



Rahway Staff Completes Leadership Program

*Building Early Learning Latine Educators
(BELLE) - Cohort 4*

Presented by:

Dr. Mykel Brooks

About *BELLE* / *NIEER*

Full Schedule

Tues. September 17, 2024	BELLE Overview- Online
Tues. October 1, 2024	BELLE Webinar I - Program Goals and Orientation
Sat. October 5, 2024	In Person- Culturally Appropriate Classroom
Tues. November 12, 2024	BELLE Webinar II - Coaching and Biliteracy
Sat. December 7, 2024	In Person- Drawing from Cultural Assets
Tues. January 5, 2025	BELLE Webinar III- Supporting Language Development
February 2025	BELLE Team Check Ins
Sat. March 8, 2025	In Person- Continuous Improvement and Building Systems
Tues. March 25, 2025	BELLE Webinar IV- Effective Presentations
Sat. April 5, 2025	In Person- Sustaining Effective Bilingual Systems

Goals:

- To improve the quality of supports for bilingual acquisition in early childhood education settings for emergent bilinguals
- To increase bilingual leaders in early childhood education.



Participation & Focus



Teacher - Lorena Salamanca

Coach - Lindsey Barrett

Focus Areas:

- Classroom Environment
- Family Engagement
- Emergent Literacy
- Language Acquisition

6.2 Emergent Literacy - Book Reading

- How we build interest in books
- Culturally responsive texts
- Visuals & props for engagement



Teacher - Elizabeth Conde

Coach - Mykel Brooks

What's next for us in this work...

- Upcoming classroom CASEBA observations conducted by NIEER
- Continue strengthening our program for our multilingual learners (MLLs)
 - Accessible materials
 - Adjustments to classroom practices
 - Intentional placement of students
 - Strengthening our dual language pre-K
- Attending & Presenting our work at the 1st Annual BELLE Hablemos! Conference at Rutgers University on June 6, 2025



Thank You! / ¡Gracias!





Rahway Preschool

Collaboration with
New Jersey Preschool Inclusive Education Project
(NJPIEP)
& NJDOE

Presented by:

Dr. Mykel Brooks, Mr. James Fisher, & Mrs. Tara Kopec

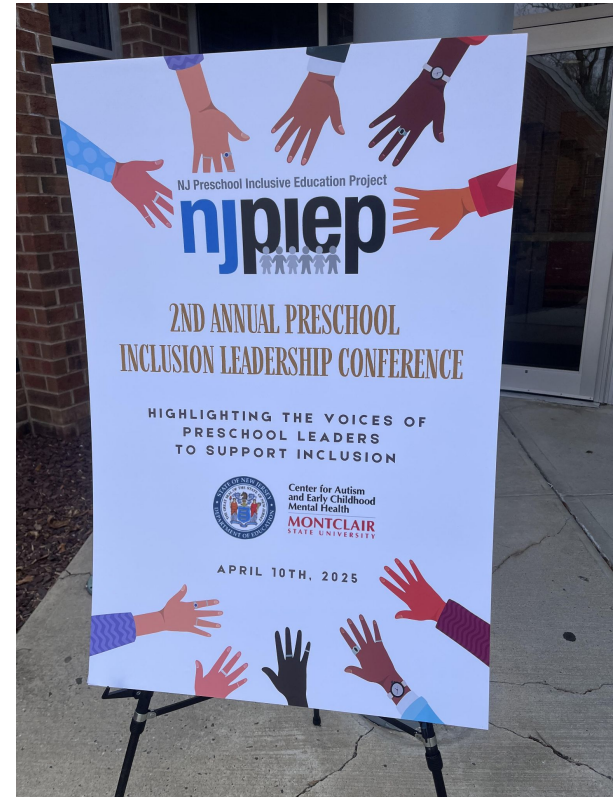
About Our NJPIEP Involvement

- A collaborative effort between the NJDOE Office of Special Education (OSE), the Montclair State University Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health (CAECMH), and ALL IN for Inclusive Education (formerly NJCIE).
- These collaborators add schools/districts each year and provides Technical Assistance and Systemic Change Facilitation to develop more inclusive educational opportunities.
- 2024-2025 SY marked Rahway's 4th year of involvement with the program
- Because of our work and progress, we were asked to present at the annual Preschool Inclusion Conference



Changes We're Embarking On

- Increasing preschool inclusion
- Integrating related services into the classrooms.
- Transforming self-contained classroom environments
- Training on curriculum and inclusive practices to teaching staff, CST, Related Service Providers, and Administrators.
- Completion of the NJPIEP Systemic Change program in SY 2025-2026.



Rahway Featured Presentations

1. Braiding Resources to Support High-Quality Preschool

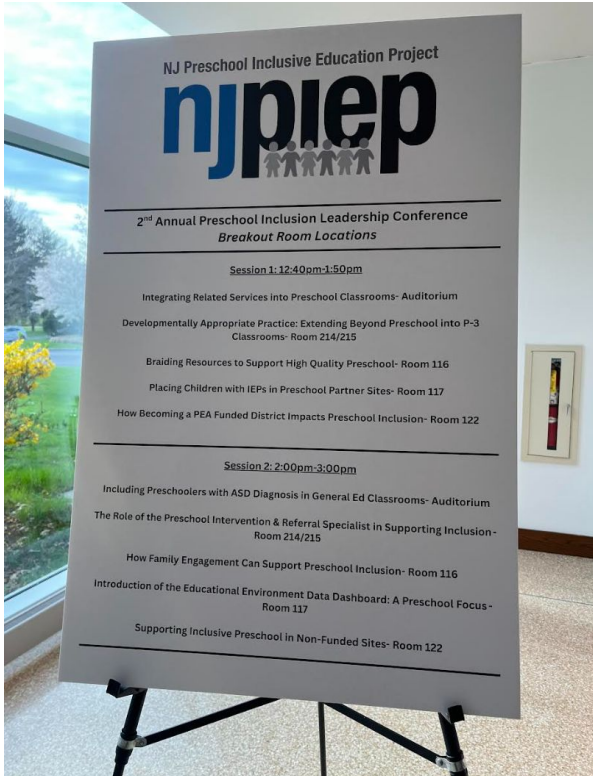
Presenters: Dr. Mykel Brooks, Rahway Public Schools
Mr. James Fisher, Rahway Public Schools
Ms. Melanie Sweeney, Glassboro Public Schools *
Mr. Michael Vargas, Belleville Public Schools *

2. The Role of the Preschool Intervention & Referral Specialist in Supporting Inclusion

Presenters: Ms. Michelle Mayrer, Belleville Public Schools *
Ms. Cristina Soto-Baez, Rahway Public Schools

3. How Family Engagement Can Support Preschool Inclusion

Presenters: Ms. Shaunique Cisson, Rahway Public Schools
Ms. Tara Kopec, Rahway Public Schools
Ms. Devimatie Misir, Rahway Public Schools



Presentation Topics

1. Braiding Resources to Support High-Quality Preschool

- Collaboration between Early Childhood Education and Student Services Departments
- Using same curriculum
- How we're supporting inclusion
 - Push-In Model for related service providers
 - Special Education coach
 - Opportunities for Parents to collaborate



Presentation Topics

2. The Role of the Preschool Intervention & Referral Specialist in Inclusion

- Providing strategies to teachers on facilitating classroom practices and activities with ALL students in mind
- Keeping families involved in the classroom and the students' progress / goals
- Documenting student progress and ensuring IEP goals are being met



Presentation Topics

3. How Family Engagement Can Support Preschool Inclusion

- Provide opportunities for special education families to be involved with general education families
- Connecting families to resources
- Promoting inclusion



Rahway is on track to becoming one of NJPIEP's next demonstration sites for preschool inclusion...



Thanks to our team and our staff for their work!

