

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

REPRINT(S): No

TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

LEGISLATOR STATEMENT: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

Liz Rosenberg - For South Jersey Times, 'Murphy signs laws ending half-day kindergarten New Jersey's ambitious plan will also add 20,000 pre-K seats this year alone, saving some families significant childcare costs.', *South Jersey Times* (online), 12 Jul 2025 001 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1A1C86DDB916B730>>

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 101, *approved July 9, 2025*
Senate, No. 4476

1 **AN ACT** concerning contracting for preschool education services
2 and amending N.J.S.18A:18A-5 and N.J.S.18A:18A-42.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. N.J.S.18A:18A-5 is amended to read as follows:

8 18A:18A-5. Exceptions to requirement for advertising. Any
9 contract, the amount of which exceeds the bid threshold, shall be
10 negotiated and awarded by the board of education by resolution at a
11 public meeting without public advertising for bids and bidding
12 therefor if

13 a. The subject matter thereof consists of:

14 (1) Professional services. The board of education shall in each
15 instance state supporting reasons for its action in the resolution
16 awarding each contract and shall forthwith cause to be printed once,
17 in an official newspaper, a brief notice stating the nature, duration,
18 service and amount of the contract, and that the resolution and
19 contract are on file and available for public inspection in the office
20 of the board of education;

21 (2) Extraordinary unspecifiable services which cannot
22 reasonably be described by written specifications. The application
23 of this exception as to extraordinary unspecifiable services shall be
24 construed narrowly in favor of open competitive bidding where
25 possible and the Director of the Division of Local Government
26 Services in the Department of Community Affairs is authorized to
27 establish rules and regulations after consultation with the
28 Commissioner of Education limiting its use in accordance with the
29 intention herein expressed; and the board of education shall in each
30 instance state supporting reasons for its action in the resolution
31 awarding the contract for extraordinary unspecifiable services and
32 shall forthwith cause to be printed, in the manner set forth in
33 paragraph (1) of this subsection, a brief notice of the award of such
34 contract;

35 (3) The doing of any work by employees of the board of
36 education;

37 (4) The printing of all legal notices; and legal briefs, records and
38 appendices to be used in any legal proceeding in which the board of
39 education may be a party;

40 (5) Library and educational goods and services;

41 (6) Food supplies, including food supplies for home economics
42 classes, when purchased pursuant to rules and regulations of the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 State board and in accordance with the provisions of
2 N.J.S.18A:18A-6;

3 (7) The supplying of any product or the rendering of any service
4 by a public utility, which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board
5 of Public Utilities, in accordance with the tariffs and schedules of
6 charges made, charged and exacted, filed with said board;

7 (8) The printing of bonds and documents necessary to the
8 issuance and sale thereof by a board of education;

9 (9) Equipment repair service if in the nature of an extraordinary
10 unspecifiable service and necessary parts furnished in connection
11 with such services, which exception shall be in accordance with the
12 requirements for extraordinary unspecifiable services;

13 (10) Insurance, including the purchase of insurance coverage
14 and consultant services, which exception shall be in accordance
15 with the requirements for extraordinary unspecifiable services;

16 (11) Publishing of legal notices in newspapers as required by
17 law;

18 (12) The acquisition of artifacts or other items of unique
19 intrinsic, artistic or historic character;

20 (13) Those goods and services necessary or required to prepare
21 and conduct an election;

22 (14) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)

23 (15) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.270).

24 (16) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)

25 (17) The doing of any work by persons with disabilities
26 employed by a sheltered workshop;

27 (18) Expenses for travel and conferences;

28 (19) The provision or performance of goods or services for the
29 support or maintenance of proprietary computer hardware and
30 software, except that this provision shall not be utilized to acquire
31 or upgrade non-proprietary hardware or acquire or update non-
32 proprietary software;

33 (20) Purchases of goods and services at rates set by the
34 Universal Service Fund administered by the Federal
35 Communications Commission;

36 (21) Goods and services paid with funds that: are raised by or
37 collected from students to support the purchase of student-oriented
38 items or materials, such as yearbooks, class rings, and a class gift;
39 and are deposited in school or student activity accounts; and require
40 no budget appropriation from the board of education;

41 (22) Food services provided by food service management
42 companies pursuant to procedures established by the New Jersey
43 Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs;

44 (23) Vending machines providing food or drink; or

45 (24) Preschool education services provided by a licensed
46 childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by
47 preschool education aid pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260
48 (C.18A:7F-54).

1 b. It is to be made or entered into with the United States of
2 America, the State of New Jersey, county or municipality or any
3 board, body, officer, agency, authority or board of education or any
4 other state or subdivision thereof.

5 c. Bids have been advertised pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-4 on
6 two occasions and (1) no bids have been received on both occasions
7 in response to the advertisement, or (2) the board of education has
8 rejected such bids on two occasions because it has determined that
9 they are not reasonable as to price, on the basis of cost estimates
10 prepared for or by the board of education prior to the advertising
11 therefor, or have not been independently arrived at in open
12 competition, or (3) on one occasion no bids were received pursuant
13 to (1) and on one occasion all bids were rejected pursuant to (2), in
14 whatever sequence; any such contract may then be negotiated and
15 may be awarded upon adoption of a resolution by a two-thirds
16 affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the board of
17 education authorizing such a contract; provided, however, that:

18 (a) A reasonable effort is first made by the board of education to
19 determine that the same or equivalent goods or services, at a cost
20 which is lower than the negotiated price, are not available from an
21 agency or authority of the United States, the State of New Jersey or
22 of the county in which the board of education is located, or any
23 municipality in close proximity to the board of education;

24 (b) The terms, conditions, restrictions and specifications set
25 forth in the negotiated contract are not substantially different from
26 those which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to
27 N.J.S.18A:18A-4; and

28 (c) Any minor amendment or modification of any of the terms,
29 conditions, restrictions and specifications which were the subject of
30 competitive bidding pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-4 shall be stated in
31 the resolution awarding the contract; provided further, however,
32 that if on the second occasion the bids received are rejected as
33 unreasonable as to price, the board of education shall notify each
34 responsible bidder submitting bids on the second occasion of its
35 intention to negotiate, and afford each bidder a reasonable
36 opportunity to negotiate, but the board of education shall not award
37 such contract unless the negotiated price is lower than the lowest
38 rejected bid price submitted on the second occasion by a
39 responsible bidder, is the lowest negotiated price offered by any
40 responsible vendor, and is a reasonable price for such goods or
41 services.

42 d. Whenever a board of education shall determine that a bid
43 was not arrived at independently in open competition pursuant to
44 paragraph (2) of subsection c. **[(2)]** of **[N.J.S.18A:18A-5]** this
45 section, it shall thereupon notify the county prosecutor of the
46 county in which the board of education is located and the Attorney
47 General of the facts upon which its determination is based, and
48 when appropriate, it may institute appropriate proceedings in any

1 State or federal court of competent jurisdiction for a violation of
2 any State or federal antitrust law or laws relating to the unlawful
3 restraint of trade.

4 e. The board of education has solicited and received at least
5 three quotations on materials, supplies or equipment for which a
6 State contract has been issued pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-10, and
7 the lowest responsible quotation is at least **【10%】** 10 percent less
8 than the price the board would be charged for the identical
9 materials, supplies or equipment, in the same quantities, under the
10 State contract. Any such contract or agreement entered into
11 pursuant to subsection d. or subsection e. may be made, negotiated
12 or awarded only upon adoption of a resolution by the affirmative
13 vote of two-thirds of the full membership of the board of education
14 at a meeting thereof authorizing such a contract or agreement. The
15 purchase order relating to any such contract shall include a notation
16 that the material, supplies, or equipment was purchased at least 10%
17 below the State contract price. The board of education shall make
18 available to the Director of the Division of Local Government
19 Services in the Department of Community Affairs, upon request,
20 any documents relating to the solicitation and award of the contract,
21 including, but not limited to, quotations, requests for quotations,
22 and resolutions.

23 (cf: P.L.2007, c.42, s.2)
24

25 2. N.J.S.18A:18A-42 is amended to read as follows:

26 18A:18A-42. All contracts for the provision or performance of
27 goods or services shall be awarded for a period not to exceed 24
28 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services
29 pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of N.J.S.18A:18A-5 shall
30 be awarded for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months. Any
31 board of education may award a contract for longer periods of time
32 as follows:

33 a. Supplying of:

34 (1) Fuel for heating purposes, for any term not exceeding in the
35 aggregate, three years;

36 (2) Fuel or oil for use of automobiles, autobuses, motor vehicles
37 or equipment, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, three
38 years;

39 (3) Thermal energy produced by a cogeneration facility, for use
40 for heating or air conditioning or both, for any term not exceeding
41 40 years, when the contract is approved by the Board of Public
42 Utilities. For the purposes of this paragraph, "cogeneration" means
43 the simultaneous production in one facility of electric power and
44 other forms of useful energy such as heating or process steam; or

45 b. Plowing and removal of snow and ice, for any term not
46 exceeding in the aggregate, three years; or

47 c. Collection and disposal of garbage and refuse, for any term
48 not exceeding in the aggregate, three years; or

- 1 d. Data processing service, for any term of not more than seven
2 years; or
- 3 e. Insurance, including the purchase of insurance coverages,
4 insurance consultant or administrative services, and including
5 participation in a joint self-insurance fund, risk management
6 program or related services provided by a school board insurance
7 group, or participation in an insurance fund established by a county
8 pursuant to N.J.S.40A:10-6, or a joint insurance fund established
9 pursuant to P.L.1983, c.372 (C.40A:10-36 et seq.), for any term of
10 not more than three years; or
- 11 f. Leasing or servicing of automobiles, motor vehicles,
12 electronic communications equipment, machinery and equipment of
13 every nature and kind and textbooks and non-consumable
14 instructional materials, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate,
15 five years; except that contracts for the leasing of fossil fuel school
16 buses may be awarded for any term not exceeding in the aggregate
17 10 years and contracts for the leasing of electric school buses and
18 related charging equipment and services may be awarded for any
19 term not exceeding the service life of the electric school buses.
20 Contracts awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded only
21 subject to and in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated
22 by the State Board of Education; or
- 23 g. Supplying of any product or the rendering of any service by
24 a company providing voice, data, transmission or switching
25 services, for a term not exceeding five years; or
- 26 h. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)
- 27 i. Driver education instruction conducted by private, licensed
28 driver education schools, for any term not exceeding in the
29 aggregate, three years; or
- 30 j. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2009, c.4).
- 31 k. Any single project for the construction, reconstruction or
32 rehabilitation of any public building, structure or facility, or any
33 public works project, including the retention of the services of any
34 architect or engineer in connection therewith, for the length of time
35 authorized and necessary for the completion of the actual
36 construction; or
- 37 l. Laundry service and the rental, supply and cleaning of
38 uniforms for any term of not more than three years; or
- 39 m. Food supplies and food services for any term of not more
40 than three years; or
- 41 n. Purchases made under a contract awarded by the Director of
42 the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the
43 Treasury for use by counties, municipalities or other contracting
44 units pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1969, c.104 (C.52:25-16.1), for a
45 term not to exceed the term of that contract; or
- 46 o. The provision or performance of goods or services for the
47 purpose of producing class I renewable energy, as that term is
48 defined in section 3 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-51), at, or adjacent

1 to, buildings owned by any local board of education, the entire price
2 of which is to be established as a percentage of the resultant savings
3 in energy costs, for a term not to exceed 15 years; provided,
4 however, that these contracts shall be entered into only subject to
5 and in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Board of
6 Public Utilities establishing a methodology for computing energy
7 cost savings and energy generation costs; or

8 p. The provision or performance of goods or services for the
9 purpose of providing electric school buses, on-site or off-site
10 electric school bus charging infrastructure, and related maintenance
11 and other related services, or any combination thereof for a
12 specified price for a term up to the service life of the vehicle being
13 contracted; or

14 q. Preschool education services provided by a licensed
15 childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by
16 preschool education aid pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260
17 (C.18A:7F-54), for any term of not more than three years.

18 Any contract for services other than professional services, the
19 statutory length of which contract is for three years or less, may
20 include provisions for no more than one two-year, or two one-year,
21 extensions, subject to the following limitations: a. the contract shall
22 be awarded by resolution of the board of education upon a finding
23 by the board of education that the services are being performed in
24 an effective and efficient manner; b. no such contract shall be
25 extended so that it runs for more than a total of five consecutive
26 years; c. any price change included as part of an extension shall be
27 based upon the price of the original contract as cumulatively
28 adjusted pursuant to any previous adjustment or extension and shall
29 not exceed the change in the index rate for the 12 months preceding
30 the most recent quarterly calculation available at the time the
31 contract is renewed; and d. the terms and conditions of the contract
32 remain substantially the same.

33 All multiyear leases and contracts entered into pursuant to this
34 section, including any two-year or one-year extensions, except
35 contracts for insurance coverages, insurance consultant or
36 administrative services, participation or membership in a joint self-
37 insurance fund, risk management programs or related services of a
38 school board insurance group, participation in an insurance fund
39 established by a county pursuant to N.J.S.40A:10-6 or contracts for
40 thermal energy authorized pursuant to subsection a. above, and
41 contracts for the provision or performance of goods or services to
42 promote energy conservation through the production of class I
43 renewable energy, authorized pursuant to subsection o. of this
44 section, shall contain a clause making them subject to the
45 availability and appropriation annually of sufficient funds as may
46 be required to meet the extended obligation, or contain an annual
47 cancellation clause. All contracts shall cease to have effect at the
48 end of the contracted period and shall not be extended by any

1 mechanism or provision, unless in conformance with the "Public
2 School Contracts Law," N.J.S.18A:18A-1 et seq., except that a
3 contract may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties to the
4 contract when a board of education has commenced rebidding prior
5 to the time the contract expires or when the awarding of a contract
6 is pending at the time the contract expires.
7 (cf: P.L.2024, c.38, s.1)

8
9 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

10
11
12 STATEMENT

13
14 This bill exempts certain contracts awarded for preschool
15 education services from public advertising and bidding and permits
16 the contracts to be awarded by a resolution of the board of
17 education. The bill also extends the maximum length of preschool
18 education services contracts to three years.

19 Under current law, certain contracts under the Public School
20 Contracts Law may be awarded by a resolution of the board of
21 education without public advertising and bidding. The bill permits
22 contracts for preschool education services provided by a licensed
23 childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by
24 preschool education aid to be awarded by a resolution of the board
25 of education without public advertising and bidding.

26 The Public School Contracts Law also limits awarded contracts
27 to no more than 24 consecutive months unless otherwise authorized
28 for a longer term. This bill permits contracts for preschool
29 education services provided by a licensed childcare provider or
30 Head Start program and supported by preschool education aid to be
31 awarded for a period not to exceed three years.

32
33
34 _____
35
36 Permits awarding of contracts for certain preschool education
37 services by resolution of board of education; extends maximum
38 length of preschool education services contracts to three years.

CHAPTER 101

AN ACT concerning contracting for preschool education services and amending N.J.S.18A:18A-5 and N.J.S.18A:18A-42.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. N.J.S.18A:18A-5 is amended to read as follows:

Exceptions to requirement for advertising.

18A:18A-5. Exceptions to requirement for advertising. Any contract, the amount of which exceeds the bid threshold, shall be negotiated and awarded by the board of education by resolution at a public meeting without public advertising for bids and bidding therefor if

a. The subject matter thereof consists of:

(1) Professional services. The board of education shall in each instance state supporting reasons for its action in the resolution awarding each contract and shall forthwith cause to be printed once, in an official newspaper, a brief notice stating the nature, duration, service, and amount of the contract and that the resolution and contract are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the board of education;

(2) Extraordinary unspecifiable services which cannot reasonably be described by written specifications. The application of this exception as to extraordinary unspecifiable services shall be construed narrowly in favor of open competitive bidding where possible and the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs is authorized to establish rules and regulations after consultation with the Commissioner of Education limiting its use in accordance with the intention herein expressed; and the board of education shall in each instance state supporting reasons for its action in the resolution awarding the contract for extraordinary unspecifiable services and shall forthwith cause to be printed, in the manner set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection, a brief notice of the award of such contract;

(3) The doing of any work by employees of the board of education;

(4) The printing of all legal notices and legal briefs, records, and appendices to be used in any legal proceeding in which the board of education may be a party;

(5) Library and educational goods and services;

(6) Food supplies, including food supplies for home economics classes, when purchased pursuant to rules and regulations of the State board and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:18A-6;

(7) The supplying of any product or the rendering of any service by a public utility, which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities, in accordance with the tariffs and schedules of charges made, charged and exacted, filed with said board;

(8) The printing of bonds and documents necessary to the issuance and sale thereof by a board of education;

(9) Equipment repair service if in the nature of an extraordinary unspecifiable service and necessary parts furnished in connection with such services, which exception shall be in accordance with the requirements for extraordinary unspecifiable services;

(10) Insurance, including the purchase of insurance coverage and consultant services, which exception shall be in accordance with the requirements for extraordinary unspecifiable services;

(11) Publishing of legal notices in newspapers as required by law;

(12) The acquisition of artifacts or other items of unique intrinsic, artistic or historic character;

(13) Those goods and services necessary or required to prepare and conduct an election;

(14) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)

(15) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.270).

(16) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)

(17) The doing of any work by persons with disabilities employed by a sheltered workshop;

(18) Expenses for travel and conferences;

(19) The provision or performance of goods or services for the support or maintenance of proprietary computer hardware and software, except that this provision shall not be utilized to acquire or upgrade non-proprietary hardware or acquire or update non-proprietary software;

(20) Purchases of goods and services at rates set by the Universal Service Fund administered by the Federal Communications Commission;

(21) Goods and services paid with funds that: are raised by or collected from students to support the purchase of student-oriented items or materials, such as yearbooks, class rings, and a class gift; and are deposited in school or student activity accounts; and require no budget appropriation from the board of education;

(22) Food services provided by food service management companies pursuant to procedures established by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs;

(23) Vending machines providing food or drink; or

(24) Preschool education services provided by a licensed childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by preschool education aid pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-54).

b. It is to be made or entered into with the United States of America, the State of New Jersey, county, or municipality or any board, body, officer, agency, authority, or board of education or any other state or subdivision thereof.

c. Bids have been advertised pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-4 on two occasions and (1) no bids have been received on both occasions in response to the advertisement, or (2) the board of education has rejected such bids on two occasions because it has determined that they are not reasonable as to price, on the basis of cost estimates prepared for or by the board of education prior to the advertising therefor, or have not been independently arrived at in open competition, or (3) on one occasion no bids were received pursuant to (1) and on one occasion all bids were rejected pursuant to (2), in whatever sequence; any such contract may then be negotiated and may be awarded upon adoption of a resolution by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the board of education authorizing such a contract, provided, however, that:

(a) A reasonable effort is first made by the board of education to determine that the same or equivalent goods or services, at a cost which is lower than the negotiated price, are not available from an agency or authority of the United States, the State of New Jersey or of the county in which the board of education is located, or any municipality in close proximity to the board of education;

(b) The terms, conditions, restrictions, and specifications set forth in the negotiated contract are not substantially different from those which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-4; and

(c) Any minor amendment or modification of any of the terms, conditions, restrictions, and specifications which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-4 shall be stated in the resolution awarding the contract, provided further, however, that if on the second occasion the bids received are rejected as unreasonable as to price, the board of education shall notify each responsible bidder submitting bids on the second occasion of its intention to negotiate and afford each bidder a reasonable opportunity to negotiate, but the board of education shall not award such contract unless the negotiated price is lower than the lowest rejected bid price submitted on the second occasion by a responsible bidder, is the

lowest negotiated price offered by any responsible vendor, and is a reasonable price for such goods or services.

d. Whenever a board of education shall determine that a bid was not arrived at independently in open competition pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection c. of this section, it shall thereupon notify the county prosecutor of the county in which the board of education is located and the Attorney General of the facts upon which its determination is based and when appropriate, it may institute appropriate proceedings in any State or federal court of competent jurisdiction for a violation of any State or federal antitrust law or laws relating to the unlawful restraint of trade.

e. The board of education has solicited and received at least three quotations on materials, supplies, or equipment for which a State contract has been issued pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-10, and the lowest responsible quotation is at least 10 percent less than the price the board would be charged for the identical materials, supplies, or equipment, in the same quantities, under the State contract. Any such contract or agreement entered into pursuant to subsection d. or subsection e. may be made, negotiated, or awarded only upon adoption of a resolution by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the full membership of the board of education at a meeting thereof authorizing such a contract or agreement. The purchase order relating to any such contract shall include a notation that the material, supplies, or equipment was purchased at least 10% below the State contract price. The board of education shall make available to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, upon request, any documents relating to the solicitation and award of the contract, including, but not limited to, quotations, requests for quotations, and resolutions.

2. N.J.S.18A:18A-42 is amended to read as follows:

Multiyear contracts.

18A:18A-42. All contracts for the provision or performance of goods or services shall be awarded for a period not to exceed 24 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of N.J.S.18A:18A-5 shall be awarded for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months. Any board of education may award a contract for longer periods of time as follows:

a. Supplying of:

(1) Fuel for heating purposes, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, three years;

(2) Fuel or oil for use of automobiles, autobuses, motor vehicles or equipment, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, three years;

(3) Thermal energy produced by a cogeneration facility, for use for heating or air conditioning or both, for any term not exceeding 40 years, when the contract is approved by the Board of Public Utilities. For the purposes of this paragraph, "cogeneration" means the simultaneous production in one facility of electric power and other forms of useful energy such as heating or process steam; or

b. Plowing and removal of snow and ice, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, three years; or

c. Collection and disposal of garbage and refuse, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, three years; or

d. Data processing service, for any term of not more than seven years; or

e. Insurance, including the purchase of insurance coverages, insurance consultant or administrative services, and including participation in a joint self-insurance fund, risk management program or related services provided by a school board insurance group, or

participation in an insurance fund established by a county pursuant to N.J.S.40A:10-6, or a joint insurance fund established pursuant to P.L.1983, c.372 (C.40A:10-36 et seq.), for any term of not more than three years; or

f. Leasing or servicing of automobiles, motor vehicles, electronic communications equipment, machinery and equipment of every nature and kind, and textbooks and non-consumable instructional materials, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, five years, except that contracts for the leasing of fossil fuel school buses may be awarded for any term not exceeding in the aggregate 10 years and contracts for the leasing of electric school buses and related charging equipment and services may be awarded for any term not exceeding the service life of the electric school buses. Contracts awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded only subject to and in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education; or

g. Supplying of any product or the rendering of any service by a company providing voice, data, transmission, or switching services, for a term not exceeding five years; or

h. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)

i. Driver education instruction conducted by private, licensed driver education schools, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, three years; or

j. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2009, c.4).

k. Any single project for the construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of any public building, structure, or facility, or any public works project, including the retention of the services of any architect or engineer in connection therewith, for the length of time authorized and necessary for the completion of the actual construction; or

l. Laundry service and the rental, supply, and cleaning of uniforms for any term of not more than three years; or

m. Food supplies and food services for any term of not more than three years; or

n. Purchases made under a contract awarded by the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury for use by counties, municipalities, or other contracting units pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1969, c.104 (C.52:25-16.1), for a term not to exceed the term of that contract; or

o. The provision or performance of goods or services for the purpose of producing class I renewable energy, as that term is defined in section 3 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-51), at, or adjacent to, buildings owned by any local board of education, the entire price of which is to be established as a percentage of the resultant savings in energy costs, for a term not to exceed 15 years, provided, however, that these contracts shall be entered into only subject to and in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Board of Public Utilities establishing a methodology for computing energy cost savings and energy generation costs; or

p. The provision or performance of goods or services for the purpose of providing electric school buses, on-site or off-site electric school bus charging infrastructure, and related maintenance and other related services, or any combination thereof for a specified price for a term up to the service life of the vehicle being contracted; or

q. Preschool education services provided by a licensed childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by preschool education aid pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-54), for any term of not more than three years.

Any contract for services other than professional services, the statutory length of which contract is for three years or less, may include provisions for no more than one two-year, or two one-year, extensions, subject to the following limitations: (1) the contract shall be awarded by resolution of the board of education upon a finding by the board of education that the services are being performed in an effective and efficient manner; (2) no such contract shall

be extended so that it runs for more than a total of five consecutive years; (3) any price change included as part of an extension shall be based upon the price of the original contract as cumulatively adjusted pursuant to any previous adjustment or extension and shall not exceed the change in the index rate for the 12 months preceding the most recent quarterly calculation available at the time the contract is renewed; and (4) the terms and conditions of the contract remain substantially the same.

All multiyear leases and contracts entered into pursuant to this section, including any two-year or one-year extensions, except contracts for insurance coverages, insurance consultant or administrative services, participation or membership in a joint self-insurance fund, risk management programs or related services of a school board insurance group, participation in an insurance fund established by a county pursuant to N.J.S.40A:10-6 or contracts for thermal energy authorized pursuant to subsection a. above, and contracts for the provision or performance of goods or services to promote energy conservation through the production of class I renewable energy, authorized pursuant to subsection o. of this section, shall contain a clause making them subject to the availability and appropriation annually of sufficient funds as may be required to meet the extended obligation, or contain an annual cancellation clause. All contracts shall cease to have effect at the end of the contracted period and shall not be extended by any mechanism or provision, unless in conformance with the "Public School Contracts Law," N.J.S.18A:18A-1 et seq., except that a contract may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties to the contract when a board of education has commenced rebidding prior to the time the contract expires or when the awarding of a contract is pending at the time the contract expires.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved July 9, 2025.

SENATE, No. 4476

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 19, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman CARMEN THERESA MORALES

District 34 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator McKnight, Assemblywomen Murphy, Peterpaul, Speight, Bagolie,

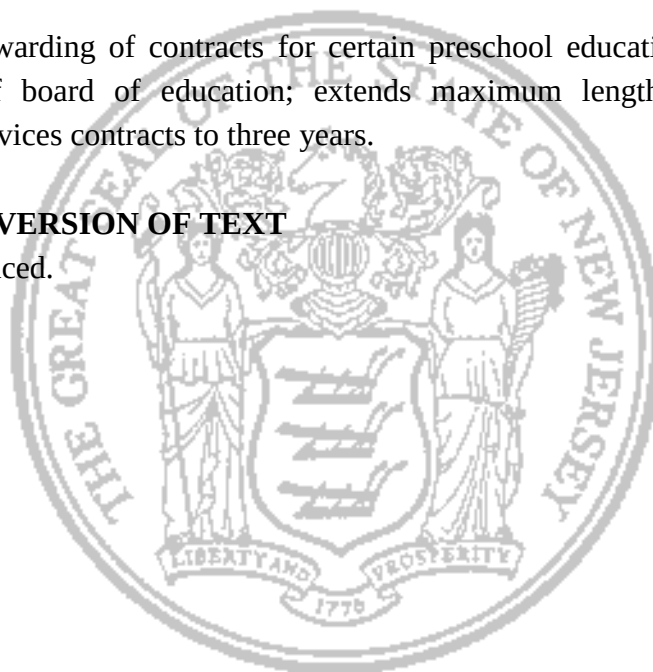
Assemblyman Freiman and Assemblywoman Donlon

SYNOPSIS

Permits awarding of contracts for certain preschool education services by resolution of board of education; extends maximum length of preschool education services contracts to three years.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning contracting for preschool education services
2 and amending N.J.S.18A:18A-5 and N.J.S.18A:18A-42.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. N.J.S.18A:18A-5 is amended to read as follows:

8 18A:18A-5. Exceptions to requirement for advertising. Any
9 contract, the amount of which exceeds the bid threshold, shall be
10 negotiated and awarded by the board of education by resolution at a
11 public meeting without public advertising for bids and bidding
12 therefor if

13 a. The subject matter thereof consists of:

14 (1) Professional services. The board of education shall in each
15 instance state supporting reasons for its action in the resolution
16 awarding each contract and shall forthwith cause to be printed once,
17 in an official newspaper, a brief notice stating the nature, duration,
18 service and amount of the contract, and that the resolution and
19 contract are on file and available for public inspection in the office
20 of the board of education;

21 (2) Extraordinary unspecifiable services which cannot
22 reasonably be described by written specifications. The application
23 of this exception as to extraordinary unspecifiable services shall be
24 construed narrowly in favor of open competitive bidding where
25 possible and the Director of the Division of Local Government
26 Services in the Department of Community Affairs is authorized to
27 establish rules and regulations after consultation with the
28 Commissioner of Education limiting its use in accordance with the
29 intention herein expressed; and the board of education shall in each
30 instance state supporting reasons for its action in the resolution
31 awarding the contract for extraordinary unspecifiable services and
32 shall forthwith cause to be printed, in the manner set forth in
33 paragraph (1) of this subsection, a brief notice of the award of such
34 contract;

35 (3) The doing of any work by employees of the board of
36 education;

37 (4) The printing of all legal notices; and legal briefs, records and
38 appendices to be used in any legal proceeding in which the board of
39 education may be a party;

40 (5) Library and educational goods and services;

41 (6) Food supplies, including food supplies for home economics
42 classes, when purchased pursuant to rules and regulations of the
43 State board and in accordance with the provisions of
44 N.J.S.18A:18A-6;

45 (7) The supplying of any product or the rendering of any service
46 by a public utility, which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

- 1 of Public Utilities, in accordance with the tariffs and schedules of
2 charges made, charged and exacted, filed with said board;
- 3 (8) The printing of bonds and documents necessary to the
4 issuance and sale thereof by a board of education;
- 5 (9) Equipment repair service if in the nature of an extraordinary
6 unspecifiable service and necessary parts furnished in connection
7 with such services, which exception shall be in accordance with the
8 requirements for extraordinary unspecifiable services;
- 9 (10) Insurance, including the purchase of insurance coverage
10 and consultant services, which exception shall be in accordance
11 with the requirements for extraordinary unspecifiable services;
- 12 (11) Publishing of legal notices in newspapers as required by
13 law;
- 14 (12) The acquisition of artifacts or other items of unique
15 intrinsic, artistic or historic character;
- 16 (13) Those goods and services necessary or required to prepare
17 and conduct an election;
- 18 (14) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)
- 19 (15) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.270).
- 20 (16) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)
- 21 (17) The doing of any work by persons with disabilities
22 employed by a sheltered workshop;
- 23 (18) Expenses for travel and conferences;
- 24 (19) The provision or performance of goods or services for the
25 support or maintenance of proprietary computer hardware and
26 software, except that this provision shall not be utilized to acquire
27 or upgrade non-proprietary hardware or acquire or update non-
28 proprietary software;
- 29 (20) Purchases of goods and services at rates set by the
30 Universal Service Fund administered by the Federal
31 Communications Commission;
- 32 (21) Goods and services paid with funds that: are raised by or
33 collected from students to support the purchase of student-oriented
34 items or materials, such as yearbooks, class rings, and a class gift;
35 and are deposited in school or student activity accounts; and require
36 no budget appropriation from the board of education;
- 37 (22) Food services provided by food service management
38 companies pursuant to procedures established by the New Jersey
39 Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs;
- 40 (23) Vending machines providing food or drink; or
- 41 (24) Preschool education services provided by a licensed
42 childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by
43 preschool education aid pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260
44 (C.18A:7F-54).
- 45 b. It is to be made or entered into with the United States of
46 America, the State of New Jersey, county or municipality or any
47 board, body, officer, agency, authority or board of education or any
48 other state or subdivision thereof.

1 c. Bids have been advertised pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-4 on
2 two occasions and (1) no bids have been received on both occasions
3 in response to the advertisement, or (2) the board of education has
4 rejected such bids on two occasions because it has determined that
5 they are not reasonable as to price, on the basis of cost estimates
6 prepared for or by the board of education prior to the advertising
7 therefor, or have not been independently arrived at in open
8 competition, or (3) on one occasion no bids were received pursuant
9 to (1) and on one occasion all bids were rejected pursuant to (2), in
10 whatever sequence; any such contract may then be negotiated and
11 may be awarded upon adoption of a resolution by a two-thirds
12 affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the board of
13 education authorizing such a contract; provided, however, that:

14 (a) A reasonable effort is first made by the board of education to
15 determine that the same or equivalent goods or services, at a cost
16 which is lower than the negotiated price, are not available from an
17 agency or authority of the United States, the State of New Jersey or
18 of the county in which the board of education is located, or any
19 municipality in close proximity to the board of education;

20 (b) The terms, conditions, restrictions and specifications set
21 forth in the negotiated contract are not substantially different from
22 those which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to
23 N.J.S.18A:18A-4; and

24 (c) Any minor amendment or modification of any of the terms,
25 conditions, restrictions and specifications which were the subject of
26 competitive bidding pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-4 shall be stated in
27 the resolution awarding the contract; provided further, however,
28 that if on the second occasion the bids received are rejected as
29 unreasonable as to price, the board of education shall notify each
30 responsible bidder submitting bids on the second occasion of its
31 intention to negotiate, and afford each bidder a reasonable
32 opportunity to negotiate, but the board of education shall not award
33 such contract unless the negotiated price is lower than the lowest
34 rejected bid price submitted on the second occasion by a
35 responsible bidder, is the lowest negotiated price offered by any
36 responsible vendor, and is a reasonable price for such goods or
37 services.

38 d. Whenever a board of education shall determine that a bid
39 was not arrived at independently in open competition pursuant to
40 paragraph (2) of subsection c.[(2)] of [N.J.S.18A:18A-5] this
41 section, it shall thereupon notify the county prosecutor of the
42 county in which the board of education is located and the Attorney
43 General of the facts upon which its determination is based, and
44 when appropriate, it may institute appropriate proceedings in any
45 State or federal court of competent jurisdiction for a violation of
46 any State or federal antitrust law or laws relating to the unlawful
47 restraint of trade.

1 e. The board of education has solicited and received at least
2 three quotations on materials, supplies or equipment for which a
3 State contract has been issued pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-10, and
4 the lowest responsible quotation is at least ~~【10%】~~ 10 percent less
5 than the price the board would be charged for the identical
6 materials, supplies or equipment, in the same quantities, under the
7 State contract. Any such contract or agreement entered into
8 pursuant to subsection d. or subsection e. may be made, negotiated
9 or awarded only upon adoption of a resolution by the affirmative
10 vote of two-thirds of the full membership of the board of education
11 at a meeting thereof authorizing such a contract or agreement. The
12 purchase order relating to any such contract shall include a notation
13 that the material, supplies, or equipment was purchased at least 10%
14 below the State contract price. The board of education shall make
15 available to the Director of the Division of Local Government
16 Services in the Department of Community Affairs, upon request,
17 any documents relating to the solicitation and award of the contract,
18 including, but not limited to, quotations, requests for quotations,
19 and resolutions.

20 (cf: P.L.2007, c.42, s.2)

21

22 2. N.J.S.18A:18A-42 is amended to read as follows:

23 18A:18A-42. All contracts for the provision or performance of
24 goods or services shall be awarded for a period not to exceed 24
25 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services
26 pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of N.J.S.18A:18A-5 shall
27 be awarded for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months. Any
28 board of education may award a contract for longer periods of time
29 as follows:

30 a. Supplying of:

31 (1) Fuel for heating purposes, for any term not exceeding in the
32 aggregate, three years;

33 (2) Fuel or oil for use of automobiles, autobuses, motor vehicles
34 or equipment, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, three
35 years;

36 (3) Thermal energy produced by a cogeneration facility, for use
37 for heating or air conditioning or both, for any term not exceeding
38 40 years, when the contract is approved by the Board of Public
39 Utilities. For the purposes of this paragraph, "cogeneration" means
40 the simultaneous production in one facility of electric power and
41 other forms of useful energy such as heating or process steam; or

42 b. Plowing and removal of snow and ice, for any term not
43 exceeding in the aggregate, three years; or

44 c. Collection and disposal of garbage and refuse, for any term
45 not exceeding in the aggregate, three years; or

46 d. Data processing service, for any term of not more than seven
47 years; or

- 1 e. Insurance, including the purchase of insurance coverages,
2 insurance consultant or administrative services, and including
3 participation in a joint self-insurance fund, risk management
4 program or related services provided by a school board insurance
5 group, or participation in an insurance fund established by a county
6 pursuant to N.J.S.40A:10-6, or a joint insurance fund established
7 pursuant to P.L.1983, c.372 (C.40A:10-36 et seq.), for any term of
8 not more than three years; or
- 9 f. Leasing or servicing of automobiles, motor vehicles,
10 electronic communications equipment, machinery and equipment of
11 every nature and kind and textbooks and non-consumable
12 instructional materials, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate,
13 five years; except that contracts for the leasing of fossil fuel school
14 buses may be awarded for any term not exceeding in the aggregate
15 10 years and contracts for the leasing of electric school buses and
16 related charging equipment and services may be awarded for any
17 term not exceeding the service life of the electric school buses.
18 Contracts awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded only
19 subject to and in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated
20 by the State Board of Education; or
- 21 g. Supplying of any product or the rendering of any service by
22 a company providing voice, data, transmission or switching
23 services, for a term not exceeding five years; or
- 24 h. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)
- 25 i. Driver education instruction conducted by private, licensed
26 driver education schools, for any term not exceeding in the
27 aggregate, three years; or
- 28 j. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2009, c.4).
- 29 k. Any single project for the construction, reconstruction or
30 rehabilitation of any public building, structure or facility, or any
31 public works project, including the retention of the services of any
32 architect or engineer in connection therewith, for the length of time
33 authorized and necessary for the completion of the actual
34 construction; or
- 35 l. Laundry service and the rental, supply and cleaning of
36 uniforms for any term of not more than three years; or
- 37 m. Food supplies and food services for any term of not more
38 than three years; or
- 39 n. Purchases made under a contract awarded by the Director of
40 the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the
41 Treasury for use by counties, municipalities or other contracting
42 units pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1969, c.104 (C.52:25-16.1), for a
43 term not to exceed the term of that contract; or
- 44 o. The provision or performance of goods or services for the
45 purpose of producing class I renewable energy, as that term is
46 defined in section 3 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-51), at, or adjacent
47 to, buildings owned by any local board of education, the entire price
48 of which is to be established as a percentage of the resultant savings

1 in energy costs, for a term not to exceed 15 years; provided,
2 however, that these contracts shall be entered into only subject to
3 and in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Board of
4 Public Utilities establishing a methodology for computing energy
5 cost savings and energy generation costs; or

6 p. The provision or performance of goods or services for the
7 purpose of providing electric school buses, on-site or off-site
8 electric school bus charging infrastructure, and related maintenance
9 and other related services, or any combination thereof for a
10 specified price for a term up to the service life of the vehicle being
11 contracted; or

12 q. Preschool education services provided by a licensed
13 childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by
14 preschool education aid pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260
15 (C.18A:7F-54), for any term of not more than three years.

16 Any contract for services other than professional services, the
17 statutory length of which contract is for three years or less, may
18 include provisions for no more than one two-year, or two one-year,
19 extensions, subject to the following limitations: a. the contract shall
20 be awarded by resolution of the board of education upon a finding
21 by the board of education that the services are being performed in
22 an effective and efficient manner; b. no such contract shall be
23 extended so that it runs for more than a total of five consecutive
24 years; c. any price change included as part of an extension shall be
25 based upon the price of the original contract as cumulatively
26 adjusted pursuant to any previous adjustment or extension and shall
27 not exceed the change in the index rate for the 12 months preceding
28 the most recent quarterly calculation available at the time the
29 contract is renewed; and d. the terms and conditions of the contract
30 remain substantially the same.

31 All multiyear leases and contracts entered into pursuant to this
32 section, including any two-year or one-year extensions, except
33 contracts for insurance coverages, insurance consultant or
34 administrative services, participation or membership in a joint self-
35 insurance fund, risk management programs or related services of a
36 school board insurance group, participation in an insurance fund
37 established by a county pursuant to N.J.S.40A:10-6 or contracts for
38 thermal energy authorized pursuant to subsection a. above, and
39 contracts for the provision or performance of goods or services to
40 promote energy conservation through the production of class I
41 renewable energy, authorized pursuant to subsection o. of this
42 section, shall contain a clause making them subject to the
43 availability and appropriation annually of sufficient funds as may
44 be required to meet the extended obligation, or contain an annual
45 cancellation clause. All contracts shall cease to have effect at the
46 end of the contracted period and shall not be extended by any
47 mechanism or provision, unless in conformance with the "Public
48 School Contracts Law," N.J.S.18A:18A-1 et seq., except that a

1 contract may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties to the
2 contract when a board of education has commenced rebidding prior
3 to the time the contract expires or when the awarding of a contract
4 is pending at the time the contract expires.
5 (cf: P.L.2024, c.38, s.1)

6
7 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
8
9

10 STATEMENT
11

12 This bill exempts certain contracts awarded for preschool
13 education services from public advertising and bidding and permits
14 the contracts to be awarded by a resolution of the board of
15 education. The bill also extends the maximum length of preschool
16 education services contracts to three years.

17 Under current law, certain contracts under the Public School
18 Contracts Law may be awarded by a resolution of the board of
19 education without public advertising and bidding. The bill permits
20 contracts for preschool education services provided by a licensed
21 childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by
22 preschool education aid to be awarded by a resolution of the board
23 of education without public advertising and bidding.

24 The Public School Contracts Law also limits awarded contracts
25 to no more than 24 consecutive months unless otherwise authorized
26 for a longer term. This bill permits contracts for preschool
27 education services provided by a licensed childcare provider or
28 Head Start program and supported by preschool education aid to be
29 awarded for a period not to exceed three years.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4476

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 5, 2025

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 4476.

This bill exempts certain contracts awarded for preschool education services from public advertising and bidding and permits the contracts to be awarded by a resolution of the board of education. The bill also extends the maximum length of preschool education services contracts to three years.

Under current law, certain contracts under the Public School Contracts Law may be awarded by a resolution of the board of education without public advertising and bidding. The bill permits contracts for preschool education services provided by a licensed childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by preschool education aid to be awarded by a resolution of the board of education without public advertising and bidding.

The Public School Contracts Law also limits awarded contracts to no more than 24 consecutive months unless otherwise authorized for a longer term. This bill permits contracts for preschool education services provided by a licensed childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by preschool education aid to be awarded for a period not to exceed three years.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5780

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 12, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman CARMEN THERESA MORALES

District 34 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywomen Murphy, Peterpaul, Speight, Bagolie, Assemblyman
Freiman and Assemblywoman Donlon**

SYNOPSIS

Permits awarding of contracts for certain preschool education services by resolution of board of education; extends maximum length of preschool education services contracts to three years.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 **AN ACT** concerning contracting for preschool education services
2 and amending N.J.S.18A:18A-5 and N.J.S.18A:18A-42.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. N.J.S.18A:18A-5 is amended to read as follows:

8 18A:18A-5. Exceptions to requirement for advertising. Any
9 contract, the amount of which exceeds the bid threshold, shall be
10 negotiated and awarded by the board of education by resolution at a
11 public meeting without public advertising for bids and bidding
12 therefor if

13 a. The subject matter thereof consists of:

14 (1) Professional services. The board of education shall in each
15 instance state supporting reasons for its action in the resolution
16 awarding each contract and shall forthwith cause to be printed once,
17 in an official newspaper, a brief notice stating the nature, duration,
18 service and amount of the contract, and that the resolution and
19 contract are on file and available for public inspection in the office
20 of the board of education;

21 (2) Extraordinary unspecifiable services which cannot
22 reasonably be described by written specifications. The application
23 of this exception as to extraordinary unspecifiable services shall be
24 construed narrowly in favor of open competitive bidding where
25 possible and the Director of the Division of Local Government
26 Services in the Department of Community Affairs is authorized to
27 establish rules and regulations after consultation with the
28 Commissioner of Education limiting its use in accordance with the
29 intention herein expressed; and the board of education shall in each
30 instance state supporting reasons for its action in the resolution
31 awarding the contract for extraordinary unspecifiable services and
32 shall forthwith cause to be printed, in the manner set forth in
33 paragraph (1) of this subsection, a brief notice of the award of such
34 contract;

35 (3) The doing of any work by employees of the board of
36 education;

37 (4) The printing of all legal notices; and legal briefs, records and
38 appendices to be used in any legal proceeding in which the board of
39 education may be a party;

40 (5) Library and educational goods and services;

41 (6) Food supplies, including food supplies for home economics
42 classes, when purchased pursuant to rules and regulations of the
43 State board and in accordance with the provisions of
44 N.J.S.18A:18A-6;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

- 1 (7) The supplying of any product or the rendering of any service
2 by a public utility, which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board
3 of Public Utilities, in accordance with the tariffs and schedules of
4 charges made, charged and exacted, filed with said board;
- 5 (8) The printing of bonds and documents necessary to the
6 issuance and sale thereof by a board of education;
- 7 (9) Equipment repair service if in the nature of an extraordinary
8 unspecifiable service and necessary parts furnished in connection
9 with such services, which exception shall be in accordance with the
10 requirements for extraordinary unspecifiable services;
- 11 (10) Insurance, including the purchase of insurance coverage
12 and consultant services, which exception shall be in accordance
13 with the requirements for extraordinary unspecifiable services;
- 14 (11) Publishing of legal notices in newspapers as required by
15 law;
- 16 (12) The acquisition of artifacts or other items of unique
17 intrinsic, artistic or historic character;
- 18 (13) Those goods and services necessary or required to prepare
19 and conduct an election;
- 20 (14) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)
- 21 (15) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.270).
- 22 (16) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)
- 23 (17) The doing of any work by persons with disabilities
24 employed by a sheltered workshop;
- 25 (18) Expenses for travel and conferences;
- 26 (19) The provision or performance of goods or services for the
27 support or maintenance of proprietary computer hardware and
28 software, except that this provision shall not be utilized to acquire
29 or upgrade non-proprietary hardware or acquire or update non-
30 proprietary software;
- 31 (20) Purchases of goods and services at rates set by the
32 Universal Service Fund administered by the Federal
33 Communications Commission;
- 34 (21) Goods and services paid with funds that: are raised by or
35 collected from students to support the purchase of student-oriented
36 items or materials, such as yearbooks, class rings, and a class gift;
37 and are deposited in school or student activity accounts; and require
38 no budget appropriation from the board of education;
- 39 (22) Food services provided by food service management
40 companies pursuant to procedures established by the New Jersey
41 Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs;
- 42 (23) Vending machines providing food or drink; or
- 43 (24) Preschool education services provided by a licensed
44 childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by
45 preschool education aid pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260
46 (C.18A:7F-54).
- 47 b. It is to be made or entered into with the United States of
48 America, the State of New Jersey, county or municipality or any

1 board, body, officer, agency, authority or board of education or any
2 other state or subdivision thereof.

3 c. Bids have been advertised pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-4 on
4 two occasions and (1) no bids have been received on both occasions
5 in response to the advertisement, or (2) the board of education has
6 rejected such bids on two occasions because it has determined that
7 they are not reasonable as to price, on the basis of cost estimates
8 prepared for or by the board of education prior to the advertising
9 therefor, or have not been independently arrived at in open
10 competition, or (3) on one occasion no bids were received pursuant
11 to (1) and on one occasion all bids were rejected pursuant to (2), in
12 whatever sequence; any such contract may then be negotiated and
13 may be awarded upon adoption of a resolution by a two-thirds
14 affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the board of
15 education authorizing such a contract; provided, however, that:

16 (a) A reasonable effort is first made by the board of education to
17 determine that the same or equivalent goods or services, at a cost
18 which is lower than the negotiated price, are not available from an
19 agency or authority of the United States, the State of New Jersey or
20 of the county in which the board of education is located, or any
21 municipality in close proximity to the board of education;

22 (b) The terms, conditions, restrictions and specifications set
23 forth in the negotiated contract are not substantially different from
24 those which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to
25 N.J.S.18A:18A-4; and

26 (c) Any minor amendment or modification of any of the terms,
27 conditions, restrictions and specifications which were the subject of
28 competitive bidding pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-4 shall be stated in
29 the resolution awarding the contract; provided further, however,
30 that if on the second occasion the bids received are rejected as
31 unreasonable as to price, the board of education shall notify each
32 responsible bidder submitting bids on the second occasion of its
33 intention to negotiate, and afford each bidder a reasonable
34 opportunity to negotiate, but the board of education shall not award
35 such contract unless the negotiated price is lower than the lowest
36 rejected bid price submitted on the second occasion by a
37 responsible bidder, is the lowest negotiated price offered by any
38 responsible vendor, and is a reasonable price for such goods or
39 services.

40 d. Whenever a board of education shall determine that a bid
41 was not arrived at independently in open competition pursuant to
42 paragraph (2) of subsection c.【(2)】 of 【N.J.S.18A:18A-5】 this
43 section, it shall thereupon notify the county prosecutor of the
44 county in which the board of education is located and the Attorney
45 General of the facts upon which its determination is based, and
46 when appropriate, it may institute appropriate proceedings in any
47 State or federal court of competent jurisdiction for a violation of

1 any State or federal antitrust law or laws relating to the unlawful
2 restraint of trade.

3 e. The board of education has solicited and received at least
4 three quotations on materials, supplies or equipment for which a
5 State contract has been issued pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-10, and
6 the lowest responsible quotation is at least **【10%】** 10 percent less
7 than the price the board would be charged for the identical
8 materials, supplies or equipment, in the same quantities, under the
9 State contract. Any such contract or agreement entered into
10 pursuant to subsection d. or subsection e. may be made, negotiated
11 or awarded only upon adoption of a resolution by the affirmative
12 vote of two-thirds of the full membership of the board of education
13 at a meeting thereof authorizing such a contract or agreement. The
14 purchase order relating to any such contract shall include a notation
15 that the material, supplies, or equipment was purchased at least 10%
16 below the State contract price. The board of education shall make
17 available to the Director of the Division of Local Government
18 Services in the Department of Community Affairs, upon request,
19 any documents relating to the solicitation and award of the contract,
20 including, but not limited to, quotations, requests for quotations,
21 and resolutions.

22 (cf: P.L.2007, c.42, s.2)

23

24 2. N.J.S.18A:18A-42 is amended to read as follows:

25 18A:18A-42. All contracts for the provision or performance of
26 goods or services shall be awarded for a period not to exceed 24
27 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services
28 pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of N.J.S.18A:18A-5 shall
29 be awarded for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months. Any
30 board of education may award a contract for longer periods of time
31 as follows:

32 a. Supplying of:

33 (1) Fuel for heating purposes, for any term not exceeding in the
34 aggregate, three years;

35 (2) Fuel or oil for use of automobiles, autobuses, motor vehicles
36 or equipment, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, three
37 years;

38 (3) Thermal energy produced by a cogeneration facility, for use
39 for heating or air conditioning or both, for any term not exceeding
40 40 years, when the contract is approved by the Board of Public
41 Utilities. For the purposes of this paragraph, "cogeneration" means
42 the simultaneous production in one facility of electric power and
43 other forms of useful energy such as heating or process steam; or

44 b. Plowing and removal of snow and ice, for any term not
45 exceeding in the aggregate, three years; or

46 c. Collection and disposal of garbage and refuse, for any term
47 not exceeding in the aggregate, three years; or

- 1 d. Data processing service, for any term of not more than seven
2 years; or
- 3 e. Insurance, including the purchase of insurance coverages,
4 insurance consultant or administrative services, and including
5 participation in a joint self-insurance fund, risk management
6 program or related services provided by a school board insurance
7 group, or participation in an insurance fund established by a county
8 pursuant to N.J.S.40A:10-6, or a joint insurance fund established
9 pursuant to P.L.1983, c.372 (C.40A:10-36 et seq.), for any term of
10 not more than three years; or
- 11 f. Leasing or servicing of automobiles, motor vehicles,
12 electronic communications equipment, machinery and equipment of
13 every nature and kind and textbooks and non-consumable
14 instructional materials, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate,
15 five years; except that contracts for the leasing of fossil fuel school
16 buses may be awarded for any term not exceeding in the aggregate
17 10 years and contracts for the leasing of electric school buses and
18 related charging equipment and services may be awarded for any
19 term not exceeding the service life of the electric school buses.
20 Contracts awarded pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded only
21 subject to and in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated
22 by the State Board of Education; or
- 23 g. Supplying of any product or the rendering of any service by
24 a company providing voice, data, transmission or switching
25 services, for a term not exceeding five years; or
- 26 h. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.440.)
- 27 i. Driver education instruction conducted by private, licensed
28 driver education schools, for any term not exceeding in the
29 aggregate, three years; or
- 30 j. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2009, c.4).
- 31 k. Any single project for the construction, reconstruction or
32 rehabilitation of any public building, structure or facility, or any
33 public works project, including the retention of the services of any
34 architect or engineer in connection therewith, for the length of time
35 authorized and necessary for the completion of the actual
36 construction; or
- 37 l. Laundry service and the rental, supply and cleaning of
38 uniforms for any term of not more than three years; or
- 39 m. Food supplies and food services for any term of not more
40 than three years; or
- 41 n. Purchases made under a contract awarded by the Director of
42 the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the
43 Treasury for use by counties, municipalities or other contracting
44 units pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1969, c.104 (C.52:25-16.1), for a
45 term not to exceed the term of that contract; or
- 46 o. The provision or performance of goods or services for the
47 purpose of producing class I renewable energy, as that term is
48 defined in section 3 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-51), at, or adjacent

1 to, buildings owned by any local board of education, the entire price
2 of which is to be established as a percentage of the resultant savings
3 in energy costs, for a term not to exceed 15 years; provided,
4 however, that these contracts shall be entered into only subject to
5 and in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Board of
6 Public Utilities establishing a methodology for computing energy
7 cost savings and energy generation costs; or

8 p. The provision or performance of goods or services for the
9 purpose of providing electric school buses, on-site or off-site
10 electric school bus charging infrastructure, and related maintenance
11 and other related services, or any combination thereof for a
12 specified price for a term up to the service life of the vehicle being
13 contracted; or

14 q. Preschool education services provided by a licensed
15 childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by
16 preschool education aid pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260
17 (C.18A:7F-54), for any term of not more than three years.

18 Any contract for services other than professional services, the
19 statutory length of which contract is for three years or less, may
20 include provisions for no more than one two-year, or two one-year,
21 extensions, subject to the following limitations: a. the contract shall
22 be awarded by resolution of the board of education upon a finding
23 by the board of education that the services are being performed in
24 an effective and efficient manner; b. no such contract shall be
25 extended so that it runs for more than a total of five consecutive
26 years; c. any price change included as part of an extension shall be
27 based upon the price of the original contract as cumulatively
28 adjusted pursuant to any previous adjustment or extension and shall
29 not exceed the change in the index rate for the 12 months preceding
30 the most recent quarterly calculation available at the time the
31 contract is renewed; and d. the terms and conditions of the contract
32 remain substantially the same.

33 All multiyear leases and contracts entered into pursuant to this
34 section, including any two-year or one-year extensions, except
35 contracts for insurance coverages, insurance consultant or
36 administrative services, participation or membership in a joint self-
37 insurance fund, risk management programs or related services of a
38 school board insurance group, participation in an insurance fund
39 established by a county pursuant to N.J.S.40A:10-6 or contracts for
40 thermal energy authorized pursuant to subsection a. above, and
41 contracts for the provision or performance of goods or services to
42 promote energy conservation through the production of class I
43 renewable energy, authorized pursuant to subsection o. of this
44 section, shall contain a clause making them subject to the
45 availability and appropriation annually of sufficient funds as may
46 be required to meet the extended obligation, or contain an annual
47 cancellation clause. All contracts shall cease to have effect at the
48 end of the contracted period and shall not be extended by any

1 mechanism or provision, unless in conformance with the "Public
2 School Contracts Law," N.J.S.18A:18A-1 et seq., except that a
3 contract may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties to the
4 contract when a board of education has commenced rebidding prior
5 to the time the contract expires or when the awarding of a contract
6 is pending at the time the contract expires.
7 (cf: P.L.2024, c.38, s.1)

8
9 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

10
11
12 STATEMENT

13
14 This bill exempts certain contracts awarded for preschool
15 education services from public advertising and bidding and permits
16 the contracts to be awarded by a resolution of the board of
17 education. The bill also extends the maximum length of preschool
18 education services contracts to three years.

19 Under current law, certain contracts under the Public School
20 Contracts Law may be awarded by a resolution of the board of
21 education without public advertising and bidding. The bill permits
22 contracts for preschool education services provided by a licensed
23 childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by
24 preschool education aid to be awarded by a resolution of the board
25 of education without public advertising and bidding.

26 The Public School Contracts Law also limits awarded contracts
27 to no more than 24 consecutive months unless otherwise authorized
28 for a longer term. This bill permits contracts for preschool
29 education services provided by a licensed childcare provider or
30 Head Start program and supported by preschool education aid to be
31 awarded for a period not to exceed three years.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5780

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 16, 2025

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5780.

This bill exempts certain contracts awarded for preschool education services from public advertising and bidding and permits the contracts to be awarded by a resolution of the board of education. The bill also extends the maximum length of preschool education services contracts to three years.

Under current law, certain contracts under the Public School Contracts Law may be awarded by a resolution of the board of education without public advertising and bidding. The bill permits contracts for preschool education services provided by a licensed childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by preschool education aid to be awarded by a resolution of the board of education without public advertising and bidding.

The Public School Contracts Law also limits awarded contracts to no more than 24 consecutive months unless otherwise authorized for a longer term. This bill permits contracts for preschool education services provided by a licensed childcare provider or Head Start program and supported by preschool education aid to be awarded for a period not to exceed three years.

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Expand Access to Early Childhood Education

Posted on - 07/9/2025

Legislation Puts New Jersey on Track to Universal Preschool and Full-Day Kindergarten

PLAINFIELD – Governor Phil Murphy today signed three bills to bolster early childhood education in New Jersey, building on a multi-year, administration-wide effort to expand access to free, high-quality preschool and full-day kindergarten programs. Together, these bills will help ensure children in New Jersey can enjoy a strong foundation upon which to build their educational careers.

Since the beginning of his Administration, Governor Murphy has made it a priority to set New Jersey firmly on course to universal, free preschool in all school districts. Over the past seven years, funding for public preschool has increased by nearly \$600 million, with New Jersey currently spending \$1.2 billion to stand up and sustain programs in communities across the state. Since year one of the Administration, 229 districts have been added to State-funded preschool programs; meaning now, over half of New Jersey's elementary-serving school districts offer free, high-quality preschool, whether through strong mixed-delivery partnerships with childcare providers or in elementary schools.

"With today's bill signing, we are moving forward in making free, universal preschool and free, full-day kindergarten a reality in every corner of our state. We know that access to high-quality early education programs is critical for our children and that it can set the tone for the rest of their academic careers. It is in these settings that our children begin to foster literacy skills and engage in social and emotional development, both of which can positively impact their lives," **said Governor Murphy**. "Expanding access to high-quality early childhood education has been the cornerstone of my Administration's approach to setting our children on a path to lifelong success. We have already seen remarkable success in bringing State-funded preschool to hundreds of New Jersey communities, and today's action will ensure this trajectory continues so that New Jersey remains the best place in the nation to raise a family."

"Today's bill signing cements New Jersey's national leadership in providing exceptional preschool education," **said Department of Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer**. "By prioritizing access for low-income students, fostering collaboration with community partners, and ensuring all students have access to full-day kindergarten, these bills codify the Administration's longstanding efforts to expand preschool access and strengthen our state's commitment to early childhood education. This step marks an important milestone in advancing New Jersey's dedication to families and the long-term success of our youngest learners."

"Quality childcare is a critical tool for working families," **said Department of Children and Families Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer**. "These new laws prioritize the interests of children and their families by securing the

state's vital child care provider network, while expanding access and options for pre-K services now, and into the future."

"Every child deserves a strong start, and these bills reflect New Jersey's commitment to making high-quality early education more accessible, transparent, and equitable. By centralizing information on preschool opportunities, we are strengthening the foundation of the early childhood system. A robust mixed-delivery system that includes public schools, child care centers, and community-based providers is essential to meeting the diverse needs of families," **said Department of Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman**. "Human Services is ready to play a role in building a more coordinated, inclusive early childhood system that works for families, providers, and communities across the state."

The first bill – [S3910/A5717](#) – codifies New Jersey's preschool funding formula into statute. It also modifies various statutes governing early childhood education to help build and sustain universal access to high-quality, State-funded preschool programs.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Requiring the DOE to provide annual preschool expansion grants;
- Codifying and revising the requirements for preschool education aid;
- Establishing a three-year Preschool Cost-Sharing Pilot Program;
- Establishing a Universal Preschool Implementation Steering Committee, which will be composed of representatives of various State agencies and the New Jersey Legislature;
- Requiring the DOE, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to maintain and annually update certain information regarding preschool and child care providers on their respective websites;
- Requiring the DOE, the DCF, and the DHS to annually submit a report to the Legislature on the status of preschool education in the state and the efficacy of the mixed-delivery method of preschool education; and
- Requiring State agencies to publish guidance on a variety of topics related to expanding access to high-quality preschool education in areas of greatest need.

The bill also sets the State firmly on course to provide free, full-day kindergarten for all New Jersey families by 2030 by requiring each elementary-serving school district in the state to establish a full-day kindergarten program no later than the beginning of the 2029-2030 school year. Attendance at the kindergarten program will be free. School districts not providing full-day kindergarten by the effective date of the bill may satisfy this requirement by entering into a send-receive relationship with an adjacent school district.

Sponsors of the legislation include Senators Teresa Ruiz and Shirley Turner, along with Assemblymembers Andrea Katz and Sterley Stanley.

"Every student in New Jersey deserves a fair start, and every family deserves the peace of mind that comes with knowing their child has access to quality care and early education," **said Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin**. "These bills move us closer to making universal preschool and full-day kindergarten a reality in every corner of our state. By giving districts the tools and flexibility they need to meet families where they are, we're delivering the kind of early learning opportunities that will set our students up for success."

"A child's earliest years are when curiosity blooms and the foundation for lifelong learning is built. But today, with child care costs soaring to the level of college tuition, too many families are being forced to choose between their child's potential and their household budget. Expanding access to affordable preschool and

kindergarten isn't just good policy — it's a smart investment in our state's future," **said Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz**. "The 'New Jersey Universal Preschool and Kindergarten Act' is a major step forward, setting clear standards, increasing state support, and ensuring that more children have the chance to start strong. By prioritizing early learning, we're giving working families the tools they need to thrive and unlocking the full potential of the next generation."

"With the New Jersey Universal Preschool and Kindergarten Act now enacted, the State is taking a firm stand that access to early education is a right, not a privilege," **said Senator Shirley Turner**. "This law is a powerful step toward equity, ensuring that every child, regardless of their background, starts school with the strong foundation they need to succeed. We are no longer waiting to close opportunity gaps. We are preventing them from the start. This is how we begin to build a fairer and stronger New Jersey."

"Pre-K is one of the best things we can offer — it gives kids a head start on learning important skills and gives families access to quality, free child care," **said Assemblywoman Andrea Katz**. "As a mom, I know how much this matters for families like mine. With this investment, New Jersey is reaffirming its commitment to giving every child the opportunity to reach their full potential."

"New Jersey's children deserve free, top-tier preschools that lay a strong academic foundation and set them up for future success, especially for economically disadvantaged children and multilingual learners," **said Assemblyman Sterley Stanley**. "I am grateful for today's bill signing because this legislation will give our children the advantage of early learning, stronger communication and social skills that will result in meaningful connections."

The second bill — [S4476/A5780](#) — permits the awarding of contracts for certain preschool education services by resolution of a board of education and extends the maximum contract length for preschools to three years.

Sponsors of S4476/A5780 include Senators Teresa Ruiz and Vin Gopal, along with Assemblymembers Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, Linda Carter, and Carmen Theresa Morales.

"Reducing red tape and extending contract terms for private preschool providers will empower more childcare centers to grow their operations and reach more families," **said Senator Vin Gopal**. "These changes will strengthen our mixed-delivery early education system and help ensure more children across New Jersey have access to high-quality preschool."

"Preschool education is one of the best investments we can make, but only if districts have the tools to deliver it," **said Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee**. "This bill cuts unnecessary red tape and lets school boards work directly with trusted providers to reach more children, more quickly. It's about equity, access, and making sure no child is left behind before they even start kindergarten."

"Through this legislation, we're making it easier for school districts to provide high-quality preschool options to families," **said Assemblywoman Linda Carter**. "By streamlining the contracting process and allowing longer agreements, we're helping schools meet the growing demand, reducing administrative delays, and supporting children in their earliest years."

"As an educator, I've seen firsthand how important stability and strong partnerships are in keeping classrooms fully staffed and running smoothly," **said Assemblywoman Carmen Theresa Morales**. "It's a commonsense

change that not only supports long-term planning for school districts but also prioritizes better outcomes for our state's youngest minds."

The third bill – [A5908/S4695](#) – amends the Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act to revise various language provisions concerning Preschool Education Aid to align that language with legislation (S3910/A5717) that modifies the allocation of Preschool Education Aid.

Sponsors of A5908/S4695 include Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin and Senator Teresa Ruiz.

"Expanding access to high-quality preschool is an important step toward equity for working families," **said Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin**. "As childcare costs continue to rise, this bill helps make sure families across New Jersey can find affordable early education. It's about building a system that supports parents and prepares every child for success."

"Expanding access to high-quality early childhood education is one of the most powerful investments we can make in our children's future. I fully support the signing of Bills S3910/A5717 and S4476/A5780, which represent a historic step forward in ensuring that every child in New Jersey has access to the strong educational foundation they deserve," **said Silvia Pereira, AFT New Jersey's Executive Vice President for PreK-12**. "By codifying funding for pre-K, mandating full-day kindergarten, and streamlining the delivery of preschool services, this legislation affirms our collective commitment to equity, opportunity, and lifelong learning."

"The New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA) applauds the passage of a landmark legislative package that marks a pivotal moment for early childhood education in New Jersey. This is a strategic and comprehensive victory for our children, our families, and our communities," **said Dr. Richard Bozza, Executive Director of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators**.

"Allowing school districts and community childcare providers to enter into three-year contracts provides much-needed stability for community providers," **said Winifred Smith-Jenkins, Director of Early Childhood Policy and Advocacy at Advocates for Children of New Jersey**. "ACNJ appreciates the support of Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature in advancing this important step toward a stronger mixed-delivery preschool system."

"We believe that high-quality pre-school education is one of the best investments in long-term student success. The two bills being signed today bring us ever closer to realizing that goal," **said Elizabeth "Betsy" Ginsburg, Executive Director, Garden State Coalition of Schools**.

"The right to a free and appropriate public education in this country is among the greatest assets to the children of today and the adults of tomorrow. Our students' opportunities and ultimate success are much brighter when access to that education begins as early as possible," **said Karen A. Bingert, Executive Director, New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association**. "The New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association commends Senator Ruiz, Assemblywoman Katz, the many legislative co-sponsors of these bills, and Governor Murphy in signing them into law so that our youngest learners' rights to pre-K and kindergarten are forever protected, districts are supported, and partnerships in early childhood education are promoted in our state."

"Our association is thrilled to back this unprecedented legislation that demonstrates New Jersey's long-term commitment to expanding access to early child education. It's the right thing to do for the youngest children in New Jersey's public schools. Beyond their preschool and kindergarten years, this investment in programs and

facilities will establish a firm foundation for ongoing success in school and careers. We also are aware that school districts will need solid financial support to continue providing high-quality early childhood programs and look forward to working with all stakeholders to give them the resources they will require,” **said Dr. Timothy J. Purnell, NJSBA Executive Director and CEO.** “In particular, we would like to thank Governor Murphy, Majority Leader Ruiz, Assemblywoman Katz, Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Speaker Coughlin, Senate President Scutari and Commissioner Dehmer for their leadership and collaboration on this critical issue.”

“Access to full-day kindergarten and diverse early education options are a game-changer for families — it lays a strong foundation for academic success, boosts social and emotional development, and gives every child a fair start. The evidence is clear: when we invest in our youngest learners, we invest in a brighter future for all New Jerseyans,” **said Colleen Eskow, Chief Policy Officer, NJ Children's Foundation.**

“New Jersey continues to be a leader in public pre-k delivery through the passage of these essential bills. We thank the Governor and the Legislature for encouraging mixed delivery pre-k and prioritizing greater access for families across the state,” **said Nazbi Chowdhury, Government Relations Representative for KinderCare Learning Companies.**

“S3910/A5717 and S4476/A5780 acknowledge the key role of community-based providers in the State’s preschool program and will help facilitate mixed delivery partnerships that will expand preschool options for New Jersey families,” **said Elsa Jacobsen, Director of State Government Relations for the Early Care & Education Consortium.** “We look forward to working with the Administration and the Legislature to continue to build on the progress that has been made to advance these partnerships in the weeks and months ahead.”

“The New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) applauds the Governor for signing into law two critical pieces of legislation that will significantly enhance early childhood education in our state. The codification of preschool funding helps to ensure that our youngest learners have access to high quality early education services. Additionally, the legislation provides much-needed flexibility and stability for our preschool programs,” **said Susan Young, Executive Director, New Jersey Association of School Business Officials.** “We believe that these measures will have a lasting positive impact on the educational outcomes of children across New Jersey.”

“Investing in high-quality public preschool is good for New Jersey’s children, families, and economy,” **said Dr. W. Steven Barnett, Founder and Senior Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research.** “New Jersey has one of the strongest preschool programs in the country, with strong evidence that it produces the results promised by decades of research on high-quality early education—improved education outcomes, increased productivity and career success, and better health. This legislation helps ensure that New Jersey’s education system continues to be the best in the nation and our economy will reap the benefits.”

“Learning Ally is proud to support S3910/A5717 and S4476/A5780. Expanding access to high-quality early education, ensuring equitable learning opportunities from an early age, and providing the consistency and foundation needed for long-term academic and personal success will empower students across the state. At Learning Ally, we are committed to supporting students in Pre-K and beyond through our human-read audiobooks that help students of all abilities build confidence, engage in learning, and achieve their full potential,” **said Learning Ally in a statement.**

“JerseyCAN welcomes the passage of S3910/A5717 and S4476/A5780, regarding the long-term viability of pre-K, and Kindergarten. As we prepare for a new school year, we recall the sobering reality that in the past, our

state's Kindergarten curriculum warranted significant improvement in order for students to receive the best evidence-based literacy instruction from day one. With new improvements in kindergarten literacy instruction set to be implemented in the 2025-2026 school year Kindergarten will be more impactful than ever before. By securing long-term funding for pre-K, mandating full-day kindergarten by 2030, and empowering school boards to expand preschool services, New Jersey is advancing JerseyCAN's central goal - access to a high quality education for every child," **said Paula White, Executive Director of JerseyCAN.**

Assemblywomen Donlon and Peterpaul Announce 13 Bills Signed Into Law This Summer

TINTON FALLS - The Governor signed 13 of Assemblywoman Margie Donlon and Assemblywoman Luanne Peterpaul's bills into law this summer.

Either Assemblywoman Donlon or Assemblywoman Peterpaul, or both, and Senator Vin Gopal, (D-Monmouth) were the prime sponsors of four of the bills and cosponsors of the remaining nine.

"Many of these bills support small businesses and protect consumers. They reflect the concerns that Legislative District 11 residents tell us are important to them, such as utility costs, as we travel around the district talking to businesses and residents," said Assemblywoman Peterpaul.



The bills on which the Assemblywomen were primary sponsors include A5768, which requires the BPU to revise community solar program targets and directs the agency to open registration by October 1, 2025 for an additional 3,000 megawatts of community solar projects. Senator Gopal was a primary sponsor of the Senate version. Another of their bills, A5141, establishes an historic distillery license to allow the manufacturing and consumption of distilled alcoholic beverages on-and-off premises under certain circumstances by a licensee on the NJ Register of Historic Places. Senator Gopal also was a primary sponsor.

"Our sponsored bills also address healthcare concerns, which are a top priority for the LD11 office, and ensure healthcare insurance is more accessible and affordable," said Donlon, who is a physician and primary sponsor of A5810, which promotes equity in the health insurance appeal process. "This bill eliminates fees for appeals against health insurance carriers that deny, reduce, or terminate benefits."

Assemblywoman Donlon and Senator Gopal also were primary sponsors of A5199, a new law that requires eligible resident and fellow physicians employed by Rutgers University, including University Hospital, and their dependents, receive coverage in the State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) on the first day of employment.

"This legislation corrects a situation that resulted in these healthcare professionals working in hospital environments, where they are exposed to diseases, infections and other dangers, but didn't have health coverage for a period of time," Gopal said.

The LD11 legislators also cosponsored nine other bills that became the law since June 30 of this year. These bills include:

[A5792](#) - Provides for workers' compensation coverage of certain counseling services for first responders and ensures that mental health-related communications are confidential.

[A5687](#) - Establishes the "Next New Jersey Manufacturing Program" to incentivize in-state manufacturing investments and job creation.

[A5466](#) - Requires the BPU to study the effects of data centers on electricity costs.

[A5463](#) - Requires electric public utilities to submit an annual report on voting to the BPU.

[A5447](#) - Prohibits the sweepstakes model of wagering; establishes new penalties for unlawful gambling operations and practices; directs Division of Consumer Affairs and Division of Gaming Enforcement to enforce penalties.

[S4567](#) - Appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated Corporate Business Tax revenues and various Green Acres funds to the DEP to make grants to local governments for open space acquisition, park development, and planning projects.

[S4476](#) - Permits awarding of contracts for certain preschool education services by resolution of the board of education; extends the maximum length of preschool education services contracts to three years. Senator Gopal was a primary sponsor in the Senate.

[S3910](#) - Makes various changes to the provision of preschool aid and facilities requirements; establishes Universal Preschool Implementation Steering Committee; requires full-day kindergarten in all school districts.

[S3711](#) - Makes annual allocations of \$500,000 from the Clean Communities Program Fund for public outreach concerning single-use plastics reduction programs permanent.