

Glassboro Public Schools



MEMO

Date: August 26, 2026
To: Dr. Lewis
From: Michael Sloan
Re: Head Start Contract

Recommend Board approval of the Preschool Education Program Contract for Head Start Grantees between Glassboro Public School District and Gateway Community Action Partnership for the 2026-2027 school year. (attachment)



**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

This agreement is made and entered into this first day of **July, 2026** by and between the **Glassboro Public School District**, with principal offices located at **George Beach Administrative Office 560 Bowe Blvd Glassboro, NJ 08028** (hereinafter referred to as the "District"), and **Gateway Community Action Partnership** with its principal offices located at **110 Cohansey Street, Bridgeton, NJ 08302** (hereinafter referred to as the "Head Start Grantee" or "local Head Start Agency," as applicable) (together "the parties"). With locations operating at: (School Name, Address, City)

Whereas, the School Funding Reform Act, P.L. 2007, c.260 (SFRA), adopted in January of 2008 provides for the expansion of a high-quality preschool program to all age- and income-eligible at-risk preschool children in New Jersey; and

Whereas, this Agreement seeks to ensure that pursuant to the SFRA, the high-quality preschool program offered by the Head Start Grantee contracting with the District shall meet the educational needs of eligible three and four-year-old preschool children of the District through the coordination of all federal and state resources; and

Whereas, the District is required to offer a high quality preschool program and has determined to do so by contracting with a qualified Head Start Grantee that complies with the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers, *N.J.A.C. 3A:52*; and meets the Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs, *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A*; and the Head Start Program Performance Standards (2016)-45 CFR Chapter XIII, Subchapter B, 1301-1305; and

Whereas, the Head Start Grantee is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (DHHS) and is licensed by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) which offers services in accordance with the applicable statutory and regulatory provisions and is bound by the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers, *N.J.A.C. 3A:52*; Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs, *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A*; Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency, and Budgeting Procedures, *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A*; and the Head Start Program Performance Standards (2016)-45 CFR Chapter XIII, Subchapter B, Parts 1301-1305.

Whereas, it is the intent of the parties that through this Agreement, each party shall be in compliance with all applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The parties recognize that in the event that there are statutory or regulatory amendments there will be a need to amend this Agreement during its term to comply with any such changes.

Now, therefore, the parties hereby acknowledge and agree to the following:

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

I. Purpose of the Agreement

A. This Agreement provides funding for the minimum of a six (6) hour comprehensive preschool educational program (Program) for **187** school calendar days during the 2026-2027 school year. The District and Head Start programs should work collaboratively in the area of professional development.

B. The Head Start Grantee shall offer a program that shall meet the educational needs of the eligible three- and four-year-old preschool children of the District as set forth in this agreement and in accordance with the applicable requirements of the Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs (*N.J.A.C.* 6A:13A), the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers (*N.J.A.C.* 3A:52), the Head Start Program Performance Standards (2024), 45 CFR Subtitle B, Chapter XIII, Subchapter B, Parts 1301-1305, and the requirements of this Agreement.

C. The District shall work collaboratively with the Head Start Grantees to meet the requirements of the Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs (*N.J.A.C.* 6A:13A), and the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers (*N.J.A.C.* 3A:52) and the Head Start Program Performance Standards (2024), 45 CFR Subtitle B, Chapter XIII, Subchapter B, Parts 1301-1305, and shall compensate the Head Start Grantee in accordance with this Agreement and in compliance with all articles of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards, 45 CFR Part 75.

D. The District will work collaboratively with the Head Start Grantee to evaluate children needing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in a timely manner. The District will make every attempt to assist Head Start in meeting its goal of ten (10) percent of children with disabilities as regulated in the Head Start Performance Standards, 45 CFR § 1302.14 (a), (b); § 1302.60-62. The District will first attempt to provide services as indicated in the IEP within the Head Start program before recommending removing a child to the District.

E. The District will work collaboratively with the Head Start Grantees to meet the requirements of meeting and maintaining full enrollment as specified in 45 CFR § 1302.15. Head Start programs must maintain their funded enrollment level and fill any vacancy as soon as possible, no longer than 30 days. In order to meet all of the Head Start requirements to enroll a child, each Head Start program will recruit its own students and enroll them accordingly. Enrollment lists of potential students, if available, will be shared between School Districts and Head Start programs. Students transitioning from Early Head Start will be enrolled in the Head Start program.

II. Definitions

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

A. All terms within this contract have the same meaning as defined in *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-1.2*, as supplemented below.

1. For purposes of this Agreement, the term minimum of a “six (6) hour comprehensive educational program day” means a full-day Head Start preschool program, meeting 180 days or more, depending on the District’s required number, between September 1 and June 30.
2. For purposes of this Agreement, the term “Appropriately Certified Teacher” means an individual meeting the requirements set forth in Section III, Subsection (E)(1) of this Agreement and *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-4.3*.
3. For purposes of this Agreement, the term “Appropriately Qualified Teacher Assistant” means an individual meeting the requirements set forth in Section III, Subsection (E)(2) of this Agreement and *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-4.3*.
4. For purposes of this Agreement, the term “Preschool Instructional Coach” means an individual meeting the requirements set forth in *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-4.2*.
5. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “Quarterly Expenditure Report” means a report of all actual, approvable, reasonable and customary expenditures with supporting documentation and receipts submitted electronically for inspection by the District or Department of Education (DOE) designee, for each quarter following the payment and report schedule provided in Section VII, Compensation, for all District-approved budget planning documents for the 2026-2027 school year. This includes reporting the actual expenses for all approved salaries, benefits, payroll taxes, substitute stipends, classroom materials and supplies, technology, field trips and associated transportation, space costs, food costs, and administrative and indirect costs.
6. For the purposes of this Agreement, the terms “absent without excuse” and “unexcused absence” mean any absence not due to sickness or medical condition documented by a licensed medical professional or documented family emergency. Every effort should be made to reduce chronic absenteeism, which is defined as at least 10% of 180 days or 18 days of school. The District Board of Education shall ensure that preschool students are not suspended, long-term or short-term, and are not expelled from school except as provided pursuant to the Zero Tolerance for Guns Act (*N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-4.4(g)*).
7. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “homeless children and youths” is as defined in: Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

(McKinney-Vento) (42 U.S.C. §11431 *et seq.*), (N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.2), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq.*, the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act (42 U.S.C. §9801 *et seq.*) — and refers to individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes the following four categories:

1. Children and youth who:
 - a. share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
 - b. are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
 - c. are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
 - d. are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
4. Children of migrant or seasonal workers who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in the first three categories.

III. Head Start Grantee Requirements

A. General

The Head Start Grantee shall at all times:

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

1. Be a private local Head Start Grantee within the meaning of 45 CFR 1305.2 and *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A* or a local Head Start agency.
2. Be licensed by the Department of Children and Families, Office of Licensing as a Child Care Program pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 30:5B-1 et seq.*
3. Operate pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs (*N.J.A.C. 6A:13A*), and the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers (*N.J.A.C. 3A:52*), and the Head Start Performance Standards (2024)-Section 1301-1305, and the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.S. §§ 9831 et seq.), and the terms of this Agreement.

B. Comprehensive Education Program Requirements

The Head Start Grantee shall offer a program for a minimum of 180 school calendar days during the 2026-2027 school year [**The number entered should equal the number of student contact days as required by State Code (#number of student contact days)**]

1. Head Start programs will determine their calendar between August and June 30 in accordance with the required student contact days required by State Code **(187)** The calendar will consist of dates that are mutually agreed upon with the District, bearing in mind that dates should coordinate with District transportation, if applicable.
2. Plus the number of teacher professional development days (**number of District professional development days**) on the District school calendar exclusive of any extended year or summer programming and **(the number of mandated Head Start professional development days)**. The District and Head Start programs should work collaboratively in the area of professional development. Districts will accommodate Head Start professional development days.
3. The length of the school day shall be at a minimum of six (6) hours and shall conform to the length of the school day of the District and consistent with Section I, Subsection (A).
4. The Head Start program shall implement a research-based and scientifically valid early childhood curriculum consistent with the DOE approved curricula. The District will articulate Head Start program curricula in the District plan or

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

updates. Programs may use any of the DOE approved curricula and at a minimum shall include the following components:

- a. A comprehensive curriculum supported by research, aligned with the *New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards*, and linked to the *New Jersey Student Learning Standards* that is approved by the DOE as part of the District's plan and annual updates;
- b. Professional Development;
- c. Health and Social Service Coordination;
- d. Transition Activities; and
- e. Parental Involvement Activities.
- f. The local Head Start program must approve any additional curricula enhancements recommended by the District through its established process as described in 45 CFR, 1301,1302.31,32,1302.102.

5. Secular Program

The program offered by the Head Start shall comply with all federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding the secular nature of programs receiving public funding. It is understood that violation of this provision shall be deemed a breach of this Agreement and shall be the basis for immediate termination pursuant to Section XI of this Agreement.

C. Free Provision of Program

The Head Start Grantee shall not charge parents or families of children in the program any registration or other fees to participate in the program, if the children are eligible for the program, free of charge.

Head Start eligible families must have their income verified by a Head Start program staff member in accordance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards (2024)-45 CFR Chapter XIII, Subchapter A, 1302.12.

The Head Start Grantee shall not require parents or families of children to participate in wrap-around services in order to be eligible for enrollment in the program.

D. Site Supervisor Qualifications

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

The Head Start Grantee shall have a site supervisor meeting the qualifications set forth in the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers (*N.J.A.C. 3A:52*) and the Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs (*N.J.A.C. 6A:13A*) and the Head Start Program Performance Standards (2024)-45 CFR Chapter XIII, Subchapter B, 1301-1305) for each center.

1. The site supervisor shall be a position responsible for the daily site operations of the center, will be equivalent to a full-time position, and will be on-site at the Head Start site unless his/her presence is required at a District, Head Start, DOE, DCF, or program related function or is using paid time off. Request to attend required off-site District, Head Start, DOE or DCF functions should be made in advance to the Head Start director or designee to ensure the orderly function and proper ratios and coverage are in place.
2. The site supervisor shall not serve in any other position including, but not limited to instructional staff members or family worker, during the same hours as he/she is serving in the capacity of center director.
3. If the site supervisor is required to be off-site, he/she shall assign an on-site designee, pursuant to the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers, *N.J.A.C. 3A:52*. The designee shall not be a District-funded classroom teacher or teacher assistant.

E. Staff Qualifications

The Head Start Grantee's staff shall have the following qualifications:

1. All appropriately certified teachers shall hold a bachelor's degree and, at a minimum, a Certificate of Eligibility or Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing for Preschool through Grade Three certification or other equivalent preschool certification, as set forth in *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B*.
2. The Head Start Grantee shall require that all appropriately qualified teacher assistants, both new hires and existing staff, must have a minimum of a high school diploma and Child Development Associate (CDA) or acquire a CDA within the first two years of employment. (Head Start Program Performance Standards, 45 CFR §1302.91 (e)(3)).
3. The Head Start Grantee shall notify the District in writing, no later than five (5) business days, but preferably within one (1) business day, of any termination of

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

employment of teachers or teacher assistants serving children in preschool classrooms and the employment of new personnel takes place.

4. In Districts approved to participate in the Limited Certificate of Eligibility/Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing Pilot Program, the Head Start Grantee shall be considered a part of the District's plan for participating teachers.

F. Staffing Standards

All staff employed by the Head Start Grantee, regardless of the source of funding, or assigned site, will report to the Head Start Grantee's assigned supervisors, and will be responsible for compliance with the Head Start Grantee's Policies and Procedures, and operational processes and guidelines.

The Head Start Grantee shall comply with the following staffing standards for the minimum of six (6) hour comprehensive educational program:

1. Class Size

Contracted class size shall not be greater than fifteen (15) children with one certified teacher and one appropriately qualified teacher assistant, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-4.3*. This ratio should be in place for the six (6)-hour day as described below.

2. Line of Sight

The teacher and/or teacher assistant must maintain a line of sight of the children during the six (6) hour comprehensive educational program day.

3. Teacher Absences

A substitute teacher and/or substitute teacher assistant shall be present and working in the Head Start classroom for each day that a teacher and/or teacher assistant is absent, whether due to illness, required training, or approved personal leave. A substitute teacher shall, at a minimum, hold a substitute credential and meet Head Start Performance Standards. A vacant teaching position shall not be filled by an individual holding only a substitute credential for longer than 20 school days, *N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1(a)*. The Commissioner may grant an extension of up to an additional 20 school days upon written application from the District demonstrating its inability to hire an appropriately

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

certified teacher for the vacant position within the original 20-day time limit. The qualification for a substitute teacher assistant shall, at a minimum, meet the requirements of the Head Start Performance Standards. The District shall share its current substitute list with the Grantee. The District shall work with the Grantee in acquiring substitute certification for qualified staff.

4. District staff will not actively recruit staff from the Head Start program. Districts will agree to fund Head Start programs at a level allowing for pay parity between the two programs.

G. Family Workers

1. The Head Start Grantee shall have one (1) full time family worker in place for a caseload of 40. Any caseload above 40 may apply for a waiver from the Office of Head Start for children being served by the Head Start Grantee, as required by the Head Start Program Performance Standards 45 CFR 1302.52 (d)(2)(i), who shall, as directed by the Head Start Grantee's assigned Supervisor:

- a. Collaborate with the school District staff to ensure that activities for family involvement and social services occur. District will invite Head Start families to participate in their parent involvement activities.
- b. Coordinate participation in health and social services designated by the District to serve the needs of the children and their families and the District will share related data as requested by the Head Start Program on a quarterly basis.
- c. Provide all contract-mandated data to the District to ensure confidentiality.
- d. Report to the Head Start site supervisor and collaborate with appropriate District social services staff.
- e. Complete, at a minimum, three (3) visits with each family in each school year.
- f. Not serve as teacher, secretary, substitute, or in any other capacity during the same hours as they are serving as the family worker.

2. To maintain confidentiality, although not required to have a private office, the Family Worker(s) must have free access to a private space and a program-provided telephone to conduct their duties.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

H. Criminal History Background Checks

The Head Start Grantee, pursuant to the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers, *N.J.A.C. 3A:52-1.1 et seq.*, and the Head Start Program Performance Standards (2024)-45 CFR Chapter XIII, Subchapter B, Part 1302.90(b), must establish written personnel policies and procedures approved by the governing body and available to all staff, and will ensure that a preemployment Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) fingerprint background check, interview, reference verification and sex offender registry check is completed for all staff members at least 18 years of age who are or will be working at the center on a regularly scheduled basis, including transportation staff and contractors, to determine whether any such person has been convicted of a crime, as specified in P.L. 2000, c. 77 and that said check indicates that no criminal history record information exists on file in either the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the State Bureau of Identification, or tribal criminal history records which would disqualify said employee from employment pursuant to law or that the check reveals a disqualifying offense and the individual has demonstrated rehabilitation as determined by the Department of Children and Families.

Pursuant to **45 CFR §1302.90(b)**, before a person is hired, a program must conduct an interview, verify references, conduct a sex offender registry check and obtain one of the following:

1. State or tribal criminal history records, including fingerprint checks; or,
2. Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history records, including fingerprint checks.

A program has **90 days** after an employee is hired to complete the background check process by obtaining:

1. Whichever check listed above was not obtained prior to the date of hire; and,
2. Child abuse and neglect state registry check, if available.

A program must review the information found in each employment application and completed background check to assess the relevancy of any issue uncovered by the completed background check including any arrest, pending criminal charge, or conviction and must use Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) disqualification factors described in **42 U.S.C. 9858f(c)(1)(D)** and **42 U.S.C. 9858f(h)(1)** or tribal disqualifications factors to determine whether the prospective employee can be hired or the current employee must be terminated.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

1. When a new staff member begins working at the center, the Head Start Grantee shall ensure that the new staff member completes the CHRI fingerprinting process.
2. Until the center receives the results of the CHRI background check from DCF for a new staff member, the center shall ensure that a current staff member is present whenever the new staff member is caring for children at the center.
3. The Head Start Grantee director or human resource director shall certify to the District that all procedures are followed for the center and each qualifying staff member as established by DCF pursuant to the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers, *N.J.A.C. 3A:52-1.1 et seq.*
4. If it is discovered during the Agreement that either a) an employee with disqualifying CHRI on file that has not demonstrated rehabilitation, as determined by DCF, or b) an employee who has not had a CHRI background check is working at a school location, said employee shall be immediately removed by the Head Start Grantee.
5. Failure by the Head Start Grantee to comply with DCF regulations regarding CHRI background check procedures and/or failure to remove said staff member immediately either upon notification by the District or discovery by the Head Start Grantee shall be deemed a breach of this Agreement by the Head Start Grantee and shall be a basis for non-renewal pursuant to Section X or termination pursuant to Section XI of this Agreement.
6. The Head Start Grantee must comply with all requirements of the Head Start Performance Standards (2024), 45 CFR Section 1302.90(b), background checks and selection procedures, and obtain a State criminal history records check, and a check of the Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history records, including fingerprints, for all direct or contracted staff and consultants of the Head Start Grantee, including employees of the District that are provided access to children enrolled in the program. In accordance with Child Abuse Record Information Background Check Procedures, 3A:52-4.10, the Head Start Grantee must ensure that any Head Start Grantee or District newly hired employees or consultant does not have unsupervised access to children until the entire background check process is complete.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

7. The Head Start Grantee must also ensure that any Head Start Grantee or District employee, consultant, or contractor with access to children enrolled in the program must have the entire background check completed at least once every five years. (45CFR 1302.90(b)(5). The District and or its contractors will cooperate with this regulation.
8. When a person who is not required to complete a CHRI background check is working with children at the center, the center shall ensure oversight of that person by another staff member and ensure that person is not left alone to supervise a child or group of children. *N.J.A.C. 3A:52-4.10; N.J.A.C. 3A:52-4.11.*

I. Child Abuse Record Information Checks

The Head Start Grantee, pursuant to the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers, *N.J.A.C. 3A:52*, shall obtain from all staff members who are or will be working at the center on a regularly scheduled basis, written consent for DCF to conduct a Child Abuse Record Information (CARI) background check to determine whether an incident of child abuse and/or neglect has been substantiated against any such person.

1. Within two weeks after a new staff member begins working at the center, the Head Start Grantee shall submit to the DCF Office of Licensing a completed CARI consent form for the new staff member.
2. Until the results of the CARI background check of a new staff member have been received from DCF, the Head Start Grantee shall ensure that a current staff member is present whenever the new staff member is in the presence of children.
3. The Head Start Grantee director or human resource director shall certify to the District that all procedures in relation to CARI checks are followed for the center and each qualifying staff member as established by DCF pursuant to the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers, *N.J.A.C. 3A:52*.
4. If it is discovered during the course of this Agreement that a CARI background check reveals that an incident of child abuse and/or neglect has been substantiated against a staff member, said staff member shall be immediately removed by the Head Start Grantee.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

5. Failure by the Head Start Grantee to comply with DCF regulations regarding CARI background check procedures and/or failure to remove said staff member immediately either upon notification by the District or discovery by the Head Start Grantee shall be deemed a breach of this Agreement by the Head Start Grantee and shall be a basis for non-renewal pursuant to Section X or termination pursuant to Section XI of this Agreement.
6. The Head Start Grantee must conduct the complete background checks for each employee, consultant, or contractor at least once every five years which must include each of the checks listed in paragraphs H and I of Section III of this Agreement. (45 CFR §1302.90(b)(4). The District and/or its contractors will cooperate with this regulation, which will include a sex offender search. (45 CFR §1302.90(b)(1).
7. When a person who is not required to complete a CARI background check is working with children at the center, the center shall ensure oversight of that person by another staff member and ensure that person is not left alone to supervise a child or group of children. *N.J.A.C. 3A:52-4.10; N.J.A.C. 3A:52-4.11.*
8. As of June 1, 2018, *P.L. 2018, c.5* requires that all school district, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and contracted services providers make certain inquiries regarding child abuse and sexual misconduct of prospective employees who will have regular contact with students. Consistent with the statute, the Department of Education has developed employment forms that hiring entities may use to complete the required employment history review. If a hiring entity chooses not to use the forms provided below, the hiring entity is still required to comply with the terms of the statute. Please note that this employment review is separate from the criminal history review requirements. The resources below include two forms and a list of frequently asked questions regarding the implementation of *P.L. 2018, c.5*:
 - Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Disclosure Release
 - Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Disclosure Information Request (follow-up form)
 - The Provider shall follow the guidelines under P.L 2018, C.5, Colloquially referred to as the “Pass the Trash” law of 2018.

J. Nondiscrimination

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

The Head Start Grantee shall be fully responsible for the recruitment and hiring of staff necessary to perform this Agreement. The Head Start Grantee shall operate in conformity with the provisions of all federal and state anti-discrimination statutes and directives, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 *et seq.*, and is committed to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1201 *et seq.*

1. The Head Start Grantee certifies that it is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not discriminate in the recruitment, selection, hiring, promotion or demotion of staff or the selection of services provided to children on the basis of or against any person because of race, creed, religion, color, national origin/nationality, ancestry, age, sex/gender (including pregnancy), marital status/civil union partnership, familial status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, domestic partnership status, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, genetic information, disability, (including perceived disability, physical, mental, and/or intellectual disabilities), or liability for service in the Armed Forces of the United States.
2. The Head Start Grantee agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Head Start Grantee setting forth the above provisions of the above nondiscrimination clause.
3. The Head Start Grantee certifies that it has an Affirmative Action Program and except with respect to affectional or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, the Head Start Grantee will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship.
4. The Head Start Grantee agrees to make good faith efforts to meet targeted county employment goals established in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2*. The Head Start Grantee must first consider current and former program parents for employment vacancies for which parents apply and are qualified. 45 CFR §1302.90 (b)(6).

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

5. The Head Start Grantee agrees to inform in writing to its appropriate recruitment agencies including, but not limited to, employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, and labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.
6. The Head Start Grantee agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing, as established by the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable federal law and applicable federal court decisions.
7. In conforming with the targeted employment goals, the Head Start Grantee agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable federal law and applicable federal court decisions.
8. Head Start Grantees must also adhere to the State of New Jersey contracting requirements for affirmative action and affirmative action supplements. Forms can be accessed at the [NJ Treasury Division of Purchase and Property webpage](#).

K. Confidentiality of Pupil Records

The Head Start Grantees shall keep all pupil records in strictest confidence. During the term of this Agreement and at all times thereafter, the Head Start programs shall not publish, disclose or use pupil records without prior written consent of the parent or as otherwise provided by law in strict accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19*, *N.J.A.C. 3A:52-1.1 et seq.*, *N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1 et seq.*, and the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g.

L. Attendance Records

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

The Head Start Grantee shall collect and report daily attendance information on each enrolled child in the following manner:

1. The Provider shall use the District school management data system for attendance or follow a district approved process.
2. Attendance should be reported to the District daily.
3. Head Start Grantees must track attendance for each child. A program must implement a process to ensure children are safe when they do not arrive at school. If a child is unexpectedly absent and a parent has not contacted the program within one hour of the program start time, the program must attempt to contact the parent to ensure the child's well-being. (45 CFR §1302.16).
4. A program must implement strategies to promote attendance. At a minimum, a program must:
 - a. Provide information about the benefits of regular attendance;
 - b. Support families to promote the child's regular attendance;
 - c. Conduct a home visit or make other direct contact with a child's parents if a child has multiple unexplained absences (such as two consecutive unexplained absences); and
 - d. Within the first 60 days of program operation, and on an ongoing basis, thereafter, use individual child attendance data to identify children with patterns of absence that put them at risk of missing ten percent of program days per year and develop appropriate strategies to improve individual attendance among identified children, such as direct contact with parents or intensive case management, as necessary.
 - e. Examine barriers to regular attendance, such as access to safe and reliable transportation, and where possible, provide or facilitate transportation for the child if needed.
5. If a child ceases to attend, the program must make appropriate efforts to reengage the family to resume attendance. If the child's attendance does not resume, then the program must consider that slot vacant. Programs have 30 days to fill any Head Start vacancy.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

6. The Head Start program will make a concerted attempt to get the child to come to school. If these attempts fail and the child is absent without an excuse for ten consecutive days of school, Head Start program may un-enroll the child and may fill the slot with another child.
7. Daily attendance reports shall be provided to the District and the Head Start Regional Office on a monthly basis. The District will be responsible for entering the attendance data into their data system. If the District requires entry of data into the system, additional compensation shall be provided to the contracted Head Start Provider.
8. Except as authorized or required by the Zero Tolerance for Guns Act, *N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.* and *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-4.4(g)*, preschool children shall not be expelled or suspended, which includes sending children home early or excluding children for any reason other than medical such as injury or illness. Positive behavior support through the *Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competencies* shall be employed to reduce or eliminate challenging behaviors.

M. Financial Management System

The Head Start Grantee shall implement sound fiscal practices that include, but are not limited to:

1. Adherence to Treasury Circular 25-12-OMB, requiring recipients of State aid funds to have an annual single audit, an annual financial statement audit or a program-specific audit, based on the State aid funds received. A program specific audit can be elected when a recipient's State financial assistance is under only one State program, i.e., Preschool Education Aid.
 - i. Recipients that expend \$1,000,000 or more in State financial assistance within their fiscal year must require these recipients to have annual single audits or program specific audits.
 - ii. Recipients that expend less than \$1,000,000 in State financial assistance within their fiscal year but expend \$350,000 or more in State financial assistance within their fiscal year, must require these recipients to have either a financial statement audit performed or a program-specific audit.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

2. Maintaining a financial management system that provides timely, accurate, current and complete disclosure of all financial activities related to the Agreement, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
3. Making expenditures in strict accordance with the DOE's 2026-2027 Head Start Grantee Budget and Expenditure Guidance and the annual Head Start approved budget.
4. Maintaining an accounting system that segregates all financial activities related to the Agreement separate from other funding sources.
5. Maintaining a general ledger and account reconciliation of all financial activities related to the Agreement.
6. Making modifications to the approved budget, when appropriate, based on reasonable and customary costs and verifiable documentation.
7. Amending the approved budget, when appropriate, with approval by the District.
8. Timely completion of all financial requirements and timely electronic submission of all financial reports described in Section VII of this Agreement.

IV. District and Head Start Grantee Coordination, Cooperation

- A. Districts will partner with the individual Head Start Grantees to develop a written enrollment plan. The plan shall include components clarifying roles and responsibilities for the following:
 1. Recruitment and Outreach
 - a. Including who is eligible for Head Start
 - i. Age
 - ii. Income eligibility
 - iii. Homeless
 - iv. Foster Care
 - v. Children with disability
 - vi. Over income as designated by Head Start Grantees Selection Criteria
 - vii. SNAP

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

viii. Housing Cost Adjustment (45 CFR §1302.12(i))

b. Sharing of children on the District's waiting list and Grantee's waiting list

2. Enrollment and Registration

- a. Identifying location of eligible population within their catchment (service) area of the Head Start Grantee and the District
- b. To ease parents' enrollment in the Head Start State funded preschool program, parents will complete the enrollment and registration process only once- through the Head Start agency - and all needed paperwork to be given to the District to process.
- c. Process for verifying and enrolling of children by Head Start Grantee shall be in accordance with Head Start Program Performance Standards 45CFR §1302.12, §1302.14, and §1302.15.
- d. The process should avoid duplication of paperwork and data entry.

The plan/MOU must be signed by both parties and submitted to the Division of Early Childhood Services by April 1, prior to the next school year. The plan should be updated annually.

- B. The Head Start Grantee and the District shall ensure that the high-quality elements required by the *New Jersey Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines* and the Head Start Program Performance Standards, 45 CFR §§1301-1305 are met.
- C. The District at a minimum, shall ensure that a Preschool Instructional Coach and a Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist is available for every twenty (20) preschool classrooms to provide coaching and classroom support for classroom teachers under the supervision of the Education Supervisors/Coordinators, in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-4.2*, and 4.4 and the Head Start Program Performance Standards, 45 CFR §§1301-1305. Preschool Instructional Coaches and Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialists will also address special needs including, but not limited to, providing additional assistance to inexperienced teachers and professional development that supports preschool English language learners and preschool children in inclusive classroom settings. The Head Start Grantee agrees to provide coaching and professional development services in consultation with the Preschool Instructional Coaches and the Head Start Grantee Education Supervisors/Coordinators. The District, with the center Site Supervisor and the teaching staff, shall develop an individualized professional development plan that describes the role and activities of the Preschool Instructional Coach for the school year. The District shall notify the Head Start Grantee of any

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

staffing changes in Preschool Instructional Coach and Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist positions and assignments within thirty (30) days.

- D. The District shall make available to the Head Start program appropriate in-service training and systematic professional development activities.
- E. The Head Start Grantee shall develop and implement an annual Head Start approved Training and Technical Assistance Plan for all Head Start Grantee staff and will share the plan annually with the District. The plan may include professional development experiences offered by the District for the preschool teaching staff in addition to Head Start mandated professional development. The District shall include the Head Start's teachers in all professional development experiences offered by the District for the preschool staff, including teachers, assistant teachers, family workers, and any additional positions funded by Preschool Expansion Aid. The Head Start Grantee's teachers must attend a minimum of **{insert number}** professional development in-service/trainings/workshops offered by the District.
- F. Head Start Grantee can submit documents of their teachers' professional experiences to the District when the mandated in-service/workshop are the same in content.
- G. The District shall verify through an affidavit the credentials and progress toward obtaining the appropriate certification or credentials, where applicable, of all preschool teaching staff in a Head Start Grantee and shall verify that all required background and criminal checks on all employees have-been conducted.
- H. The Head Start Grantee shall ensure that no District employee or consultant has unsupervised access to children until the complete background check process is complete in accordance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards, 45 CFR §1302.90.
- I. The District is responsible for ensuring that each preschool child is screened at school entry using a developmentally based early childhood screening assessment approved by the DOE. The Head Start Grantee is responsible for providing the developmentally based screening within 45 calendar days as noted in the Head Start Program Performance Standards, 45 CFR §§1302.33.
- J. Eligibility for contract renewal is based on each contracting Head Start Grantee classroom maintaining a minimum reliable score of **{all Districts must insert a (four point five) 4.5 unless discussion with their DOE liaison results in a different score entry}** on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition (ECERS-3).

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

The ECERS-3 must be administered by the District by an individual who is deemed reliable by the tool developer in each classroom no less than once every three (3) years. The Head Start program may elect to have its Education Manager or designee score along with the District's designee.

- K. The Head Start Grantee shall allow District or DOE designee necessary access to conduct needs assessments and data collection.
- L. The District shall provide financial management assistance to the Head Start Grantee in the development and monitoring of the Head Start Grantee's annual preschool budget and implementation of the preschool program.
- M. The District shall provide a copy of its work schedule to the Head Start administrative staff to ensure that the work schedule established for the teaching staff in the contracted preschool classrooms is comparable to the work schedule provided by the District for both teaching staff contract hours and teaching staff student contact hours and is made available to all affected teaching staff.
- N. The District and Head Start Grantee shall collaboratively develop the plan for transition of enrolled children to kindergarten through grade three and shall regularly collaborate on School Readiness Goals.
- O. The Head Start Grantee shall submit a copy of their lease agreement or any written agreement for space, rent, or mortgage to the District for the school year, in every instance when the Head Start Grantee is bound by such an agreement.
- P. The Head Start Grantee shall notify the District, consistent with *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-7.1(c)* and the Head Start Program Performance Standards (2024) 45 CFR Chapter XIII, Subchapter B, 1301-1305 and Licensing Standards, prior to any change affecting physical space or location of classrooms. The District has 30 calendar days to respond to the request.
- Q. McKinney-Vento applies to homeless children and youths, which includes children attending preschool programs. The District and Head Start Grantee shall collaborate and coordinate to ensure that children experiencing homelessness are immediately enrolled, participate in educational programming, and have access to high quality early childhood programs.
 - 1. School Districts that offer a public preschool education program must ensure that children experiencing homelessness have the same access to

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

that education as is provided to non-homeless children (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(4)).

2. McKinney-Vento requires state and local educational agencies (LEAs) to remove barriers to school enrollment (42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(I)).
 3. Districts must ensure the immediate enrollment of children experiencing homelessness, even if they lack documents normally required, including birth certificates, health records, and proof of residency. Immediate enrollment is one of the core protections of the Act (42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(C)).
 4. Ongoing communication, collaboration, and coordination between Head Start programs and Districts, including teachers, social workers, McKinney-Vento regional coordinators/district homeless liaisons, and health staff members are vital in order to increase the enrollment of children and the provision of services to them and their families.
 5. In accordance with McKinney-Vento and New Jersey Administrative Code (*N.J.A.C.* 6A:17-2.3, *N.J.A.C.* 6A:27-6.2), Districts must provide transportation to ensure children experiencing homelessness have access to their educational day.
 6. School Districts that transport non-homeless children also must provide comparable transportation services for children experiencing homelessness (42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(4)(A)). In addition, transportation to the school of origin must be provided when requested by a parent or guardian (42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)). Districts must continue to provide transportation to and from the school of origin to formerly homeless students who become permanently housed for the remainder of the academic year during which the child becomes permanently housed (42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(3)(A)(i)(II)). All transportation must be arranged promptly to ensure immediate enrollment and so as not to create barriers to homeless students' attendance, retention, and success (see 42 U.S.C § 11431(2) and 11432(g)(1)(I)).
- R. The District will require that all Head Start teachers fulfill their school year and will not allow staff to move from Head Start classes to the District any time during the school year once classes have started. Their employment agreement with Head Start will be honored.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

- S. The District, in the spirit of partnership, will not actively recruit teaching staff or supervisors from the Head Start program.
- T. The Head Start Grantee must notify the district within 24 hours of any on-site injuries or institutional abuse allegations within the district-funded classrooms. At a minimum, reporting should include: 1) the occurrence of an injury or illness while under the Head Start Grantee's supervision that results in a child visiting the emergency room; 2) the occurrence of an injury or illness while under the Head Start Grantee's supervision that results in a child's admittance to the hospital; 3) the death of a child while under the Head Start Grantee's supervision; or 4) the occurrence of an injury or illness that results in a call to 911, on-site medical or transported emergency care, or urgent care.

V. Monitoring and Program Performance

- A. The District and the DOE are responsible for monitoring the Head Start Grantee on a regular basis to ensure that the Head Start Grantee is delivering a quality program. The Head Start Grantee shall provide the District and the DOE access to its site and program records for purposes of monitoring and ensuring that the Head Start Grantee is complying with all aspects of this Agreement.
- B. The Head Start Grantee shall inform the District in writing of all conditions that may negatively affect or are negatively affecting the performance of services as soon as they are known. The disclosure shall be accompanied by a statement of the action taken or contemplated by the Head Start Grantee to correct the problems and when corrective action will be taken.
- C. The District may, at any reasonable time, make site visits to inspect the program, facility, books, records and equipment relating to the provision of the early childhood education services, review program accomplishments and management and financial control systems, as well as interview any officials and/or employees whose work involves the performance of this Agreement or compliance with its terms.
- D. The District must conduct on-site monitoring annually in each contract year to assess compliance and shall ensure that the Head Start Grantee is complying with the requirements of this Agreement.
- E. The District and the Head Start education staff members shall assess classroom quality and create action plans for teaching staff using the following steps:

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

1. The District and Head Start shall score program quality on a graduated scale in all preschool classrooms based on results of the ECERS-3 as referenced in Section IV, Subsection (J) of this Agreement.
2. An action plan shall be developed and implemented by the District and Head Start Grantee if any classroom falls below the minimum acceptable ECERS-3 score referenced in Section IV, Subsection (J) of this Agreement. Development of the action plan shall involve the participation of the District and the Head Start Grantee in joint discussions to determine the classroom quality improvements that are necessary based upon the results of the observation instrument and establishment of a timeframe for making the required changes. The Preschool Instructional Coach and the Education Supervisor/Coordinator shall provide technical assistance to the classroom teacher based upon the action plan.
3. If the District deems that improvements have not been made according to the established plan and schedule, the District or Head Start Grantee may request that the classroom or program be evaluated by a reliable independent observer approved by the DOE. If the reliable independent observer verifies that the action plan is not being satisfied, the plan will be reviewed with the Head Start Grantee Program Director to determine further corrective action necessary. This will be reviewed within six (6) months to determine if the corrective action has been rectified. Once these steps have been completed, if an agreeable course of action cannot be determined, the District or the Head Start Grantee may choose not to renew the preschool program contract pursuant to the provisions for non-renewal pursuant to Section X or termination pursuant to Section XI of this Agreement.

VI. Records, Maintenance and Retention of Records

- A. Any and all records concerning the operation of the program shall be retained in accordance with the School District Records Retention Schedule (attached to this Agreement as Attachment A and incorporated herein). Such records shall be made available to the representative of the District and the DOE upon request. Such records shall also be available to the public to the same extent that the District records are available for public inspection.
- B. Where not otherwise specified in the School District Records Retention Schedule, the retention period starts on July 1 for records created by or filed with the Head Start Grantee during the prior school year.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

- C. If Head Start Grantee intends to destroy any records no longer necessary to maintain under the School District Records Retention Schedule, Head Start must consult and seek written approval from the District, prior to any destruction of records. Otherwise, the Head Start Grantee shall transfer those records to the District.
- D. The Head Start Grantee shall cause all subcontractors to comply with the terms of this Section.
- E. The Head Start Grantee shall maintain and have available for audit and/or inspection all books and records that may be requested by the District, DOE and/or DCF. A copy of said documents shall be provided to the District, the DOE and/or DCF upon request.
- F. The Head Start Grantee shall submit to the District, in a timely manner, monthly student enrollment and attendance reports, and such other reports or data as may be required by this Agreement, statute(s) or regulation(s). The District and DOE shall provide reasonable notice of audits and/or inspections.
- G. The Head Start Grantee shall provide, in a timely manner, copies of all work papers produced in connection with audits made by the Head Start Grantee to the District and the DOE, upon written request.

VII. Compensation

- A. The number of children for which the Head Start Grantee will be compensated is **{insert number of contract slots}** for the 2026-2027 school year. The District shall pay monthly to the Head Start Grantee one-eleventh (1/11) of the Head Start Grantee's approved 2026-2027 budget planning document with the first payment to be issued by the District in August, subject to revisions pursuant to section VII (C), (D), (G), & (H). The District-approved 2026-2027 budget planning document is attached as Attachment B, which reflects the full per-pupil payment amount to the Head Start Grantee for the contracted number of slots, commensurate with the county rate specified in 2026-2027 Preschool Expansion Aid Notification of Funding Opportunity. No deductions shall be taken from the per-pupil rate which blends federal and state dollars to fully fund Head Start programs in accordance with increased support provided by Head Start programs to qualified families.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

- B. From November through June, in the event the average monthly enrollment is greater than or equal to 90% of the number of contract slots in A above, then the amount due the following month under the contract shall equal the monthly amount as described in A above.
- C. From November through June, in the event the average monthly enrollment is less than 90% of the number of contract slots, the amount due the following month under the contract shall equal the monthly amount multiplied by the average monthly enrollment, divided by the number of contract slots.
- D. For the month of November, the amount due under the contract shall not be subject to adjustment due to September or October enrollment for each contracted classroom that is open to receive children by September 1.
- E. The Head Start Grantee shall collect and report daily attendance information on each enrolled child in the manner set forth in Section III (L).
- F. The collection of attendance information should be used for operational and reporting purposes only.
- G. The District shall make (11) monthly payments to the Head Start Grantee in the sum of one-eleventh (1/11) of the revenues provided under the Head Start Grantee's District-approved 2026-2027 budget planning document as set forth in A above.
- H. Except for August, September 1, and October 15, payments shall be made each month following receipt and verification of the Head Start Grantee's enrollment for the previous month. The enrollment report is to be submitted to the District on the last business day of each month. Monthly payments will not be made until the enrollment report is received and reviewed by the District. The District will review the enrollment report within one week of receiving the report. In addition, the final payment, based on the Head Start Grantee's enrollment reports for May and June and Quarterly Expenditure Reports including receipts and supporting documentation, pursuant to I below, shall be issued within six (6) weeks after receipt by the District of the Head Start Grantee's quarterly expenditure reports and supporting documentation.
- I. The Head Start Grantee agrees to submit to the District a Quarterly Expenditure Report, as defined in Section II (A)(5), of actual, approvable, reasonable and customary expenditures signed and certified by the Head Start director and officer of the corporation (if the site supervisor is not an officer), if incorporated, and

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

understands that the District will recoup any unexpended or misspent funds based on the Quarterly Expenditure Reports, enrollment records and monthly payments made by the District. Based on its review of the Quarterly Expenditure Report, the District shall make prorated adjustments to subsequent monthly payments.

1.If the provision for receipt and verification of the Head Start Grantee's enrollment as described in H above are met, monthly payments shall be released within five (5) business days of the District's School Board of Education's monthly meeting following receipt and verification of the Head Start Grantee's enrollment for the previous month made in August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April and May. Note that the August, September, and October payments are based on projected enrollments. One final payment shall be issued within six (6) weeks after receipt by the District of the Provider's quarterly expenditure reports and supporting documentation.

2. Quarterly expenditure reports (for quarters ending September 30, December 31, March 31, and June 30) shall be submitted to the District no later than: thirty days (30) days of the closing of each quarter with exception of the final quarter (June 30). In the case of the final quarter, the final report must be submitted within two weeks from June 30. If the Head Start Grantee fails to submit the Quarterly Expenditure Report within the required timeframe, the Head Start Grantee shall have ten (10) calendar days to cure its failure to provide said reports. If the Head Start Grantee fails to submit a Quarterly Expenditure Report on, or before, the tenth calendar day following the end of the month, the District may withhold the monthly payment under this Agreement and any future payments that become due until such time as the Head Start Grantee submits the overdue Quarterly Expenditure Report to the District.

3. The Head Start Grantee will appropriately expend funds to meet the Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs, *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A* for each category of goods and services in their District-approved 2026-2027 budget planning document, including, but not limited to, instructional staff positions, materials, supplies, and technology. Materials, supplies, and technology purchases must also meet the criteria set forth in the District's comprehensive preschool curriculum.

4. The District may make a monthly payment adjustment at any time during the contract period to reimburse the Head Start Grantee for large

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

expenditures related to approved budget items including, but not limited to, playground equipment.

5. Districts may not withhold or reduce funding at any time during the contract period without meeting with Head Start Grantee. Any funds withheld during the contract period, and any associated meetings with the Provider, must be documented. If the issue of payment is not resolved locally, an appeal may be made to the Commissioner pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes*.

VIII. Availability of Funds

The parties recognize that payments by the District to the Head Start Grantee under this Agreement are expressly dependent upon, and subject to the availability to the District of state funds. The Head Start Grantee is aware that the District's receipt of state funds is expressly conditional upon allocation, review and approval by the DOE.

In accordance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards, 45 CFR §§1301-1305 and Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 34 CFR Part 75, the parties may not, under any circumstances, allow or use the Head Start funding to cover expenses incurred to benefit the District contracted portion of the Head Start Grantee's program.

When the cost of living is increased per child to the District through Preschool Aid funding, the Head Start program will be given the same amount as part of their funding. The District may not withhold the cost of living increase from the Head Start program or use it for other program needs.

If the District charges Head Start any administrative fee, such administrative fee may not be more than 1% of the funding, recognizing that Head Start is already reducing its costs to the District to run the program. Districts must provide a thorough and detailed explanation of their withheld administrative costs within their budget narrative.

IX. Term of Agreement

The term of this Agreement shall be July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. Please note, pursuant to recently enacted legislation, both N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42 have been amended to allow for the existing Preschool Contract to be extended up to three years.

X. Renewal or Non-Renewal of a Preschool Program Contract

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

The District Board of Education, DOE and Head Start Grantee shall use the following processes for renewal or non-renewal of the Head Start Grantee preschool program contract:

A. For all Head Start Grantee contract renewals:

1. The District shall notify any Head Start Grantee in writing, on or before May 1 of each contract year, of its intent to renew the preschool program contract for an additional one-year term.
2. The Head Start Grantee shall notify the District in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of a renewal notice from the District of its acceptance or rejection of the offer to renew the Agreement for one year.

B. For all Head Start Grantee contract non-renewals:

1. The District shall notify the Head Start Grantee, the DOE, Division of Early Childhood Services, and DCF, in writing, with a full explanation on or before May 1 of any contract year of the intent to not renew any Head Start Grantee's preschool program contract for an additional one-year term and/or an intention to reduce slots. The notification shall include the reason(s) for non-renewal or slot reduction, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Fiscal mismanagement: The District must provide documentation verifying evidence of the Head Start program's fiscal mismanagement as well as documentation that the District attempted to assist the Head Start program to correct fiscal mismanagement issues.
 - b. Poor classroom quality: The District must provide evidence that it first assessed classroom quality and created a classroom quality improvement plan in accordance with Section V of this Agreement, based on ECERs and CLASS Scores with mandatory technical assistance and training provided.
 - c. Available in-District classroom space: For a non-renewal based on available in-District space, the following requirements must be met:
 - i. The new configuration must meet the elements of high quality described in *N.J.A.C. 6A:13A* and educational

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

facilities standards for preschool described in *N.J.A.C.* 6A:26; and

- ii. It must be economically more efficient to serve the preschool children in the District space, after considering all costs associated with providing the preschool program; and
 - iii. The quality of the current in-District preschool program must meet an average ECERS-3 score of at least four point five (4.5).
2. The Head Start Grantee may dispute the non-renewal of the preschool program contract or slot reduction received in writing from the District by notifying the District and the DOE in writing within ten (10) business days of receipt of the notice of non-renewal.
3. The appropriateness of the non-renewal or slot reduction decision will be affirmed or denied by DOE. The non-renewal decision may be appealed to the Commissioner of the DOE (“Commissioner”) pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes.
4. Upon non-renewal the District shall recover, from the Head Start Grantee, monetary value of startup materials limited to playground equipment, non-consumable startup materials, and start up classroom technology based on DOE approved said items. The amount recovered shall be determined by the current market value or depreciated value of said items (as per Federal Depreciation Schedule), whichever is lower.

XI. Termination of a Preschool Program Contract

- A. The District shall have the right to terminate this Agreement immediately upon:
- 1. Notice of revocation of the Head Start Grantee’s license;
 - 2. Head Start Grantee’s breach of any of the following provisions of this Agreement:
 - a. Failure to conduct CHRI background checks as set forth in Section III, Subsection (H) of this Agreement;

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

- b. Failure to conduct CARI checks as set forth in Section III, Subsection (I) of this Agreement; or
 - c. Violation of any federal, state, or local law or regulation regarding the secular nature of programs receiving public funding as set forth in Section III, Subsection (B)(5) of this Agreement.
 - 3. Head Start program's action(s) or inaction(s) that placed children in the program at serious risk of harm.
 - 4. Failure to comply with all applicable requirements established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:13A, et seq.; or
 - 5. Any other reasonable cause within the discretion of the school district and with written approval from the Department.
- B. For any breach of contract, except those that trigger the right to immediate termination defined in Section XI, Subsection (A), the District shall have the right to terminate this Agreement as follows:
- 1. If a Head Start Grantee fails to comply with all terms of this Agreement or applicable Federal, State, or local requirements, the school district shall notify, in writing, the Head Start Grantee and the Department about the deficiency and provide a timeframe for compliance.
 - 2. If the Head Start Grantee fails to submit a corrective action plan demonstrating how they will resolve the deficiency within thirty (30) days and the Head Start program fails to implement the corrective action plan within sixty (60) days, the District may initiate termination of this agreement upon written notice to the Head Start Grantee and the Department. Termination of the contract shall be subject to written approval by the Department to the school district and Head Start Grantee.
- C. The Head Start Grantee shall have the right to appeal to the Commissioner a District's decision to terminate this Agreement pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3*, Controversies and Disputes. The filing of an appeal under *N.J.A.C. 6A:3* shall not prevent the termination from becoming effective on the date specified unless the

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

appealing party seeks and is granted a stay pending a decision by the Commissioner.

D. The District and the Head Start Grantee may terminate this Agreement by mutual agreement, in writing, upon notice to and receipt of written approval from the DOE.

1. In the event of termination under this Section XI, Subsection (D), said termination shall take effect upon the thirtieth day from the date the District and the Head Start Grantee receive written approval from the DOE to terminate this Agreement.

E. Upon termination, the District shall recover monetary value of startup materials limited to playground equipment, non-consumable startup materials, and startup classroom technology based on DOE approval. The amount recovered shall be determined by the current market value or depreciated value of said items (as per Federal Depreciation Schedule), whichever is lower.

F. In the event of non-renewal or termination of this Agreement pursuant to Sections X and XI of this Agreement, by either the District or the Head Start Grantee, the Head Start Grantee shall continue the service until the District has found an appropriate placement for all children unless termination was instigated under the provisions set forth in Section XI, Subsection (A) in which case termination shall be immediate. At no time shall the Head Start Grantee be required to continue the service for more than ninety (90) days beyond the expiration or termination date of the existing Agreement. The Head Start Grantee will be reimbursed for this continued service at the funding level established in Section VII of this Agreement.

XII. Informal Dispute Resolution Process

A. The District and Head Start Grantee shall attempt to resolve any dispute that may arise under this Agreement. If the dispute cannot be resolved locally, an appeal may be made to the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes.

XIII. Subcontracting and Assignment

A. The Head Start Grantee shall not subcontract and/or assign services to be provided pursuant to Section I of this Agreement, without written approval from the District and the Commissioner.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

- B. The Head Start Grantee agrees to make all records of any subcontractor available to the District, the DOE, the DCF and any federal agency whose funds are expended during the course of this Agreement for the purpose of review. All subcontracts entered into by the Head Start Grantee shall include a provision whereby the subcontractor acknowledges its obligation to make all pertinent records available to the District, the DOE, the DCF and any federal agency whose funds are expended in the course of this Agreement.
- C. The subcontractor shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

XIV. Indemnification

- A. The Head Start Grantee shall assume all risk of and responsibility for, and agrees to indemnify, defend and save harmless the State of New Jersey from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, recoveries, judgments and reasonable costs, and expenses in connection therewith on account of the loss of life, property or injury or damages to the person, body or property of any person or persons, whatsoever, which shall arise from or result directly or indirectly from (1) the work, service or materials provided under this Agreement; or (2) any failure to perform the Head Start Grantee's obligations under this Agreement or any improper or deficient performance of the Head Start Grantee's obligations under this Agreement. This indemnification obligation is not limited by, but is in addition to, the insurance obligations contained in this Agreement. Furthermore, the provisions of this indemnification clause shall in no way limit the obligations assumed by the Head Start Grantee under this Agreement, nor shall they be construed to neither relieve the Head Start Grantee from any liability nor preclude the State from taking other actions available to it under any other provision of this Agreement or at law.
- B. The Provider shall assume all risk of and responsibility for, and agrees to indemnify, defend and save harmless the District and its employees from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, recoveries, judgments and costs, and expenses in connection therewith on account of the loss of life, property or injury or damages to the person, body or property of any person or persons, whatsoever, which shall arise from or result directly or indirectly from (1) the work, service or materials provided by the Provider under this Agreement; or (2) any failure to perform the Provider's obligations under this Agreement or any improper or deficient performance of the Provider's obligations under this Agreement. This indemnification obligation is not limited by, but is in addition to, the insurance obligations contained in this Agreement. Furthermore, the provisions of this indemnification clause shall in no way limit the obligations

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

assumed by the Provider under this Agreement, nor shall they be construed to relieve the Provider from any liability nor preclude the District from taking other actions available to it under any other provision of this Agreement or at law.

- C. The Head Start Grantee shall immediately notify the District and the DOE in writing of any action or suit pending or filed or any claim which may result in litigation against the District and/or the State of New Jersey by any person, organization or other entity.

XV. Insurance

- A. The Head Start Grantee shall procure and maintain, at its own expense, until at least two years after the completion of all services performed under this Agreement and any modification hereto, liability insurance for damages imposed by law and assumed under this Agreement, of the kinds and in the amounts hereinafter provided, from insurance companies admitted or approved to do business in the State of New Jersey. The Head Start Grantee expressly understands and agrees that any insurance protection required by this Agreement shall in no way limit the Head Start Grantee's obligations assumed in this Agreement, and shall not be construed to relieve the Head Start Grantee from liability in excess of such coverage, nor shall it preclude the State from taking such other actions as are available to it under any other provisions of this Agreement or otherwise in law.

1. The types and minimum amount of insurance shall be as follows:

a. General Liability Insurance

- i. The minimum limits of liability for this insurance shall be as follows:

(A) Bodily Injury Liability
Each Occurrence: \$1,000,000.00
Aggregate: \$3,000,000.00

(B) Property Damage Liability
Each Occurrence: \$1,000,000.00
Aggregate: \$3,000,000.00

- ii. The above required General Liability Insurance shall name the State of New Jersey as an additional insured. The above required General Liability Insurance shall also name the District as an additional insured. The coverage to be provided under this policy shall include contractual liability coverage. The aggregate limits may be increased by the parties,

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

upon mutual agreement, in order to provide adequate protection to the State and the District.

b. Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance

The Comprehensive Automobile Liability policy shall cover owned, non-owned and hired vehicles and/or buses for the approved transport of children with minimum limits as follows:

- i. Bodily Injury Liability: \$2,000,000.00 each occurrence;
- ii. Property Damage Liability: \$2,000,000.00 each occurrence; and
- iii. The above required Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance shall name the State of New Jersey as an additional insured. The above required Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance shall also name the District as an additional insured. The Head Start Grantee shall equip any vehicle and/or bus used in the transportation of children with "children's seats"

c. Workers' Compensation Insurance

Workers' Compensation Insurance shall be provided in accordance with the requirements of the laws of this State and shall include an endorsement to extend coverage to any state which may be interpreted to have legal jurisdiction.

d. Employer's Liability Insurance

Employer's Liability Insurance with limits not less than:

- i. \$1,000,000 Bodily Injury, each occurrence;
- ii. \$1,000,000 Disease each employee; and
- iii. \$1,000,000 Disease aggregate limit.

e. Employee Fidelity Bond

An Employee Fidelity Bond shall be procured on all employees of the Head Start Grantee insuring against loss from employee's dishonest acts. The Bond shall be in the amount of a percentage of the current year's budget set forth in the schedule below:

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

Total Budget	Minimum Bond Amount
Up to \$100,000.00	20 percent of budget (Minimum \$10,000)
\$100,000.01 to \$250,000	\$20,000 plus 15 percent of all over \$100,000
\$250,000.01 to \$500,000.00	\$42,500 plus 13 percent of all over \$250,000
\$500,000.01 to \$750,000.00	\$75,000 plus 8 percent of all over \$500,000
\$750,000.01 to \$1,000,000.00	\$95,000 plus 4 percent of all over \$750,000
\$1,000,000.01 to \$2,000,000.00	\$105,000 plus 2 percent of all over \$1,000,000
\$2,000,000.01 to \$5,000,000.00	\$125,000 plus 1 percent of all over \$2,000,000
\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000	\$155,000 plus 1/2 percent of all over \$5,000,000
10,000,000.01 and upwards	\$180,000 plus 1/4 percent of all over \$10,000,000

In fixing such minimum bond, round to the nearest \$1,000.

2. The Head Start Grantee shall, prior to the commencement of services required under this Agreement, provide the District with valid Certificates of Insurance as evidence of the Head Start Grantee's insurance coverage in accordance with the foregoing provisions. Such certificates of insurance shall specify that the insurance provided is of the types and is in the amounts required in Subsection A(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) above.
3. Standard exclusions will be allowed provided they are not inconsistent with the requirements set forth in Subsection A(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) above. Allowance of any additional exclusions will be at the discretion of the State. Regardless of the allowance of exclusions or deductions by the State, the Head Start Grantee shall be responsible for the deductible limit of the policy and all exclusions consistent with the risks the Head Start Grantee assumes under this Agreement and as imposed by law.
4. The Certificates shall provide for thirty (30) days' notice in writing to the District prior to any cancellation, expiration, or non-renewal during the term the insurance is required in accordance with this Agreement. The Head Start

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

Grantee shall also, upon request, provide the DOE with valid Certificates of Insurance and copies of each policy required under this Agreement certified by the agent or underwriter to be true copies of the policies provided to the Head Start Grantee.

In the event that the Head Start Grantee provides evidence of insurance in the form of certificates of insurance valid for a period of time less than the period during which the Head Start Grantee is required by the terms of this Agreement to maintain insurance, said certificates shall be acceptable, but the Head Start Grantee shall be obligated to renew its insurance policies as necessary and to provide new certificates of insurance from time to time, so that the District is continuously in possession of evidence of the Head Start Grantee's insurance in accordance with the foregoing provisions.

5. In the event the Head Start Grantee fails or refuses to renew any of its insurance policies, or any policy is canceled, terminated, or modified so that the insurance does not meet the requirements of this Agreement, the District may refuse to make payment of any further monies due under this Agreement until such time as the Head Start Grantee reinstates the insurance, consistent with the requirements of this Agreement. Upon reinstatement, the District will promptly pay the Head Start Grantee all money withheld in accordance with this provision. If the Head Start Grantee does not reinstate the insurance within thirty (30) days of notice by the District of the insurance lapse, the District may, upon approval of the Commissioner, terminate this Agreement.
6. The Head Start Grantee shall immediately notify the District and the DOE in writing of any action or suit pending or filed or any claim which may result in litigation against the District and/or the State of New Jersey by any person, organization or other entity.

XVI. Notices

Any notices required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given to the party to whom intended if a) delivered by registered and certified mail, return receipt requested or b) delivered by hand. Until changed by notice in the manner specified above, the addresses of the parties to this Agreement shall be:

For the District:

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

District Contact Name, Title and Address

With a copy to:

General Counsel Name and Address

For the Head Start Grantee:

Head Start Grantee Contact Name, Title and Address

XVII. Anti-Collusion

The Head Start Grantee warrants and represents that this Agreement has not been solicited, secured or procured directly or indirectly in a manner contrary to the laws of the State of New Jersey and that the federal, state and local laws and regulations have not been violated and shall not be violated as they relate to the procurement or the performance of the Agreement by any conduct, including the paying or giving of any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity or consideration of any kind, directly or indirectly, to any State or District employee, officer or official.

XVIII. Subrecipient

The relationship of the Head Start Grantee to the District is that a subrecipient of the District. The State gives Preschool Education Aid to the District, who further passes the same funding through to Head Start programs. The Head Start Grantee, its agents and employees shall act in an independent capacity in the performance of this Agreement and shall not be considered employees of the District or the State of New Jersey and shall not have the right to bind or obligate the District or State in any manner.

XIX. Business Registration

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:32-44*, the Head Start Grantee must provide a copy of its business registration certificate to the District prior to execution of the contract.

XX. Pay to Play Provisions

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

A. Pay to Play Bar

Pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:23A, and consistent with the definitions of *N.J.S.A.* 19:44A-1 *et seq.*, each contracting for-profit Head Start Grantee shall provide the requisite vendor certification(s) of reportable contributions to the District in advance of execution of the contract so that the District may determine whether there has been any contribution that would bar the entry of the contract between the District and the for-profit Head Start Grantee.

B. Pay to Play Disclosure

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 19:44A-20.26 (P.L. 2005, c. 271), each contracting for-profit Head Start Grantee shall submit the requisite disclosure(s) to the District at least ten (10) days prior to entering into this contract.

C. Disclosure of contributions to ELEC

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 19:44A-20.27 (P.L. 2005, c. 271), each contracting for-profit Head Start Grantee shall file an annual disclosure statement on political contributions with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission if the for-profit Head Start Grantee receives contracts in excess of \$50,000 from public entities in a calendar year. It is the for-profit Head Start Grantee's responsibility to determine if filing is necessary.

XXI. Miscellaneous

A. Compliance with Laws

The Head Start Grantee covenants that it is familiar with and shall comply with the provisions of all statutes and regulations of the DCF, Child Protection and Permanency, and the DOE, as well as other federal, state and local statutes and regulations which are, or may become, applicable to the provision of child care services and early childhood education provided under this Agreement. This includes, but is not limited to, the Head Start Grantee's obligation immediately to report to Child Protection and Permanency any suspected incident of child abuse or neglect. The Head Start Grantee agrees it shall maintain, throughout the term of this Agreement, a current Child Care Center License as issued by the DCF's Office of Licensing.

**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

B. Applicable Law

The parties agree that this Agreement shall be construed and enforced under the laws of the State of New Jersey.

C. Entire Agreement

This Agreement, together with all Attachments referred to herein, constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties and supersedes all oral and written Agreements, if any, between the parties. No amendment or modification changing the Agreement's scope or terms shall have any force and effect unless it is made in writing and signed by both parties and approved by DOE.

D. Headings

Section headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not in any way affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

E. Severability

If any of the provisions of this Agreement are determined to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or impair the validity of the other provisions, which shall be considered severable and shall remain in full force and effect.

F. Waiver

No term or provision hereof shall be deemed waived and no breach excused by the parties unless such waiver or consent shall be in writing and signed by the appropriate officers of the parties.

- G.** The District must provide this contract to the Head Start Grantee no later than 14 days after receipt of the contract from the NJ State Department of Education in order to allow the Head Start Grantee's administration, Board of Directors, and any counsel to review the contract prior to signing and before submission to the District Board of Education for approval. In addition, the parties shall execute the Certification Acknowledging Modification (attached to this Agreement as Attachment C and incorporated herein), which shall be returned to the Department of Education with the final signed agreement between the parties. Please note, if modifications are requested and the District fails to provide an executed Attachment C Certification Acknowledging Modification, the DOE will not review the requested modifications.

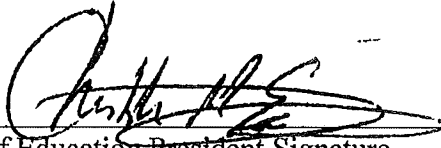
**Preschool Education Program Contract
for Head Start Grantees
School Year 2026-2027**

In Witness Whereof the parties have executed this Agreement as of the day and year above set forth.

Glassboro Public School District

Name of School District

By:

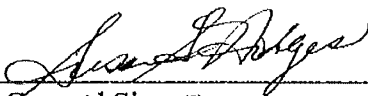


Board of Education President Signature

8/11/26
Date

Approved as to Legal Form:

By:



8/11/2026

General Counsel Signature

Gateway Community Action Partnership

Name of Head Start Grantee's Center/Agency

By:



President /cos

8/6/26

Authorized Head Start Grantee Signature and Title

Date