



STAFFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Offices
250 N. Main Street
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

www.staffordschools.org

George J. Chidiac
Superintendent

Voice: 609.978.5700

Ext. 1000

Fax: 609.597.4430

"BUILDING A BETTER WORLD ONE STUDENT AT A TIME"

March 5, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After careful consideration and analysis, the Stafford Township Board of Education voted last night to withdraw the Stafford Township School District from the Preschool Expansion Education Grant (PEEA) for the 2019-2020 school year. Our district piloted the New Jersey Department of Education's (DOE) PEEA Grant under the premise that the grant would cover all costs associated with preschool. However, following a recent review of the PEEA district budget statement, we discovered the district would be responsible for 30% of the program costs for the 2019-2020 school year - including benefits, staffing, supplies, and transportation. Such costs are untenable and cost-prohibitive to this district.

The goal was to provide a free preschool program for the children of Stafford Township residents. Unfortunately, the district simply cannot afford this program moving forward. As a result, we will be returning to the previously implemented tuition based pre-school program for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Wilkinson, Director of Preschool, will be hosting a meeting on March 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the STAC to discuss the program for all interested families.

We will continue to monitor the state's funding for the preschool program, and if/when the state fully funds preschool, we will revisit this endeavor again.

Very truly yours,

Barbara D'Apuzzo
Acting Superintendent