

VIDEO 20: Preschool Education Aid Per Pupil Rates



New Jersey Preschool Expansion Webinar Series: Preschool Education Aid Per Pupil Rates



In this video, we'll discuss the per child rates provided by the NJ Department of Education to districts receiving Preschool Education Aid.



Projected Costs of Full-Day Programs 2020-2021

County	District	Provider	Head Start
Atlantic	\$16,215	\$18,220	\$10,071
Bergen	\$16,814	\$18,899	\$10,443
Burlington	\$16,476	\$18,817	\$10,232
Camden	\$16,339	\$18,366	\$10,148
Cape May	\$16,774	\$17,729	\$9,797
Camdenland	\$15,343	\$17,919	\$9,992
Essex	\$17,125	\$19,249	\$10,626
Gloucester	\$16,232	\$18,245	\$10,081
Hudson	\$17,259	\$19,444	\$10,744
Hamden	\$16,970	\$18,961	\$10,477
Hesse	\$16,875	\$18,982	\$10,480
Middlesex	\$16,806	\$18,889	\$10,438
Monmouth	\$16,650	\$18,715	\$10,341
Morris	\$17,608	\$19,140	\$10,576
Ocean	\$16,190	\$18,198	\$10,055
Passaic	\$16,550	\$18,602	\$10,279
Salem	\$16,232	\$18,245	\$10,081
Somerset	\$17,323	\$19,471	\$10,769
Sussex	\$16,517	\$18,564	\$10,258
Union	\$17,033	\$19,140	\$10,579
Warren	\$16,160	\$18,164	\$10,027

Early in the application, you'll find a table with the PEA per pupil rates listed. It is important to recognize that the rates represent the fiscal year for which you are applying to start operating a state-funded preschool program, which are typically updated each fiscal year.

You'll see that there are three rates- one for children projected to be served in district classrooms, one for children projected to be served in contracted Head Start classrooms, and one for children projected to be served in contracted child care centers.

The Head Start rate is lowest because they'll be combining state PEA funding with the federal funding they already receive for each child. The state per pupil rate is intended to support the cost of DOE standards that are over and above Head Start standards. For example, the state requires smaller class sizes than the federal Head Start program, and the state requires teachers to receive salaries comparable to teachers in district classrooms.

One of the most important things to understand about the state preschool per child rates is that the cost of districtwide program administration is embedded within each of the three per child rates. The state intends for districts to use a portion of each per child rate to support the cost of individuals and services that support every classroom. Some examples of these program wide costs are the preschool intervention and referral

specialists (PIRS), the preschool instructional coaches (PIC), the preschool nurses, and professional development.



Appendix: Eligible Districts' FY26 District Aid Percentage per P.L.2025, c. 100

For planning purposes, this Appendix provides each eligible district's FY2026 DAP. Applicants should note that final awards under this NFO will be based on updated FY2027 DAPs, which are not available at the time of this publication. The Department does not expect significant changes between FY2026 and FY2027 DAPs.

County	Dist	District	District Aid Percentage (Minimum of 40%) FY2026
Atlantic	600	Cortlan City	40.0%
Atlantic	2780	Lengort	40.0%
Atlantic	3020	Margate City	40.0%
Atlantic	4240	Port Republic City	40.0%
Bergen	40	AlenLake Boro	40.0%
Bergen	60	Alpine Boro	40.0%
Bergen	830	Closter Boro	40.0%
Bergen	900	Cresskill Boro	40.0%
Bergen	1070	Demarest Boro	40.0%
Bergen	1130	Dumont Boro	40.0%
Bergen	1270	Edgewater Boro	40.0%
Bergen	1340	Elmwood Park	40.0%

Another important aspect of the per child rates involves a pilot program enacted by the legislature in 2025. For any district applying to join the state preschool program for the first time in FY26, 27 and 28, a cost sharing model was put into place. This means that the Department of Education will calculate each district's Preschool Education Aid amount by multiplying the state's base per child rates by the district's District Aid Percentage for that fiscal year. Information on each district's District Aid Percentage can be found in the Appendix of the NFO.

In the budget and budget narrative section of the application, the district will need to show how it will meet all of the state's program requirements using other sources of funding, if necessary. Those other sources of funding may include a local tax levy, available reserves, or general fund state aid. Other sources may not include tuition charged to families of resident preschoolers. The preschool program must be offered free of charge to resident preschoolers.



You've reached the end of Preschool Education Aid Per Pupil Rates

Video Library:

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

For much more information on the per pupil rates and how to work with the PEA budget forms, check out our companion video on the Preschool Budget Planning Workbook. In that video, we'll walk you through each page of the budget workbook and provide helpful guidance on how to complete each one.