

Did you know the government has proposed massive changes to Head Start?



The Federal Government recently proposed a change to the quality rules that Head Start programs follow. If implemented, it would reduce those rules from a 131-page document to a 12-page document. They say these would reduce requirements, give programs more flexibility, and allow for more children to be served. Many proposals will reduce safe, high-quality services and the support for children and families.

Some of the proposed changes include:

- Reducing classroom hours to three hours a day
- Reducing the qualifications of classroom teachers
- Fewer teachers in preschool classrooms
- Home visitors would serve twice as many families
- Elimination of support to help children stay up to date on their medical, dental needs, nutrition, and mental health needs
- Elimination of most case management to help families find housing, obtain job skills/qualifications, connect with community providers, partner to meet REACH UP goals, partner to meet DCF goals, and more
- Elimination of free diapers, wipes, and formula during class time

Make your voice heard

Head Start works alongside community partners to help children and families access the services they need. When Head Start helps meet those needs, it can reduce the burden on schools, health care providers, employers, state programs, and other community organizations.

Removing federal requirements does not remove families' needs - it may simply shift the responsibility and costs elsewhere. Before reducing proven services to achieve savings, we should consider their long-term value and the costs that may be shifted to other systems.

Your experience and knowledge of Head Start programs is critical.

What does Head Start currently do that helps your organization serve children and families—such as referrals, coordination, transitions, or family navigation—and what would happen if Head Start was no longer providing that service?

Action Steps



We recommend you take action by sending your comments and stories about your Head Start experience urging the Federal Register to reconsider the proposed changes.

To make a public comment go to the Federal Register website by scanning the QR code, and click on the green button to share your thoughts.