

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

July 13, 2021

SUBJECT:

Aiken County Public School District Head Start / Early Head Start Program
Disabilities Waiver Request – FY21

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Office of Head Start under the revisions to the Head Start Act (2007) requires that all Head Start and Early Head Start programs fill 10% of its funded enrollment slots with children with diagnosed disabilities regardless of the severity of such disability. Head Start Performance Standards (HSPS) 1302.14 (b), states "a program must ensure at least 10 percent of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA, unless the responsible HHS official grants a waiver." Agencies that operate both Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) are expected to enroll at least 10% of children with disabilities in both HS and EHS; however, the requirement of a minimum of 10% enrollment of children with disabilities is applicable program-wide. Therefore, the number and percentage expected is based on the full enrollment of both programs. Waiver requests should be made after the halfway point in the program year and no later than one month after the close of the program year. Accordingly, the close of the program year for Head Start was June 14, 2021 and Early Head Start is August 3, 2021. The funded enrollment for HS/EHS is 384 (326 for Head Start and 58 for Early Head Start) which would require a total of 33 children with disabilities for Head Start and 6 children for Early Start.

	HS	EHS	Total
Funded Enrollment	326	58	384
Current/Cumulative Enrollment	188	50	238
# of enrolled children with disabilities	12 (IEPs)	2 (IFSPs)	14
% of children w/disabilities based on funded enrollment	3.7%	3.4%	3.6%
% of children w/disabilities based on current/cumulative enrollment (5/31/2021)	6.4%	4.0%	5.9%
Program expectation	10%	10%	10%

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Administration has reviewed the requirements of the Head Start/Early Head Start Disabilities Waiver and find them consistent with the Head Start Performance Standards (HSPS) requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the submission of the Disabilities Waiver Request for the 2020-2021 program year for Head Start/Early Head Start.

PREPARED BY:

Jeanie Glover
Shadie Hall
Krystal Cansler