OVERVIEW

WHAT’S NEW
Following the New Jersey legislature’s appropriation of an additional $25 million for pre-K expansion in the 2017-2018 budget, Governor Murphy allocated an additional $50 million for preschool expansion in the 2018-2019 school year. Thirty-three million dollars was also allocated to maintain the prior year expansion and provide a cost of living increase for all other existing preschool slots. The NJ Department of Education (DOE) is leading a competitive application process to award school districts with this additional funding to serve more children in high-quality, full-day preschool programs. Also in 2018, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families was awarded $10,620,000 under the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five.

BACKGROUND
New Jersey funds three preschool programs. The largest and most intensive of the programs, formerly known as the Abbott Preschool Program, served 42,288 children in 35 of the state’s poorest school districts during the 2017-2018 school year. The NJ 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.

The Non-Abbott Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA) program operates in districts where 20% to 40% of children met the criteria for free or reduced-price lunch when the program was established in the late 1990's. In the 2017-2018 school year, 12 of 99 ECPA districts participated in the federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG), which enabled 1,489 children to be served in new or enhanced 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. During the 2017-2018 school year, 24 districts offered the ELLI program, though nine of these districts are also part of the ECPA program. One ELLI district participated in the federal PDG in 2017-2018, which enabled 114 children to be served in new or enhanced full-day programs.

Finally, three additional districts, outside of New Jersey’s state-funded programs, participated in the federal PDG in the 2017-2018 school year, providing new preschool slots to 320 low-income four-year-old children.

New Jersey’s overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for Abbott, ECPA, and ELLI, is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on Abbott, the fourth page provides information on ECPA, and the fifth on ELLI.
NEW JERSEY STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment.............................. 50,684
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .................. 12,784
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ....... 12,368
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............. 0

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending .................................... $659,789,000
State Head Start spending ........................................ $0
State spending per child enrolled............................. $13,018
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................... $13,275

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

3-YEAR-OLD

4-YEAR-OLD

72%
5%
3%
20%
28%
6%
63%

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

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

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PRE-K*

HDST**

K-12***

$13,275

$10,118

$22,297

$ THOUSANDS

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

RESOURCE RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE SPENDING</th>
<th>ALL REPORTED SPENDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

8

Data are for the 2017-2018 school year, unless otherwise noted.
NEW JERSEY FORMER ABBOTT PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................. 42,266
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>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>100 hours/5 years; PD plans (teachers only); Coaching</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>2:15 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending .............................................. $615,958,329
Local match required? .................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled ...................................... $14,573
All reported spending per child enrolled* .......................... $14,573

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State contributions</th>
<th>Federal contributions</th>
<th>Local contributions</th>
<th>TANF spending</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABBOTT**</td>
<td>$14,573</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10,118</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12***</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$22,297</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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** 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.
NEW JERSEY FORMER NON-ABBOTT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM AID

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ......................................................... 7,676
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

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>NJ Abbott</th>
<th>NJ ECPA</th>
<th>NJ ELLI</th>
<th>Head Start†</th>
<th>Special Ed††</th>
<th>Other/None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-YEAR-OLD</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-YEAR-OLD</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>63%</td>
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QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>NJ ECPA REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
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<td></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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<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:9 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ......................................................... $41,550,371
Local match required? ................................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled ................................................. $5,413
All reported spending per child enrolled* ........................................ $6,971

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Spending (Thousands)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NJ ECPA*</td>
<td>$6,971</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td>$10,118</td>
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<td>K-12***</td>
<td>$22,297</td>
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*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.
NEW JERSEY FORMER EARLY LAUNCH TO LEARNING INITIATIVE

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ........................................... 742
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

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

3-YEAR-OLD

72%
5%
3%
2%
8%
19%

4-YEAR-OLD

21%
6%
1%
3%
6%
63%

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY                                   NJ ELLI REQUIREMENT                     BENCHMARK                                      REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?

Early learning & development standards   Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive          Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive ✔️
Curriculum supports                      Approval process & supports               Approval process & supports ✔️
Teacher degree                           BA                                        BA ✔️
Teacher specialized training             ECE                                       Specializing in pre-K ✔️
Assistant teacher degree                 HSD                                       CDA or equivalent    ☐
Staff professional development           100 hours/5 years; PD plans (teachers only); Coaching  For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching ☐
Maximum class size                       20 (4-year-olds)                         20 or lower ✔️
Staff-child ratio                         1:10 (4-year-olds)                       1:10 or better ✔️
Screening & referral                     Vision, hearing, health & more            Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral ✔️
Continuous quality improvement system    Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement ✔️

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ............................... $2,280,300
Local match required? ........................................... Yes
State Head Start spending ................................... $0
State spending per child enrolled ................. $3,073
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................. $4,558

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

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