

# **2026-2027 Three-year Preschool Program Plan and Annual Update**

“Three-year preschool program plan and annual updates” means the school district’s three-year programmatic plan that is updated annually, as required and approved by the Department, to implement a preschool program that meets this chapter’s provisions"

([Chapter 13A, Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs](#))

**Due: 11/15/2025**

New Jersey Department of Education (NJ DOE)

Division of Early Childhood Services (DECS)

Office of Preschool Education (OPE)

Contact: Katrina McCombs

Assistant Commissioner

Division of Early Childhood Services

Contact Number: (609) 376-9077

doeearlychild@doe.nj.gov

## Local Education Agency (LEA) and County Information

**LEA Name:** Township of Union School District

**LEA Code:** 5290

**County Name:** UNION

**County Code:** 39

## Enrollment

**Are you projecting to serve at least 90% of the LEA's preschool universe of three-year-olds and four-year-olds outlined in this plan?**

No

**If no, please select the percentage you are projecting to serve within your universe outlined in this plan.**

51-75%

**If no, what is preventing the LEA from serving additional children?**

Provider Facilities

**If Other, please explain.**

**Is the LEA projecting to serve 3 year-olds?**

Yes

**Is the LEA projecting to serve 4 year-olds?**

Yes

# Outreach

**Does the LEA contract with Head Start?**

No

**If no, select from the following.**

No Head Start in the community

**If Other, please explain.**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Head Start Agency Name |  |
| Head Start Site Name   |  |
| Contact Name           |  |
| Contact Phone          |  |
| Contact Phone Ext      |  |
| Contact Email          |  |

**Does the LEA contract with private provider(s)?**

Yes

**If No, please explain.**

**If Other, please explain.**

## Facilities

**Are you adding or relocating any classrooms in your preschool program?**

No

**Please describe and identify locations by name of school/child care center and classroom number.**

**Do all classrooms, including In-District, Head Start, and Contracted Private Providers, meet the facility requirements outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:13A?**

Yes

**Please provide waiver status.**

**Approval Letter Received Date**

**Submitted to County Office Date**

## SAVS/GNJK

**Has your LEA been notified to participate in the SAVS process?**

Yes

**Has a SAVS Validation Visit been completed at the LEA by the Office of Preschool Education?**

No

**Please provide the date of your last validation visit.**

**Has a SAVS self-reporting document been completed and provided to the Office of Preschool Education?**

Yes

**Please provide the date of the last self-report submission.**

04/11/2025

**Are all LEA schools with preschool classrooms, contracting providers, and Head Start programs enrolled in Grow NJ Kids (GNJK)?**

No

**Does the LEA have a system to obtain status updates on the progress of the contracted providers and Head Starts in GNJK?**

**Has your LEA completed the GNJK Self-Assessment?**

**Please provide the date of submission for the GNJK Self-Assessment.**

**Has your LEA completed the GNJK Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)?**

**Has your LEA received a GNJK Rating?**

**Please provide the date of your GNJK Rating.**

**Please provide your GNJK Rating star determination.**

## Health and Safety

| <b>Health Screening</b> | <b>Projected Completion Date</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Vision</b>           | 10/31/2025                       |
| <b>Hearing</b>          | 10/31/2025                       |
| <b>Dental</b>           | 02/27/2026                       |
| <b>Height</b>           | 12/19/2025                       |
| <b>Weight</b>           | 12/19/2025                       |
| <b>Other</b>            |                                  |

**If Other, please explain.**

## Community Collaboration

**Do you have an established Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)?**

Yes

**If no, please explain.**

**Does the LEA have an identified ECAC membership roster?**

Yes

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Contact Details</b>  | <b>Job Title &amp; Organization</b>                                     | <b>Member Representation</b> |
|-------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
| Siddiquah Cameron | Email:<br>scameron@twpunionschools.org<br><br>Phone: 9088513048<br><br>Ext:<br><br>Fax: | Title: CPIS<br><br>Organization:<br>Township of Union<br>Public Schools | LEA Staff                    |
| Nicholas Evans    | Email:<br>nevans@twpunionschools.org<br><br>Phone:<br><br>Ext:<br><br>Fax:              | Title: Teacher<br><br>Organization: TUPS                                | LEA Staff                    |
| Al Platt          | Email:<br>alphonsusplatt6205@gmail.com<br><br>Phone:<br><br>Ext:<br><br>Fax:            | Title:<br><br>Organization: Nia<br>Fellowship Baptist<br>Church         | Community Stakeholder        |
| Kiersten Rezende  | Email:<br>krezende815@gmail.com<br><br>Phone:<br><br>Ext:<br><br>Fax:                   | Title: Parent<br><br>Organization: IGEA                                 | Parents/Families             |

|                        |  |  |                       |
|------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Justine Ferrara        | Email: jferrara@uplnj.org<br>Phone: 9088515450<br>Ext: 4<br>Fax:     | Title: Community<br>Organization: Union<br>Public Library                | Community Stakeholder |
| Jerome Starr           | Email: jerome.starr83@gmail.com<br>Phone: 9733826204<br>Ext:<br>Fax: | Title:<br>Organization: Keller<br>Williams Realty                        | Community Stakeholder |
| Kevin Woodridge        | Email: kjwoodridge@gmail.com<br>Phone: 9082656612<br>Ext:<br>Fax:    | Title:<br>Organization:<br>Township of Union<br>Recreation<br>Department | Community Stakeholder |
| Alexandra Demarco      | Email: ademarco@tgfymca.org<br>Phone:<br>Ext:<br>Fax:                | Title:<br>Organization: The<br>Gateway Family<br>YMCA                    | Private Provider      |
| Jessica Perdomo-O'hara | Email: jperdomo-ohara@twpunionschools.org<br>Phone:<br>Ext:<br>Fax:  | Title:<br>Organization: TUPS   | LEA Staff             |

**Does the ECAC meet quarterly?**

Yes



If Other, please explain.

## Transitions

| Category                                       | Children   | Families  | Teaching Staff  |
|--|--|---|---|
| From early intervention to PEA program         | Students will "visit" or slowly transition for a period of time each day in order to become comfortable.   | Families attend a transition planning conference held with Early Intervention, the family and the district to explain the process of referral, evaluation and if eligible program proposal      | Teachers attend the initial eligibility meeting so that they can hear about the child, meet the family and explain the program.   |
| From self-contained to PEA inclusion classroom | Students will "visit" or slowly transition for a period of time each day in order to become comfortable.   | Families attend transition meeting with case manager and the child's new teacher. Allow opportunities for the family to visit the new classroom.  | Teachers (self-contained and general education) and related service providers collaborate on strategies to best assist the student with the transition and once in the new classroom. |
| From home to PEA program                       | Children and families will be invited for short, relaxed play sessions in the classroom before the official start date to support a smooth transition. | Parent orientation night: Offer a short, friendly session (in person or virtual) to explain daily routines, drop-off expectations, and how to ease separation anxiety. Parents will be provided | Teachers will utilize communication tools: Use newsletters, apps, or photos to help families see how their child is adjusting.  |

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  | <p>transition tips for home: Give families ideas such as reading preschool-themed books, practicing short separations, and establishing a predictable morning routine.</p> <p>Family workshops throughout the year to provide informational sessions that help explain Preschool routines within a classroom setting, explain preschool milestones and appropriate expectations.</p> |  |
| <p>From a nursery school, family child care to PEA program</p> | <p>Welcome visits: Invite families for short, relaxed play sessions in the classroom before the official start date.</p> | <p>Family workshops: Offer informational sessions that help explain Preschool routines within a classroom setting, explain preschool milestones and appropriate expectations. Host “Family Day”/Welcome visit-Walkthrough of site/classroom to meet the teacher, see the toys, and explore and play with materials; take pictures of the classroom and teacher to look at</p>        | <p>Communication tools: Use newsletters, apps, or photos to help families see how their child is adjusting. Share Information Across Settings through Exchange transition forms: Create a short form that daycare educators can fill out about each child’s learning style, favorite activities, and comfort strategies (to be shared with families and classroom teachers).</p> |

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|   |   | <p>together at home to build familiarity.</p> <p>Transition meetings: Host meetings with daycare providers and families to share information about each child's interests, strengths, and needs.</p> <p>Family workshops: Offer informational sessions that help explain Preschool routines within a classroom setting, explain preschool milestones and appropriate expectations.</p> |   |
| From preschool (LEA-operated, child care, and Head Start) to kindergarten | Create familiarity and continuity with Transition Buddies: Pair preschool children with Kindergarten peers who already know the classroom routines and allow for visits to the new classroom. | <p>Transition Day orientation session: This event is for families to provide Kindergarten expectations, schedules, and how to prepare their child academically, socially and emotionally through guided experiences; include Kindergarten teachers in this experience.</p> <p>Family workshops: Offer informational</p>  | <p>Communication tools: Use newsletters, apps, or photos to help families see how their child is adjusting.</p> <p>Celebrate transitions: Host a "moving-up day" celebration that honors children's progress and builds excitement; invite families and (possibly) future Kindergarten teachers to attend.</p> <p>Establish a bridge between preschool and kindergarten: Encourage communication between preschool and kindergarten teachers to share insights about the child's learning</p> |

|  |  |  |                              |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|
|  |  | sessions that help explain Preschool routines within a classroom setting, explain preschool milestones and appropriate expectations. | style, strengths, and needs. |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|

## Family Engagement

**The following preschool staff will coordinate and implement parent involvement and parent education activities throughout the school year.**

CPIS;Social Worker;Other

**If Other, please explain.**

Others will include preschool administration.

**Identify all parent education topics for the year that are coordinated through the CPIS and/or Social Worker.**

Child Development;Nutrition;Safety;Support Children's Learning

**If Other, please explain.**

**Is there a written protocol or policy of how the family can access resources or community services (inclusive of In-District, Private Provider, and Head Start)?**

Yes

## Professional Development (PD)

**What structured observation tool(s) does the LEA plan to use to collect data and guide their PD plan?**

The structured observation tools that will be used to collect data will be TPOT and ECERS.

**How will your LEA deliver PD?**

Turn-Key Training from PIC or PIRS; Direct Supervisors; Early Childhood Education Consultants; Grow NJ Kids; Developers; Coaching (PIC and PIRS)

**If Other, please explain.**

**When was the last time your LEA had PD conducted by the curriculum developers?**

under 12 months

**When was the last time your LEA staff had training on the developmental screening tool?**

12-23 months

**When was the last time your preschool program staff (inclusive of contracted providers and Head Start) received PD on best practices to support multilingual learners (ML)?**

12-23 months

## Curriculum Implementation and Child Assessment

**Select which comprehensive curriculum will be implemented in the current school year.**

Creative Curriculum

**Does your LEA use a curricula enhancement?**

Yes

**Please explain.**

The district incorporates Preschool Social Emotional curriculum- Al's Pals.

**Provide NJ DOE approval date(s).**

Approved September 2021-2025

**What is your district's Performance Based Assessment (PBA) for the current school year?**

TS GOLD

**If Other, please explain.**

**Provide a description of how the LEA will support ML in the preschool program.**

Classroom labeled in English and native languages. Books, music, songs, in multiple languages accessible. Use of gestures, using survival words, modeling language. Families invited to participate in the classroom, share cultural traditions, stories, songs

## Screening and Intervention

**Indicate the Developmental Screening Tool(s) used by your LEA.**

ESI- Screening

**Is this the LEA's first full year receiving Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) funding?**

No

**For the prior school year, indicate the number of referrals to Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist (PIRS) from development screening tools.**

12

**For the prior school year, indicate the number of referrals for a Request for Assistance (RFA) process to PIRS.**

32

**For the prior school year, indicate the number of direct referrals to Child Study Team (CST) without PIRS intervention.**

6

## **Inclusion and Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

**Are you projecting to include children with IEPs in general education classrooms?**

Yes

**What will be the maximum number of children with IEPs in a PEA classroom?**

1-3

**What percentage of classrooms will include children with IEPs?**

26-50%

## **Title 1**

**Does your LEA receive Title 1 funds?**

Yes

**Does your LEA include preschool in your Title 1 needs assessment?**

No

**Does your LEA plan to use your Title 1 needs assessment to identify PD for preschool?**

No

**Does your LEA plan to use Title 1 funds for transition activities from preschool to kindergarten and kindergarten to first grade?**

No