajectory for academic success starts early, and continues throughout their life," **said Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education**. "Investing in preschool education pays dividends for our students and future of the State of New Jersey."

"Early childhood education is pivotal in shaping a child's academic career. High quality universal preschool programs have been proven to have a lasting impact well into adulthood. Today's announcement helps us move one step closer to providing all of our state's children with the foundation they need to be successful," **said Senator Teresa Ruiz, chair of the Senate Education Committee**. "Universal preschool has been a cornerstone of my priorities legislatively since I took office and now more than ever we have seen the importance of this infrastructure and the role it plays in ensuring working families have the support they need."


Back
to top

“Pre-k is a critical investment in our children’s future, providing them with the educational foundation they need to thrive,” **said Assemblywoman Pam Lampitt.** “Every child deserves the essential social and educational development offered by pre-k education. By expanding existing pre-k programs and creating new ones, we build upon New Jersey’s strong foundation in ensuring that all children have access to the fundamental curriculum they need to succeed academically. I applaud the Governor for his forward-thinking vision in the area of universal pre-k in New Jersey.”

“We commend Gov. Murphy for his steadfast commitment to giving every New Jersey child this important head start in life,” **said NJEA President Sean M. Spiller.** “We know that every child has incredible potential, but not every child has the same opportunities and resources to fulfill that potential. This investment in our youngest students is another important step in our shared work to build a more just and equitable future.”
 “Today’s announcement represents five years of consistent expansion of New Jersey’s state-funded, full day pre-k for working families throughout our state,” **said Sam Crane from Pre-K Our Way.** “We want to thank the Governor and Legislature for their leadership in expanding NJ’s pre-K.”

Each year in office, Governor Murphy has emphasized early childhood education with the announcement of a new round of state funding. During the Murphy Administration, 140 school districts have received funding for either a new high-quality preschool program or to expand an existing preschool to a high-quality program. The expansion has opened preschool seats for over 9,000 children throughout New Jersey.

Districts that received new state funding to expand or create a high-quality preschool program in the 2021-2022 school year include:

County	District	Amount
Atlantic	Mullica Township	\$512,823
Bergen	Palisades Park	\$823,860
Camden	Audubon Boro (Audubon Park)	\$440,319
Camden	Berlin Township	\$336,713
Cape May	Cape May City	\$376,033
Cumberland	Commercial Township	\$563,112
Cumberland	Deerfield Township	\$415,831
Gloucester	Monroe Township	\$1,399,892
Gloucester	Washington Township	\$1,113,420
Gloucester	Westville	\$655,573
Hudson	East Newark	\$337,039
Ocean	Jackson Township	\$3,173,040

Ocean	Ocean Gate	\$264,462
Ocean	Stafford Township	\$3,245,355
Passaic	Bloomingtondale	\$540,600
Salem	Penns Grove-Carney's Point Regional	\$1,138,728
Salem	Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional	\$1,067,165
Salem	Upper Pittsgrove Township	\$672,760
Sussex	Hamburg	\$579,984

Governor Phil Murphy

[Home \(/governor/\)](/governor/)

Administration

[Governor Phil Murphy \(/governor/admin/about/\)](/governor/admin/about/)

[Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver \(/governor/admin/lt/\)](/governor/admin/lt/)

[First Lady Tammy Snyder Murphy \(/governor/admin/fl/\)](/governor/admin/fl/)

[Cabinet \(/governor/admin/cabinet/\)](/governor/admin/cabinet/)

[Office of Health Care Affordability and Transparency](/governor/admin/affordablehealthcare/index.shtml)

[\(/governor/admin/affordablehealthcare/index.shtml\)](/governor/admin/affordablehealthcare/index.shtml)

[Boards, Commissions & Authorities \(/governor/admin/bca/\)](/governor/admin/bca/)

[Internship Opportunities \(/governor/admin/internship.shtml\)](/governor/admin/internship.shtml)

[Governor's Residence - Drumthwacket \(http://drumthwacket.org/\)](http://drumthwacket.org/)

Key Initiatives

[Economy & Jobs \(/governor/initiatives/#Economy\)](/governor/initiatives/#Economy)

[Education \(/governor/initiatives/#Education\)](/governor/initiatives/#Education)

[Environment \(/governor/initiatives/#Environment\)](/governor/initiatives/#Environment)

[Health \(/governor/initiatives/#Health\)](/governor/initiatives/#Health)

[Law & Justice \(/governor/initiatives/#Justice\)](/governor/initiatives/#Justice)

[Transportation \(/governor/initiatives/#Transportation\)](/governor/initiatives/#Transportation)

News & Events

[Press Releases \(/governor/news/news/562022/approved/news_archive.shtml\)](/governor/news/news/562022/approved/news_archive.shtml)

[Photos \(https://www.flickr.com/photos/govmurphy\)](https://www.flickr.com/photos/govmurphy)

[Public Addresses \(/governor/news/addresses\)](/governor/news/addresses)

[Executive Orders \(/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo_archive.html\)](/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo_archive.html)

[Administrative Orders \(/governor/news/ao/approved/ao_archive.shtml\)](/governor/news/ao/approved/ao_archive.shtml)

[Direct Appointments \(/governor/news/appointments\)](/governor/news/appointments)

[Advice and Consent Appointments \(/governor/news/acappointments\)](/governor/news/acappointments)

[Statements on Legislation](#)

[\(/governor/news/statements/approved/statements_archive.shtml\)](/governor/news/statements/approved/statements_archive.shtml)

[Administration Reports \(/governor/news/adminreports/approved/archive.shtml\)](/governor/news/adminreports/approved/archive.shtml)

[Transition Reports \(/governor/news/reports/approved/reports_archive.shtml\)](/governor/news/reports/approved/reports_archive.shtml)

[Press Kits \(/governor/news/press\)](/governor/news/press)

Social

[Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/governorphilmurphy/\)](https://www.facebook.com/governorphilmurphy/)

[Twitter \(https://twitter.com/GovMurphy\)](https://twitter.com/GovMurphy)

[Instagram \(https://www.instagram.com/govmurphy/\)](https://www.instagram.com/govmurphy/)

[Snapchat \(https://www.snapchat.com/add/philmurphy\)](https://www.snapchat.com/add/philmurphy)

[YouTube \(https://www.youtube.com/njgovernorsoffice\)](https://www.youtube.com/njgovernorsoffice)

[TikTok \(https://www.tiktok.com/@njgov?\)](https://www.tiktok.com/@njgov?)

Contact Us

[Scheduling Requests \(/governor/contact/scheduling/\)](/governor/contact/scheduling/)

[Contact Us \(/governor/contact/all/\)](/governor/contact/all/)

Statewide

[NJ Home \(//www.nj.gov\)](//www.nj.gov)

[Services A to Z \(//www.nj.gov/nj/gov/njgov/alphaserv.html\)](//www.nj.gov/nj/gov/njgov/alphaserv.html)

[Departments/Agencies \(//www.nj.gov/nj/gov/deptserv/\)](//www.nj.gov/nj/gov/deptserv/)

[FAQs \(//www.nj.gov/faqs/\)](//www.nj.gov/faqs/)

Contact Us ([//www.nj.gov/nj/feedback.html](http://www.nj.gov/nj/feedback.html))

Privacy Notice ([//www.nj.gov/nj/privacy.html](http://www.nj.gov/nj/privacy.html))

Legal Statement & Disclaimers ([//www.nj.gov/nj/legal.html](http://www.nj.gov/nj/legal.html))

Accessibility Statement ([//www.nj.gov/nj/accessibility.html](http://www.nj.gov/nj/accessibility.html))

([//nj.gov/opra/](http://nj.gov/opra/))

(<https://my.state.nj.us/openam/UI/Login>)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2023
Office of Governor PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000

(<https://tech.nj.gov/>)