

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

No. 225

Section: Employees

Title: Head Start
Program

Adopted: October 5,
2011

Revised: June 27, 2019

225 HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

Purpose

In accordance with the overall purpose of the Federal Head Start Act, the Board of Education declares its commitment to delivering comprehensive preschool education programming that supports all children in attaining skills to be successful in school and life.

Consistent with this belief and the requirements of the Federal Head Start Act, the Board of Education is committed to engaging parents, caregivers and the larger community as partners in the delivery of the District's Head Start program through the establishment of a formal Head Start Policy Council at the District level.

Definitions

Head Start: Head Start is a preschool program promoting the school readiness of children aged three to five years old by providing comprehensive services to eligible young children and their families.

Head Start Policy Council: The Head Start Policy Council for the District's Head Start program is elected each year by the parents/legal guardians of children currently enrolled in the District's Head Start program, and has responsibility for working with the District's Head Start management team to shape and inform the overall direction of the Head Start program, consistent with the Federal Head Start Act.

Head Start management team: The District employees identified in the Federal Head Start grant who are charged with the management and operation of the District's Head Start program.

Authority

As the grantee, the Board of Education shall have the legal and fiscal responsibility to operate the Head Start program in accordance with all applicable federal and state statutes and regulations, and in accordance with any collective bargaining agreements that apply to District employees.

The Board recognizes the important and formal role of the Head Start Policy Council, which has responsibility for assisting the District's Head Start management primarily with:

- designing activities to support the active involvement of parents and caregivers in program operations; and
- reviewing applications for funding, family recruitment efforts, annual budgets and discretionary hiring procedures to ensure that the program is responsive to community and parent needs.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall require the Head Start management team to ensure that the Head Start Policy Council operates under a set of formal by-laws and has written procedures for the composition and election of its members, consistent with Federal Head Start requirements. The Head Start management team shall create Administrative Procedures as necessary to guide the implementation of this policy, consistent with all federal and state requirements as well as any relevant collective bargaining agreements.

Legal References:

1. Federal Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9831-9853c
2. Head Start Performance Standards, 81 FR 61293