

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL

The Board believes that preschool educational experiences contribute to later academic success for all children. Therefore, within the limits of the budget and as required by law, the Superintendent or his/her designee will recommend to the Board for approval programs designed for children of Pennsville under the age required for regular admission. Any programs will address the needs of children who have been identified as eligible for special education and related services, as well as of those who have not been so identified.

The preschool curriculum will consist of developmentally appropriate experiences that provide each child with individual opportunities to develop positive self-esteem, social/emotional growth, language skills, motor development and conceptual skill development.

All preschool programs sponsored by the Board will be consistent with the overall philosophy of the District, and aligned with the Core Curriculum Content Standards. They shall be coordinated with other relevant District programs such as special education and Title I and articulated with the K-12 curriculum.

Proof of immunizations against communicable diseases and examinations shall be in accord with requirements for kindergarten and first grade admission (see policy 5111).

The Board shall ensure that the preschool program:

- A. Maintains classroom enrollments of no more than eighteen (18) children with one certified teacher and one appropriately qualified assistant;
- B. Is developmentally appropriate to the age and skill level of the young child;
- C. Is designed to address the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and consider the Implementation Guidelines;
- D. Includes transition activities, programs, and services between preschool programs and kindergarten programs;
- E. Coordinates with all other relevant District programs, for example, special education and bilingual education; and

The preschool programs and curricula will be based on student needs, strengths and interests that focus on all aspects of development: cognitive, social, emotional and physical. Curriculum and assessment strategies and/or resources shall be developmentally appropriate and include performance-based assessment measures.

The Board will make sure that instructional methods and/or strategies are congruent with the cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills of the young child. Instruction shall balance teacher-directed and child-initiated experiences.

The Board will also provide professional development and training specific to preschool education for all early childhood education administrators, teachers and teacher assistants.

The preschool program may be offered within a mixed delivery system that includes in-district, private provider and local Head Start agency settings provided that the private provider and/or local Head Start agency program(s) with which the Board contracts complies with the District's program requirements, including the employment of appropriately licensed and qualified teaching staff.

The preschool program shall include parent education activities in the preschool program with specific strategies identified that assist parents in remaining actively involved in their child's education throughout their school years.

The Board shall designate an administrator to oversee the preschool program. He/she shall ensure adherence to all applicable laws and regulations in pursuing funding at the federal and state levels, as well as from private sources.

Date: January 28, 2013

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:7F-54	Access to full-day preschool; calculation of preschool education aid
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:44-4	Funding of Preschool programs
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-2.1	Authority for educational goals and standards
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-3.4	Requirements for early childhood education programs
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9-6.1	Standard certificate
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9-8.1	Requirements for certificates of eligibility
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9-9.2	Endorsements and authorizations
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:13A-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Element of high quality preschool programs
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:23A-8.7	Tuition rate adjustment by districts receiving preschool expansion aid or opportunity aid
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-3.11	ECPA district community early childhood educational facilities projects
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the performance of school districts
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-8.3	School attendance

Possible Cross References:

1410	Local units
1600	Relations between other entities and the district
3220/3230	State funds/federal funds
3541.1	Transportation routes and services
5020	Role of parents/guardians
5111	Admission
5141.3	Health examinations and immunizations
6010	Goals and objectives
6122	Articulation
6141	Curriculum design/development
6151	Class size
6171.3	At-risk and Title 1
6171.4	Special education
7110	Long-range facilities planning