**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, E.O.C.**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**1302.102**

**ACHIEVING PROGRAM GOALS**

**POLICY:**

The program in collaboration with the governing body and policy council, establishes goals and measurable objectives.

**PROCEDURE:**

**1.0 Achieving Program Goals**

1.1 The goals and measurable objectives include:

1. Strategic long-term goals for ensuring the program is and remains responsive to community needs as identified in their community assessment as described in 1302.10 through 1302.18;
2. Goals for the provision of educational, health, nutritional, and family and community engagement program services as described in the program performance standards to further promote the school readiness of enrolled children (see [(PDM) Comprehensive Child Development Services](#Pol1300_PDM_ComprehensiveChildDevSrv));
3. School readiness goals that are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five, state and tribal early learning standards, as appropriate, and requirements and expectations of schools Head Start children will attend, per the requirements of 1302.10 through 1302.16 (see [ERSEA](#ERSEA) policies); and,
4. Effective health and safety practices to ensure children are safe at all times, per the requirements in:

§1302.47(see [Safety Practices](#SafetyPractices))

1302.90 b (see  [Background Checks and Selection Procedures](#Pol90001_HRPP_BackgroundChecksAndSelect))

1302.90 c (see  [Standards of Conduct](#Pol90002_HRPP_StandardsOfConduct))

1302.92 c 1 (see [Training and Professional Development](#Pol92000_HRPP_TrainingAndProfDevelopment))

1302.94 (see  [Volunteers](#Pol94000_HRPP_Volunteers)) and

1303.70 through 1303.75 (see [Transportation](#Transportation) policies).

**2.0 Monitoring Program Performance**

2.1 In order to ensure effective ongoing oversight and correction, the program has established and implements a system of ongoing oversight that ensures effective implementation of the program performance standards, including ensuring child safety, and other applicable federal regulations and:

1. Collects and uses data to inform this process;
2. Corrects quality and compliance issues immediately, or as quickly as possible;
3. Works with the governing body and the policy council to address issues during the ongoing oversight and correction process and during federal oversight; and,
4. Implements procedures that prevent recurrence of previous quality and compliance issues, including previously identified deficiencies, safety incidents, and audit findings.

**3.0 Ongoing Assessment of Program Goals**

3.1 The program effectively oversees progress towards program goals on an ongoing basis and annually does:

1. Conduct a self-assessment that uses program data including aggregated child assessment data, and professional development and parent and family engagement data as appropriate, to evaluate the program’s progress towards meeting goals established under 1302.102 a, compliance with program performance standards throughout the program year, and the effectiveness of the professional development and family engagement systems in promoting school readiness;
2. Communicate and collaborate with the governing body and policy council, program staff, and parents of enrolled children when conducting the annual self-assessment; and,
3. Submit findings of the self-assessment, including information listed in 1302.102 b 2 i to the responsible HHS official.

**4.0 Using Data for Continuous Improvement**

4.1 The program implements a process for using data to identify program strengths and needs, develops and implements plans that address program needs, and continually evaluates compliance with program performance standards and progress towards achieving program goals described in paragraph 1302.102 a.

1. This process:
   * 1. Ensures data is aggregated, analyzed and compared in such a way to assist agencies in identifying risks and informing strategies for continuous improvement in all program service areas;
     2. Ensures child-level assessment data is aggregated and analyzed at least three times a year, including for sub-groups, such as dual language learners and children with disabilities, as appropriate, except when the program operates fewer than 90 days, and used with other program data described in 1302.102 c 2 iv to direct continuous improvement related to curriculum choice and implementation, teaching practices, professional development, program design and other program decisions, including changing or targeting scope of services; and,
     3. When the program operates fewer than 90 days, ensures child assessment data is aggregated and analyzed at least twice during the program operating period, including for subgroups, such as dual language learners and children with disabilities, as appropriate, and used with other program data described in 1302.102 c 2 iv to direct continuous improvement related to curriculum choice and implementation, teaching practices, professional development, program design and other program decisions, including changing or targeting scope of services;
     4. Uses information from ongoing monitoring and the annual self-assessment, and program data on teaching practice, staffing and professional development, child-level assessments, family needs assessments, and comprehensive services, to identify program needs, and develop and implement plans for program improvement; and,
     5. Uses program improvement plans as needed to either strengthen or adjust content and strategies for professional development, change program scope and services, refine school readiness and other program goals, and adapt strategies to better address the needs of sub-groups.

**5.0 Reporting**

5.1 The program submits:

1. Status reports, determined by ongoing oversight data, to the governing body and policy council, at least semi-annually;
2. Reports, as appropriate, to the responsible HHS official immediately or as soon as practicable, related to any significant incidents affecting the health and safety of program participants, circumstances affecting the financial viability of the program, breaches of personally identifiable information, or program involvement in legal proceedings, any matter for which notification or a report to state, tribal, or local authorities is required by applicable law, including at a minimum:
   * 1. Any reports regarding agency staff or volunteer compliance with federal, state, tribal, or local laws addressing child abuse and neglect or laws governing sex offenders;
     2. Incidents that require classrooms or centers to be closed for any reason;
     3. Legal proceedings by any party that are directly related to program operations; and,
     4. All conditions required to be reported under §1304.12, including disqualification from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and license revocation.

5.2 Annually, the program publishes and disseminates a report that complies with section 644 a 2 of the Act and includes a summary of a program’s most recent community assessment, as described in §1302.11 b, consistent with privacy protections in 1303.20 through 1303.24.

5.3 If the program has had a deficiency identified, it submits to the responsible HHS official, a quality improvement plan as required in section 641A(e)(2) of the Act.