



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Head Start's Role in Early Childhood Education Is Topic of NJDOE Podcast

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will highlight the benefits of early childhood education during its “DOE Digest” podcast on Thursday, March 11. The episode is titled, “Models of Service – Head Start Programs.”

“The Head Start programs have provided early childhood services to assist families in meeting their needs for over 55 years,” Acting Education Commissioner Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillian said of the Head Start program, which marked its 55th anniversary in 2020. “The DOE Digest is bringing awareness and having a much-needed conversation on the benefits of family partnerships in early childhood education.”

Governor Phil Murphy has made high-quality preschool a hallmark of his Administration. His proposed Fiscal Year 2022 state budget includes nearly \$50 million in additional preschool funding, consisting of \$24 million for existing programs and \$26 million to expand access to high-quality programs in more school districts. In total, the Governor’s FY 2022 spending plan would allocate more than \$924 million for preschool next school year.

New Jersey relies on a “mixed delivery” system of providing preschool, which includes programs operated by local school districts and local community providers, as well as Head Start programs.

The guests on the podcast are Bonnie Eggenburg, President, New Jersey Head Start Association in Bridgeton/Cumberland County; Isaac Dorsey, Director of the Children’s Home Society Head Start program in Trenton/Mercer County; and Ciara Haynes, Director of Program Services, Gateway CAP Head Start in Atlantic City/Atlantic County.

New Jersey has a longstanding tradition of providing high-quality preschool programming, which is defined as a full-day program with a certificated teacher and aide, limited class sizes, and inclusive of special-needs children. For more than 20 years, the NJDOE has been using high-quality preschool as an approach to improve school readiness for thousands of students.

Visit the [DOE Digest](#) to tune in to the March podcast on early childhood education. The DOE Digest podcast with transcripts is also available on the [NJDOE’s website](#).

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