

Lessons From Abbott Preschool

*Building a National System of High
Quality Early Education*

June 17, 2021

ABBOTT PRESCHOOL RULINGS: THE BIG BREAKTHROUGHS

- **EXPANDING LEGAL RIGHT TO EDUCATION UNDER STATE CONSTITUTION TO INCLUDE ENTITLEMENT OF ALL THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR OLD LOW-INCOME CHILDREN TO “WELL-PLANNED, HIGH QUALITY” EARLY EDUCATION**
- **UNIFYING CHILD CARE, HEAD START AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PRE-K UNDER K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**

ABBOTT PRESCHOOL: THE COMPONENTS

- WELL-PLANNED
- HIGH QUALITY
- ADEQUATE FUNDING

ABBOTT PRESCHOOL: WELL-PLANNED

- SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANS
- ALL RESIDENT THREE- AND FOUR- YEAR OLDS ELIGIBLE
 - MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM
- PROVIDER/HEAD START CONTRACTS W/ DISTRICT
 - OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT
- DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPERVISION

ABBOTT PRESCHOOL: HIGH QUALITY

- PRE-K CERTIFIED TEACHER AND AIDE PER CLASSROOM
 - CLASS SIZE OF 15
- DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM, LINKED TO K-12 STANDARDS
 - TEACHER SALARY COMPARABILITY
 - ADEQUATE FACILITIES
 - ONGOING PROGRAM AND OUTCOME EVALUATION

ABBOTT PRESCHOOL: PUBLIC EDUCATION STARTS AT AGE 3

**“THIS COURT IS CONVINCED THAT PRE-SCHOOL FOR THREE-
AND FOUR-YEAR OLDS WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT AND
SUBSTANTIAL POSITIVE IMPACT ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN
BOTH EARLY AND LATER SCHOOL YEARS.”**

NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT, ABBOTT V. BURKE -- 1998

ABBOTT PRESCHOOL: ADEQUATE FUNDING

- FULLY STATE FUNDED (NO LOCAL SHARE)
- THROUGH STATE'S FUNDING FORMULA AS CATEGORICAL AID
- FUNDING BASED ON ACTUAL COSTS AMONG PROGRAMS
 - CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS (2021-2022):
 - PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT - \$13,661
 - PRIVATE CHILD CARE PROVIDER - \$15,355
 - HEAD START - \$8,484