



Duluth Head Start

Governing Board Training



Duluth Head Start is unique.

It is one of the original Head Start grantees, starting as a summer school program in 1965.

It is the only grantee in MN that is a School District.

We are proud of our school district for recognizing the value of early intervention long before science confirmed its value.

Office of Head Start Purpose

Origins

As part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's *War on Poverty*, Head Start began as an eight-week demonstration project designed to help break the cycle of poverty

Mission

Designed as an anti-poverty early childhood education program, Head Start prepares America's most vulnerable children, ages birth to five, to succeed in school and in life beyond school

Program Description

Head Start programs promote the school readiness of young children from low-income families by:

- Enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development
- Offering comprehensive services such as early learning, nutrition, health, family well-being and parent engagement



Head Start Leadership and Governance



Membership and Responsibilities

Policy Council	Governing Board/ School Board
<p>Each agency must establish and maintain a Policy Council responsible for the direction of the Head Start program at the agency level.</p> <p>In Duluth, Head Start parents are eligible to run for Policy Council. Elections are held each fall, with parents from all program options and locations. Current Policy Council members facilitate the election of new board members prior to dissolving their leadership roles.</p>	<p>The Head Start Act (2007) clearly defines who should be part of the Governing Body. This requirement is very intentional to ensure the Governing Body is diverse and represents the skill set needed to run a federally funded organization that serves our nation's most vulnerable children and their families.</p> <p>In Duluth, the Governing Board is elected by the citizens of Duluth when they elect ISD709 School Board members.</p>
<p>Parents of children currently enrolled in each program option must proportionately represented on Policy Council.</p>	<p>The Governing Board have legal and fiscal responsibility for the program.</p>

Membership and Responsibilities

Policy Council	Governing Board
A Policy Council must use ongoing monitoring results, data on school readiness goals and other information to conduct its responsibilities.	Adopt practices that assure active, independent, and informed governance of the Head Start agency and be responsible for ensuring compliance with Federal laws.
A member must stand for one year. If a member intends to serve another year, they must stand for re-election.	Responsible for other activities as outlined in the Head Start Act of 2007.
The Policy Council must include in its By-Laws, how many one year terms a person may serve, not to exceed five years. Current <u>By-Laws</u> state a member may serve 5 years.	Governing Body oversees Policy Council.
A program must seat a successor Policy Council before an existing Policy Council may be dissolved.	Governing Board members may not receive money from the Head Start grantee.
	Impasse Policy with Policy Council.

Membership and Responsibilities

Policy Council	Governing Board
A program must enable low income members to participate fully in their Policy Council responsibilities by providing if necessary, reimbursements for reasonable expenses incurred by the low income members.	
Policy Councils work in concert with Governing Boards to provide oversight for the Head Start Program.	
Impasse Policy with Governing Board.	

Head Start Documents on Program Governance are known as The Big 3.

- The Head Start Act of 2007. **This is the Head Start Law.**

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/hs-act-pl-110-134.pdf>

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- The Head Start Performance Standards.
- **These are the rules by which a Head Start program must carry out their work with children and families.**

• <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii>

[Head Start Program Performance Standards | ECLKC](#)

- PART 75—UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR HHS AWARDS.

- **These are the rules about how a program may use the Federal award.**

• <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-75#subject-group-ECFR640bc005c7f52f6>

[eCFR :: 45 CFR Part 75 -- Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards](#)

2024 National Head Start Priorities

Office of Head Start Priorities



Federal Monitoring Year: This Year

Our Head Start program will be monitored by the Office of Head Start this year.

This will include meeting with the Policy Council and Governing Board.

It will be a new experience for most of us, but we have worked hard to have systems in place to have an exemplary program.

Duluth Preschool: Funding Sources

Head Start, School Readiness and Voluntary PreK fund our classrooms throughout the city serving 3 and 4 year olds. All programs follow the Head Start performance standards.

State grants fund Families in Transition, which serves families experiencing homelessness and a Home Base option.

Locations

We have classrooms in 7 of the 9 elementary schools.

Lowell (2 Head Start/School Readiness)

Laura MacArthur (2 Head Start, 1 VPK)

Myers Wilkins (3 Head Start)

Piedmont (2 Head Start/School Readiness, 1 VPK)

Stowe (1 Head Start/School Readiness, 1 VPK)

Homecroft (1 Head Start/School Readiness)

Lester Park (1 Head Start/School Readiness)

State funded Head Start programs

Homebase: Serves 12 families with children from 0-5 in their homes for 90 minutes per week. Provides socialization experiences twice per month.

FIT (Families in Transition): Works with families experiencing homelessness for 90 minutes per week. Provides socializations twice per month. Serves 12 Early Head Start (0-3) and 6 Head Start (3 & 4 year olds)

Comprehensive services

Health

Nutrition

Education

Mental Health

Disabilities

Family Advocacy

Parent Engagement



Eligibility

Children in foster care or experiencing homelessness automatically qualify for Head Start.

Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Family size	2022 income numbers	2023 income numbers
For individuals	\$13,590	\$14,580
For a family of 2	\$18,310	\$19,720
For a family of 3	\$23,030	\$24,860
For a family of 4	\$27,750	\$30,000
For a family of 5	\$32,470	\$35,140
For a family of 6	\$37,190	\$40,280
For a family of 7	\$41,910	\$45,420
For a family of 8	\$46,630	\$50,560
For a family of 9+	Add \$4,720 for each extra person	Add \$5,140 for each extra person

Curriculum

Creative Curriculum is a project based curriculum that is used in our classes.

Pyramid Model is a social emotional framework that helps all students be successful in our classrooms.

We use two supplemental curriculums:

Heggerty Phonemic Awareness: to help kids learn to hear sounds in words

Second Step: to help teach social emotional skills

Parent engagement

We want parents to be involved in our program in as many ways as possible.

Home Visits

Community Involvement

Conferences

Self Assessment

Policy Council

Recruitment

Parent Committees

Field Trips

Family Events

Support in the classroom

We are in the third year of a five year grant cycle

Current Grant Goals are:

High Quality Inclusive Classrooms: A partnership with Early Childhood Special Education

Walking the Talk of Equity

Fostering Resilience with a Focus on Health, Wellness, and Safety

Grant Goal: Walking the Talk of Equity

1. Establish Oshki-inwewin: a classroom with a focus on Ojibwe language and culture
2. Establish an Equity Team
3. Provide opportunities for staff to continue to learn about systemic racism
4. Recognize and honor the unique cultures of families we are currently engaged with
5. Close the opportunity gap for children and families we work with

Celebrating Diversity

We are fortunate to serve a diverse population of children and families. Here is the demographic makeup of our students for the 2022-2023 school year.



6% Hispanic/Latino
11.5% American Indian
1% Asian
12% Black
45.5% White
23.4% Mixed Race

*We also had 12
Dual Language Learners

Supporting Health, Wellness and Safety for Children

- ❑ Outside daily
 - ❑ Weather appropriate gear
- ❑ Safety Around Water: Six week water safety class at YMCA for 72 children per year (4 classrooms)
- ❑ Social Emotional Learning
- ❑ Active Supervision
- ❑ Family Style Meals
- ❑ Dental Exams at school
- ❑ Lead testing at school
- ❑ Support for families to stay up to date on well child checks and immunizations
- ❑ Mental Health referral support
- ❑ First Witness: Strong, Safe Child
- ❑ Safe Delivery of Preschool Students (Bus Safety)
- ❑ Hearing, vision tests at school (preschool screening)
- ❑ Eyeware resource: coupons for free glasses

Program Planning for Continuous Improvement

