

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**April 18, 2023**

**SUBJECT:**

Aiken County Public School District (ACPSD) Head Start / Early Head Start Program  
Request for Disabilities Waiver – 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 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 unless a **Disabilities Waiver** is granted.

As of March 22, 2023, the current percentage of enrolled children is 3% of the funded enrollment slots. The total number of children enrolled with disabilities is 11. The program is currently under enrolled due to 13 teacher vacancies.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

Administration has reviewed the disabilities waiver request and find it consistent with district goals and policies.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the submission of a disabilities waiver request for the 2022-2023 program year.

**PREPARED BY:**

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