

Lebanon Borough School Preschool Expansion

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Introduction

Current Situation

- **LBSD currently serves 90 students from PreK to 6th grade**
- **Our preschool consists of 15 three and four year olds spanning AM,PM, and Full-day programs**
- **We charge \$300 per month for ½ day and \$600 per month for full day**
- **We have an existing send/receive relationship with Clinton Glen Gardner School for 7th and 8th grade**

Purpose

Today, we're here to discuss a significant opportunity for our district: applying for New Jersey's Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA). This state-funded program aims to improve and expand preschool education in eligible communities like ours.

Importance of Early Childhood Education

Research consistently shows that high-quality preschool programs provide lasting benefits for children. By investing in early childhood education, we can expect the following benefits:

- **Cognitive Skills:** Preschool boosts critical thinking, language, and early math skills.
- **Social-Emotional Growth:** It enhances social interaction, self-regulation, and teamwork.
- **School Preparedness:** Children are more prepared for the academic and behavioral expectations of kindergarten.
- **Long-term Benefits:** These early advantages translate into lifelong success in education, behavior, and career outcomes.

Improved Outcomes

Category	Outcomes for Preschool Attendees
Cognitive Development	Higher early literacy and numeracy skills
Social Skills	Better cooperation, sharing, and conflict resolution
Emotional Development	Improved self-regulation and confidence
School Readiness	Higher likelihood of being ready for kindergarten
Language Development	Enhanced vocabulary and communication skills
Long-term Academic Success	Increased likelihood of high school graduation and higher educational attainment
Behavioral Outcomes	Fewer behavioral issues and less retention
Health and Well-Being	Improved physical health and nutrition knowledge
Parental Engagement	Stronger relationships and earlier engagement
Economic Outcomes	Higher earning potential and economic self-sufficiency as adults

These outcomes are supported by research from early childhood education studies, such as the HighScope Perry Preschool Project, the Abecedarian Project, and The Chicago Child-Parent Centers (CPC) Study

What is Preschool Expansion Aid?

- **State-funded program to improve and expand preschool in eligible communities**
- **It is NOT a grant it is Aid that becomes part of state funding**

Goals and objectives:

- **Increase access to high-quality preschool education**
- **Improve school readiness for all children**
- **Reduce achievement gaps**

Success in other NJ districts:

- **Over 150 school districts have benefited**
- **Total state investment exceeds \$1 billion since inception**

Small District Recipients

Island Heights (Ocean County)

Grade Span: PreK-6

Student Population: Around 100 students

PEA Funding Received: \$188,636

Milford Borough (Hunterdon County)

Grade Span: PreK-8

Student Population: Approximately 75-100 students

PEA Funding Received: \$168,468

Kingwood Township (Hunterdon County)

Grade Span: PreK-8

Student Population: Approximately 200-250 students

PEA Funding Received: \$154,429

Source: [NJ State Website](#)

Benefits Specific to Lebanon

Community Benefits

Support for Working Families

- Full-day, high-quality preschool provides reliable childcare.
- Parents can pursue employment or education opportunities with peace of mind.

Potential Increase in Property Values

- Strong early education programs make our district more attractive to homebuyers.
- Improved school ratings can positively impact property values.

Attraction for New Families

- Quality preschool programs can draw young families to Lebanon Borough.
- This influx can contribute to community growth and vitality.

Benefits Specific to Lebanon

Financial Benefits

Significant State Funding

- PEA provides substantial resources to improve and expand our preschool programs.

Long-Term Cost Savings

- Early intervention can reduce future costs in special education and remedial services.
- *Studies show every \$1 invested in quality preschool can save up to \$7 in future costs.

Resource Optimization

- PEA allows for better utilization of existing resources.
 - Defrayed salaries will allow for greater funds to be spent on the K-5 population.

*These outcomes are supported by research from early childhood education studies, such as the HighScope Perry Preschool Project, the Abecedarian Project, and The Chicago Child-Parent Centers (CPC) Study

Benefits Specific to Lebanon

Educational Benefits

(As Stated Before)

Improved School Readiness

- PEA-funded programs ensure children enter kindergarten with essential skills.
- Students will be better prepared for the academic and social demands of school.

Enhanced Cognitive and Social-Emotional Development

- High-quality preschool promotes critical thinking, problem-solving, and language skills.
- Children develop crucial social skills like cooperation, sharing, and emotional regulation.

Better Long-Term Academic Outcomes

- Studies show preschool attendees have higher high school graduation rates.*
- Early intervention leads to reduced need for special education services in later years.

Support for Emotional and Social Learning

- PEA programs emphasize holistic child development.
- Children learn to manage emotions, build relationships, and develop empathy.

*These outcomes are supported by research from early childhood education studies, such as the HighScope Perry Preschool Project, the Abecedarian Project, and The Chicago Child-Parent Centers (CPC) Study

The Challenge for Lebanon Borough's PEA Implementation

Limited Physical Space

Challenge: Our small school may lack additional classrooms for expansion.

Potential Solution:

- **Explore creative use of existing spaces (e.g., converting library/media center)**
- **Transition LBS 6th-grade to Clinton-Glen Gardner School (See Next Slides)**

Benefits of Transitioning 6th Grade to CPS

Developmentally Appropriate Transition

- **Bridge Between Elementary and High School:** Grades 6-8 serve as a critical transition period for students, helping them adjust from the nurturing environment of elementary school to the more rigorous expectations of high school.
- **Current LBS 6th Grade Students are at a disadvantage because** although they are treated as middle school students here they are still in the elementary school building. There is no significant change in how they perceive their start to middle school
- **Cognitive Development:** At this stage, students are transitioning from concrete to more abstract thinking, and the curriculum in a 6th-8th grade model is designed to challenge them accordingly.
- **Social and Emotional Growth:** Middle school-aged students are going through significant emotional and social changes. The 6-8 model allows educators to focus on the specific developmental needs of pre-teens and early teens.

Benefits of Transitioning 6th Grade to CPS

- **Focus on Early Adolescents' Needs**
- **Specialized Curriculum**
- **Dedicated Support for Adolescents:** Teachers and staff in a 6-8 model are typically more attuned to the specific emotional, social, and academic needs of adolescents. Middle school programs can prioritize emotional support, conflict resolution, and team-building skills.
- **Peer Grouping and Socialization:** By grouping 6th through 8th graders together, students have a peer group of similar age and maturity, which can be beneficial for social development.
- **Greater opportunity for extra curricular activities including clubs and sport.**
- **Subject Specialization:** Students are introduced to subject-specific teachers (e.g., math, science, English) as they would be in high school, but with the added support and flexibility for their developmental level. This allows for deeper exploration of subjects and prepares students for the academic structure of high school.
- **Currently, our 6th Grade has a separate curriculum that is purchased for one grade**
- **Exploratory Opportunities:** CPS offers more electives which allow students to explore various interests and develop new skills during this period of discovery

Benefits of Transitioning 6th Grade to CPS

- **Increased Independence and Responsibility**
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Guidance**
- **Structure:** Students begin to take on more responsibility, such as managing lockers, changing classes, and handling homework across multiple subjects. This helps develop time-management and organizational skills in a scaffolded environment.
- **Student Leadership Opportunities:** The 6-8 model often promotes leadership roles (e.g., student council, peer mentoring) where students can practice decision-making and teamwork.
- **Earlier Transition:** Sending our 6th Grade Students to CPS allows them to get to know their classmates earlier and spend more time developing relationships.
- **Guidance Counselors:** CPS has guidance counselors who help students navigate the increased academic pressures and social dynamics they face, focusing on both academic and emotional well-being.

Our Ultimate Goal

If approved, we aim to outreach and enroll 90% of eligible preschool children within five years, significantly impacting early childhood education in our community.

By applying for Preschool Expansion Aid, we have the opportunity to transform our early childhood education programs, better serve our families, and set a strong foundation for our district's future success.

Eligibility to Apply (2023-2024)

Lebanon Borough School District

FRPL = 16%

**As more districts apply the tiers will become
more important for approval**

School districts offering a state-funded general education preschool program (ECPA/ELLI) may apply to expand the current program to serve more children or to offer extended program hours. School districts that have higher free and reduced-price lunch (FRPL) percentages will be prioritized for consideration. Priority consideration will be based on:

- 1. Districts at 20 percent FRPL or above, with successful application;**
- 2. Districts at 15-19 percent FRPL, with successful application;**
- 3. Districts at 10-14 percent FRPL, with successful application; and**
- 4. Districts with less than 10 percent FRPL, with successful applications.**

Funding Allocation Opportunities

The Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) offers us remarkable flexibility in allocating funds to best serve our specific needs in Lebanon Borough. This adaptability allows us to create a preschool program tailored to our community's unique requirements. Let me outline the key areas where we could potentially allocate these funds:

Staffing:

- **Hire additional dually certified preschool teacher**
- **Employ teacher assistants to support our 1:15 teacher-student ratio**
- **Recruit specialized staff such as early childhood specialists and social workers**
- **Provide professional development for existing staff**

Classroom Resources:

- **Purchase age-appropriate educational materials**
- **Acquire furniture designed specifically for an additional preschool classroom**
- **Invest in technology for interactive learning experiences (iPads, Smart Tables)**

Curriculum Development:

- **Adopt or develop a research-based preschool curriculum (Creative Curriculum)**
- **Purchase assessment tools for monitoring child progress**

Funding Allocation Opportunities

The Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) offers us remarkable flexibility in allocating funds to best serve our specific needs in Lebanon Borough. This adaptability allows us to create a preschool program tailored to our community's unique requirements. Let me outline the key areas where we could potentially allocate these funds:

Administrative Support:

- **Defray costs of administrative staff to manage the expanded program**

Family Engagement:

- **Implement parent education programs**
- **Create family resource center**
- **Provide materials for at-home learning activities**

Health and Nutrition:

- **Enhance meal program to meet nutritional guidelines for young children**
- **Implement health screenings early for more Lebanon children**

Funding Allocation Opportunities

Different for every district

- **It's important to note that the exact allocation would depend on Lebanon Borough's specific needs and the amount of aid received. The PEA application process allows us to create a detailed budget proposal tailored to our district's unique situation.**
- **By applying for this aid, we have the opportunity to significantly enhance our early childhood education offerings, potentially transforming the educational landscape in Lebanon Borough. This investment in our youngest learners will have lasting positive impacts on their academic success and our community as a whole.**

How is funding determined?

The formula for calculating the universe of eligible children for preschool expansion aid in New Jersey is as follows:

Universal preschool:

Multiply the number of first graders reported on the Application for State School Aid (ASSA) by two

Example:

9 First Grade Students x 2 = 18 preschoolers

Sample Funding Allocation

2 Classrooms

18 students @ \$15,725 = \$283,050

6th grade joins send/receive

To Clinton Public

Staff Needs - \$216,500

This is a critical portion of the budget, ensuring high-quality instruction and care.

- **Early Childhood Preschool Teachers: \$140,000**
 - **Defrays salary for full-time preschool teachers**
- **Preschool Aide: \$50,000**
- **Preschool Instructional Coach (PIC): \$3,500 (Can be contracted)**
 - **Outsourced coach to support teachers in implementing curriculum and improving instruction.**
- **Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist (PIRS): \$3,000 (Can be contracted)**
 - **Outsourced specialist who supports students with developmental concerns and connects families to services.**
- **Community Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS): \$5,000**
 - **Stipend position focused on building strong relationships with families and the community.**
- **Behaviorist - \$5,000**
- **Administrative Support: \$5,000**
 - **Allocation of administrative salaries to help manage preschool program logistics.**
- **Early Childhood Supervisor: \$5,000**
 - **Allocation of current salary -Oversight for the preschool program to ensure adherence to standards and policies.**

Sample Funding Allocation

2 Classrooms

18 students @ \$15,725 = \$283,050

6th grade joins send/receive

To Clinton Public

Other Expenses - \$66,550

- **Professional Development \$5,000**
- **Allocation of benefit costs for teachers & aides \$38,500**
- **Furniture and Materials: \$10,000**
 - **For developmentally appropriate furniture, learning materials, and play equipment.**
- **Technology: \$8,000**
 - **Tablets, computers, or other tech tools to support learning and assessments.**
- **Family Engagement Activities \$5,000**
 - **Supporting family involvement through events, resources, and communication.**

Sample Funding Allocation

13 Students @ \$15,725 ea. =

\$204,425

1 Classroom

6th grade remains in house

Staff Needs - \$131,500

This is a critical portion of the budget, ensuring high-quality instruction and care.

- **Early Childhood Preschool Teacher: \$70,000**
 - **Defrays salary for full-time preschool teacher**
- **Preschool Aide: \$25,000**
- **Preschool Instructional Coach (PIC): \$3,500**
 - **Outsourced coach to support teachers in implementing curriculum and improving instruction.**
- **Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist (PIRS): \$3,000**
 - **Outsourced specialist who supports students with developmental concerns and connects families to services.**
- **Community Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS): \$5,000**
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- **Behaviorist - \$5,000**
- **Administrative Support: \$10,000**
 - **Allocation of administrative salaries to help manage preschool program logistics.**
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 - **Allocation of current salary -Oversight for the preschool program to ensure adherence to standards and policies.**

Sample Funding Allocation

13 Students @ \$15,725 ea. =

\$204,425

1 Classroom

6th grade remains in house

Other Expenses - \$72,925

- **Professional Development \$5,000**
- **Allocation of benefit costs for teacher & aide \$44,925**
- **Furniture and Materials: \$10,000**
 - **For developmentally appropriate furniture, learning materials, and play equipment.**
- **Technology: \$8,000**
 - **Tablets, computers, or other tech tools to support learning and assessments.**
- **Family Engagement Activities \$5,000**
 - **Supporting family involvement through events, resources, and communication.**

Local Budget Impact

**Costs we currently pay in our local budget that we can allocate to the
Preschool Expansion Grant**

1 Classroom: \$135,000

Teacher & Aide Salaries \$95,000

Teacher & Aide Benefits \$45,000

Early Childhood Supervisor \$10,000

Administrative Support \$10,000

Deduct current Preschool tuition revenue \$25,000

2 Classrooms: \$ 72,426

Teacher & Aide Salaries \$165,000

Teacher & Aide Benefits \$68,500

Early Childhood Supervisor \$5,000

Administrative Support \$5,000

Deduct current Preschool tuition revenue \$25,000

Deduct Cost to send additional 9 students to CPS \$146,124

Sample Roll Out for LBS

Spring 2025

- **Attend Mandatory Trainings**
- **Complete and submit application materials**

Summer 2025

- **Receive determination from the state**
- **Plan for a roll out in January**
- **Enter into contract with CPS to send 6th grade students starting in 25-26 (If starting with 2 classes)**

Sample Roll Out for LBS

Fall 2025

- **Secure all materials, required staffing**
- **Publicize and actively market for preschool class and accept enrollments (max 13 or 26 if 2 classes)**
 - **If over this a raffle would need to be held**

Winter 2026

- **Open full day preschool with one mixed 3 year old/4 year old class or two classes 3yr old and 4 yr old**

Sample Roll Out for LBS

Spring/Summer 2026

- **Complete application information for year 2 (expansion to 2 classes if not already)**
- **Enter into contract with CPS to send 6th grade students starting in 26-27**
- **Advertise and enroll students for both classes**

Fall 2026

- **Run 2 preschool classes**

Recommendation

In an effort to:

- **provide the youngest members of the Lebanon Borough Community with quality educational experiences**
- **Provide Lebanon families with the additional support they need**
- **Ensure that our 6th grade students are receiving the most effective middle school experience**
- **Enhance property values for all Lebanon Borough Residents**

The administrative recommendation is to apply for Preschool Expansion Aid to provide Universal Preschool at Lebanon Borough School.

Thank You!

Board Questions and Comments

**Email additional Questions and comments to
Dr. Arcurio @ barcurio@lebanonschool.org**

