New Jersey funds three preschool programs. The largest and most intensive of the programs, formerly known as the Abbott Preschool Program, served 45,355 children in 35 of the state’s poorest school districts during the 2016-2017 school year. The New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) provides funding to eligible districts to provide the program to all 3- and 4-year-olds who live in those districts and choose to enroll. Private child-care centers or Head Start programs that meet state standards may contract with districts to deliver services. Abbott districts also receive supplemental child care subsidy funds from the state Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide extended-day and extended-year services to eligible families. When a new school funding formula was passed 2008-2009 school year, a “hold harmless” article was put in place which requires that former Abbott districts receive no less in preschool aid from the DOE than they did in the 2008-2009 school year.

The Non-Abbott Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA) program is required only in districts where 20% to 40% of children meet the criteria for free or reduced-price lunch services. In the 2016-2017 school year, several former ECPA districts participated in the federal Preschool Expansion Grant, which enabled additional children to be served in full-day programs.

The third program, formerly known as the Early Launch to Learning Initiative (ELLI), was established in 2004 as part of New Jersey’s efforts to expand access to high-quality prekindergarten education to all 4-year-olds in low-income households across the state. In the initial year of funding, all Non-Abbott districts were eligible to apply for funds; however, new districts have been unable to apply due to limited funds. The 2016-2017 school year continues to see 24 districts offering the ELLI program to 753 children, an increase in enrollment from the previous year. One ELLI district was supported by PDG funding in 2016-2017. State funding for the ELLI program has remained the same since the 2008-2009 school year.

In 2014, New Jersey was awarded a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) for $17.5 million annually for four years, subject to federal appropriations. Through this grant, in the 2016-2017 school year, 767 additional children were enrolled in preschool ECPA and ELLI programs as well as other districts. PDG funding was also used to enhance the quality of 1,120 slots in ECPA and ELLI programs as well as other districts in the state.

In the 2018 budget, the NJ legislature appropriated $25 million for expansion of high-quality preschool to eligible ECPA and ELLI districts. Preschool Education Expansion Aid was awarded on a competitive basis to 26 districts to create additional preschool slots or enhance existing preschool slots. However, the total amount awarded to districts was $20 million.

To report the contributions New Jersey makes to preschool education through its three separate programs, summary information reflecting the state’s overall commitment to preschool is first presented, where enrollment and state spending for the former Abbott, ECPA, and ELLI programs are combined to demonstrate a comprehensive state profile. Next, we present specific details about each initiative in the state: the third page of this profile focuses exclusively on the former Abbott program, the fourth page on the former ECPA program, and the final page on the former ELLI program.
NEW JERSEY STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................... 53,370
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......................... 12,437
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .......... 12,519
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............... 0

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ............................................ $653,333,890
State Head Start spending .............................................. $0
State spending per child enrolled ................................. $12,242
All reported spending per child enrolled* ........................ $12,478

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT
AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

3-YEAR-OLD

4-YEAR-OLD

71%
5%
5%
21%

30%
3%
6%
61%

Pre-K  Head Start†  Special Ed††  Other/None

† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K (ECPA).
†† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PRE-K

HDST**

K-12***

$12,478

$9,716

$21,352

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 $ THOUSANDS

State contributions  Federal contributions  Local contributions  TANF spending

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS  3-YEAR-OLDS

21  3

RESOURCE RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING  ALL REPORTED SPENDING

2  2

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

CURRENT STANDARDS  NEW STANDARDS

8.7  7.8

Data are for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise noted.
NEW JERSEY FORMER ABBOTT PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................ 45,355
School districts that offer state program ............................ 6%
Income requirement .................................................. No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ...................................... 6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................... School or academic year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>NJ ABBOTT REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>NEW BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td></td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>100 hours/5 years; PD plans (teachers only); Coaching</td>
<td>For teachers: At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>15 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>2:15 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more; Support services</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; at least one support service</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Breakfast, lunch, snack</td>
<td>At least one meal/day</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Discontinued</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring/Continuous quality</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ........................................ $609,503,219
Local match required? ........................................... No
State spending per child enrolled .............................. $13,439
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................. $13,439

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

DATA are for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise noted.
NEW JERSEY FORMER NON-ABBOTT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM AID

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .......................................................... 7,262
School districts that offer state program ....................................... 16%
Income requirement ................................................................. No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation ...................................................... 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................................. School or academic year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>NJ ECPA REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>NEW BENCHMARK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
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<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>100 hours/5 years; PD plans (public teachers only; Coaching)</td>
<td>For teachers: At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>18 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
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<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:9 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more; Support services</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; at least one support service</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Depends on length of program day</td>
<td>At least one meal/day</td>
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<td>Discontinued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring/ Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations (PDG classrooms); Monitoring data used for program improvement</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .......................................................... $41,550,371
Local match required? ............................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ............................................ $5,722
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................................. $7,309

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

DATA FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>NJ ECPA*</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td>$9,716</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-12***</td>
<td>$21,352</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data are for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise noted.
NEW JERSEY FORMER EARLY LAUNCH TO LEARNING INITIATIVE

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ............................................................. 753
School districts that offer state program ......................................... 4%
Income requirement ................................................................. 185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation ........................................ 2.5 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................................. School or academic year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>NJ ELLI REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>NEW BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>HSD</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>100 hours/5 years; PD plans (teachers only); Coaching</td>
<td>For teachers: At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more; Support services</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; at least one support service</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Depends on length of program day</td>
<td>At least one meal/day</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Discontinued</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations (PDG classrooms); Monitoring data used for program improvement</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .................................................. $2,280,300
Local match required? .......................................................... Yes
State spending per child enrolled ....................................... $3,028
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............................ $4,443

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.