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TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	No
	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
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LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No
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VETO MESSAGE:	No
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GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes
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LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:	No
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FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
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HEARINGS:	No
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NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes
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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 102, *approved July 9, 2025*
Assembly, No. 5908

1 **AN ACT TO AMEND** the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year
2 ending June 30, 2026, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
3 Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 5800 and Senate Bill No. 2026).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. The following language provisions in section 1 of P.L. ,
9 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No.
10 5800 and Senate Bill No. 2026), the annual appropriations act for
11 Fiscal Year 2026, are amended to read as follows:
12

13 **34 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
14 *30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development*
15 *31 Direct Educational Services and Assistance*
16

17 **STATE AID**
18

19 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the
20 contrary, amounts hereinabove appropriated for Preschool
21 Education Aid shall be allocated based upon 2025-2026 projected
22 FTE enrollments, and multiplied by the per pupil allocations,
23 minus 25 percent of the total amount of Preschool Education Aid
24 carryover funds identified in the district’s fiscal year 2024 audit
25 summary, as set forth in the February 2025 State Aid notice issued
26 by the commissioner that remain unspent in the 2024-2025 school
27 year. A school district that receives Preschool Education Aid for
28 the first time in the 2025-2026 school year shall demonstrate, in
29 its application, due diligence in establishing partnerships to
30 provide its preschool program through a mixed-delivery system in
31 all licensed child care providers and Head Start programs in its
32 community or neighboring communities that are willing and able
33 to meet all preschool program requirements. A school district that
34 has unspent Preschool Education Aid funds from prior school
35 years may use those funds **【to support transportation costs for**
36 **resident students enrolled in the preschool program, or for other**
37 **purposes that may be approved by the commissioner, subject to**
38 **the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and**
39 **Accounting. The amount of Preschool Education Aid used for**
40 **transportation purposes shall not exceed the total cost of providing**
41 **transportation services to preschool students minus the amount of**
42 **Transportation Aid attributable to preschool students, as**

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 calculated pursuant to section 15 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-
2 57)】 for the purposes set forth in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
3 before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and
4 Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)).

5
6 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the
7 contrary, of the amounts hereinabove appropriated for Preschool
8 Education Aid, an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 shall be
9 allocated in amounts determined by the Commissioner of
10 Education pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
11 Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and Assembly Bill
12 No. 5717 (2R)): (1) for the provision of preschool expansion
13 grants to be allocated by the commissioner to districts in total
14 additional preschool funding for the purpose of expanding free
15 access to full-day preschool for resident three- and four-year old
16 children in accordance with the preschool quality standards issued
17 by the commissioner and based on a district's demonstration of its
18 readiness to operate a preschool program consistent with those
19 standards and; (2) to the Department to address workforce
20 preparation and training and other ancillary needs related to
21 preschool expansion. 【In allocating grant funds to school districts,
22 the commissioner shall give preference to districts that
23 demonstrate in their preschool expansion grant applications a
24 planned preschool program that includes a mixed-delivery model
25 of preschool education. A district applying for a grant that does
26 not have a planned mixed-delivery model of preschool education
27 shall demonstrate in its application due diligence to partner with
28 all ready, willing, and able licensed child care providers and Head
29 Start programs in their communities and neighboring
30 communities】 The commissioner shall administer grant funds and
31 other requirements as set forth in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
32 before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and
33 Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)). Notwithstanding any law, rule, or
34 regulation to the contrary, a district receiving a grant may enter
35 into contracts with licensed child care providers for the provision
36 of preschool education services, which shall be stated in the
37 Notice of Funding Opportunity for preschool expansion grants
38 posted by the department.

39
40 The Department of Education, the Department of Children and
41 Families, and the Department of Human Services shall maintain
42 the following lists on the departments' Internet websites as set
43 forth in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
44 Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)):
45 current districts with State-funded preschool; districts eligible to
46 apply for Preschool Education Aid and licensed child care
47 providers and Head Start programs in each eligible district's
48 community and in neighboring communities, including contact

1 information for the providers and programs. The Department of
2 Education, the Department of Children and Families, and the
3 Department of Human Services shall update such lists each year
4 **【by April 1st】** as set forth in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
5 before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and
6 Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)).

7
8 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
9

10
11 STATEMENT
12

13 The bill amends the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations act.
14 The bill amends various language provisions concerning
15 Preschool Education Aid to align that language with legislation
16 that modifies the allocation of Preschool Education Aid.
17

18
19 _____
20
21 Amends FY2026 appropriations act to revise various language
22 provisions concerning early childhood education.

CHAPTER 102

AN ACT TO AMEND the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, P.L.2025, c.74 (C.).

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

1. The following language provisions in section 1 of P.L.2025, c.74, the annual appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2026, are amended to read as follows:

34 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development

31 Direct Educational Services and Assistance

STATE AID

Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the contrary, amounts hereinabove appropriated for Preschool Education Aid shall be allocated based upon 2025-2026 projected FTE enrollments, and multiplied by the per pupil allocations, minus 25 percent of the total amount of Preschool Education Aid carryover funds identified in the district's fiscal year 2024 audit summary, as set forth in the February 2025 State Aid notice issued by the commissioner that remain unspent in the 2024-2025 school year. A school district that receives Preschool Education Aid for the first time in the 2025-2026 school year shall demonstrate, in its application, due diligence in establishing partnerships to provide its preschool program through a mixed-delivery system in all licensed child care providers and Head Start programs in its community or neighboring communities that are willing and able to meet all preschool program requirements. A school district that has unspent Preschool Education Aid funds from prior school years may use those funds for the purposes set forth in P.L.2025, c.100 (C.18A:44-7 et al.).

Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the contrary, of the amounts hereinabove appropriated for Preschool Education Aid, an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 shall be allocated in amounts determined by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to P.L.2025, c.100 (C.18A:44-7 et al.): (1) for the provision of preschool expansion grants to be allocated by the commissioner to districts in total additional preschool funding for the purpose of expanding free access to full-day preschool for resident three- and four-year old children in accordance with the preschool quality standards issued by the commissioner and based on a district's demonstration of its readiness to operate a preschool program consistent with those standards and; (2) to the Department to address workforce preparation and training and other ancillary needs related to preschool expansion. The commissioner shall administer grant funds and other requirements as set forth in P.L.2025, c.100 (C.18A:44-7 et al.). Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, a district receiving a grant may enter into contracts with licensed child care providers for the provision of preschool education services, which shall be stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity for preschool expansion grants posted by the department.

The Department of Education, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Human Services shall maintain the following lists on the departments' Internet websites as set forth in P.L.2025, c.100 (C.18A:44-7 et al.): current districts with State-funded preschool; districts eligible to apply for Preschool Education Aid and licensed child care providers and Head Start programs in each eligible district's community and in neighboring communities, including contact information for the providers and programs. The Department of Education, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of

Human Services shall update such lists each year as set forth in P.L.2025, c.100 (C.18A:44-7 et al.).

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved July 9, 2025.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5908

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 27, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Amends FY2026 appropriations act to revise various language provisions concerning early childhood education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 **AN ACT TO AMEND** the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year
2 ending June 30, 2026, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
3 Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 5800 and Senate Bill No. 2026).

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

7
8 1. The following language provisions in section 1 of P.L. ,
9 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No.
10 5800 and Senate Bill No. 2026), the annual appropriations act for
11 Fiscal Year 2026, are amended to read as follows:

12
13 **34 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
14 *30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development*
15 *31 Direct Educational Services and Assistance*

16
17 **STATE AID**

18
19 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the
20 contrary, amounts hereinabove appropriated for Preschool
21 Education Aid shall be allocated based upon 2025-2026 projected
22 FTE enrollments, and multiplied by the per pupil allocations,
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24 carryover funds identified in the district's fiscal year 2024 audit
25 summary, as set forth in the February 2025 State Aid notice issued
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27 year. A school district that receives Preschool Education Aid for
28 the first time in the 2025-2026 school year shall demonstrate, in
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32 community or neighboring communities that are willing and able
33 to meet all preschool program requirements. A school district that
34 has unspent Preschool Education Aid funds from prior school
35 years may use those funds **to support transportation costs for**
36 **resident students enrolled in the preschool program, or for other**
37 **purposes that may be approved by the commissioner, subject to**
38 **the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and**
39 **Accounting. The amount of Preschool Education Aid used for**
40 **transportation purposes shall not exceed the total cost of providing**
41 **transportation services to preschool students minus the amount of**
42 **Transportation Aid attributable to preschool students, as**
43 **calculated pursuant to section 15 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-**
44 **57)] for the purposes set forth in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending**
45 **before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and**
46 **Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)).**

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 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the
2 contrary, of the amounts hereinabove appropriated for Preschool
3 Education Aid, an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 shall be
4 allocated in amounts determined by the Commissioner of
5 Education pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
6 Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and Assembly Bill
7 No. 5717 (2R)): (1) for the provision of preschool expansion
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9 additional preschool funding for the purpose of expanding free
10 access to full-day preschool for resident three- and four-year old
11 children in accordance with the preschool quality standards issued
12 by the commissioner and based on a district's demonstration of its
13 readiness to operate a preschool program consistent with those
14 standards and; (2) to the Department to address workforce
15 preparation and training and other ancillary needs related to
16 preschool expansion. [In allocating grant funds to school districts,
17 the commissioner shall give preference to districts that
18 demonstrate in their preschool expansion grant applications a
19 planned preschool program that includes a mixed-delivery model
20 of preschool education. A district applying for a grant that does
21 not have a planned mixed-delivery model of preschool education
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23 all ready, willing, and able licensed child care providers and Head
24 Start programs in their communities and neighboring
25 communities] The commissioner shall administer grant funds and
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29 regulation to the contrary, a district receiving a grant may enter
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44 information for the providers and programs. The Department of
45 Education, the Department of Children and Families, and the
46 Department of Human Services shall update such lists each year
47 [by April 1st] as set forth in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending

1 before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and
2 Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)).

3

4 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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6

7

STATEMENT

8

9 The bill amends the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations act.

10 The bill amends various language provisions concerning
11 Preschool Education Aid to align that language with legislation
12 that modifies the allocation of Preschool Education Aid.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5908

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2025

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5908.

As reported, this bill amends language in the FY2026 Appropriations Act concerning Preschool Education Aid to align the budget with legislation that modifies the allocation of Preschool Education Aid.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.

SENATE, No. 4695

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2025

Sponsored by:
Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

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CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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12 by the commissioner and based on a district's demonstration of its
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44 information for the providers and programs. The Department of
45 Education, the Department of Children and Families, and the
46 Department of Human Services shall update such lists each year
47 **[by April 1st]** as set forth in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending

1 before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3910 (SCS/1R) and
2 Assembly Bill No. 5717 (2R)).

3
4 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

STATEMENT

8

9 The bill amends the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations act.

10 The bill amends various language provisions concerning
11 Preschool Education Aid to align that language with legislation that
12 modifies the allocation of Preschool Education Aid.

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.**