

early childhood

FVF is well experienced in the fundamentals of the New Jersey Pre-School Expansion Program. Our Team can guide your District through the pre-school planning process including assistance with facility assessment, program needs and facility design.

Early childhood classrooms have unique programmatic and spatial requirements. Some design considerations include the following:

Physical Space:

- Provide a minimum of seven learning centers for each classroom. These centers may include blocks, books, dramatic play, creative arts, writing, manipulatives, math, science, sand, water and computers
- Toilet room with changing station
- Work area with oversized sink, barrier-free accessibility, and a drinking fountain
- Direct access to outdoor play space is desirable
- Appropriate storage including considerations for food and milk
- Group and individual work area configurations
- Quiet space/zones as needed

Site:

- Segregation of vehicular, bus and pedestrian traffic
- Barrier-free accessible and secure playground
- Outdoor learning opportunities



Space/Environmental:

- Ample daylight
- Multi-level room lighting and head wall lighting
- Bright and cheerful colors
- Appropriate material selections

Safety/Security:

- Controlled access/entrance point and secure vestibule
- Perimeter security
- Supervision enhancements
- Building communication system

Technology:

- Age appropriate equipment such as large screen monitors
- Classroom sound reinforcement system
- Interactive display boards

NJ Pre-School Expansion Program Fundamentals

What is Required?

Districts must provide full-day pre-school programs for all "at risk" children in accordance with "Elements of High Quality Pre-School Programs" NJAC 6A:13A, adopted in June 2008.

Determine Your District's Pre-School Universe

- How many "at risk" pre-k students will you need to provide services for?
- "At risk" disabled pre-k students presently in a half-day program must be provided with full-day services
- Districts may provide pre-school services for all 3-4 year olds on a tuition basis or funded by the district.

How Will the Children be Housed?

- In-district facilities
- Community providers
- Shared with another district

Phase in Services Over 6 Years Starting in 2009

- 20% in 2009-2010 school year
- 90% in 2013-2014 school year

Funding Options for Construction

- Regularly Operating District (ROD) grants
- Debt Service Aid (on new debt)
- Lease/Purchase

Representative Early Childhood Projects

Early Childhood Centers

- Lincoln School Early Childhood Learning Center, Westfield, NJ
- J. Harvey Rodgers School, Glassboro, NJ
- Joseph C. Shaner School, Mays Landing, NJ
- Cleveland, Franklin, Madison and Roosevelt Elementary Schools (Additions), Rahway, NJ
- The Rock Brook School, Skillman, NJ
- Freehold Twp. Elementary School, Freehold, NJ
- Franklin Twp. Pre-School, Somerset, NJ

Early Childhood Classrooms

- Joyce Kilmer and Christopher Columbus Elementary Schools, Trenton, NJ
- Gilbert, Gantner and 16th Avenue Elementary Schools, Elmwood Park, NJ
- Oxford Valley Elementary School, Fairless Hills, PA
- Clearview High School Early Childhood Development, Mullica Hill, NJ

Specialized Schools for Disabled Children

- Atlantic County Special Services School, Mays Landing, NJ
- Burlington County Special Services School, Mount Holly, NJ
- Mercer County Special Services High School and Joseph F. Cappello Elementary School, Trenton, NJ