

Educational Frameworks Guidance

Purpose

This document provides a brief overview of the PSESD Early Learning frameworks that guide our practice to ensure school readiness for all children and their families.

Guidance

PSESD's overarching goal is "Success for each child and eliminate the opportunity gap." To meet this goal, children must be ready to do the following:

- Enter school ready to learn;
- Achieve at high levels throughout K-12 education;
- Be prepared to succeed in a post-secondary education and chosen career.

Our work is to make sure that children transition from our program and enter kindergarten with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to succeed in kindergarten so that they are successful in K-12, college, and in their future career.

The following frameworks are the foundation of our approach to child development and education. We follow the Head Start and ECEAP Performance Standards, *State of Washington Early Learning and Developmental Guidelines*, and research-based practices.

Whole Child Tenets

We believe that children must be healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. This belief helps us define what works best for all children, what a successful learner is, and how to measure success. A child who enters school healthy and feeling safe is ready to learn. Children and their parents who feel connected to school are more likely to attend and stay in school. All children who have access to challenging and engaging learning and teaching environments are better prepared for school. These five tenets work together to meet the goal of the whole child approach to education.

Multicultural Principles

We embrace the Head Start Multicultural principles in our approach to education and child development. The children and families in our program are ethnically, racially, and linguistically diverse, so a focus on cultural relevancy, cultural competency, and educational equity is essential to meeting our goal of school readiness for all children. The Multicultural principles are foundational to our work with all families served in our programs. These principles align with our agency goal of eliminating the opportunity gap and leading with racial equity.

Approach to School Readiness

We have adopted the Head Start approach to School Readiness. This approach includes three major frameworks that work together to promote an understanding of school readiness for families and their children and guides the implementation of integrated systems and comprehensive services that lead to school readiness.

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework

This framework provides the foundation for strong collaborative, goal-oriented relationships with families to support family well-being, the parent-child relationship, and the role of parents and families in their child's education and transition. This helps to make sure children are ready for kindergarten, sustained development, and learning gains throughout school.

Framework for Programs Serving Infants and Toddlers and Their Families

The development and implementation of supports to our youngest children and their families, including expectant families, babies, and toddlers is guided by this framework.

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five

This framework represents the continuum of learning for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. It guides the development and implementation of foundational learning experiences for your children and prepares them with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors to succeed in school and in life.

Resources

State of Washington Early Learning and Development Guidelines

<http://www.k12.wa.us/EarlyLearning/guidelines.aspx>

Whole Child Tenets

<http://www.wholechildeducation.org/assets/content/mx-resources/wholechildindicators-all.pdf>

Multicultural Principles

http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/resources/ECLKC_Bookstore/PDFs/Revisiting%20Multicultural%20Principles%20for%20Head%20Start_English.pdf

Approach to School Readiness

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/sr/approach>

Parent Child Community Engagement Framework

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/im/2011/pfce-framework.pdf>

Infant/Toddler Framework

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/sr/approach/itf>

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/sr/approach/elof>