



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Office of Head Start

June 17, 2016

Dear Head Start Colleagues,

Throughout the past year, I have traveled to every Region and have visited many high quality programs and met with hard working, dedicated staff at the local, state, and federal levels. There was never a visit or meeting where I wasn't asked, "Dr. Enriquez, when will the new Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) be released?" The anticipation for the release is growing, and I can say with confidence that the release of the HSPPS will be close to the start of the new program year.

Once the HSPPS are issued, we will provide multiple opportunities—immediately following the release and throughout the coming year—to ensure that the Head Start community becomes fully familiarized with the new HSPPS. Training needs to take place at every level, including federal and contract staff, grantee and management staff, boards, Policy Councils, training and technical assistance (T/TA) providers, and reviewers to name a few. As grantees and delegates begin planning for the next program year, ensuring that staff have ample opportunities to learn about the new Standards and to discuss the impact on program and fiscal operations, policies, and procedures must be a top priority.

Next year will be a significant learning curve for all; therefore, we will modify the schedule of monitoring events for fiscal year (FY) 2017. This does not mean that monitoring will be suspended. We will continue to schedule Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) reviews. Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) reviews will not be modified. If your program is on schedule to receive a CLASS® review in FY17, it will occur. Follow-up reviews will also be scheduled, as needed. Additionally, we will schedule reviews for new Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership grantees that did not have an existing Early Head Start program prior to the EHS-CC Partnership grant. Each new EHS-CC Partnership grantee will receive a schedule of the modified reviews.

FY17 review events will not be regularly scheduled in the areas of Leadership Governance and Management Systems, Environmental Health and Safety, Fiscal and Comprehensive Services, and School Readiness. However, if the Office of Head Start identifies concerns or issues in any of these areas, we may schedule a targeted review. We will also use this period to make changes, as necessary, to align monitoring with the new HSPPS and fiscal regulations.

I thank you for your tireless efforts and continued improvements to provide high-quality comprehensive services to our country's most vulnerable children and families.

Sincerely,

/ Blanca E. Enriquez /

Blanca E. Enriquez
Director
Office of Head Start

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