

Preschool Funding Parent Forum

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D., Superintendent
Jason Bohm, Business Administrator
Staci Beegle, Director of Pupil Services

October 26, 2023



Our Team...

District Staff

Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent

Jason Bohm, Business Administrator

Staci Beegle, Director of Pupil Services

Dr. Ann DeRosa, Principal WHS

Dr. Kristen Higgins, Principal TBS

Our Partners

Nicole Tiger, Director/Lisa Berger, Asst. Director of Berry Patch

Judy Serra, Director of Whitehouse Prep

Gina Nelesson, Director of Stanton Learning Center

Research and Strategic Work: Where does preschool fit?

The Research

Growing evidence demonstrates that high quality early childhood education help prepare children for school and public funding is increasing (Ansari, et al., 2019). Public preschool programs have substantial impacts on children's early learning and quality preschool education is a profitable investment (Yoshikawa et al., 2013).

Strategic Plan

Inquisitive Learning: Preschool curriculum is based in creative, play-based investigation for children.

Partnerships: There is desire to enhance community partnerships – preschool programs allow this.

Social Awareness: Evidence suggests positive social outcomes from preschool programs.

How we were funded...

The DOE announced the availability of
Preschool Education Aid (PEA) to
increase access to high-quality
preschool for New Jersey **three-** and
four- year old children.

Funding will be determined in the
following priority order according to
free and reduced price lunch (FRLP):

Tier 1: Districts at 20% or more FRLP

Tier 2: Districts at 15-19% FRLP

***Tier 3: Districts at 10-14% FRLP**

Tier 4: Districts at 10% or less FRLP



In District Locations



Whitehouse School



Three Bridges School

Provider Partner Locations



Whitehouse Prep



Berry Patch



Stanton Learning
Center

2023-2024 Classrooms

Classroom 1	Three Bridges School	15 students
Classroom 2	Whitehouse School	15 students
Classroom 3	Whitehouse School	15 students
Classroom 4	Whitehouse Prep	15 students
Classroom 5	Whitehouse Prep	15 students
Classroom 6	Stanton Learning Center	15 students
Classroom 7	Berry Patch	15 students
TOTAL		<u>105 students</u> (95 gen.ed. 10 inclusion sp. ed.)

Eligibility and Enrollment

First year space is limited. Therefore, eligibility requirements and priority order for enrollment have been established.

Eligibility Requirements – Children must be 3- or 4- years of age on or before October 1, 2023. This will remain the entrance age for future years. Children must be residents of Readington.

Priority Enrollment – The district will use the parent survey as a guide to determine enrollment. Enrollment priorities are the following: students eligible for free and reduced lunch, students enrolled in partner provider programs, and 4-year old children.

Lottery – A lottery will be used to determine placement for remaining students.

Program: Basic Requirements

The district and all private providers must offer a minimum 6 hour school day.

All current half-day programs will transition to a 6-hour day.

All private providers and district schools will follow the same district calendar.

All locations will use a state-approved curriculum (Creative Curriculum, Tools of the Mind).

All staff will be evaluated using the district's Danielson Teacher Evaluation Model.

Student and Program Assessments

Data collection is paramount in preschool programming. The following are ways in which data will be collected:

Child Level (screenings and performance-based assessment)

ESI-R 3, GOLD Assessment, family and student surveys

Classroom and Instruction Level

Curriculum fidelity checklists, ECERS-3, TPOT

Early Childhood Program

Preschool Implementation Guidelines and GrowNJKids

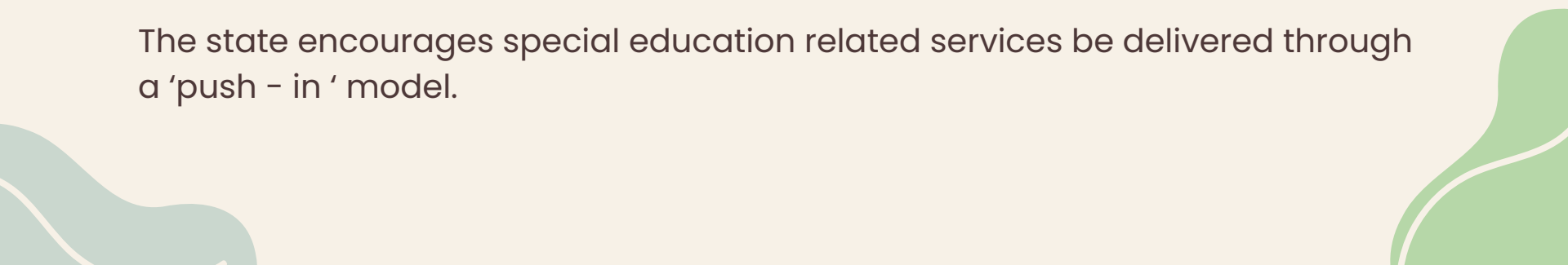
Special Education

Students with IEPs will attend full day preschool at either the Three Bridges School or Whitehouse School locations.

The Preschool Disabilities classrooms will remain at Three Bridges School. The new school hours will be 9:15 – 3:25.

Related Services will continue to be provided at both the Three Bridges and Whitehouse School locations.

The state encourages special education related services be delivered through a 'push – in ' model.



Transportation and Food Service

Transportation shall be available to students in accordance with district policy at no cost to families that meet requirements.

Students shall have assigned seats near the front of the bus or with siblings depending on individual circumstances and district standard practices.

Bus stops shall be communicated in the same fashion as other students in late December. In future years, communication shall be in August as usual.

Food shall be provided to students under National School Lunch Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program standards, with free or reduced meals available to qualifying families. A menu for preschool shall appear on the district website in December, with payment options being identical to existing students. Meals will be delivered to private providers by district personnel with assistance from Maschio's, the district's food vendor.

Future Year Plans

Year 2 Expansion

Projected Enrollment: 195
Total Universe: 240
73% of Universe

Year 3 Expansion

Projected Enrollment: 240
Total Universe: 240
100% of Universe

Must meet 240 students by year 5.



Year 2-3 Plans

(Emphasis on the word *plan*)

Site	Total Classrooms Year 1	Total Classrooms Year 2	Total Classrooms Year 3	Enrolled Students by Year 3
Three Bridges	1	2	2	30
Whitehouse School	2	2	2	30
Whitehouse Prep	2	3	4	60
Stanton Learning	1	2	2	30
Berry Patch	1	2	3	45
Global Pioneer (new in year 2)	0	2	3	45
<u>Total</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>240</u>

FAQ's

A FAQ document is under development.

It will be posted on our website within the next few days.

Questions asked at this parent forum will be added to the document to ensure all parents and members of our community receive a consistent response.



“A first class system of early
childhood education is the
hallmark of a caring and
civilized society.”

—Andy Hargreaves

Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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