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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **PISCATAWAY AWARDED \$1.8 MILLION FOR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM FROM NJDOE**

PISCATAWAY, NJ, August 30, 2018 -- The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) awarded Piscataway Schools a \$1.8 million grant for its preschool program for the 2018-2019 school year. The Preschool Education Expansion Aid (PEEA) grant is offered through the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Division of Early Childhood and Family Engagement. Its goal is to increase access to high-quality preschool for three- and four-year-old children in the 2018-19 school year.

With the PEEA grant award, the Piscataway School District can extend its tuition-free fulltime preschool program to three-year-olds, with preference given to families who meet income eligibility guidelines, and expand teaching and supervisory staff. The District's Preschool Program, housed at Children's Corner, will now have a full-time supervisor at both campuses. Other staff additions include a certified behaviorist, a master teacher, an ESL support teacher, and a family liaison. Salary supplements for teachers and aides directly involved with the program are also included in the grant.

Grant recipients are encouraged to reach additional eligible children through expanded programming and community partnerships. The District is reviewing potential avenues for immediate internal expansion as well as partnerships with local non-profits servicing Piscataway families.

"The District is so very happy to receive this funding and expand this important program within our community without impacting our taxpayers," noted Superintendent of Schools Teresa M. Rafferty. "We are very proud of our Preschool Program, and this grant allows us to expand services, offer fulltime preschool to a greater number of students, and explore new ideas in early learning."

The PEEA Grant is awarded for the 2018-2019 school year and begins on October 1, 2018. Specific information regarding applications and enrollment will be mailed to parents currently enrolled at Children's Corner, and made available to parents interested in exploring preschool options through Piscataway Township Schools by first calling 732-572-4688.

## **Piscataway Awarded \$1.8 Million for Preschool Program From NJDOE/2**

“Our thanks go out to the NJDOE for awarding Piscataway this grant. Expanding this free-tuition grant to three-year-olds means more children will have a stronger educational and social background when they begin elementary school,” said Ms. Rafferty. “I would also like to thank Piscataway staff, who worked hard to put this grant application together on the state’s expedited schedule. We look forward to working together to bring an engaging and rewarding preschool experience to all Children’s Corner families.”

### **About Piscataway Township Schools**

*Serving over 7,000 students, Piscataway Township Schools provide K - 12 and preschool programming, special education instructional programs and services, as well as before and aftercare, adult education classes, youth enrichment programs, and summer youth programs. The mission of the Piscataway Public Schools is the continual development of each child’s intellectual, aesthetic, social and physical abilities in a positive environment that fosters self-esteem, to help all students realize their abilities and gifts.*