

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**April 18, 2023**

**SUBJECT:**

Aiken County Public School District (ACPSD) Head Start / Early Head Start Program  
Selection Criteria Revision – FY23

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The school district was approved for a five-year Head Start/Early Head Start grant in May of 2020, and the 5-year project period began on July 1, 2020, and extends through June 30, 2025. Governing bodies have a legal and fiscal responsibility to administer and oversee the agency’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The governing body is responsible for activities specified at section 642(c)(1)(E) of the Head Start Act.

The Office of Head Start under the revisions to the Head Start Act (2007) requires that Head Start grantees establish and implement outreach and enrollment policies and procedures that ensure such agency is meeting the needs of income eligible children, foster and homeless families prior to serving the children whose families exceed the income poverty guidelines.

To serve the most income eligible expectant families, the program proposes to amend the weighted point system eligibility criteria by revising the following:

- Add an expectant mother category: The program’s current selection criteria do not include expectant mothers. The program does not currently serve expectant mothers because it is not a requirement for Early Head Start. However, since the implementation of the grant, waitlists continue to exist and expand for Early Head Start eligible children and families. The addition of pregnant women to the selection criteria expands opportunities for enrollment for Early Head Start children and families.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

Administration has reviewed the rationale for the amendment to the point system for the selection criteria of the Head Start/Early Head Start program and find them consistent with district goals and policies.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the revisions to the Head Start/Early Head Start Selection Criteria for Enrollment for pregnant women.

**PREPARED BY:**

Amy Edwards  
Shadie Hall  
Brian Gibbons