

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**December 14, 2021**

**SUBJECT:**

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

**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.

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.

To serve the most income eligible families, and families of children with suspected or diagnosed disabilities, the program proposes to revise the weighted point system eligibility criteria:

- Remove points for over-income families for 101-200% Poverty
- Add the category: Parent(s) unemployed/under-employed due to COVID-19 Pandemic (20 Points)
- Add the category: Two parents, both not working (10 points)
- Increase the weighted points for children with suspected disability from 20 to 40 Points
- Remove the expectant mother category: The program did not serve any expectant mothers in 2020-2021; waitlists continue to exist for Early Head Start eligible children

**Eligibility Configuration**

2021-2021

Aiken County Public School District - Head Start 2021-2022

Aiken County Public School District - Early Head Start 2021-2022

**Income** (Automatically assign points based on Income)

95	Foster
95	Homeless
20	Public Assistance
40	0 - 100%
0	101 - 130%
0	131 - 200%

**Class Age** (Automatically assign points based on Class Age)

30	0 - 2 mo
25	3 - 12 mo
20	13 - 24 mo
10	25 - 35 mo
75	36 - 47 mo
50	48 - 60 mo

(Participant is not eligible if 60 months old or older on the school-year cut-off date.)

**Other Eligibility Criteria**

**Parental Status**

10	Two parents working
30	Single parent working and/or in school
35	Two parents, one not working
20	Single parent not working
20	Parent recently unemployed within last six months
10	Two parents, both not working
20	Parent recently unemployed/under-employed due to COVID-19

**Disability**

40	Suspected Disability
95	Diagnosed Disability

**Sibling**

20	Enrolled Sibling in HS/EHS
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**Parental Education**

10	Parent has no high school diploma or GED
20	Parent is attending school/vocational training

**Agency Referral**

50	Other Agency Referral
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**Wait List**

15	Currently on the Waiting List
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**Military**

20	Active Duty
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**Teen Parent**

50	Teen Parent (Ages 13-19)
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**Health/Mental Health**

20	Applicant experiencing chronic health problems
20	Family member with diagnosed mental illness
20	Parent experiencing chronic health problems or disability
30	Abuse issues at home (i.e. child, spousal, drug, alcohol, etc.)

**Expectant Mother**

0	less than 12 weeks
0	12-24 weeks
0	Greater than 24 weeks
0	High-Risk Pregnancy

**Returning Children**

50	Transitioning from EHS/HS in another county/state
100	Transitioning from EHS to HS

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

Administration has reviewed the point system for the selection criteria of the Head Start/Early Head Start program and finds it to be in alignment with Head Start and Early Head Start policies and standards.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**PREPARED BY:**

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