

F-21

RESOLUTION
EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL BUDGET 2021-2022

WHEREAS, the Township of Union Public Schools is required to submit a FY2021-2022 budget to the New Jersey Department of Early Childhood Education. This budget supports the operation of the Township of Union preschool program to meet the needs of its preschool population over the next school year. The budget continues to incorporate the use of contracted community childcare providers as well as in-district preschool self-contained classrooms to provide universal preschool to Union residents.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Union Board of Education approves the submission of the 2021-2022 Budget for Early Childhood Education. This is annual funding from the New Jersey Department of Education for preschool services to three (3) and four (4) year old children. The FY 2021-2022 budget submission total is \$5,658,641.00.

YOLANDA KOON
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

Dated: April 27, 2021



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

ANGELICA ALLEN-MCMILLAN, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

April 1, 2021

Mr. Gerald Benaquista, Interim Superintendent
Township of Union School District
2369 Morris Avenue
Union, New Jersey 07083

SUBJECT: 2021-2022 Preschool Program Plan and Budget Approval

Dear Mr. Benaquista:

As requested by the New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE), the Township of Union School District submitted their 2021-2022 Preschool Program Plan and budget. This letter serves as notice that the DECE approves the district's plan and budget contingent upon receipt of a signed Board Resolution and a budget statement that is aligned with the correct Preschool Education Aid (PEA) amount listed below and in the district's 2021-2022 state aid notice. If applicable, please also revise the budget planning workbook tables (Table 4- Pre-K Teacher Credentials, Table 4A- Pre-K Teacher Assistant Credentials, Schedule A- Personnel, Provider Per Pupil Amounts) to align to budget statement changes. The resubmitted budget must also include funding for classified children in general education classrooms. This information must be received by April 30, 2021.

Under the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 (SFRA), the district will receive PEA in the estimated amount of \$4,391,640 for 312 general education students. The district's 2021-2022 Enrollment/Budget Planning Workbook indicates a total amount of \$5,658,641 allocated to the preschool program, including prior year PEA carryover and funding for students with special needs included in general education classrooms.

The DECE has reviewed Township of Union School District's submission and finds that the Township of Union School District has a sufficient plan to meet all criteria set forth in *Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs - N.J.A.C. 6A:13A et seq.* with the exception of the regulatory requirement described below. Please work towards incorporating this into the implementation of your program for the 2021-2022 school year and in your planning for future school years:

- 6A:13A-2.3(a) The district is projected to serve less than 90 percent of its eligible universe of general education preschoolers and should begin to plan strategies to increase the percentage served.

To assist and support you with the development of your preschool program, you will be contacted by your DECE liaison to review regulatory compliance requirements, address any budget revisions if necessary, and to discuss any programmatic concerns.

Private Providers:

The Township of Union School District's Preschool Program Plan indicates that the district will contract with one (1) private provider in 2021-2022 to implement its preschool program at a total cost of \$469,020 as represented on Table 2 and the Private Provider Per Pupil Amounts Worksheet.

The Township of Union School District is responsible for ensuring that each provider can meet the elements of a high-quality preschool program as set forth in *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A et seq.* The district must also verify the accuracy of provider costs and ensure that private providers make expenditures in strict accordance with reasonable and customary costs based on the SFRA, 2019-2020 Private Provider Expenditure Guidance, *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A et seq.*, the Preschool Education Program Contract, and quarterly expenditure reports. Planning budget documents (and any approved modifications or transfers) shall be used by all Head Start programs and other private providers as the basis for their quarterly expenditure reports.

If, at any time, the DECE determines that any of the information submitted is knowingly false or inaccurate, the DECE may take appropriate action including, but not limited to, revising its approval, recouping any misappropriated funds, recommending the termination of private provider contracts, and referring evidence to law enforcement agencies.

Please be advised that the preschool budget must be incorporated into your district budget. PEA is based upon your approved projected enrollment and may be subject to change pending the actual enrollment figures for the school year.

This determination may be appealed to the Commissioner in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-11.1(a)(2)*.

We wish you and your staff continued success in the implementation of your preschool programs. If you have any questions, please contact us at (609) 376-9077.

Sincerely,



Cary A. Booker
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Early Childhood Education

- c: Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner
- Kevin Dehmer
- Tonya D. Coston
- Daryl Palmieri
- Lauren Walker