

Early Childhood/Head Start Interagency Protocol Instructions

This Early Childhood Interagency Protocol boilerplate for School Districts and Head Start Programs (HS), which includes Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) and American Indian, Alaska Natives Head Start (AIAN), outlines the minimal topics that should be addressed through annual joint planning between the local HS and the Local Educational Agencies (LEA or school district) serving children under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Local HS Programs and districts will jointly review annually and update content as needed. The LEA will initiate annual document review and will submit an assurance of completion to the State Department of Education with their IDEA Part B and Preschool application in the fall of each year. Annually, ten percent of the districts will be required to submit completed Interagency Protocols for verification purposes. Head Start Programs are required to maintain current Interagency Agreement and Protocols with all LEAs in their service area, in their files for Federal Review.

Sections in italicized text outline minimum Federal and State policy requirements and may not be modified.

The use of “parent” throughout this document includes guardians and other legally responsible persons.

Text using **Arial font** and formatted in boxes contains potential options and negotiation points and may be modified as agreed between the participants.

Local HS Programs and districts may insert other jointly- agreed upon options for collaboration in any of the boxed fields. In addition, HS and districts may supplement this document with additional topical areas as needed.

All additions must be consistent with Head Start Program Performance Standards on Services for Children with Disabilities (Part 1308) and Part B regulations (34 CFR Part 300) and support the goal of effective system collaboration promoting efficient, seamless service provision to eligible children and their families.

Early Childhood/Head Start Interagency Protocol, Attachment A

This Interagency Protocol represents a negotiated agreement between the following organizations:

School District # <u>314</u>	Head Start Program: <u>El Jardin de niños</u>
Address: <u>466 W Park</u> <u>DRETTICH ID 83324</u>	Address: <u>202 14th Ave E.</u> <u>Gooding, ID 83330</u>
Effective Dates: <u>September</u> , 20 <u>17</u> to <u>September</u> , 20 <u>19</u>	
Effective Dates: <u>September</u> , 20 <u>17</u> to <u>September</u> , 20 <u>19</u>	

Section A. Contact Information and Child Find

The parties recognize that collaboration is necessary to facilitate smooth referrals, transitions, and the determination of eligibility for Special Education services. This supports a smooth and effective transition for children and their families.

To be in compliance with Federal and State regulations, the parties agree to abide by the terms outlined in the State Interagency Agreement.

Exchange of Information

Confidential information will be exchanged between agencies according to HIPAA, FERPA, Head Start, and IDEA regulations and agency protocols.

Community Resources/Contact Personnel:

Agency	Contact Name	Phone/Fax	Email
District # <u>314</u>	<u>Stefanie Shaw</u>	<u>208-544-2158</u>	<u>stefanie5@dretrichschools.org</u>
Head Start Program: <u>El Jardin</u>	<u>Perla Nelson</u>	<u>208-934-4635</u> <u>208-934-4637</u>	<u>pnelson@ccimail.org</u>
Other: _____			

Child Find Local Screening Activities

Screening is intended to identify children who may have a developmental delay and be eligible for special education services.

The Head Start Program and local school district may agree to cooperate and share staff, facilities, and other resources as necessary to carry out Child Find and related screening/assessment/evaluation activities.

Will the School District & Head Start Program conduct separate or joint child find screening activities?

Separate Joint

If joint, specify known details (e.g. dates, frequency, location, primary organizer, etc.):

Section B. Provision of Referral for Evaluation and Assessment for Special Education

Head Start must screen all enrolled children within 45 days (30 days for Migrant/Seasonal) in general development, sensory, vision and hearing, social/emotional development. Well-child health and dental screenings will be completed within 90 days (30 days Migrant and Seasonal).

When Head Start screening indicates the need for further evaluation/assessment, a referral will be made to the LEA in which the child resides. (1308.4(f) and 1308.6(e))(1) Head Start Performance Standards.) Local Head Start programs determine screeners in accordance with Head Start Standards.

If concerns are raised about an individual child based on screening results, the following process applies:

Per Head Start Program Performance Standards and Other Regulations; 34 CFR §1308.6 the local Head Start Program must complete a developmental assessment. If a child is suspected of having a disability the disabilities coordinator must refer a child to the LEA for evaluation as soon as the need is evident, starting as early as the child's third birthday (HS 1308.06(e)(1)). The LEA must follow the provisions and timelines as outlined in IDEA to complete timely evaluations as identified in Idaho Special Education Manual, Chapter 4, Evaluation and Eligibility.

Referrals to Consider Special Education evaluation/assessments for children enrolled in Head Start must be processed in a timely manner (1308.6(1)). While state law does not mandate school districts to provide summer services, unless required in an individual child's IEP, districts do have the responsibility to work with Head Start programs to provide assessments for children in summer programs, (see State Interagency Agreement) especially for children referred by Migrant/Seasonal Head Start and homeless children. Children will be assessed using culturally and linguistically appropriate procedures.

LEAs will accept referrals and conduct assessments throughout the calendar year, including summer, when schools are generally not in session to accommodate the need for evaluation/assessment of children referred by Head Start, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, and homeless children.

To accomplish referral from a HS, MSHS, and AIAN to a local LEA for evaluation/assessment and eligibility, describe how referrals will be made and evaluation timelines established:

MSHS will contact Dietrich Elementary and will send referral with screening.

Please describe how referrals will be managed over the summer months when the LEA is on break:

MSHS will send the referral during spring & fall.

The people listed below will be responsible for ensuring Referral is shared in a timely manner and appropriate follow-up is completed for the family.

Agency	Contact Name	Phone/Fax	Email
Head Start Program: _____			
District # <u>314</u>	<u>Stefanie Shaw</u>	<u>208-544-2158</u>	<u>stefanie@dietrichschools.org</u>
Migrant/Seasonal Head Start	<u>Perla Nelson</u>	<u>208-934-4635</u> <u>208-934-4637</u>	<u>pnelson@ccimail.org</u>
Homeless Coordinator			

C. Procedures for exchange of Information

Discuss and document how information about children will be exchanged between agencies according to HIPAA and FERPA regulations and agency protocols. (Sp. Ed form 360, Head Start Authorization for Mutual Exchange of Information and Migrant Seasonal Head Start, Authorization for Release of Confidential Information (CCI/MSHS form)).

MSHS will send authorization to release information with referral.

Special Education Form 360:

www.sde.idaho.gov/specialeducation/docs/Manual/Manual%20Appendices/Chapter13.pdf

D. Responsibility for Evaluations/Assessments

Evaluation/assessment information should reflect the current functioning of the child. Head Start and the LEA should consider the needs of the child, the evaluation/assessment tools used, and IDEA requirements for eligibility.

The LEA is responsible for determining eligibility as outlined in the Idaho State Special Education Manual.

Parental involvement is required in the evaluation and assessment process. The LEA is responsible for ensuring interpreters are available and necessary accommodations are made for parents with limited proficiency in English or who are hearing impaired, for the IEP meeting. The LEA and HS programs will share responsibility to assure that language needs are met for parent involvement.

If summer referrals for evaluation/assessment are not accepted/provided by the LEA, the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program will provide the evaluation/assessment services for the child as mandated by Federal Head Start Regulations (45CFR 1308.19).

In compliance with 34 CFR 300.154 and 300.111(2) LEAs can chose to have district personnel conduct evaluations/assessment, or reimburse Head Start /Migrant Seasonal Head Start for their costs of doing the assessments.

Describe the procedures and responsibilities for assessment and evaluation for IDEA eligibility through the summer months, including how the cost will be addressed:

Head Start is required to maintain a copy of the LEA's Referral to Consider Special Education Evaluation - (MSHS Consent for Evaluation) in the Child or Family file of each child referred.

Evaluation Contacts:

Please list the primary evaluation contact from each agency (if different from those listed above).

If requirements/contacts are not the same throughout the district, please list information separately for each school that has unique requirements. Also, note any contacts/requirements by school for services during the summer.

Agency	Contact Name/Position	Phone/Fax	Email	Best Date & Time
District # <u>314</u>	<u>Stefanie Shaw</u>	<u>208-544-2158</u>	<u>Stefanie.Schuch</u> <u>Schools.org</u>	
Head Start Program: <u>El Jardin</u>	<u>Perla Nelson</u> <u>E.C.</u>	<u>208-934-4635</u> <u>208-934-4637</u>	<u>pnelson@ccimail</u> <u>org</u>	<u>7:00</u> <u>4:00</u>

Schools/Programs with different contacts for summer evaluations should be

listed below.				
District # <u>314</u>	<u>Stefanie Shaw</u>	<u>208-544-2158</u>	<u>Stefanie.S@clretichschools.org</u>	<u>7:30-5</u>
Head Start Program:	<u>Perla Nelson</u>	<u>208-934-4635</u> <u>208-934-4637</u>	<u>pnelsoncc@mail-bp.org</u> <u>pnelsonc@mail.org</u>	<u>7:00-4:00</u>

Other Information:

E. Eligibility Determination and IEP Development

When determining eligibility, the LEA will review all available evaluation/assessment information that is available when written parental consent has been obtained. If the LEA determines that additional assessment/evaluation is necessary to determine eligibility for Special Education services, the LEA will conduct or arrange for needed assessment/evaluations.

Head Start program will provide the following to the LEA for students potentially eligible for Special Education Services:

- *Screening material and comprehensive developmental assessment.*
- *Authority to Release Information.*
- *Referral to Consider Special Education Evaluation (330a).*
- *Assist in contacting the parent, explaining process, and obtaining consent(s) at required points.*
- *Head Start/ MSHS can assist LEA in accessing translators.*
- *Act as the general education teacher during eligibility and IEP meetings (HS 1308.19(c)).*

Eligibility for Special Education service is determined by the local school district via following the following steps:

- *LEA acknowledges referral from Head Start program within with a timely manner (10 school days).*
- *LEA will work with the Head Start program for the analysis of data collection for HS children who are already attending HS and are suspected of having a disability.*
- *LEA will coordinate and schedule the eligibility evaluation and assessment within a timely manner.*
 - *LEA obtains signed parental Consent for Assessment (350 a).*
 - *LEA provides written procedural safeguards to parent in native language unless not feasible, and collaborates with HS to provide an interpreter to explain the documents to facilitate parental understanding.*
 - *LEA schedules meeting.*
- *Eligibility evaluation and eligibility determination must be completed within 60 calendar days of signed consent for evaluation/assessment.*

- Provide prior written notice for eligibility and educational placement, and copies of documents to parents.
- Students found eligible for an IEP must have the IEP developed and implemented within 30 calendar days from eligibility determination.
- LEA will invite a representative from Head Start to the IEP meeting, per 1308.109(c).

Please describe how districts will complete evaluation and assessment for eligibility determination, including timelines, shared assessment, interpretive services, evaluation material, and share resources:

If the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start have provided evaluation/assessment services they will send results of their assessments to school districts and the LEA will respond to the Migrant-Seasonal Head Start referral:

- Review and consider acceptance of Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) assessments for the purpose of determining eligibility for special education/ services.
- Conduct additional evaluations as needed, and when necessary, in the child's home language.
- Convene an IEP meeting with Head Start as a partner. The IEP team must include at least the parent, district administrator, special education teacher, or service provider responsible for implementing the IEP, general education teacher, individual who can interpret implications of evaluation results and other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the child. The Head Start personnel would qualify as the general education teacher for the IEP meeting.
- To meet the provisions of the Migrant Education Act and/or McKinney Vento Act, evaluation/assessment results and/or IEP documents will be promptly forwarded when child moves to a new school – (by contacting the district homeless coordinator and/or the request has been made by the new district. (34 CFR 99.31 (a) (2) FERPA)

The Problem Solving/Eligibility meeting is the time for parents, school district staff, and Head Start staff to discuss the assessment results and determine eligibility for special education, plan services, and develop an IEP.

List the preferred day, time, and place for Problem Solving/Eligibility meeting(s):

Established day:		
Established time:	A.M.	P.M.
Scheduled as Needed:	As needed	
Meeting place:		