

Policy Number: FS 003	Title: Parent & Family Events/Activities
Performance Standard: 1302.5	Original Date: 8/2006 Updated: 10/2020
USD 418 BOE Policy:	Policy Council Approval/Revision: 2/2018, 12/2020 BOE Approval: 2/2018, 10/2020

POLICY:

Head Start seeks to encourage the active participation of parents and families in Head Start activities. These activities are developed with three things in mind: 1) the development of a positive social support network for families involved in the Head Start program, 2) meeting the educational and activity needs, as well as the interests of families, and 3) complying with Head Start performance standards, which include involving parents in the planning of activities that they participate in. Documentation of parent activity attendance, parent committee meeting attendance and agendas will be documented in ChildPlus.

Procedure:

Parent committee meetings will be held as an entire program and every parent comprises the parent committee. These meetings will be conducted to gain parent feedback and guidance on the program.

Structured family events will occur throughout the year and can be in conjunction with a school event or other partnering organization. The program will provide at least 4 opportunities as a larger family event per year. Every effort will be made to respect and value the rights of individual parents as they participate in the parent group. To this end, some basic “ground rules” have been developed: 1) smoking in Head Start vehicles, Head Start facilities or in view of the children is prohibited; 2) no consumption of alcoholic beverages or other controlled substances will be allowed at Head Start functions, nor will Head Start funds be used to purchase drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. In compliance with state law all Head Start activities are drug, alcohol and smoke-free.

The Family Advocates along with the guidance of the Assistant Director of family services , and additional teaching and coordinating staff are available to help plan and support parent and/or family activities and to provide guidance about the things needing done. However, parents are encouraged to make this group theirs. Parent Activities can be time used to help plan for classroom experiences, hold a cooking class, learn about child development, find out about job skills and employment opportunities, form a support group, etc. Family activities are planned with activities and events that all family members may participate in. The Parent and family activities are aimed at making a parent’s experience in Head Start both a positive learning experience, and a chance for them to take time for themselves.

When food or a meal is integrated as a part of the Parent/Family event parents are encouraged to join us. Parents/guardians meals are offered free of charge. We must limit the meals we are able

to offer at no charge to immediate family, only (i.e. parents/guardians and siblings) any additional family members who wish to eat with the Head Start students may be charged a fee. The event will be advertised two to four weeks in advance with an RSVP date set for one week prior to the event. Anyone wishing to join their Head Start student for a meal on an event day must let the Family Advocates know by the RSVP date in order to reserve a meal. If the RSVP has not been received by the date indicated a meal may not be available.