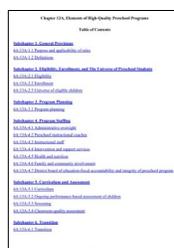


## VIDEO 7: Community Collaboration & Family Engagement



In this video we'll highlight the Community Collaboration & Family Engagement section 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. This section also includes questions related to the Early Childhood Advisory Council, which is discussed in a separate video in our library.



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

Strong community and family engagement is crucial for the success of this program. To ensure that you understand the full set of NJDOE's requirements, review these 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 section called Family and Community Involvement.
- The second is the Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines, which also contains a section called Family and Community Involvement.



Family Engagement Staff

Title	Name	Indicate if the individual is serving the program in multiple roles

Including:

- Community Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS)
  - 1:750 preschoolers
- Social Worker(s) – district
  - 1:300 preschools
- Family Worker(s) – private providers
  - 1:75 preschoolers

Each district must provide a coordinated system of social services to assist preschoolers and their families. In this section, you'll introduce your Family Engagement Staff, which includes your community parent involvement specialist (or CPIS) and Social worker for in-district students or family worker for preschoolers in private provider settings.

You must have one CPIS for every 750 preschool students. This individual must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in social work or a related field such as psychology, sociology, or education. In districts with fewer than 750 preschoolers, this position can be combined with another in the preschool program or can be an existing district employee who meets the requirements. The CPIS will coordinate your Early Childhood Advisory Council and will also support recruitment and enrollment efforts within the school district. For more information about the Early Childhood Advisory Council, see our video on the topic in our library.

Districts must also employ a social worker, who holds the appropriate credentials in social work, at a ratio of 1:300 preschool children. As with the CPIS, in a smaller district with fewer than 300 preschoolers, this can be a shared position as long as the individual meets the requirements. Note here that the ratio for the district social worker does not include preschoolers served in contracted Head Start and child care centers. The reason for this is because the children and families in those locations will be served by a Family Worker which is a position required in contracted Head Start and child care centers at a ratio of 1:75 preschoolers. Although you are not required to discuss the private provider family workers in your application, it is a good idea to address in your application how the district family engagement team will collaborate with the family workers.

Your family engagement staff will lead activities, meetings, and trainings for parents. You'll be asked to include a tentative schedule for these offerings; make sure you're offering them at different times of the day to accommodate working schedules. And try to be as specific as possible, knowing that you might need to adapt the schedule as the year progresses, based on the needs of your families. Some topics may include education on nutrition, dental health, or child development, among others.

Finally, there must be clear avenues to help families get assistance from local and state-wide social service agencies. Families should have a main point of contact to assist them in signing up for services, and all preschool personnel should be able to direct families to the family engagement staff for specialized assistance. The district should provide information through meetings, webinars, and written media, but should also use informal conversations to identify and offer assistance to families, when needed.



## You've reached the end of Community Collaboration & Family Engagement

Video Library:

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

This brings our video on how to address Community Collaboration & Family Engagement in your PEA application to a close. Again, the PEA application will likely require you to address your plans for the Early Childhood Advisory Council in this section, so see our video on that topic in the library.