

VIDEO 1: 2026-27 Application Timeline

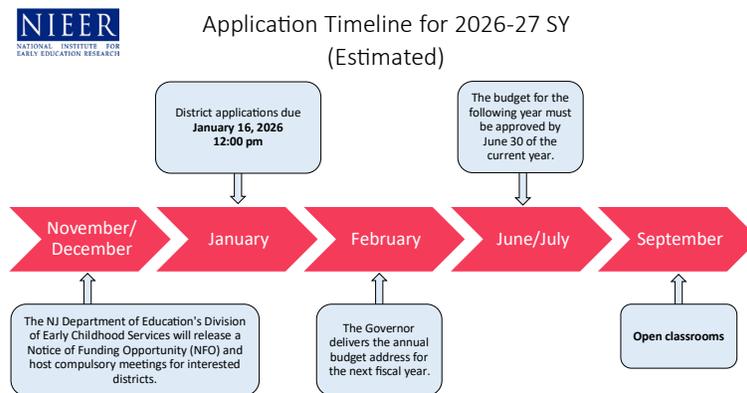


New Jersey Preschool Expansion Webinar Series: 2026-27 Application Timeline



In this video, we'll describe the anticipated application timeline and process for districts applying to receive Preschool Education Aid during the 2026-27 school year.

This year, the application – also often called the “notice of funding opportunity” or NFO, was released on November 25th and was sent to Superintendents, School Business Administrators, Executive County Superintendents, and Executive County Business Officials, in eligible LEAs. It is also available online on the Department of Education’s Early Childhood Education, Preschool website.



The mandatory technical assistance session was held on December 9th. To be eligible to apply for funding, your district was required to send at least one representative to the morning or afternoon mandatory technical assistance session, held in Trenton.

The application, including budget and all required documentation, is due on January 16th by 12:00 noon. It must be submitted through the NJDOE’s Homeroom Portal. Please give yourself ample time to start the submission process. If your application is submitted late, by even a second, it will not be considered.

The NFO is being released prior to the enactment of the FY 2027 Appropriations Act, meaning that all award terms and amounts are subject to funding being included and approved in the state’s FY 2027 budget.

The Governor typically releases the recommended state budget in February for the following fiscal year, which typically includes funding to expand the state-funded preschool program to additional, unfunded districts. The budget then must be approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor on or before June 30th.

After that point, award amounts can be finalized, again pending that there is money included in the budget to cover them.

Finally, classrooms must then be open no later than September 2026 for the 2026-27 school year.



You've reached the end of the 2026-27 Application Timeline

Video Library:

<https://nieer.org/new-jersey-preschool-expansion-webinar-series>

This brings the video on the 2026-27 Preschool Education Aid Application Timeline to a close. For more information on the PEA application, including information about the application, see our library of other videos on a variety of useful topics.