

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL

The board of education believes that preschool educational experiences contribute to later academic success for all children. However, fiscal restraints and the lack of available space have precluded any efforts to establish such a program. Therefore, if funds were provided and as required by law, the Chief School Administrator would be asked recommend to the board for approval programs designed for district children under the age required for regular admission. Programs would address the needs of children who have been identified as requiring special education, as well as of those who have not been so identified.

The Chief School Administrator would direct development of approved preschool programs. He/she would ensure adherence to all applicable laws and regulations in pursuing funding at the federal and state levels, as well as from private sources.

Implementing procedures would address the following:

- A. The preschool curriculum would consist of developmentally appropriate experiences that provide each child with individual opportunities to develop positive self-esteem, social/emotional growth, language skills, motor development and conceptual skill development.
- B. All preschool programs sponsored by this board would be consistent with the overall philosophy of the school district and aligned with the Core Curriculum Content Standards. They would be coordinated with other relevant district programs such as special education and Title I and articulated with the K-12 curriculum.
- C. Each preschool classroom would be assigned at least one certificated teacher with required training or experience with young children, as described in administrative code. Class sizes would not exceed limits defined in the code.
- D. Proof of immunizations against communicable diseases and examinations would be in accord with requirements for kindergarten and first grade admission (see policy file code 5111 *Admission*).
- E. Programs would be designed to include parents/guardians as active participants and provide them with meaningful opportunities to be involved in the educational experiences of their children.
- F. Preschool classes may serve as laboratories for training teachers in cooperative agreements with colleges or universities.
- G. Opportunities might be provided for high school students to participate in laboratory experiences to enhance their understanding of child development and preschool curricula in the interest of future child rearing and for exploration of careers in early childhood education.

Date: June 29, 2009

**Legal References:**

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:7F-16	Early childhood program aid; distribution
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:3-9.3	School attendance
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:11-5.2	Requirements for the standard certificate
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:11-6.2	Endorsements and authorizations
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-2.1	Authority for educational goals and standards
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-2.4	Authority for requirement to establish early childhood education programs
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-3.4	Requirements for early childhood education programs
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:23-5.4	Early Childhood Program Aid
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:24-3.1 through -3.4	<i>Early Childhood Education</i>
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-3.11	ECPA district community early childhood educational facilities projects
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts (September 2002)

**Cross References:**

1410	Local units
1600	Relations between other entities and the district
3220/3230	State funds/federal funds
3541.1	Transportation routes and services
5020	Role of parents/guardians
5111	Admission
5141.3	Health examinations and immunizations
6010	Goals and objectives
6122	Articulation
6141	Curriculum design/development
6151	Class size
6171.3	At-risk and Title 1
6171.4	Special education