

The Delivering a Strong Education for All New Jersey Children Transition Action Team was tasked with examining New Jersey's public-school system and making recommendations to expand equal opportunities in education. The team proposes that the Administration consider the [following recommendations](#) to accomplish these key priorities:

- Implementing a comprehensive third-grade literacy strategy that builds on a strong foundation from early learning and empowers educators, students, and families.
- Expanding high-impact tutoring programs, a proven strategy to support students who have fallen behind.
- Modernizing and stabilizing the School Funding Reform Act to reduce fluctuations in state aid from year-to-year and ensuring it reflects current standards and the needs of students.
- Expanding access to early learning and preschool through a stronger mixed delivery system and high-quality workforce.
- Addressing the teacher shortage by streamlining certification requirements, expanding apprenticeship models, and providing greater support for educators.

Implementing a Comprehensive Third-Grade Literacy Strategy

The recommendations include investing in high-quality early learning as a foundational literacy strategy to ensure equitable access to pre-literacy opportunities; establishing and building a statewide literacy framework connecting early learning, preschool, K-3 instruction, multilingual learner supports, and evidence-based foundational literacy practices; strengthening teacher knowledge, coaching, and family partnerships to support literacy from birth through elementary school; and aligning Pre-K through third-grade instruction, materials, and assessment with developmental science and evidence-based literacy practices.

Expanding High-Impact Tutoring

The recommendations include maximizing access to high-impact tutoring during the school day and ensuring alignment with district core curriculum and assessments; strengthening state leadership, data, and quality assurance through a clear, statewide high impact tutoring framework; and building a sustainable tutoring workforce pipeline through higher education and public investment.

Modernizing and Stabilizing the School Funding Reform Act

The recommendations include fully funding the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA), appropriating funds for a modernization cost study, and continuing modifications of SFRA through budget language in the FY27 budget; and implementing short-term measures to provide greater transparency and fairness, and an improved process; commissioning an

external study to make recommendations to modernize the formula and developing cost-saving initiatives.

Expanding Access to Early Learning

The recommendations include strengthening and stabilizing the mixed-delivery model through clear state standards, true-cost funding, and required partnerships; building a high-quality early learning workforce through paid pathways, certification alignment, and professional advancement; funding systems for community-based providers at the true cost of quality to support stability, expansion, and equity; ensuring alignment and quality across the birth–18 continuum to improve long-term student outcomes.

Addressing the Teacher Shortage

The recommendations include modernizing and streamlining certifications to remove barriers and expanding access; building a statewide teacher pipeline through apprenticeships and homegrown pathways; reducing financial barriers to entering and remaining in the profession; reducing administrative burdens and support leadership pathways; launching a statewide positive messaging and recruitment campaign to elevate the teaching profession and rebuilding public confidence in education.