

Coffee & Conversation

with Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Frank Santora**

& School Business Administrator **Mr. Joe Mondanaro**



— held at Lincoln Roosevelt • July 24, 2025 —





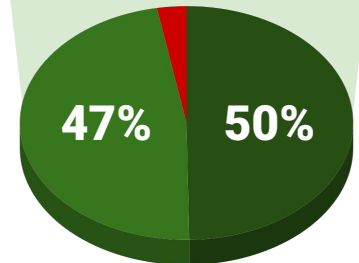
Preschool Expansion Aid Application

Results of our District's Interest Survey administered Summer 2024

- **Of the 589 families who responded:**
 - **203 (34%)** did not have a need for a program like this as all of their children were older.
- **Out of the remaining 66% / 386 responses from families with young children:**
 - **11 (3%)** had a child who was of preschool age, but did not want to take advantage of the program.
 - **183 (47%)** indicated they would like to take advantage of the program, but in a future year as their child was too young at the time of the survey.
 - **192 (50%)** had a child who would have turned three years of age by January 2025 and wanted their child to begin attending the program if it were to begin in January 2025.



Of the families with young children, **97%** *were interested* in a *Preschool Program for Roxbury*



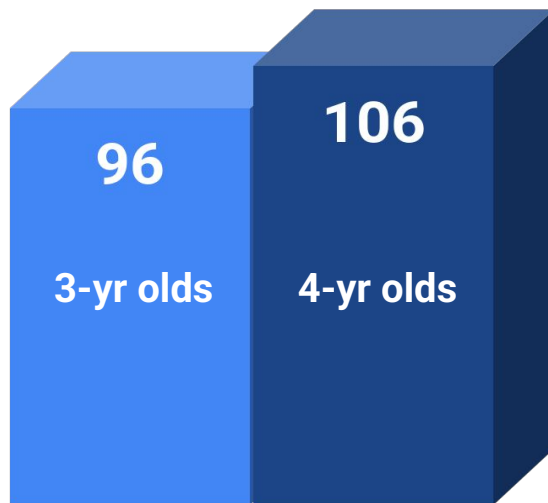


Preschool Expansion Aid Application

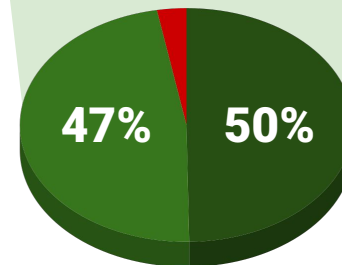
Results of our District's Interest Survey administered Summer 2024

- Of the 192 families who had children who were interested in having them attend the program as of January 2025:

Possible Enrollment of 202 children



Of the families with young children, **97%** were interested in a Preschool Program for Roxbury



Preschool Expansion Aid Application

Roxbury's **Intended Plan** heading into **Summer 2025**



- **Submit PEA application** by Aug 21, 2025 deadline
- If awarded, work to have 12 students per classroom:
 - **Creation of 8 in-district preschool classrooms** (96 students)
 - 1 at Kennedy Elementary School
 - 3 at Nixon Elementary School
 - 2 at RHS
 - 2 at the Meeker Street Building
 - **Partnership with licensed daycare providers** (36 students)
 - Learning Tree Academy (Succasunna) -1 classroom
 - LightBridge Academy (Randolph) -2 classrooms



**LEARNING
TREE
ACADEMY**





Preschool Expansion Aid Application

Revisions by NJDOE per **July 9, 2025** Legislation



- **Cost Sharing Pilot Program**
 - NJDOE identified percentage district is required to contribute for preschool student enrollment.
 - Roxbury Public Schools would be **responsible for 60%** of the per pupil costs for each of the preschool students enrolled in the program.
- **As a means of securing these funds:**
 - Districts were instructed to consider raising the tax levy.
 - Alternatively, districts are able to utilize existing funds in the overall operating budget.



Preschool Expansion Aid Application

Revisions by NJDOE per **July 9, 2025** Legislation



- **Continued Requirements**
 - Districts still required to reach 90% of preschool universe over five year period...
...each year, district must demonstrate growth toward this goal.
 - Increased student enrollment costs.





Preschool Expansion Aid Application

How do these **revisions** impact Roxbury?



- **District intended to enroll approximately 132 preschool students**
 - 8 In-district classrooms (96 students)
 - **Required contribution** \$9,864.00 per student == **\$946,944.00**
 - 3 Provider classrooms (36 students)
 - **Required contribution** \$11,087.00 per student == **\$399,132.00**
- As part of the application process, **the district must specify how it intends to secure the monies needed to fund its required contributions** ...

The district would be required to contribute **\$1,346,076.00** for the upcoming 25/26 school year.



Preschool Expansion Aid Application

How do these **revisions** impact Roxbury?



- The implementation of **universal preschool continues to be a goal of the district** -- **however** the recent revisions in the legislation make it so that **the district cannot move forward with applying for the Preschool Expansion Project for the 2025-2026 school year.**
- **What factors were considered:**
 - Tax Levy
 - *What does this mean?*
 - *Who would this impact?*
 - Continued reductions in state aid
 - Operating budget
 - Requirement for District to increase student enrollment each year



Preschool Expansion Aid Application

What does this mean for the future ?

- **As a district,** we remain committed to exploring ways to offer comprehensive preschool education for young children within Roxbury.
- **Consideration will be given to:**
 - Expanding the RCS Preschool and/or TYC Programs
 - How the district may be able to apply for Universal Preschool in future years?



Looking Ahead 

