

**Duluth Public Schools Federal Head Start Continuation Grant
Fiscal Year 2024**

Funding Type	Federal Head Start
Program Operations	\$2,569,026
Training and Technical Assistance	\$28,958
Federal Funded Enrollment	224, asking to reduce to 190 as we convert 2 half day classes to full day classes.
Total Funding	\$2,597,984

This is year three of a five year grant cycle.

Broad Grant Goals remain:

- 1. High Quality Inclusion: Navigating Trauma**
 - a. Partnership with Early Childhood Special Education
- 2. Walking the Talk of Equity**
 - a. Oshki-Inwewin: A program that infuses curriculum with Ojibwe language and culture
 - b. Preschool Equity Team:
 - i. Sub Committee of Education Equity Advisory Committee
 - ii. Annual Book Studies for teachers with anti racism focus
- 3. Fostering Resilience with a Focus on Health and Wellness**
 - a. Nature Based Programming
 - b. YMCA Collaboration: Safety Around Water classes for 72 children annually; Family Day Passes for all Head Start families
 - c. Health and Wellness Focus for Families and Staff

Differences between this year and last year’s Continuation Grant:

We will be asking to:

- **Conversion from Half Days to Full Days at two sites:**
 - Half Day sessions have been severely under enrolled at two sites.
 - Most families prefer full day sessions.
 - Moving to Full Day sessions enable more 4 year olds to access transportation to and from school

- This results in an enrollment reduction of 34 spots. Reductions, if approved, do not result in decreased funding, rather an increase in the amount of funding we receive per child.
- **Asking to move to a four day week**
 - Teachers report feeling overwhelmed by challenging behaviors and lack of teaming and preparation time. Self-contained classrooms (similar to Setting III), with no access to specialists, with young children who need continuous adult attention, is very stressful. Currently our classrooms are in session every other Friday to meet the contract's requirement for prep time.
 - **Benefits for Teachers/Staff**
 - Time to team with ECSE and other EC staff
 - Engage in PLCs
 - Engage in Reflective Practice (facilitated by a Mental Health practitioner)* *this is very common in the world of Early Childhood where secondary trauma and compassion fatigue are very real things.*
 - Engage in more effective Practice Based Coaching (time to meet with coaches)
 - Participate in individualized Professional Development
 - Allow time for 1:1 staff check ins that do not interfere with Planning Time
 - Supporting wellness in an authentic way
 - **Benefits for Families**
 - Family Engagement activities that teachers can be a part of
 - Having a consistent schedule alleviates any confusion with dates we are in or out of session.
 - Children also thrive with consistent routines.
 - Many daycares charge for full days whether you are there or not. We are currently in session approximately 2 Fridays/month.
 - Individual communication with families surrounding child goals (all children in Head Start must have individual goals, even those not on IEPs)

It is understood that ultimately the Office of Head Start will determine if the request has merit or not. Plan B will be to continue with 955.5 hours of programming per year. Moving to a four day week would reduce the dosage to 861 hours per year. Minnesota's minimum number of hours for kindergarten is 850 hours.

This has been wholeheartedly supported by our Parent Policy Council.

We ask that this grant application be approved.

Signature of School Board Chair

Signature of Policy Council Chair