Monthly Committee of the Whole Board Meeting
Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709
Agenda
Thursday, November 12, 2026
District Services Center
709 Portia Johnson Dr.
Duluth, MN 55811
5:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **AGENDA ITEMS**
   - A. Strategic Plan Alignment
     - 1) Improving Systems
       - a. **Overview of November Election Results and 2027 Legislative Platform Input** **2**
     - 2) Supporting Every Student
       - a. **Duluth Preschool Report for the 2025-2026 School Year and Duluth Preschool Head Start Governing Board Training for 2026-2027** **3**
     - 3) Advancing Equity - N/A
   - B. Teaching, Learning, and Equity Board Summary Report
   - C. Budget Update
     - 1) **Post Referendum Budget Reduction Numbers** **29**
     2027-28 Budget Reduction Guiding Change
   - D. Other
4. **ADJOURN**

COW Agenda Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: November 12, 2026

Topic: Overview of November Election Results and 2027 Legislative Platform Input

Presenter(s): John Magas and Jeff Anderson

Attachment:

Brief Summary of Presentation or Topic (no more than a few sentences):
Jeff Anderson, our lobbyist, will provide an update on the results of the November 2026 election, as well as assist the board in drafting our 2027 Legislative Platform.

This Requires School Board Approval :
Yes. It is recommended that we approve our legislative platform at our November School Board meeting.

Duluth Preschool

COW Agenda Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: Thursday, November 12, 2026

Topic: Duluth Preschool Report for the 2025-2026 school year and Duluth Preschool Head Start Governing Board Training for 2026-2027

Presenter(s): Julie Midas

Attachment:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SF2dx0Q6OMxYBbA3PPtUt9Gtw45llaHjOiFj8MKiUbI/edit?usp=sharing

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1oy-1tDNAOORrbNjDb2vc1Ytp11VWIemQPpuwOpEBTVc/edit?usp=sharing

Brief Summary of Presentation or Topic (no more than a few sentences):

Duluth Preschool Report for 2025-2026 school year will be presented.

Duluth Preschool - Head Start Governing Board Training annual training for the 2026-2027 school year.

This Requires School Board Approval : No

Duluth Preschool

Committee of the Whole Report for the 2025-26 program year

November 12, 2026

OUR MISSION

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

OUR VISION

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

Learning



Developing a love of learning through life-long inquiry.

Excellence



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

Equity



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

Belonging



Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

Federal Grant FY 27

We are waiting for the
Federal Recompetition Grant
to become available.

Funding Type	Federal Head Start
Program Operations	**$2,859,575**
Training and Technical Assistance	**$28,958**
Federal Funded Enrollment	**190**
Total Funding	**$2,888,533**

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26



Head Start

190 Head Start slots funded in the Duluth Preschool Program

- 74 3 year olds
- 128 4 year olds
- 0 5 year old

202 Head Start Children were served in the 2025-26 program year

113 children were projected to enter Kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26

DRPD (Desired Results Developmental Profile)

- Teacher observations and student portfolios
- Authentic Assessment completed 2 times per program year
- Observations in 8 developmental domains
  - approaches to learning
  - social/emotional development
  - language
  - literacy
  - math
  - physical development/health
  - science
  - cognition
- Creative Curriculum
- Pyramid Model Framework/Second Step

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26

Who is enrolled in Head Start?

- 18 dual language learners
- 20 children identify as hispanic/Latino



- 36 children identified as African American/Black
- 3 children identified as Asian
- 65 children identified as White
- 73 children identified as multi racialor biracial
- 25 children identified as American Indian or Alaska Native

- 54 children were referred to early intervention for assessment
- 35 children were determined to have a disability under IDEA

- 77 (38%) children were supported through early intervention and an IEP Individual Education Plan)

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26

Family Snapshot

195 families were served and supported by Head Start

- 34 families experienced homelessness
- 4 children were in foster care at some point during the program year
- 135 families received SNAP benefits
- 120 families reported that at least one parent was employed
- 14 parents had a baccalaureate degree
- 67 parents had an associate/vocational degree or some college

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26

Broad Grant Goals remain for the 2026-27 Program Year

1. **High Quality Inclusion: Navigating Trauma**
   a. Partnership with Early Childhood Special Education

2. **Meeting the Unique Needs of our Community**
   a. Oshki-Inwewin: A loop program that infuses curriculum with Ojibwe language and perspectives at a site where an Ojibwe Immersion School operates.
   b. Nature Based Programming at all sites
   c. Artist in Residence Program for full day classes

3. **Fostering Resilience with a Focus on Health and Wellness**
   a. YMCA Collaboration: Safety Around Water classes for 72 children annually;
      i. Family Day Passes for all Head Start families
      ii. Swim lessons for Head Start parents
   b. Health and Wellness Opportunities for Families and Staff

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26

2026-27 Program Year

1. **High Quality Inclusion**
   a. Meeting weekly as an early childhood leadership team: ECFE/PreK/ECSE
   b. P-3 Initiative Membership, supported by the MN Department of Children, Youth and Families
   c. CLASS and Danielson Framework teacher evaluations

2. **Meeting the Unique Needs of our Community**
   a. Membership in Every Child Ready Duluth
   b. First Street Buildout Planning,was supported by the Community Education Leadership and Team

3. **Fostering Resilience with a Focus on Health and Wellness**
   a. Staff Wellness supported through Reflective Consultation
   b. Preschool Support Team assisting teachers and families in addressing challenging child behaviors



Questions?

Duluth Preschool

Governing Board Training

2026-2027

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Duluth Preschool STARTED with HEAD START in 1965!



President Lyndon B Johnson, declared War on Poverty in his 1965 State of the Union Speech and a team of experts from Yale and Harvard set to work developing a preschool program that would help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children.

Fun Fact #1: The original Head Start program in Duluth was an 8 week summer program at Lincoln Park Elementary School.
Fun Fact #2: We are the only Head Start program in MN where a school district is the grant recipient.

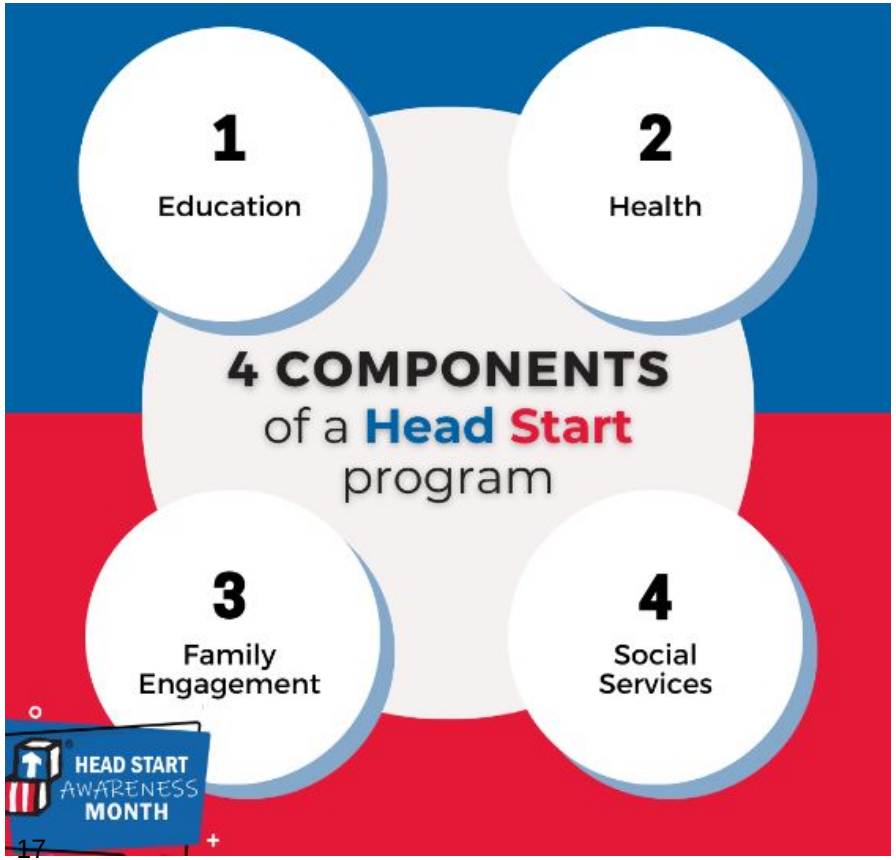
Comprehensive services set Head Start apart

Health: We support families is securing health insurance, a medical and dental home, and access mental health resources.

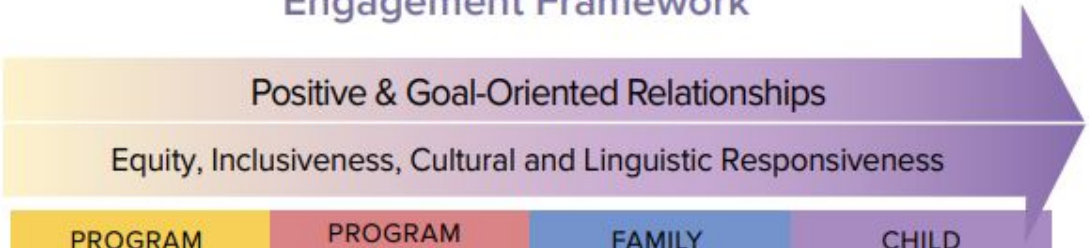
Social Services: programs and services that improve the well being of individuals, families, and communities

Family Engagement: Community and family events/ Site parent committees and Parent Policy Council are a part of our program governance. Family Engagement data is collected through the Child Plus platform

[Comprehensive Services: The Foundation of Head Start]



Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework



PROGRAM FOUNDATIONS	PROGRAM IMPACT AREAS	FAMILY OUTCOMES	CHILD OUTCOMES
Program Leadership Professional Development Continuous Learning and Quality Improvement	Program Environment Family Partnerships Teaching and Learning Community Partnerships Access and Continuity	Family Well-being Positive Parent-Child Relationships Families as Lifelong Educators Families as Learners Family Engagement in Transitions Family Connections to Peers and Community Families as Advocates and Leaders	Children are: Safe Healthy and well Learning and developing Engaged in positive relationships with family members, caregivers, and other children Ready for school Successful in school and life

Head Start Management Wheel



Head Start Performance Standards

Provide Head Start grantee requirements for:

- Eligibility, recruitment, selection, attendance
- Early childhood education and development
- Health and safety
- Health promotion
- Nutrition
- Disabilities
- Parent involvement
- Family partnerships
- Community partnerships
- Administrative and financial management
- Transportation and facilities



We currently in a one year grant cycle extension



Head Start Leadership and Governance



22

Membership and Responsibilities

Policy Council	Governing Board/ School Board
Each agency must establish and maintain a Policy Council responsible for the direction of the Head Start program at the agency level. 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.	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. In Duluth, the Governing Board is elected by the citizens of Duluth when they elect ISD709 School Board members.
Parents of children currently enrolled in each program option must be proportionately represented on Policy Council.	The Governing Board have legal and fiscal responsibility for the program.

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 By-Laws 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.	

The Big Three: Regulations that Guide Head Start: Live links

Head Start Program Performance Standards

Head Start Act

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit requirements for federal awards


DULUTH PRESCHOOL
START STRONG • STAY STRONG



Questions?

- Any questions?
- Comments?
- Concerns?
- Feedback?

COW Agenda Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: November 12, 2026

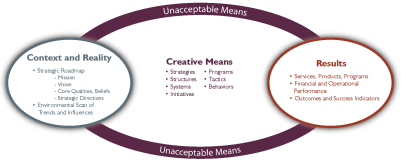
Topic: Post referendum budget reduction numbers and the 2027-28 budget reduction guiding change document

Presenter(s): John Magas and Simone Zunich

Attachment:

Brief Summary of Presentation or Topic (no more than a few sentences):
This presentation provides an overview of the updated post-referendum budget reduction figures and introduces the guiding change document for the 2027-28 budget reductions.

This Requires School Board Approval :
Eventual approval of district budget.



Focus Statement: Achieving necessary budget adjustments while aligning resources to the district priorities and positioning us to make effective decisions now and into the future.

Reality "The Why"	Parameters "The How"	Results "The What"

• Increased insurance, labor, transportation, and inflation costs
• Insufficient state and federal funding to meet special education needs
• Unfunded legislative mandates that require use of district funds:
  ○ Required curriculum and assessment resources
  ○ Unemployment and paid leave
  ○ Food reimbursement
• Current conservative projected deficits for FY28 $5M in addition to estimated reduction of $1.7M in Compensatory Education and reductions in Special Education funding.
• Proximity to reaching Statutory Operating Debt
	• Continued alignment of funding and operations to district priorities to the degree possible:
	  ○ Support student needs throughout the district
	  ○ Advance equity efforts throughout the district
	  ○ Improve systems throughout the district with a focus on streamlining costs
	• Follow laws, policies, regulations & contracts
	• Attempt to avoid going into Statutory Operating Debt
	• Prevent additional fund balance depletion
	• Attempt to support identified November 2023 referendum commitments given our current financial reality
	  ○ Address academic, social emotional and mental health support priorities
	  ○ Restructure and improve high school schedule
	• Develop reduction and realignment options with representative input
	• Make decisions with proper or sufficient data
	• Proposed solutions will prioritize the success of the entire district over individual, departmental or site-specific preferences
		• Balanced budget for 2027-2028
		• Utilize a transparent and engaging process for budget reductions and reallocations for FY28
		• Prioritize and protect student needs as much as possible
		• Examine all legacy practices and personal interests with a lens of fiscal accountability
		• Protects school district's fiscal health by continually seeking efficiencies and identifying new sources of funding, such as grants and investment opportunities