Building a System to Support Effective PreK

New Jersey’s Universal Urban Pre-K Program

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New Jersey’s Urban Pre-K Program

- All 3 and 4 year-olds in 35 districts (~25% of population). Pre-k expanding to ~ 100 districts.
- DOE funds the 35 eligible districts. 2/3 in private provider classrooms, 1/3 district
- Certified teachers and trained assistants paid at K-12 parity
- Full school day (6 hour)
- Maximum class size of 15
- Strong curricula/ aligned child and classroom assessment with support for fidelity of implementation
- Inclusion with support for potential learning difficulties
- Coherent and comprehensive professional development/coaching & administrator training
- Early learning and program standards within a continuous improvement system informed by data
Transformation of Quality in NJ UPK (ECERS-R)

1 = Inadequate, 3 = Minimal, 5 = Good, 7 = Excellent

2000 2005 2008
NJ UPK Effects on Achievement Grades 4 and 5

LAL 4th: 0.12
LAL 5th: 0.18
Math 4th: 0.37
Math 5th: 0.29
Science 4th: 0.37

1 year Abbott pre-k
2 year Abbott pre-k
NJ Effects on Retention & Special Education at Grade 5

- Retention
  - Abbott pre-K: 12%
  - No Abbott pre-K: 19%

- Special Education
  - Abbott pre-K: 12%
  - No Abbott pre-K: 17%