

Office of Head Start

Administration for Children and Families



HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Overall Structure of the HSPPS



The new HSPPS has five clearly defined parts:

- Program Governance
- Program Operations
- Administrative & Financial Requirements
- Federal Administrative Procedures
- Definitions



Program Operations



- Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, & Attendance
- Program Structure
- Education & Child Development Program Services
- Health Program Services
- Family and Community Engagement Program Services
- Additional Services for Children with Disabilities
- Transition Services
- Services to Enrolled Pregnant Women
- Human Resources Management
- Program Management and Quality Improvement





- Community Needs Assessment
- Focus on Serving Neediest Children including
 - Children who are Homeless
 - Children in Foster care
 - Children with Disabilities
- Promoting individual attendance
- Addresses suspension and expulsion


Program Structure



- Structural requirements for each standard program options (Center-based, Family Child Care and Home-based) including:
 - Duration,
 - Ratios/caseloads, and
 - Licensing or safety requirements
- Waiver requirements for locally designed program options

Spotlight on Increasing Duration



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- Sets an Annual hour threshold of 1,020 hours per year for Head Start that increases over five years with option for HHS Secretary to reduce
 - 50% by August 1, 2019
 - 100% by August 1, 2021
 - Codifies Early Head Start as a Continuous Program
 - 1,380 hours for center-based
 - 46 visits, 22 group socializations for home-based

Education and Child Development



Includes requirements related to:

- Teaching Practices
- Learning Environments
- Curricula
- Screening and Assessments
- Parent engagement
- Home-based education requirements
- Tribal Language Preservation and Revitalization




Spotlight on Curricula



- Based on scientifically valid research
- Standardized training procedures & materials
- Organized developmental scope & sequence
- Must support children's development across the domains and be content rich
- Must be developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Programs must support and oversee fidelity of implementation

Spotlight on Dual Language Learners



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- Effective Teaching Practices that promote bilingualism and bi-literacy
 - Screening and Assessment for DLLs
 - Coordinate Approach to Serving DLLs
 - Maintains requirement that when the *majority of the children* in a class *speak the same language*---at least one class staff member must speak such language
 - Support for families of children who are DLLs



Retains core services and streamlines requirements so they are easier to implement and includes requirements related to:

- Health, Oral Health, Nutrition services
- Mental health services
- Parent engagement in health
- Keeping children safe --
aligned with child care systems



Family and Community Engagement



Includes requirements related to:

- Family Engagement
- Activities to Promote Child Learning and Development
- Family Partnership Services
- Community Partnerships and Coordination with other Early Childhood and Education Programs



Additional Services for Children with Disabilities



Includes requirements related to:

- Full participation in all program services and activities.
- Provide individual services and supports to the maximum extent possible to children awaiting determination of IDEA eligibility
- Parent engagement
- LEA collaboration



Human Resources Management



Includes requirements related to:

- Comprehensive background checks and other personnel policies
- Staff qualifications and competencies
- A stronger system of staff professional development including coordinated coaching strategy
- Staff health and Wellness
- Volunteers

Spotlight on Strengthening Professional Development



Requirements:

- Research-based approaches to professional development for education staff
- A research-based, coordinated coaching strategy that provides tiered coaching based on assessed need.
- Staff are assessed to identify strengths, areas of need, and level of coaching needs.
- Intensive coaching opportunities are aligned with the program's goals and curricula, include clearly articulated goals, and are supported by qualified coaching staff.

Program Management



- Management System Implementation
- Establishing program goals
- Monitoring program performance
 - Ongoing compliance oversight and correction
 - Ongoing assessment of program goals
- Using data for continuous improvement

Key Areas Informed by Research



- Education broadly and specifically:
 - Duration
 - Curriculum
 - Effective Teaching Practices
 - Dual Language Learners
- Professional Development and Coaching
- Individual Attendance
- Suspension and Expulsion

Areas for Where More Research would have helped



Everywhere but specifically:

- Thresholds for Duration
- Curriculum
- Coaching
- Family Engagement

Opportunities



- Approaches to Duration Increase
 - Shorter hours for more days vs School year
- Curriculum Adaptations
- Approaches to Coaching
- Professional Development Adaptations