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# Authorization for the Requirement to Collaborate Great Start Readiness Program and Head Start

## I. Great Start Readiness Program

**State School Aid Legislation**, select portions [Links to State School Aid Legislation](#)

32d(4) To be eligible for funding under this section, a program shall prepare children for success in school through comprehensive part-day, school-day, or GSRP/head start blended programs that contain all of the following program components, as determined by the department:

(a) Participation in a collaborative recruitment and enrollment process to assure that each child is enrolled in the program most appropriate to his or her needs and to maximize the use of federal, state, and local funds.

39(1) An eligible applicant receiving funds under section 32d shall submit a preapplication, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, by a date specified by the department in the immediately preceding state fiscal year. The preapplication shall include a comprehensive needs assessment using aggregated data from the applicant's entire service area and a community collaboration plan that is endorsed by the local great start collaborative and is part of the community's great start strategic plan that includes, but is not limited to, great start readiness program and head start providers, and shall identify all of the following:

(a) The estimated total number of children in the community who meet the criteria of section 32d and how that calculation was made.

(b) The estimated number of children in the community who meet the criteria of section 32d and are being served by other early childhood development programs operating in the community, and how that calculation was made.

(c) The number of children the applicant will be able to serve who meet the criteria of section 32d including a verification of physical facility and staff resources capacity.

(d) The estimated number of children who meet the criteria of section 32d who will remain unserved after the applicant and community early childhood programs have met their funded enrollments. The applicant shall maintain a waiting list of identified unserved eligible children who would be served when openings are available.

## II. Head Start

### **Head Start Act of 2007, SEC. 642. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF HEAD START AGENCIES. [42 U.S.C. 9837]** select portions [Head Start Act](#)

(3)(e) Collaboration and Coordination- To be so designated, a Head Start agency shall collaborate and coordinate with public and private entities, to the maximum extent practicable, to improve the availability and quality of services to Head Start children and families, including carrying out the following activities:

(1) Conduct outreach to schools in which children participating in the Head Start program will enroll following the program, local educational agencies, the local business community, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, museums, and libraries to generate support and leverage the resources of the entire local community in order to improve school readiness.

(2)(A) In communities where both a public prekindergarten program and a Head Start program operate, collaborate and coordinate activities with the local educational agency or other public agency responsible for the operation of the prekindergarten program and providers of prekindergarten, including outreach activities to identify eligible children.

(3) Coordinate activities and collaborate with programs under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), the agencies responsible for administering section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) and parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.), programs under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), Even Start programs under subpart 3 of part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.), programs under section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.), and other entities providing early childhood education and development programs or services, serving the children and families served by the Head Start agency.

(4) Take steps to coordinate activities with the local educational agency serving the community involved and with schools in which children participating in the Head Start program will enroll following the program, including--

(A) collaborating on the shared use of transportation and facilities, in appropriate cases;

(B) collaborating to reduce the duplication and enhance the efficiency of services while increasing the program participation of underserved populations of eligible children; and

(C) exchanging information on the provision of noneducational services to such children.

(5) Enter into a memorandum of understanding, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, with the appropriate local entity responsible for managing publicly funded preschool programs in the service area of the Head Start agency, that shall--

(A)(i) provide for a review of each of the activities described in clause (ii); and

- (ii) include plans to coordinate, as appropriate, activities regarding--
  - (I) educational activities, curricular objectives, and instruction;
  - (II) public information dissemination and access to programs for families contacting the Head Start program or any of the preschool programs;
  - (III) selection priorities for eligible children to be served by programs;
  - (IV) service areas;
  - (V) staff training, including opportunities for joint staff training on topics such as academic content standards, instructional methods, curricula, and social and emotional development;
  - (VI) program technical assistance;
  - (VII) provision of additional services to meet the needs of working parents, as applicable;
  - (VIII) communications and parent outreach for smooth transitions to kindergarten as required in paragraphs (3) and (6) of section 642A(a);
  - (IX) provision and use of facilities, transportation, and other program elements; and
  - (X) other elements mutually agreed to by the parties to such memorandum;
- (B) be submitted to the Secretary and the State Director of Head Start Collaboration not later than 30 days after the parties enter into such memorandum, except that--
  - (i) where there is an absence of publicly funded preschool programs in the service area of a Head Start agency, this paragraph shall not apply; or
  - (ii) where the appropriate local entity responsible for managing the publicly funded preschool programs is unable or unwilling to enter into such a memorandum, this paragraph shall not apply and the Head Start agency shall inform the Secretary and the State Director of Head Start Collaboration of such inability or unwillingness; and
- (C) be revised periodically and renewed biennially by the parties to such memorandum, in alignment with the beginning of the school year.