

Feedback on Head Start Parent Handbook



Requirements

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) define the specific regulations for all programs serving infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and pregnant women. Head Start programs prepare America's most vulnerable children to succeed in school and beyond. To achieve this, Head Start programs deliver services to children and families in core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being with engaging the parents as partners every step of the way. Head Start encompasses Head Start preschool programs, which primarily serves 3 and 4-year-old children and Early Head Start programs, serve infants, toddlers, and pregnant women.

As described in Head Start regulation 1302.50, a program must integrate parent and family engagement strategies into all systems and program services to support family well-being and promote children's learning and development. The program also has developed an innovative two-generation approach that addresses prevalent needs of families across the program that may leverage community partnerships of other funding sources.

In addition, a program must implement a family partnership process that includes a family partnership agreement and the activities described in 1302.52 to support family well-being, including family safety, health, and economic stability, to support child learning and development. Also, to provide, if applicable, services and supports for children with disabilities, and to foster parental confidence and skills that promote the early learning and development of their children.

The City of San Antonio Department of Human Services Head Start Program utilizes the Head Start Parent Handbook as the process for introducing the partnership agreement with parents. The HSPPS is the foundation of the Head Start Parent Handbook to help parents and families become familiar with the unique and comprehensive approach of the Head Start and Early Head Start program. The goal of the parent and family engagement is to work with families to build strong effective partnerships that can help children and families thrive. These partnerships are grounded in positive, ongoing, and goal-oriented relationships with families. The relationships are based on mutual respect and trust.