



**Bergenfield Board of Education**

**2023-2024**

**Preschool Inclusion Program**

**Bergenfield Public Schools**

**Early Childhood Developmental Education**

Dear Bergenfield Parents and Guardians,

The Bergenfield Board of Education is proudly continuing its **free full day integrated preschool program** made available through the Preschool Expansion Aid [PEA], and all Bergenfield children **who will be at least three years old by October 1, 2023** are eligible. Attendees are expected to be present for the full day, from 8:30 am through 3:10 pm, for the duration of the school year. Currently, the district has five integrated preschool classes housed at Franklin, Hoover and Lincoln elementary schools, though the location of these rooms is subject to change prior to the start of the 2024 school year.

As part of our effort to address the needs of our youngest learners, and based on a successful experience during the 2022-2023 school year, **the district will continue to have two additional sections of preschool at the Bergenfield Head Start location**. These classes will be open only to preschool students who reside in Bergenfield and will follow all of the same requirements as the preschool rooms housed within our elementary buildings. **Since Head Start is a federally funded program for families of low income, those who attend our program offered at Head Start must be income eligible**. If you feel your family may qualify, please indicate this on the preschool application. To learn more about Head Start, [CLICK HERE](#)

Each class, regardless of its location, is taught by a New Jersey certified teacher accompanied by a skilled paraprofessional, both of whom are dedicated to providing the best educational foundation for your child. This program, based on the Creative Curriculum for Preschool, provides the children of Bergenfield with an excellent child-centered experience and is designed to prepare our students to succeed academically and socially as they begin their school journey.

If there are more requests than can be accommodated, a lottery will be held in the Spring for all eligible students, and the date and time of the drawing will be posted on the district website. **Please note that if you applied last year and did not get into the three year old class, you must apply again this year in order to be included in the lottery**. Once accepted into the program, families should contact Ms. Alice Nieves, District Registrar, at 201-385-8600, ext. 1609 to begin the registration process.

We are looking forward to working with your child in the upcoming school year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my administrative assistant, Ms. Lindsey Kristoff at 201-385-6250 X1910 or our Supervisor of Early Childhood, Gifted & Talented, and Fine Arts, Michele Saunders at 201-385-8600 x1258.

Sincerely,

Ms. Darlene Markman  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

## **Program Highlights**

- This is a full day program that begins at 8:30 am and ends at 3:10 pm
- There is no tuition fee, as this program will be offered free of charge to our community as long as the district continues to receive the Preschool Expansion Aid
- Class size will not exceed 15 children in order to ensure that all students' needs are met
- Each class will consist of a New Jersey State Certified Teacher and a minimum of two paraprofessionals
- The curriculum will be the Creative Curriculum for Preschool which is aligned with NJ Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality
- Students will participate in small group and individual activities under the direction of the preschool staff
- A speech/language therapist, an occupational therapist, and/or a physical therapist will work with the students in the class as needed
- Special needs students will be included in the program upon the recommendation of the Bergenfield Child Study Team
- Aftercare, offered from 3:10 - 4:00, will be offered at each in-district site free of charge to accommodate parents who need to pick up students at multiple Bergenfield school locations.

## **Medical Requirements for Preschool Age Children**

Recent physical exam by primary doctor (date of physical must be within 365 days of 1<sup>st</sup> day of school)

### **Required Immunizations:**

- 4 doses of DTaP
- 3 doses of Polio
- 1 MMR
- Pneumococcal – 1 dose after first birthday
- HIB – 1 dose after first birthday
- 1 dose of Varicella on or after the first birthday
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- Influenza dose – must be done annually between September 1 to December 31

**Bergenfield Public Schools  
225 West Clinton Avenue  
Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621**

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Official Bergenfield Public Schools District Website

[www.bergenfield.org](http://www.bergenfield.org)