Merchantville Board of Education 130 South Centre Street Merchantville, NJ 08109	File Code : 6178 Proposed : 10/13/2009 Adopted : 10/27/2009 Revised : Reviewed : 07/15/2024

Early Childhood Education/Preschool

The board of education believes that preschool educational experiences contribute to later academic success for all children. Therefore, within the limits of the budget and as required by law, the chief school administrator shall recommend to the board for approval programs designed for district children under the age required for regular admission. Programs shall 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 shall direct development of approved preschool programs. He/she shall 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 shall address the following:

A. The preschool curriculum shall 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 shall be consistent with the overall philosophy of the school district and aligned with the Core Curriculum Content Standards. They shall 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 shall be assigned at least one certificated teacher with required training or experience with young children, as described in administrative code. Class sizes shall not exceed limits defined in the code.

D. Proof of immunizations against communicable diseases and examinations shall be in accord with requirements for kindergarten and first grade admission (see policy file code 5111 *Admission*).

E. Programs shall 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 may 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.

Key Words

Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum, Early Childhood Education, Preschool

Legal References:		
	N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-16	Early childhood program aid; distribution
	N.J.S.A. 18A:44-4	Funding of Preschool programs
	N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1	Authority for educational goals and standards

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.3	Authority for requirement to establish early childhood education programs
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.4	Requirements for early childhood education programs
N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.1	Standard certificate
N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.1	Requirements for certificates of eligibility
N.J.A.C. 6A:9-9.2	Endorsements and authorizations
N.J.A.C. 6A:10A-2.1 through -2.4	*Preschool Porgram*
N.J.A.C.6A:23-5.4	Early Childhood Program Aid
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.11	ECPA district community early childhood educational facilities projects
N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq.	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3	School attendance

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts

Possible 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
*7110	Long-range facilities planning

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

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