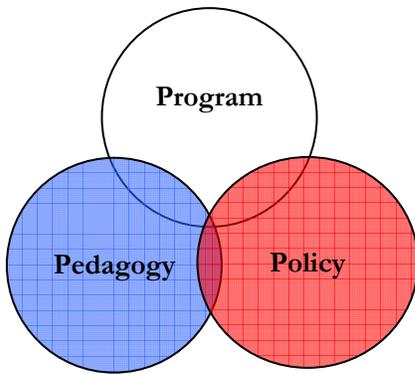


New Jersey Abbott Preschool Programⁱ	
Location	New Jersey
Contact information	David G. Sciarra, Executive Director Education Law Center 60 Park Place, Suite 300 Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 624-1815, ext. 16
General description	The Abbott Preschool Program is administered through New Jersey’s Department of Education and the Department of Human Services. It consists of a 6-hour, 180-day preschool program as well as before- and after-school care and summer programs for young children in 31 of New Jersey’s poorest urban school districts. The Abbott program adheres to quality standards set by the state Supreme Court and codified in regulations adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education. To facilitate children’s transitions to school, the Abbott Preschool Program’s curriculum is aligned with New Jersey’s Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS).
Goals	The Abbot Preschool Program was designed to give all of New Jersey’s children the opportunity to become contributing members in society and to achieve personal success.
History	<p>The Abbott Preschool Program was created as a result of the New Jersey Supreme Court’s 1998 decision in <i>Abbott v. Burke</i> that children in economically disadvantaged districts must have access to high quality early childhood programs. Enrollment in the Preschool Program has continued to increase since its founding in 1999. In 2005-2006, the program served over 40,500 3- and 4-year-olds in a variety of settings, including public schools, private child care centers, and Head Start agencies.ⁱⁱ</p> <p>Under a state school funding formula adopted in 2008—the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA)—the Abbott Preschool Program is to be phased-in by 2014 to all children in an additional 84 high-poverty school districts, and to all low-income children in all other districts statewide.</p>
Services and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal eligibility: open to all 3- and 4-year-old children in economically disadvantaged school districts; open to low-income children in all other school districts when phased-in under SFRA • Qualified teachers and small classes: 15 children per class, staffed by a state certified teacher and an assistant • State-provided facilities and funding, adequate to meet district needs • Developmentally appropriate curriculum, aligned with the New Jersey CCCS and elementary school reforms • Social and health services, transportation, and services for children with disabilities and with limited English proficiency, as needed • Supervision, technical assistance, professional development, and evaluation to assure uniform high quality instruction • Initiatives to identify the number of underserved children and obstacles to enrollment; intensive outreach and recruitment • Documentation of teachers’ needs for ongoing professional development and for funding to achieve salary/benefit comparability between school and community programs

Evaluation results	The Abbott Preschool Program Longitudinal Effect Study (APPLES) has investigated the impact of the Abbott program on children’s learning through the end of kindergarten. The findings of this study demonstrate that: children who attend the Preschool Program, whether in public schools, private settings or Head Start, improve in language, literacy, and math at least through the end of their kindergarten year; and that children who attend preschool for two years significantly out-perform those who attend for only one year or do not attend at all. ⁱⁱⁱ
Funding sources	The Abbott Preschool Program is funded with state aid through the SFRA, the state’s school funding formula, at a per pupil cost of \$11,506 for children enrolled in district programs, \$12,943 for children enrolled in community child care provider programs, and \$7,416 for children in Head Start programs. ^{iv}
Lessons learned	The Abbott Preschool Program is nationally recognized for its high quality and strong outcomes, including sustained gains in K-12. This success is attributable to the integration of child care, public school, and Head Start programs under a unified set of state quality program and planning standards, with adequate state funding and ongoing accountability and evaluation.



CLASSIFICATION	
Pedagogy	The Abbott preschool curriculum is aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.
Programmatic	
Policy	The program is mandated at the state level.

ⁱ Information for this profile was collected from the following sources:

- <http://nieer.org/resources/research/APPLES.pdf>
- <http://www.state.nj.us/education/abbotts/about/>
- <http://news.rutgers.edu/medrel/research/new-study-finds-abbo-20070905>
- <http://www.startingat3.org/resources/policyBriefs.html>
- <http://www.edlawcenter.org/ELCPublic/AbbottPreschool/AbbottPreschoolProgram.htm>
- <http://www.edlawcenter.org/ELCPublic/Publications/PDF/PreschoolFifthYearReport.pdf>
- http://children.camden.rutgers.edu/CCCL/CCCL_Abbott.htm
- <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/budget%202009/031908/ZalkindRice.pdf>
- <http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/research/eoyr0506.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.startingat3.org/resources/policyBriefs.html>

^{iii, iv} <http://www.nj.gov/education/ece/>