Chesterfield Township School District
Preschool Expansion Aid

Family Information Night
October 29, 2024

Dr. Melissa Carlton
Supervisor of Special Services & Early Childhood Education

Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA)

Governor Murphy's plan:
"Path to universal, full-day, high-quality preschool by 2030"

Chesterfield awarded 1.1 Million in year one

- Will increase annually based on additional classrooms

PEA is STATE AID, not a grant

- Once approved, becomes part of annual State aid pursuant to School Funding Reform Act (SFRA)
- Funds only General Education Students*
  - **Special Education funded separately*

High Quality Preschool

*A full-day program designed to ensure an effective early childhood education, including robust, child-centered educational experiences, trained staff, and appropriate facilities**

Little Dragons Preschool

- **Fully-Certified Teachers**
  - NJDOE P-3 Certification
- **Comprehensive, Researched-based Curriculum**
  - High Scope
- **Assessment for Continuous Improvement**
  - Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-3)
  - Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT)
  - Early Screening Inventory (ESI-3)
  - COR Advantage - HighScope Measure of Progress
- **Family & Community Engagement**
  - Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)
- **Developmentally appropriate classroom environments**
- **Inclusive Practices to meet the needs of all learners**

*NJAC 6A:13A

Preschool Expansion: Five Year Plan

Year 1

2024-2025

- 75 Students
  - 30 open to lottery
- CES: 3 Classrooms
- STEM: 2 Classrooms

Year 2

2025-2026

Estimated Program

- 105-120 Students
- CES: 4 Classrooms
- STEM: 3-4 Classrooms

Year 3

2026-2027

Estimated Program

- 120-135 Students
- CES: 5 Classrooms
- STEM: 4 Classrooms

Year 4

2027-2028

Estimated Program

- 150-165 Students
- CES: 6 Classrooms
- STEM: 4-5 Classrooms

Year 5

2028-2029

Estimated Program

- 170-180 Students
- CES: 6-7 Classrooms
- STEM: 4-5 Classrooms

Little Dragons Preschool Eligibility

01. Student must be a resident of Chesterfield/ Crosswicks

02. Age 3 by October 1st

03. Years 1-4:
Awarded a spot via placement or lottery

Little Dragons Preschool: Key Elements

Classrooms

- 950 Sq. Ft.
- Bathroom in class
- ECERS Standards

Transportation

Available to students
2+ miles from school/center

Preschool Playground

Developmentally Appropriate playground & equipment

Daily Requirements

- 6-hour school day
- Meals & Afternoon Rest
- 15 students per class
- Inclusion & Special Education

Meals

- National School Breakfast & School Lunch Program
- Options for meal purchase
- Free/Reduced Meal Program available

Services Vision:
Mixed Delivery Model

PEA requirement: Partnership with community provider sites

Preschool services will be provided to students in district school(s) and out-of-district preschools through approved private providers

Chesterfield will facilitate a partnership with iGo STEM Academy:

- School District Supervision of Program
- High-quality preschool instruction
- NJDOE Approved High Scope Curriculum
- Shared Experiences outside the classroom

Little Dragons Preschool Team

Scott Heino
Superintendent

Scott Hogan
Business Administrator & Preschool Financial Specialist

Melissa Carlton
Supervisor of Special Services & Early Childhood Education

Coletta Graham
Chesterfield Elementary School Principal

Stephanie DiCarlo
Chesterfield Elementary Assistant Principal

Cindy McNally

- School Social Worker
- Preschool Intervention & Referral Specialist (PIRS)
- Community-Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS)

Nancy Martinez

- Preschool Instructional Coach (PIC)

P-3 Teachers

Preschool Class Aides

School Nurses

Daily Relief Aides & Bus Attendants

Preschool Support Staff: New Required Roles

Cindy McNally

School Social Worker

- **Preschool Intervention & Referral Specialist (PIRS)**
  - Maximize inclusion of diverse learners
  - Supports staff to implement Pyramid Model for Social Emotional Competence
- **Community-Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS)**
  - Coordinates family & school partnerships
  - Coordinates the Early Childhood Advisory Council
  - Facilitates annual Community Needs Assessment

Nancy Martinez

- **Preschool Instructional Coach (PIC)**
  - Provides modeling, coaching, observations, and feedback to preschool teaching staff
  - Provides staff professional development on systematic classroom practices consistent with the NJ Preschool Standards and the High Scope curriculum
  - Coordinates benchmark and annual assessments for department data collection & analysis

Before & After Care Options

Chesterfield will partner with local providers to ensure access to

- Before & After Care
- School Closure Care

CHAMPIONS.

iGo STEM ACADEMY

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS

HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE

IMPORTANT DATES

Preschool Lottery Open : 10/14/2024 to 11/14/2024

Lottery Selection: 11/20/2024 at BOE Meeting
Notice of Acceptance: 11/22/2024
District Preschool Registration: 11/25 - 12/6/2024

New Student Preschool Orientation: 12/6/2024

QUESTIONS

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