

Dear Flemington-Raritan Parents, Community Members, Staff, and Faculty,

We are proud to announce that the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is partnering with the State of New Jersey to expand our high-quality preschool program. The District was awarded 1.22 million dollars through the New Jersey Department of Education to expand its preschool services.

Beginning in January 2024, the District will begin to expand preschool opportunities for three and four-year-old students who live in the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District. The District will end the tuition-based model for general education students, meaning families will no longer pay for children to attend the District preschool program. In fact, the District will reimburse families who have paid District preschool tuition since September 2023. That means any family who paid District tuition for the 2023-2024 school year will be refunded in full in November/December.

Currently, the District provides preschool education only at Copper Hill Elementary School, serving 117 students, ages three and four. The goal of preschool expansion is to enroll, within five years, 90 percent of students eligible for preschool. That's close to 600 students! To achieve this goal, the District will apply for and expects to receive state-awarded funds each year. We have hard work ahead of us and a multi-year plan to accomplish it. We plan to provide families with options for their child's early childhood education while ensuring the common tenants of a high-quality preschool program. We will take steps toward this goal each school year, gradually increasing our preschool services and making more seats available for preschoolers each year.

Beginning January 2, 2024, the District will expand preschool services to include Robert Hunter Elementary School and private providers who have agreed to partner with our District. There will be a slight increase in the number of open seats as our preschool capacity is almost full. We have preschool classrooms to furnish, teachers to recruit to deliver instruction, and other personnel to hire to provide supervision, coaching, and support. There's much to do in a short amount of time, but we are ready, engaged, and committed to the success of our growing preschool services.

To share more details, our District will provide a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document in the coming days. We will continue to add to this document to keep parents informed of the latest updates. A survey will be provided to identify children in our District who may be able to enroll in the preschool program. Please look for the FAQ and survey from our administration in the coming days. To inquire further, please email: preschoolexpansion@frsd.us.

The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District has always advocated for early childhood education. We believe preschool education plays a pivotal role in a child's overall development. It sets a strong foundation for their future success in school and in life, reduces the achievement gap, and leads to a more educated and skilled workforce. The District will continue to uphold the importance of preschool education, support quality early childhood programs, and ensure access for all children.

We look forward to welcoming more children into our preschool program and partnering with parents to foster their success. The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District continues to serve every student, every day, every opportunity.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools

Strategic Goals:

Goal Area #1: The District will provide a comprehensive and rigorous educational experience that connects and expands students' knowledge while engaging and empowering all learners to synthesize and apply their skills and understandings in meaningful ways.

Goal Area #2: Develop a continuation of a multi-tiered system of support within the District to target the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students.

Goal Area #3: The District will create opportunities to foster unity between the community and the school District in order to strengthen partnerships and develop a shared responsibility for student success.

Goal Area #4: Create an enticing and competitive work environment to attract and retain high-quality candidates representative of students' diverse backgrounds in the Flemington Raritan Regional School District community.

Goal Area #5: Ensure the finance and facilities needs are budgeted to upkeep and meet the needs of the growing District.