

Enrollment/Selection Criteria for Children with Disabilities Policy

Arrowhead Head Start integrates children with disabilities in the program through all options and no child will be denied placement based on a disability or the severity of the disability. The key factor in selecting appropriate placement is the IEP (Individual education Plan) or IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan), number of children in the service area, and availability of slots.

- Arrowhead Head Start has Early Childhood Special Education (ESCE) agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with each school district that Head Start services are provided within.
- School Districts Early Childhood Special Education are required to provide a paraprofessional for designated children when identified through individual IEPs.
- When a child is selected for Head Start enrollment, and the child's IEP specifies a need for a paraprofessional, the Disability Manager will work closely with the school district regarding paraprofessional assignment for the child.
- A child who is identified as needing paraprofessional support in an IEP cannot begin in the Head Start classroom until the school district has provided a paraprofessional.
 - A PCA may be used to help support children's individual needs in leu of a school district paraprofessional if available.
- A child's slot in the classroom may be held for up to 45 days while the school district hires and/or assigns a school district paraprofessional.
- If the school district is unable to secure a paraprofessional within 45 days of the child's enrollment, the child may be placed on the waiting list.
- The Disability Manager will work closely with ECSE staff to ensure the most appropriate placement of children identified as needing more support than Head Start staff can provide.

See the following policies for additional enrollment and selection criteria for all children placed in the program:

- *Enrollment Policy*
- *Head Start/Early Head Start Enrollment Point System*

Approved by Policy Council on 4/12/2023