



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 29, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors, Preschool Instructional Coaches, Teachers
From: Katrina T. McCombs, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Early Childhood Services
Deadline: May 8, 2026

NJDOE Seeks Input on Preschool Learning Expectations for Three- and Four-Year Olds

The Division of Early Childhood Services is developing a guidance document that will outline learning expectations for three- and four-year-olds. The NJDOE is committed to engaging stakeholders from Local Education Agencies (LEAs), contracting Child Care and Head Start programs in collaborative efforts to ensure the guidance is research-based, developmentally appropriate, and aligned with age-specific needs.

To support the development of comprehensive guidance, the Division of Early Childhood Services seeks to establish a highly qualified and diverse group of volunteers representing a broad range of stakeholders. A self-nomination process will be used to identify educators and other qualified stakeholders to serve on the development team.

Committee Eligibility and Dates

Educators interested in serving on the Preschool Learning Expectations committee must be available on Tuesday, May 19 for an in-person working session from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ 08625, in Conference Room 1C. In addition, two virtual meetings will take place on Wednesday, May 27 and Tuesday, June 2 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. *Asynchronous assignments may be assigned as needed, with the potential for a virtual session after stakeholder feedback is received.*

The committee will have a maximum of 15 external stakeholders.

The required qualifications are as follows:

- Educators must hold a NJ Preschool-Third grade (P-3) certificate, or equivalent and five years preschool teaching under the certificate;
- Professionals who hold NJDOE certifications for Speech-Language, Occupational Therapy or School Social Workers and have five years' experience working with preschool students;
- Faculty from NJ Institutes of Higher Education employed in Early Education Departments, Grow NJ Kids training and/or Rating Centers; or

- Staff from NJ Early Intervention agencies.

How to Apply

Individuals interested in volunteering for the guidance development process should complete the [participation form](#) no later than 11:59 p.m. on May 8, 2026. Previous committee participation does not preclude individuals from applying.

Applicants currently employed by a LEA must obtain Chief School Administrator (CSA) approval. The CSA must complete the [CSA Attestation Form](#) by Friday, May 8, 2026. LEA employees will not be able to participate without CSA attestation.

Applicants will be notified of their selection by email on or before May 13, 2026.

Contact Information

For questions regarding the process, please contact the Office of Preschool Education at doeearlychild@doe.nj.gov.