



Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) Overview

Overview of Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA)

- ▶ District notified of eligibility to apply: July 2022
- ▶ Initial Application due: August 9, 2022
- ▶ Notification of Award: September 8, 2022
- ▶ 59 open spots
- ▶ Outreach to families for placement started late August and continued through 9/15/22
- ▶ Lottery conducted on 9/22/22
- ▶ Program start date 10/3/22

Implementation Review

- ▶ Grant Approved 9/8/22 and students entered the program on 10/3/22
- ▶ Prior to 10/3, team successfully:
 - ▶ Ordered furniture, materials, and supplies for all classrooms
 - ▶ Made all necessary improvements to classrooms (e.g., painting, floor replacement, installing cabinets and sinks)
 - ▶ On 9/30, all teachers and paras participated in professional development for the district curriculum (Tools of the Mind)
 - ▶ District registrar worked quickly to have students registered for the 10/3 start date of the program
 - ▶ Current Enrollment:

Location	Enrolled Students
DLC (2 classrooms)	23
MCPK (1 classroom)	12
Nishuane (2 classrooms)	17
YMCA	12

- ▶ Some upcoming activities:
 - ▶ Staff will continue to participate in professional development, 1st PLC on 11/17 and next workshop on 12/8.
 - ▶ Parent teacher conferences with families in December (as per district calendar)

Additional Resources for Implementation

- ▶ NJ DOE has assigned an Early Childhood liaison to guide the district for the full 5-year implementation (and beyond).
- ▶ Early Childhood Advisory Council
 - ▶ Once established, this group, of more than 20 stakeholders consisting of diverse community members and district staff, will:
 - ▶ Assist in the implementation of PreK and oversee its growth to meet the 90% Universe enrollment.
 - ▶ Assist in creating supports for transition from preschool to Kindergarten.
 - ▶ Participate in the community assessment of specific needs and resources, including facilities, as they pertain to the implementation of high-quality preschool services

Pending Tasks

- ▶ Complete enrollment for pending spots.
 - ▶ Families have been contacted for all pending placements. If, after district follow-up, families do not register, the placement will be offered to the next eligible family from the lottery list until all spots are filled.
 - ▶ Spots have also been reserved for pending special education students. These will be filled as students are found eligible via the IEP process.
- ▶ Approve Preschool Instructional Coach (PIC) consultant through Montclair State University
 - ▶ This individual will be working with each teacher/class (including community partners) to ensure implementation of district curriculum.
- ▶ Approve and hire Preschool Community Parent Involvement Specialist
 - ▶ Once hired, this individual will be responsible for establishing and meeting regularly with the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)
- ▶ Establish an enrollment process for 2023-2024 school year that includes consideration for income eligible and ELL families.

Proposed Plan for 2023-2024

- ▶ Operational plan for 2023-2024 due to DOE on 11/15/22
- ▶ Pending DOE approval:
 - ▶ PEA classrooms and partnerships will increase.
 - ▶ We are excited to begin partnership with MCDC (Head Start) and Neighborhood Childcare Center.
- ▶ We are anticipating the following classrooms:

Location	2022-2023 Classrooms	2023-2024 Classrooms
DLC	2	2
MCDC (Head Start)	N/A	2
MCPK	1	2
Neighborhood Childcare center	N/A	1
Nishuane	2	2
YMCA	1	3

Our PreK Classrooms

Nishuane Cozy Corner (Literacy Center)



Blocks and Cars at DLC



Our PreK Classrooms

YMCA Opening Group



Dramatic Play at MCPK

