

VIDEO 11: Health & Safety



New Jersey Preschool Expansion Webinar Series: Health and Safety



In this video, we'll discuss the Health and Safety component of the New Jersey Department of Education's Preschool Education Aid application for districts applying to be part of New Jersey's state-funded preschool program. Note that Health and Safety is often addressed in a larger section of the application called Preschool Administration and Health and Safety, so you'll want to check out our companion video on Preschool Administration when writing this part of your application.



Chapter 13A, Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs

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DECS Preschool Website:
<https://www.nj.gov/education/earlychildhood/preschool/>
NJDOE Administrative Code Website:
<https://www.nj.gov/education/code/current/index.shtml>

Health and safety is a crucial element of your preschool program. To complete this part of your application you should make yourself familiar with relevant sections in two documents:

- The first is the preschool chapter of administrative code, which is 6A:13A: Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs. Specifically, you should familiarize yourself with the sections on Health and Nutrition and Screening.
- The second is the Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines, which has specific sections on Health and Safety and Intervention and Support Services.



Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:13A, health screenings must be provided to all enrolled preschool children. Vision, hearing, dental, height, and weight screenings are to occur upon enrollment. Families should be notified of the screening requirements upon enrollment.

List the proposed schedule of health screenings for preschool children in the *Health Screening* table below.

Proposed Schedule of Health Screenings

Health Screening	Projected Completion Date
Vision	
Hearing	
Dental	
Height/Weight	

Nurse - 1:300 preschoolers

What you see on this slide is an example of how you'll need to provide information on the district's proposed schedule of required health screenings for preschoolers. Health screenings, including Vision, Hearing, Dental, Health/Weight, for each preschooler must be completed upon enrollment or within 45 days of the start of school, so be sure your proposed schedule adheres to this requirement.



Nurse - 1:300 preschoolers

2. How will the LEA ensure that nurses are employed at the required ratio of 1:300 children for preschool children enrolled in provider, Head Start, and LEA classrooms?

3. List the proposed health-related family education programs and the proposed schedule for the current school year.

4. List the professional development the nurses will provide to classroom teachers and children within the current school year.

You'll also need a nurse employed at a ratio of 1 to 300 preschoolers, taking into account all preschoolers in your program. So, when you're calculating this, make sure you include preschoolers in Head Start and child care providers, as well. Your preschoolers do not need their own nurse if you have a nurse on staff that can dedicate the correct FTE to managing screenings, oversee health records, provide health-related education to staff, children and families, and attend to the daily needs of all your preschoolers. You do not need a nurse on-site for all Head Start and child care centers, but the included nurse should be made available when needed. Make sure that your nurse is included not only here, but also in your budget planning workbook with the correct FTE to cover all preschoolers. For more information about the budget planning workbook, see our companion video on that topic.

What you see on this slide is the kind of health-related information you'll need to include in your application. You should consider what health-related family education programs and professional development you'll offer. The health-related family education programs should be spread throughout the year and include a wide variety of programs that would benefit your specific population. Develop a preliminary calendar or timeline of activities,

with the understanding that it may need to be adjusted due to family needs. Topics for families could include health and nutrition, food allergies, and oral health, among others.

The nurse will also provide professional development for preschool teachers across all settings. Topics could include health and safety protocols, pediatric first aid & CPR, allergy awareness, nutrition and wellness, among others. There should also be learning opportunities for preschool students that focus on age-appropriate health and safety topics such as oral health, hygiene, and forming healthy habits.



You've reached the end of Health and Safety

Video Library:

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

This brings our video on how to address Health and Safety in your PEA application to a close. Again, the PEA application will likely require you to address Health and Safety in a broader section on Preschool Administration and Health and Safety, so be sure to check out our companion video on Preschool Administration as well. Also, for information on the other sections of the PEA application, see our library of other videos on a variety of useful topics.