

# Head Start Program Performance Standards

45 CFR Chapter XIII  
RIN 0970-AC63

## Compliance Table

Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families



# Table I: Compliance Table

Performance Standard	Compliance Date
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Early Head Start center-based service duration</b> (unless granted a waiver under §1302.24)</p> <p><b>§1302.21(c)(1):</b></p> <p>By August 1, 2018, a program must provide 1,380 annual hours of planned class operations for all enrolled children.</p> <p>A program that is designed to meet the needs of young parents enrolled in public school settings may meet the service duration requirements in §1302.21(c)(1)(i) if it operates a center-based program schedule during the school year aligned with its local education agency requirements and provides regular home-based services during the summer break.</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2018</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Head Start center-based service duration:</b> <b>50 percent at 1,020 annual hours</b> (unless granted a waiver under §1302.24)</p> <p><b>§1302.21(c)(2)(iii) and (v):</b></p> <p>By August 1, 2019, a program must provide 1,020 annual hours of planned class operations over the course of at least eight months per year for at least 50 percent of its Head Start center-based funded enrollment.</p> <p>A Head Start program providing fewer than 1,020 annual hours of planned class operations or fewer than eight months of service is considered to meet the requirements described in paragraphs §1302.21(c)(2)(iii) and (iv) if its program schedule aligns with the annual hours required by its local education agency for grade one and such alignment is necessary to support partnerships for service delivery.</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2019</b></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Head Start center-based service duration: 100 percent at 1,020 annual hours (unless granted a waiver under §1302.24)</b></p> <p><b><u>§1302.21(c)(2)(iv):</u></b></p> <p>By August 1, 2021, a program must provide 1,020 annual hours of planned class operations over the course of at least eight months per year for all of its Head Start center-based funded enrollment.</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2021</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Early Head Start home-based service duration (unless granted a waiver under §1302.24)</b></p> <p><b><u>§1302.22(c)(1):</u></b></p> <p>By August 1, 2017, an Early Head Start home-based program must provide one home visit per week per family that lasts at least an hour and a half and provide a minimum of 46 visits per year; and, provide, at a minimum, 22 group socialization activities distributed over the course of the program year.</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2017</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Curricula for center-based and family child care programs</b></p> <p><b><u>§1302.32(a)(1)(ii) and (iii):</u></b></p> <p>Implement curricula that are aligned with the <u>Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five</u> and, as appropriate, state early learning and development standards; and are sufficiently content-rich to promote measurable progress toward development and learning outlined in the Framework; and, have an organized developmental scope and sequence that include plans and materials for learning experiences based on developmental progressions and how children learn.</p> <p><b><u>§1302.32(a)(2):</u></b></p> <p>A program must support staff to effectively implement curricula and at a minimum monitor curriculum implementation and fidelity, and provide support, feedback, and supervision for continuous improvement of its implementation through the system of training and professional development.</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2017</b></p>

**§1302.32(b):**

A program that chooses to make significant adaptations to a curriculum or a curriculum enhancement described in §1302.32(a)(1) to better meet the needs of one or more specific populations must use an external early childhood education curriculum or content area expert to develop such significant adaptations. A program must assess whether the adaptation adequately facilitates progress toward meeting school readiness goals, consistent with the process described in §1302.102(b) and (c).

**Assessment**

**§1302.33(b)(1) through (3):**

A program must conduct standardized and structured assessments, which may be observation-based or direct, for each child that provide ongoing information to evaluate the child’s developmental level and progress in outcomes aligned to the goals described in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five. Such assessments must result in usable information for teachers, home visitors, and parents and be conducted with sufficient frequency to allow for individualization within the program year.

A program must regularly use information from §1302.33(b)(1) along with informal teacher observations and additional information from family and staff, as relevant, to determine a child’s strengths and needs, inform and adjust strategies to better support individualized learning and improve teaching practices in center-based and family child care settings, and improve home visit strategies in home-based models.

If warranted from the information gathered from §1302.33(b)(1) and (2) and with direct guidance from a mental health or child development professional and a parent’s consent, a program must refer the child to the local agency responsible for implementing IDEA for a formal evaluation to assess a child’s eligibility for services under IDEA.

**§1302.33(c)(2) and (3):**

If a program serves a child who speaks a language other than English a program must use qualified bilingual staff, contractor, or consultant to:

- Assess language skills in English and in the child’s home language, to assess both the child’s progress in the home language and in English language acquisition;

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conduct screenings and assessments for domains other than language skills in the language or languages that best capture the child’s development and skills in the specific domain; and,</li> <li>● Ensure those conducting the screening or assessment know and understand the child’s language and culture and have sufficient skill level in the child’s home language to accurately administer the screening or assessment and to record and understand the child’s responses, interactions, and communications.</li> </ul> <p>If a program serves a child who speaks a language other than English and qualified bilingual staff, contractors, or consultants are not able conduct screenings and assessments, a program must use an interpreter in conjunction with a qualified staff person to conduct screenings and assessments as described in §1302.33(c)(2)(i) through (iii).</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Curriculum for home-based programs</b></p> <p><b><u>§1302.35(d)(1) through (3):</u></b></p> <p><i>A program that operates the home-based option must:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ensure home-visiting and group socializations implement a developmentally appropriate research-based early childhood home-based curriculum that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promotes the parent’s role as the child’s teacher through experiences focused on the parent-child relationship and, as appropriate, the family’s traditions, culture, values, and beliefs;</li> <li>○ Aligns with the <u>Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five</u> and, as appropriate, state early learning standards, and, is sufficiently content-rich within the Framework to promote measurable progress toward goals outlined in the Framework; and,</li> <li>○ Has an organized developmental scope and sequence that includes plans and materials for learning experiences based on developmental progressions and how children learn.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Support staff in the effective implementation of the curriculum and at a minimum monitor curriculum implementation and fidelity, and provide support, feedback, and supervision for continuous improvement of its implementation through the system of training and professional development.</li> </ul>	<p><b>August 1, 2017</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If a program chooses to make significant adaptations to a curriculum or curriculum enhancement to better meet the needs of one or more specific populations, a program must partner with early childhood education curriculum or content experts; and, assess whether the adaptation adequately facilitates progress toward meeting school readiness goals consistent with the process described in §1302.102(b) and (c).</li> </ul>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) and Data Systems</b></p> <p><b>§1302.53(b)(2):</b></p> <p>A program, with the exception of American Indian and Alaska Native programs, must participate in its state or local Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Its state or local QRIS accepts Head Start monitoring data to document quality indicators included in the state’s tiered system;</li> <li>● Participation would not impact a program’s ability to comply with the Head Start Program Performance Standards; and,</li> <li>● The program has not provided the Office of Head Start with a compelling reason not to comply with this requirement.</li> </ul> <p><b>§1302.53(b)(3): Data systems.</b></p> <p>A program, with the exception of American Indian and Alaska Native programs unless they would like to and to the extent practicable, should integrate and share relevant data with state education data systems, to the extent practicable, if the program can receive similar support and benefits as other participating early childhood programs.</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2017</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Complete background check procedures</b></p> <p><b>§1302.90(b)(2):</b></p> <p>A program has 90 days after an employee is hired to complete the background check process by obtaining whichever check listed in §1302.90(b) (1) was not obtained prior to the date of hire; and, child abuse and neglect state registry check, if available.</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2017</b></p>

<p><b><u>§1302.90(b)(4):</u></b></p> <p>A program must ensure a newly hired employee, consultant, or contractor does not have unsupervised access to children until the complete background check process described in §1302.90(b)(1) through (3) is complete.</p> <p><b><u>§1302.90(b)(5):</u></b></p> <p>A program must conduct the complete background check for each employee, consultant, or contractor at least once every five years which must include each of the four checks listed in §1302.90(b)(1) and (2), and review and make employment decisions based on the information as described in §1302.90(b)(3), unless the program can demonstrate to the responsible HHS official that it has a more stringent system in place that will ensure child safety.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Child Development Specialist staff qualification</b></p> <p><b><u>§1302.91(e)(4)(ii):</u></b></p> <p>By August 1, 2018, a child development specialist, as required for family child care in §1302.23(e), must have, at a minimum, a baccalaureate degree in child development, early childhood education, or a related field.</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2018</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Home visitor staff qualifications</b></p> <p><b><u>§1302.91(e)(6)(i):</u></b></p> <p>A program must ensure home visitors providing home-based education services have a minimum of a home-based CDA credential or comparable credential, or equivalent coursework as part of an associate's or bachelor's degree.</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2018</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coordinated coaching strategy and coaching staff qualifications</b></p> <p><b><u>§1302.92(c):</u></b></p> <p>A program must ensure coaches meet staff qualifications in §1302.91(f) and must implement a research-based, coordinated coaching strategy for education staff as described in §1302.92(c).</p>	<p><b>August 1, 2017</b></p>

**Management of program data**

**§1302.101(b)(4):**

At the beginning of each program year, and on an ongoing basis throughout the year, a program must design and implement program-wide coordinated approaches that ensure the management of program data to effectively support the availability, usability, integrity, and security of data. A program must establish procedures on data management, and have them approved by the governing body and policy council, in areas such as quality of data and effective use and sharing of data, while protecting the privacy of child records in accordance with subpart C of part 1303 and applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws.

**August 1, 2017**