

OGDENSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARDED OVER \$280,000 PRESCHOOL GRANT

Press Release

The Ogdensburg School District has been approved for an initial award of \$281,952 in Preschool Education Expansion Aid (PEEA) for the 2018-2019 school year. This is the largest competitive grant that Ogdensburg has ever received. This funding is through the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE). On August 3, 2018, school districts throughout the State were notified by the NJDOE of a funding opportunity in PEEA. According to the NJDOE, the purpose of the funding is to increase access to high-quality preschool for three- and four-year-old children. Additional information on the PEEA can be found by visiting the NJDOE website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/ece/peea/>.

The Supervisor of Special Education Services, along with the Business Administrator and the Superintendent worked diligently to complete the application by the deadline of September 10, 2018. On Monday, October 1, 2018, the Ogdensburg School District was notified by the NJDOE Division of Early Childhood Education, that it was approved for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Ogdensburg School District presently offers a tuition-based, half-day preschool program to three- and four-year-old children. The PEEA will enable the District to expand its offerings to include full-day preschool, free of charge, to all Ogdensburg residents. Not only will more children receive a preschool education, but the longer day enables an expansion of curricular opportunities in the preschool program.

The District will establish an Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) immediately to help engage the community and provide input during the transition. Please contact Leanne Paolazzi at lpaolazzi@obboe.org if interested in participating.

The District is excited about this fantastic opportunity for the Ogdensburg community. The ability to offer tuition-free preschool education to all eligible children in Ogdensburg will provide three- and four-year-old children with a wonderful foundation of educational and social supports. We thank the parents/guardians, staff, administration, and community for your support of the PEEA during this transitional year of program implementation.

This program will begin on January 2, 2019. The hours of the program will be 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please call the main office to make an appointment to register a child for preschool at (973) 827-7126 x101.