



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

LAMONT O. REPOLLET, ED.D.
Commissioner

April 1, 2019

Ms. Rosemary Marks, Superintendent
Hackensack School District
191 Second Street
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601

SUBJECT: 2019-20 Preschool Program Plan and Budget Approval

Dear Ms. Marks:

As requested by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE), the Hackensack School District submitted the 2019-20 Preschool Program Plan and 2019-20 Enrollment/Budget Planning Workbook.

This letter serves as notice that the DECE approves the district’s plan and budget contingent upon receipt of a budget statement that is aligned with the correct Preschool Education Aid amount listed above and in your 2019-2020 state aid notice. If applicable, please also revise the budget planning workbook tables (Table 4 -Pre-K Teacher Credentials, Table 4A- Pre-K Teacher Assistant Credentials, Schedule A –Personnel, Provider per Pupil Amounts) to align to budget statement changes. The resubmitted budget must also include funding for classified children in general education classrooms. This information must be received by May 1, 2019.

Under the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 (SFRA), the district will receive Preschool Education Aid (PEA) in the estimated amount of \$1,818,812 for 137 general education students. The district’s 2019-20 Enrollment/Budget Planning Workbook indicates a total amount of \$2,641,445 allocated to the preschool program, including prior year PEA carryover and funding for students with special needs included in general education classrooms.

Enrollment	2018-19 Actual Enrollment (as of (10/15/18))	2019-20 Projected Enrollment
All Preschool Children	318	292
In-District	318	292
Enhanced Head Start (HS)	0	0
Other Private Providers (OP)	0	0
% of Enrollment in HS or OP	0.0%	0.0%

(General Education)	163	137
(Inclusion)	43	43
(% Included)	27.7%	27.7%
(Self-contained)	112	112
Classrooms (General Education plus Inclusion)	13	12

Projected Universe (does not include special education students)		2019-20
Projected Universe		642
Projected Percent of Universe Served		21.3%

The DECE has reviewed the district’s submission and finds that the school has a sufficient plan to meet all criteria set forth in *Elements of High Quality Preschool Programs - N.J.A.C. 6A:13A et seq.*, with the exception of the area(s) described below:

- Since the Hackensack School District is projected to serve less than 90 percent of its eligible universe of general education preschoolers, a corrective action plan is required detailing plans to address under-enrollment, including plans to remedy lack of facilities and plans for outreach and recruitment of hard to reach families. A plan of action must be developed by the district and submitted to the DECE as a part of the district’s annual Self-Assessment Validation System (SAVS) process. The DECE will contact the Hackensack School District to discuss the district’s data and to review the district improvement plan, following its submission.
- Hackensack School District needs to continue its efforts to include preschool children with disabilities in general education settings to the maximum extent possible. Hackensack’s inclusion rate is 27%. An updated plan of action must be developed by the district and submitted to the Department as a part of the district’s annual Self-Assessment Validation System (SAVS) process. The DECE will set up a meeting to go over the district’s data, and to review the inclusion improvement plan, following its submission.


If, at any time, the DECE determines that any of the information submitted is knowingly false or inaccurate, the DECE may take appropriate action including, but not limited to, revising its approval, recouping any misappropriated funds, recommending the termination of private provider contracts, and referring evidence to law enforcement agencies.

Please be advised that the preschool budget must be incorporated into your district budget. PEA is based upon your approved projected enrollment and may be subject to change pending the actual enrollment figures for the school year.

Please be advised that this determination may be appealed to the Commissioner in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:13A:11.1(a)2.

We wish you and your staff continued success in the implementation of your preschool programs.
If you have any questions, please contact us at (609) 376-9077.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tonya D. Coston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'C'.

Tonya D. Coston
Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Division of Early Childhood Education

c: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.
Linda P. Eno
Joseph Zarra
Kevin Dehmer
Lauren Kazmark