



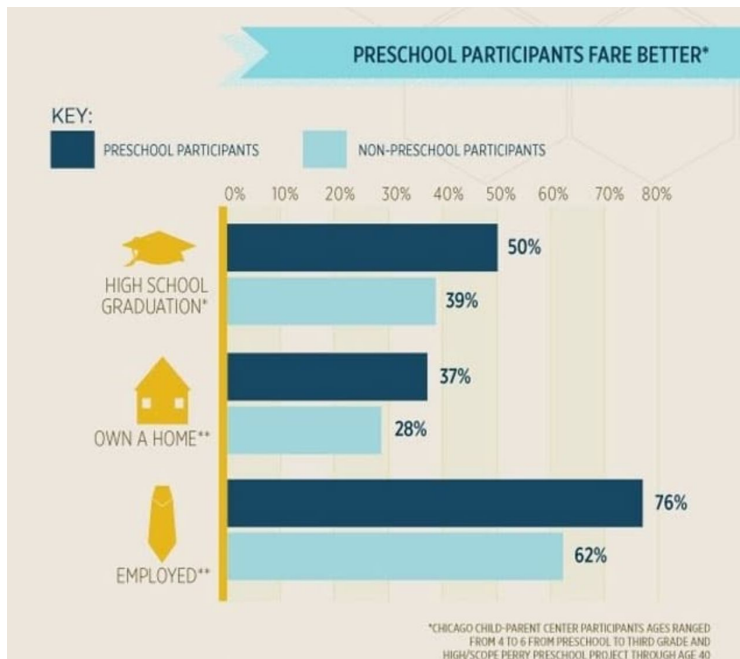
Preschool Expansion Aid

Grant Application and Multi-Year Plan



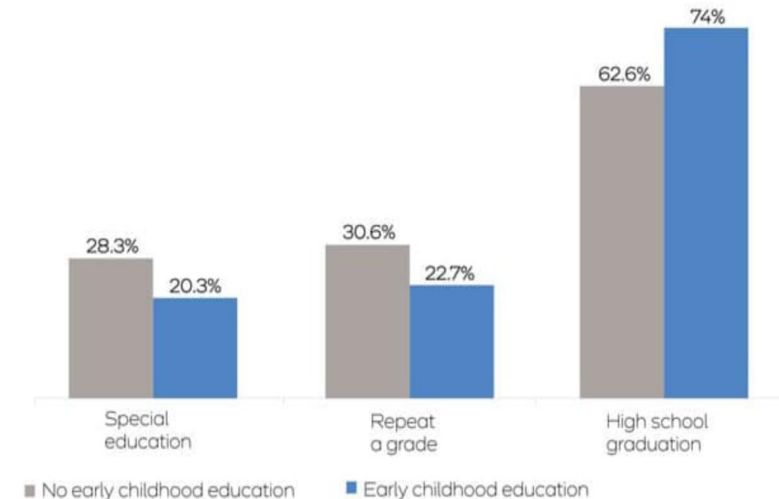
What is Preschool Expansion Aid, and why Pursue it?

Federal funding, allocated by the New Jersey Department of Education, to help districts provide universal preschool



Lasting effects of early childhood education

Analysis of 22 studies published between 1960 and 2016 shows benefits of preschool



Broad Strokes, Key Terms, & Takeaways

- **Universal Preschool**
 - Full day preschool program for entire “Universe”
- **Universe**
 - State defines total population of 3 & 4 years olds based on demographic trends
 - Universe = 2,192
 - *Based on Application for State School Aid (ASSA)
 - Minus 260 Special Education students
 - 1,932 total 3 & 4 year old students for which the district could receive funding
 - District must accommodate entire universe within 5 years
- **Current funding rate for Middlesex County**
 - In-District Program: \$13,986
 - Private Licensed Child Care Centers: \$15,720
- **Why haven't we done this before?**
 - Full Day / Infrastructure barrier
 - Funding levels have been increased
 - ½ Day Kindergarten prior to this school year



Goals

- **Successfully apply for Preschool Expansion Aid in 2023-2024**
- **Provide Full Day Preschool to portion of our “Universe” by September, 2024**
 - Partnership With PLCCCs
- **Provide Full Day Preschool to entire “Universe” (est. 2,192 students) by September, 2029**
 - Combination of partnership and increased in-district capacity

In-District vs. Private Licensed Child Care Centers

Districts can use the funds to provide full day preschool programs in 2 ways

In-District Programs

- Edison BOE buildings
- Edison BOE employees
- Edison BOE oversight

Partnership with PLCCC's

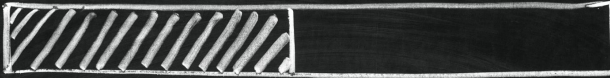
- Existing community Preschool programs
- Community Preschool Staff
- Edison BOE oversight



Anticipated Timeline

- **2022-2023**
 - Staff unused Pre-K rooms
 - Present plans to community
 - Meet with PLCCCs to gauge capacity & secure partners
- **2023-2024**
 - Complete PEA Application (April)
 - Communicate lottery and IEP changes to community
 - Architecture and budgeting for district owned properties
 - Pursue leased space
- **2024-2025**
 - 1st year of implementation
 - All in-district Pre-K programs (including special education) become full day
 - Secure leased space and/or begin construction
 - Hire in-district staff for expansion
- **2025-2026**
 - Build out leased space
 - Open district owned properties
 - Hire in-district staff
- **2026-2027**
 - Complete leased space construction
 - Hire in-district staff

PROGRESS



Considerations

Full Day Programs

- **Full Day Preschool**
 - Requirements for application and award
 - All Special Education students need to be provided with a full day program



Private Licensed Child Care Center Capacity

- **Remember the “Universe?”**
 - Edison must have a plan to provide Pre-K to all 3 & 4 year olds by school year 2029-2030
 - State website lists 43 PLCCC’s in Edison
 - When adjusted to remove aftercare and tutoring programs
 - Between 15- 20 potential partners remain



Welcome to Preschool

