



Head Start/Early Head Start
Family Child Care Homes - Center Based Programs



2024 - 2025 Parent Handbook



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"Bridging Gaps and Building Partnerships!"



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I want to personally welcome you to the Jefferson County Child Development Council, Inc.'s Head Start and Early Head Start programs! Since 1972, our agency has provided comprehensive services: cognitive, emotional, physical, and social, while promoting self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-sufficiency in a nurturing family childcare environment that is responsive to the individual needs of each child and their family.

Our agency is unique! Head Start and Early Head Start services are offered at Family Child Care (FCC) Provider Sites and Center Based locations. Family Child Care Sites are located within the provider residences. Both FCC site and center-based settings allow young children a supportive place each day with Department of Human Resources state certified staff.

JCCDC strives to provide comprehensive services in the areas of Health, Mental Health, Disabilities, Education, and Family and Community Partnerships. Through our diverse program, you will better understand your child's areas of strength and any challenges they are facing. In collaboration with our Community Partners, we will support the needs you share with us. Our Family and Community Engagement Specialists will be in regular contact with you supporting those needs with other agencies in the area.

We believe that you are your child's first teacher. JCCDC is here to support you in your efforts to provide a safe, loving environment for your child. Please understand that Head Start **must** have your support! We encourage you to attend parent meetings as often as possible to learn about the opportunities for growth for you, your child, and your entire family.

We want to create an opportunity for this to be an awesome Early Head Start or Head Start experience for both you and your child(ren).

We look forward to helping you to a great start for the success of your child!

Sincerely,

Tena Sales

HS/EHS Program Director



Introduction

The Jefferson County Child Development Council, Inc. (JCCDC) began in January of 1972 as a non-profit organization.

JCCDC EHS/HS FCC became an innovative program to prepare children birth to five years of age for public school. This program is one of the few FCC HS/EHS programs in the country. We are currently federally funded to serve 3 Expecting Mothers & Infants (EMIs), 39 children ages 6 weeks-3 years and 212 children 3-5 years old.

Since Head Start was established in 1965, it has continued to be one of the best programs funded by the federal government to give young children in this country the head start in life they might not otherwise receive.

Since receiving funding in 1973 for Family Child Care, the JCCDC HS/EHS Family Child Care program has worked tirelessly to deliver high quality Head Start services to children and families in Jefferson County. Our agency is partnering with one childcare center and more than 21 licensed Family Childcare Providers within Jefferson County.

We invite all our parents to become active in our program by donating goods, volunteering, attending parent meetings, participating in monthly events or involvement in policy council meetings. Each of these meetings are held monthly.

Parents are the most important people in their children's lives. Children look to their parents for guidance as they begin their journey through life. The purpose of Head Start/Early Head Start is to assist the family in giving the child a good foundation to build as they begin their journey. By working together, staff and parents help strengthen a child's socialization skills, help each child develop emotionally, and help prepare them to succeed. The JCCDC Head Start/Early Head Start staff and parents are a team. As a team we will ensure each child receives an excellent HEAD START!

MISSION STATEMENT

JCCDC provides comprehensive developmental services: cognitive, emotional, physical, and social, while promoting self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-sufficiency in a nurturing environment that is responsive to the individual needs of each child and their family.

JCCDC Head Start Philosophy and Goals

We believe that a developmentally appropriate curriculum does not concentrate on pre-academic subjects, such as the alphabet, science, and math. These and other school readiness skills will, however, be integrated into a developmentally appropriate curriculum. Each child will participate in activities to meet his/her individual needs in an environment that is nurturing and stimulating and one that promotes his/her physical, emotional, social, language and cognitive development. Daily lesson plans will reflect activities designed to promote self, critical thinking, problem solving, academic readiness, and motor skills. There will be a balance of large and small group experiences throughout the day. Learning centers and activities will incorporate materials and resources, which provide for the unique needs, interests, and development levels of children in the classroom. In addition, daily activities will include opportunities for children to participate in health, nutrition, and related experiences. We believe that children with disabilities both benefit from and contribute to programming for preschool children, so we make a special effort to serve and support children with disabilities.

JCCDC's goals are: (1) to provide the most developmentally appropriate, cultural, and relevant curriculum for each child who is enrolled in our program. (2) To include a curriculum that encourages the parent to be involved with the child in order to maximize his/her social, intellectual, and physical development, while building a strong sense of self-esteem. (3) To ensure that all children, their families, and their caregivers enjoy themselves during their Head Start/Early Head Start experiences. (4) To involve parents in the program in ways that enhance their abilities to support their child's growth and development, and to assure that JCCDC Head Start/Early Head Start Program effectively addresses their own goals for their children. (5) to provide training and support for staff so they can best meet the needs of and promote the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of their children.

JCCDC Administrative Staff and Contacts

Earlene Reynolds, Executive Director	205-379-6048
Yolanda Woods, Chief Financial Officer	205-379-6060
Stephen McGhee, Accountant	205-379-6049
Tena Sales, HS/EHS Program Director	205-379-6065
NaKendra Massey, Education Childhood Development & Health Services Manager.....	205-379-6069
Phillip Merriweather, Family Engagement Manager	205-379-6064
Latausha Holifield, Health & Safety Specialist	205-379-6059
Tamara Tellis, Enrollment/Data Coordinator	205-379-6056
Stella Baskin, Nutrition Coordinator/ Monitor	205-379-6058
Virginia DeLoach, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist	205-379-6074

JCCDC Family Engagement Specialists

Ana Arvelo (<i>Bilingual</i>).....	205-379-6071
Sharon Duncan	205-379-6091
Dominique Jackson.....	205-379-6068
Aretha McNeil	205-379-6061

JCCDC Education Specialists

Amberley Williams.....	205-379-6062
Melanie Washington.....	205-379-6063
Vilma Gomez (<i>Bilingual</i>).....	205-379-6092

JCCDC Behavior Support Specialist

Ashley Jackson	205-379-6067
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JCCDC Health & Safety Assistant

Tamika Bright	205-379-6072
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JCCDC Nutrition Assistant

Porsha Davis	205-379-6057
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JCCDC Contractors/Consultants

Willie Glass, Disability/Mental Health.....	205-379-6066
Barbi Moore, Nutrition Consultant.....	205-379-6057

JCCDC Services

Head Start

Early Head Start

Information for Parents

- **You as a parent are encouraged** to volunteer at your child's provider site, center classroom, attend Parent Meetings, workshops, Policy Council, and other meetings.
- **Be sure to send an extra set of clothes** to be left in the classroom or at the provider's site. This is done in case of accidents. Make sure the child's name is written on the tags with a permanent marker.
- **Be sure to send 2 sets of covers for nap time.** If your child has an accident and covers are sent home to be cleaned, be sure to bring them back.
- When you **volunteer** your time in your child's classroom, this is considered an in-kind contribution. Each hour you volunteer is matched by federal funding which allows your child to attend Head Start/Early Head Start free of charge. We ask that each parent volunteer at least 20 hours of their time per month. That is only 5 hours a week or 1 hour each day.
- **Make sure** your child visits the doctor/dentist for routine check-ups and follow-ups annually or more frequently if needed.
- **Make sure** important documents are turned in to your child's teacher or Family Engagement (FE) Specialist. This includes immunization, physical, dental, etc.
- **Under no circumstance** shall a child begin school or remain attending school without a current immunization form.
- Please advise staff and Providers of any known food allergies or special diets.
- **Over the counter or prescription medicine** shall **not** be given to a child without a written and signed authorization from a **licensed physician**.
- **In case of an emergency**, you will be notified immediately. Therefore, it is extremely important that your child's teacher and the agency have current phone numbers. We **must** be able to contact you, or someone authorized to pick up your child.
- As we work with children, we are **mandated** by the State of Alabama to report any suspected child abuse and/or neglect.
- For the safety of all our enrolled children, hair beads should not be worn. Beads can be a choking hazard or become lodged in an ear canal or nasal passage (new update).

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Principles of Head Start/Early Head Start

These principles are designed to nurture healthy attachments between parent and child (and child and caregiver), emphasize a strengths-based, relationship-centered approach to services, and encompass the full range of a family's needs from pregnancy through school age.

They include:

- **An emphasis on high quality** which recognizes the critical opportunity of HS/EHS programs to positively impact children and families in the early years of development and beyond.
- **Prevention and promotion activities** that both promote healthy development and recognize and address atypical development at the earliest stage possible.
- **Positive relationships and continuity** which honor the critical importance of early attachments on healthy development in early childhood and beyond. The parents are viewed as a child's first, and most important, relationship.
- **Parent involvement** activities that offer parents a meaningful and strategic role in the program's vision, services, and governance.
- **Inclusion** strategies that respect the unique developmental trajectories of young children in the context of a typical setting, including children with disabilities.
- **Cultural competence**, which acknowledges the profound role that culture plays in early development. The program also recognizes the influence of cultural values and beliefs on both staff and families' approaches to child development. Programs work within the context of home languages for all children and families.
- **Comprehensiveness, flexibility and responsiveness** of services which allow children and families to move across various program options over time, as their life situation demands.
- **Transition planning** respects families' need for thought and attention paid to movements across program options and into—and out of—Early Head Start program, and into and out of Head Start program into public school.
- **Collaboration** is, simply put, central to Early Head Start/Head Start program's ability to meet the comprehensive needs of families. Strong partnerships allow programs to expand their services to children and families beyond the door of the program and into the larger community.

Cornerstones

1. **Child Development:** Programs must support the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and language development of each child. Parenting education and the support of a positive parent-child relationship are critical to this cornerstone.
2. **Family Development:** Programs must seek to empower families by developing goals for themselves and their children. Staff and parents develop individualized family development plans that focus on the child's developmental needs and the family's social and economic needs. Families that are involved in other programs requiring a family service plan will receive a single coordinated plan so that they experience a seamless system of services.
3. **Community Building:** Programs are expected to conduct an assessment of community resources so that they may build a comprehensive network of services and supports for pregnant women and families with young children. The goal of these collaborative relationships is to increase family access to community resources, make the most efficient use of limited resources, and effect system-wide changes to improve the service delivery system for all families in the community.
4. **Staff Development:** The success of the Head Start/ Early Head Start program rests largely on the quality of the staff. Staff members must have the capacity to develop caring, supportive relationships with both children and families. On-going training, supervision, and mentoring will encompass an inter-disciplinary approach and emphasize relationship-building. Staff development will be grounded in established "best practices" in the areas of child development, family development, and community building.

What services you can expect from Head Start/Early Head Start:

- Quality early education in and out of the home, including home visits.
- Ongoing child development screening.
- Family support for all families.
- Parent education, including parent-child activities.
- Comprehensive health services, including services to women before, during and after pregnancy, assistance with well-baby and well-child check-ups; immunization tracking; dental screening.
- Nutrition education.
- Mental health services and referrals.
- Ongoing support for parents through partnership development focusing on family and individual goals, referral to agencies in the community to meet specific needs and peer support groups.

My Personal Parent Engagement Plan



As a Head Start/Early Head Start parent I can:

- Set goals for myself and/or my family.
- Seek a regular doctor and dentist for my child(ren) and/or family.
- Take my child to the doctor for regular appointments and follow-ups.
- Attend at least **three** meetings during the program year.
- Assist with special activities and plans to help my child thrive.
- Observe and volunteer at a Head Start/Early Head Start provider site or center at least once a month.
- Communicate with my FCC provider or teacher about my child's curriculum, assessments, development skills and nutrition patterns, etc.
- Talk with appropriate staff about any behavioral concerns I might have about my child.
- Participate in parent/child take home activities, sign in-kind forms monthly.
- Seek assistance from Family Engagement Specialists when and if resources are needed.
- Give your child positive reinforcement about attending Head Start/Early Head Start.
- Encourage your child to talk about his/her experience in the program.
- **You** as parents are advocates for your child, if you have any questions or concerns, please refer to contacts on page 9.



Program Component Areas of Head Start/Early Head Start Child Development Services



Head Start/Early Head Start is divided into program service areas to better serve our families:

- Education
- Disabilities/Mental Health
- Health & Safety
- Family and Community Engagement
- Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance
- Nutrition

Education

After the curriculum has been selected and approved, it is closely monitored by the Education component. Monitoring ensures that its delivery, by our providers and teachers, is developmentally appropriate and helps to maximize the learning experiences for all children.

The current curriculums that are being implemented are:

The **Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos for Early Head Start**, which is a comprehensive curriculum that offers expanded daily support, guidance, and inspiration to our children. It is based on 38 objectives for development and learning. These objectives are fully aligned with the School Readiness Goals for Infants and Toddlers and the Alabama Early Learning Guidelines.

The **Creative Curriculum Preschool for Head Start**, which is a well-structured curriculum, offers thematic units aligned with the School Readiness Goals and the Alabama Early Learning Guidelines. The aim of this curriculum is to promote, develop and enhance Language and Literacy skills, as well as mathematical, scientific, listening, and social skills, creative expression, and positive self-esteem. Each curriculum is enhanced by additional resources.

The children's exposure to our daily environments offers concrete and abstract experiences to enhance each child's knowledge of themselves and his/her environment, promote development, social behavior, emotional well-being, physical skills, and art appreciation.





Assessment Opportunity – playful, curriculum-embedded classroom experiences that are opportunities for observations on literacy and numeracy. The objectives are guidance for adjusting the experience for children at different developmental levels. Tips for helping young children construct their own understanding of concepts as they interact and work with people, materials, events, and ideas.

Teaching Strategy Gold (TSG)

Objectives for Development & Learning Birth through Kindergarten

Social-Emotional:

1. Regulates own emotions and behaviors.
2. Establishes and sustains positive relationships.
3. Participates cooperatively and constructively in group situations.

Physical:

4. Demonstrates traveling skills.
5. Demonstrates Balancing skills.
6. Demonstrates gross- motor manipulatives skills.
7. Demonstrates fine-motor strengths.

Language:

8. Listens to and understands increasingly complex language.
9. Uses language to express thoughts and needs.
10. Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills.

Cognitive:

11. Demonstrates positive approaches to learning.
12. Remember and connect experiences.
13. Uses classification skills.
14. Uses symbols and images to represent something not present.

Literacy:

15. Demonstrates phonological awareness.
16. Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet.
17. Demonstrates knowledge of print and its uses.
18. Comprehends and responds and other texts.
19. Demonstrates emergent writing skills.

Mathematics:

20. Uses number concepts and operations.
21. Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes.
22. Compare and measures.
23. Demonstrates knowledge of patterns.

Science and Technology:

24. Uses scientific inquiry skills.
25. Demonstrates knowledge of characteristics of living things.
26. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials.
27. Demonstrates knowledge of Earth's environment.
28. Uses tools and other technology to perform tasks.

Social Studies:

29. Demonstrates knowledge about self.
30. Shows basic understanding of people and how they live.
31. Explores changes related to familiar.
32. Demonstrates simple geographic knowledge.

The Arts:

33. Explores the visual arts.
34. Explores musical concepts and expression.
35. Explores dance and movements concepts.
36. Explores drama through actions and language.

English Language Acquisition:

37. Demonstrates progress in listening to and understanding English.
38. Demonstrates progress in speaking English.

The Importance of Play for Young Children



“Play is our brain’s favorite way of learning.”
-Diane Ackerman

The JCCDC Head Start – Early Head Start Program is serious about your child’s continued growth and development, just as you are as your child’s first and most important teacher. Play is how children naturally learn about the world and how they fit in it. We provide interesting materials and activities to promote exploration. Play helps your child build close bonds with you and with others, learn social skills, develop physically, develop and practice thinking skills and language skills. In addition, math and science concepts are learned and associated skills are developed. As you can see, through play, children gain school readiness skills that are important for their future success in school and their lives.

More Benefits of Play:

- Pretending to read, to write a story, and other related activities provides opportunities to develop literacy skills.
- Playing in small groups is a great way to develop language skills, learn how to work with others, learn how to express feelings appropriately, and problem solve.
- Playing with table toys, drawing, and painting are but a few ways children are helped to develop their small muscle skills that will aid them in developing their writing skills.
- Hopping, jumping, running, dancing and other movement experiences to assist with the development of children’s large muscle development.

Play is Important:

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a professional advocacy agency for young children, and those that teach young children, play is important.

Sample Center-Based Schedule



JCCDC Head Start Center

Daily Schedule

MORNING

7:30AM- 9:00AM	Arrival, breakfast, free play
9:00AM- 9:15AM	Large Group Time/Circle time
9:15AM- 10:15AM	Child directed/ learning centers
10:15AM- 11:15AM	Outdoor Play/ Gross Motor activities
11:15AM- 11:30AM	Clean-up/for lunch
11:30AM- 12:00PM	Lunch
12:00PM- 12:15PM	Cleanup/ Prepare for Nap
12:15PM- 2:15PM	Nap/ put cots away/ prepare to go outside
2:15PM- 2:45PM	Snack
2:45PM- 3:00PM	Outside Play
3:00PM- 3:30PM	Child directed/ individualized activities/ prepare for departure



Sample Family Child Care Schedule

JCCDC Early Head Start/Head Start /Family Child

9-Hour Daily Schedule

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Arrival, breakfast, free play
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Circle Time & Provider directed activities: Read a Story Unit Theme Discussion Finger Plays Creative Movement Music Language Development
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	Child directed/learning centers
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	Outdoor Play/Gross Motor Activities
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Cleanup/Lunch
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Lunch
12:00 PM – 12:15 PM	Cleanup/Prepare for Nap
12:15 PM – 12:45 PM	Bathroom Break/Wash Hands/Prepare for Lunch
12:45 PM – 2:15 PM	Nap/put cots away/prepare to go outside
2:15 PM – 2:45 PM	Snack
2:45 PM – 3:30 PM	Outside Play
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Cleanup/Bathroom
3:45 PM – 4:30 PM	Child directed/individualized activities/ prepare for departure/Family Engagement



DISABILITIES/MENTAL HEALTH



The Disabilities/Mental Health service area is responsible for overseeing the area of individualized education services and mental health services for the children, families, and staff. Engagement opportunities include:

- Recruiting children who may require individualized services through the distribution of flyers, phone calls and meetings with community agencies and schools.
- JCCDC will collaborate with other agencies, schools, and community partners to assist those children who may need referrals for, but not limited to, vision, speech, behavior, cognition, fine/gross motor, emotional or adaptive needs.
- The Disabilities/Mental Health Coordinator will proceed through the referral process with each child, including the referral meeting, eligibility meeting, and the Individual Education Program (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting with the parents, if they qualify for services.
- JCCDC will provide professional development opportunities for providers and center-based teachers to meet the needs of children with individualized plans of care.
- Identify social or emotional concerns by screening each child with a mental health screener.
- Support the family, FCC provider, center-based teacher, and child using a staffing procedure that documents behavioral concerns.
- Refer children, if necessary, to a certified counselor to receive treatment, observations, and recommendations.

Child Health and Safety



JCCDC makes your child's health and safety a priority. All provider homes and center-based classrooms are monitored and inspected to make sure that they are following all Head Start and Department of Human Resources (DHR) rules and regulations. Healthy habits are part of the daily routine and encouraged within the home as well. These daily habits include proper hand washing techniques, tooth brushing after meals, and awareness of germs through coughing and sneezing. To encourage physical activity, children have daily outside play except during inclement weather.

Our staff is committed to assisting parents to establish a medical and dental home for their families. We want to see our children grow and develop into healthy, happy, students ready for kindergarten and beyond. This can be done by taking the children to their routine doctor's appointments and dentist's appointments. All office staff work together along with the Providers and center-based teachers to see that each child's individual needs are being met. Those children who have needs that are not within the normal range are supported with resources and information given to parents and families. Children with individual needs are given a Health Care Plan. The plan is completed by a physician to alert all staff to health concerns, allergies, or needs we should be aware of to properly care for each child individually.

All staff are committed to staying up to date with training and certifications, including certification in standard First Aid/CPR. Staff also receive annual training in Recognition of Child Abuse & Neglect as well as OSHA Standards/Blood-borne Pathogen training.

To maintain compliance with the Alabama Department of Education, all Family Child Care Providers and center-based teachers receive annual medication training, which allows providers to administer medication during school hours.

SICK CHILD PROCEDURES

Please do not send your child to school if he/she displays any of the following symptoms: fever, cold (runny nose, coughing, and sneezing), vomiting, diarrhea, skin rashes, pink eye, and ringworm. When a child is sent to school sick, it is dangerous to his/her health and the health of the other children. Please notify the provider or teacher if your child is being kept at home because of sickness. If a child becomes ill while at the FCC home or center-based classroom, he/she must be isolated from the other children. The parent must be contacted and informed to make necessary arrangements to have their child taken home.

The Family Child Care provider, center-based teacher, or FE Specialist will contact the parent if the child has a fever of at least 100 degrees fahrenheit, has diarrhea, is vomiting or has other medical conditions that cause concern. Parents are asked to be considerate of other children enrolled in the center and to keep a sick child at home if signs of illness are evident.

FCC providers or center-based teachers are required to document unusual incidents relating to the health of the child, such as bowel movements with blood, a sore that may not be healing or a child who is unusually irritable without an apparent reason. All incident reports must be kept confidential and will be brought to the parent's attention by the child's FCC provider, teacher, and/or Family Engagement Specialist.

Some common childhood diseases and guidelines are listed below:

Fever: A temperature of 100 degrees or higher. The child must stay home until his/her temperature is normal without medication for 24 hours.

Diarrhea: Watery or foamy bowel movements, more frequent than usual. Diarrhea is defined as three or four watery stools during a period of two hours. If the child is sent home for diarrhea, he/she should not return to the FCC site or childcare center until at least one normal bowel movement has occurred.

Vomiting: Once within a 24-hour period.

Impetigo: A skin infection consisting of blisters surrounded by a reddened area. When the blisters break, the surface becomes raw, weeps and oozes. The lesions eventually become crusted and yellowish.

Conjunctivitis: An eye infection commonly referred to as "pink eye" in which the eye is generally red with some burning and sometimes a thick yellow drainage). The child must be on medication for 24 hours and all signs of the irritation must be gone before returning to the center.

Bronchitis: Begins with hoarseness, cough, and a slight elevation in temperature. The cough may be dry and painful and then becomes loose.

Strep Throat: If the doctor diagnoses strep infection, the child should be on medication for 24 hours before returning to the site or center.

The following are contagious childhood diseases:

- Chicken pox
- Impetigo
- Lice or scabies
- Ringworm or other fungus infections
- Pinworms
- Giardia or other parasites
- Strep throat
- Skin rashes
- Pink eye
- Sinus infection (green or yellow drainage from sinus)
- Cold with fever

Some common childhood diseases and guidelines for when the child may return to the site or center is listed below:

Disease/Illness:

May not return to the center until:

Chicken Pox	When all lesions have dried or scabbed over 5-7 days.
Impetigo	After lesions have healed.
Measles	Return is advised by a physician.
Conjunctivitis (Pinkeye)	Return is advised by a physician.
Ringworm (in scalp)	Doctor's statement indicating condition has been treated with medication.
Scarlet Fever	Adequately treated and temperature is completely gone.
Mumps	All swelling has disappeared or upon the advice of a physician.
Strep Throat	Adequately treated and temperature is completely gone.
Whooping Cough	On the advice of a physician and the cough is completely gone.

JCCDC reserves the right to send the child home and/or require a note from the child's physician before re-admitting him/her into any FCC Home or childcare center under these conditions.

SAFETY AND INCIDENT REPORTS

We encourage all parents to report any health and safety hazards to their FCC provider, center-based teacher, or FE Specialist. It is very important to note unusual or strange circumstances that may cause an accident or become a safety issue.

A Daily Health Check will be completed by every FCC provider or center-based teacher. This report documents any unusual signs, marks, or bruises that a child may have when he/she arrives. It also documents things such as a sore that is not healing properly, or if your child is unusually irritable without any apparent reason. We also keep Incident Reports on your child, if necessary. If your child gets a minor scratch, bump, or bruise while in care, we will note it on the incident report and give a copy to you. All incident reports are kept confidential and signed by the FCC provider or center-based teacher and then forwarded to the Health and Safety Specialist.

AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL/DENTAL TREATMENT

Parents must sign consent forms allowing their child to receive Emergency Medical/Dental treatment, if necessary. In the event the parent or emergency contact cannot be located, the consent form can be used to seek treatment until the parent or guardian arrives.

ACCIDENTS

Minor accidents requiring first aid will be treated at the FCC home or center. If the child sustains any type of head injury, bump or broken skin, the child's parent(s) must be notified by the Health and Safety Specialist immediately. The FCC provider or center-based teacher must prepare an Incident Report immediately after the child is treated and it must be signed by FCC provider or center-based teacher and Health and Safety Specialist. The original will go to the child's parent(s), a copy will be placed in the child's file; and a copy will go to the Health & Safety Specialist. First aid will consist of a cold compress when appropriate. Open wounds may be cleaned using soap and water only. A non-medicated band aide or sterile cloth may be used to cover the exposed area. Under no circumstances are topical medications or sprays to be applied.

Serious accidents might occur inside the home, center, or on the playground. The first step is for the staff member to assess the extent of the injury. If the child is not able to be moved, the following procedures will be followed:

- If the child has sustained a head, neck, or spinal cord injury, has an obvious leg or arm fracture or is unconscious, the provider will call 911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the parent/guardian immediately.
- If the child has none of the above and can be moved, the child's parent/guardian, can choose to transport the child to the doctor or emergency room.
- The Health and Safety Specialist will call ahead to alert the emergency room or doctor with pertinent information.
- Emergency records will be sent to the hospital with the adult accompanying the child, if it is not the parent or legal guardian.
- If the child is not accompanied by a parent/guardian or emergency contact person, an Early Head Start/ Head Start staff person will accompany the child in the EMS vehicle.
Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES are staff or a Provider to transport an injured child.

INCLEMENTS WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Severe winter storms are usually forecast far enough in advance to allow for preparation. JCCDC Head Start/Early Head Start will follow the decision of the Jefferson County School system in determining school delays or closure for inclement weather. For example, if Jefferson County Schools are operating on a 2-hour delay, the children in our program will operate on a 2-hour delay. Parents are encouraged to listen to the local news or radio for school closings.

HOLIDAYS, SCHOOL CLOSINGS & CELEBRATIONS

Young children can be over stimulated by the consumerism associated with major holidays (Halloween, Christmas, Easter, etc.) The program is interested in facilitating an environment which offers meaningful experiences for children so there is no emphasis on specific holiday celebrations or activities. Children will be exposed to meaningful experiences within their own family traditions, which they will be asked to share with the class. Conversations about the diversity of ways that people celebrate are encouraged and will be included as part of our multicultural and anti-bias curriculum.

END OF YEAR/EXIT CELEBRATION

At the end of each program year, Jefferson County Child Development Council, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start FCC, and center-based program celebrates our uniqueness and our differences by showing appreciation to the children, families, and the community that we serve through diverse activities. This event may include a parade, games, and field day activities for the children and families. Also, community vendors may be onsite to offer an array of information and resources for families. It is always our intent to provide developmentally age-appropriate activities for the children that we serve. Children that leave the Early Head Start program to attend Head Start and/or children who leave the Head Start Program to attend Kindergarten in the fall are simply TRANSITIONING to the next level; therefore, the JCCDC Head Start/Early Head Start program does not conduct any type of GRADUATION ceremonies. This also includes CAP & GOWN PICTURES. Please be informed that activities such as Graduation and Graduation picture taking are "PROHIBITED".

DISCIPLINE POLICY

GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE/ SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

The long-term goal for children enrolled in the program is to provide a setting where children can slowly develop a sense of inner self-control; that they can begin to understand the reasons for limits that are set and to develop a sense of both being respected and respecting other's rights and feelings.

When behavior problems arise, staff are encouraged to look at classroom routines, the environment, and individual needs of the child to help the child overcome the behavior. Classrooms are also equipped with behavior modification kits used by teaching staff to assist children in controlling their behavior. Parents are also expected and may be required to assist with their child's behavior by volunteering in the classroom to provide extra assistance to the teaching staff if deemed necessary by the Mental Health Consultant.

It is important for all adults to be aware of the language, the tone of voice and the manner of speech used when working with young children. Providing each child with choices, foreseeing problems, and responding to their needs immediately enables us to help the child positively without having to use direct discipline.

The program will limit the use of suspension due to child's behavior. Temporary suspension will be the last resort in extraordinary circumstances where there is a serious safety threat that cannot be reduced or eliminated by the provision of reasonable modifications.

Before the program determines whether a temporary suspension is necessary, the program will engage with a mental health consultant, collaborate with parents, and utilize appropriate community resources. If a temporary suspension is deemed necessary, the program will help the child return to full participation in all program activities as quickly as possible, while ensuring child safety.

One of the goals of guidance and discipline is to help children develop the necessary skills for problem solving. Discipline is the external tool to help children develop internal control. Young children learn by experimenting, testing limits, and experiencing the consequences of their behavior.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION



No medication (written prescription or over the counter) shall be administered without a written, signed authorization form from the child's guardian/parent and prescription from a physician or health care professional.

1. HS/EHSFCC providers or center-based teachers may administer medication to children if the following conditions are met: The medication or dosage schedule cannot be adjusted to exclude hours the child is in the HS/EHSFCC home or childcare center.
2. A child has a chronic medical problem, which may require urgent administration of medication.
3. A child is recovering from an illness and is well enough to attend the HS/EHSFCC or center-based program, but still requires medication (except in cases of fever).
4. The medication is prescribed and written instructions from the child's physician accompany the medication. (The label is sufficient).
5. The medicine is brought in its original container, the label is legible, and it is current.
6. **The legal guardian must complete an Authorization for Administering Medication form. This form shall be valid for no more than 7 days (5 business days) unless accompanied by a written physician's statement. Based on this regulation, the parent's authorization form alone is good for 7 days. No time frame specific if there is a written physician statement.**

If over the counter medicine is given to a child before he/she enters the Provider's home or center-based classroom, the provider or teacher must be notified by the parent of the medication given, time the medicine is given, and any known reactions from the medicine given. You must provide this information to the provider or teacher at the time you sign the child into the Provider's home or center-based classroom on a confidentiality form. The information will be confidential between the provider or teacher, and the parent.



JCCDC EHS-HS FCC and Center Based Authorization to Administer Medication/Medical Procedures DHR-CDC-1949

Provider: _____ **Date:** _____

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your written permission is required to administer medication or medical procedures to your child. Any prescription drug or over the counter drug sent to the childcare facility (home or center) must be in its original container and must be clearly labeled with your child's name, the name of the drug, and directions for administering the drug. A new authorization form is needed each week. If it is necessary for your child to be given medication while at the childcare facility, **please complete the following information.**

Child's Name _____

Prescription Number _____

Name of Medication _____

Amount of medication to be given at each dosage _____

Instructions (How to give or apply, such as given by mouth, apply to skin, inhale, drops in eyes, etc.) _____

Time for last dosage given at home _____

Time(s) of dosage(s) to be given at the childcare facility _____

Please give my child the above-named medication at the time(s) and in the amount(s) indicated.

Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date _____

To be completed by licensee/staff/caregiver:

Date medication given	Time medication given	Signature of person giving medication

Instructions:

- The staff person should complete or assist the parent(s) in completing this form.
- Complete a separate form for each prescription medication.



The Family and Community Engagement (FCE) service area is responsible for fostering meaningful relationships with their families. Being a part of the JCCDC Head Start/Early Head Start program means individualized services for the parents as well as the children. When enrolled, you will be asked to develop a family partnership agreement (FPA) with our agency.

The purpose of the **Family Partnership Agreement (FPA)** is to support parent/guardian(s) in identifying their own strengths, interests, and goals. We feel that fathers are very important and play an integral role in a child's development. Therefore, we want to include them in this process, even if they are not residing in the home with the child. Our staff will encourage both parents (if possible) to be a part of the family partnership process. This includes writing down goals and interests, as well as setting timetables for achieving them. Your FE Specialist will schedule meeting times to complete the Family Partnership Agreement. After the initial meeting, your FE Specialist will continue to follow up and work with you to achieve your family goals and document accomplishments.

Your FE Specialist can assist in:

- making referrals for utility assistance.
- writing resumes.
- completing applications (employment, SNAP, Medicaid, etc.).
- Spanish translation (if needed).
- Enrolling in a GED program.
- Looking for housing and much more!

JCCDC's team of FE Specialists also serves as the link between parents, staff, family, and community. Specialists can assist parents with resources available in the community and in every phase of the program, from beginning to end. We are here to offer you quality service and provide you with an unforgettable Head Start experience.

- There are also several ways **YOU** as a parent, can participate:
- Become a member of JCCDC's Policy Council.
- Dads, uncles, grandfathers, big brothers (19 or older), any male figure in your child's life can join our Male Involvement "Fatherhood Initiative Program."

Parents are encouraged to volunteer. We need you: in the classroom, on field trips, at parent meetings, at screenings, agency activities, etc. Parent Orientation will be the **first official** Parent Meeting. This meeting is very important. Parents will be informed of the Head Start/Early Head Start rules, regulations, hours of operation for all JCCDC provider sites and partnered childcare centers and much more!

All meetings are held once a month. Topics of the meetings will be distributed to parents by way of flyers, phone calls, emails, and text messages. Providers and center-based teachers will also post flyers at their sites or in their classrooms. FE Specialists will call with a reminder one week prior to the meeting date or event.





READYROSIE

This program year, we're introducing families to an excellent online learning tool called ReadyRosie. We're enthusiastic about the possibilities ReadyRosie offers to our program and are eager to embark on this learning journey with you. We're delighted to welcome you to our community of learners, committed to ensuring that your child's educational experience is not only enriching but also supported by innovative tools designed to enhance family engagement. ReadyRosie is a key component to our approach to learning, playing a crucial role in fostering a positive and collaborative educational environment.

What is ReadyRosie?

ReadyRosie is an exceptional online resource that goes beyond traditional learning methods. It is specifically crafted to promote school readiness by empowering parents and caregivers to participate actively in their child's learning journey. Through ReadyRosie, we aim to create a bridge that connect families, teachers, and schools, fostering a supportive learning environment for our young children.

How does ReadyRosie help families?

ReadyRosie provides many of benefits to families through its unique features:

- **Daily Videos:** Families receive engaging daily videos via email or app notifications. These videos showcase simple, research-based activities that parents can enjoy with their children.
- **Age-Appropriate Content:** ReadyRosie tailors its content to your child's age, ensuring that the activities are not only enjoyable but also developmentally appropriate.
- **Language and Literacy:** Families will learn effective strategies to boost language development, literacy skills, and social-emotional growth in their children.
- **Parent-Child Interaction:** ReadyRosie actively encourages meaningful interactions between parents and children, fostering strong bonds that contribute to a positive learning experience.
- **Accessible Anywhere:** Learning with ReadyRosie is convenient as families can access it on their mobile devices, allowing for flexibility in integrating educational activities into your daily routine.



Benefits for Teachers

Our educators utilize ReadyRosie to enhance the learning experience in the following ways:

- **Alignment with Curriculum:** Teachers align ReadyRosie activities with our classroom curriculum, ensuring a seamless integration of home and school learning.
- **Parent Workshops:** ReadyRosie offers workshops for parents, providing effective strategies and insights to further support your child's education.
- **Bridge Between Home and School:** Teachers use ReadyRosie as a bridge, connecting the learning that takes place at home with what happens in the classroom, creating a holistic educational experience.
- **Data Insights:** Educators gain valuable insights into family engagement and participation, enabling better communication and collaboration between home and school.

Impact on Family Engagement

Engaging with ReadyRosie has a profound impact on family dynamics and educational outcomes:

- ❖ **Empowerment:** ReadyRosie empowers families to take an active role in their child's education, fostering a sense of empowerment and involvement.
- ❖ **Confidence Building:** Parents gain confidence in supporting their child's learning, contributing to a positive and supportive learning environment.
- ❖ **Stronger Connections:** By utilizing ReadyRosie, we aim to build stronger connections with our families, creating a collaborative learning environment that benefits everyone involved.
- ❖ **Positive Outcomes:** Increased family engagement, facilitated by ReadyRosie, correlates with improved student outcomes, creating a positive and lasting impact on your child's over all development.

ERSEA

(Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance)



Children are recruited and enrolled in the program without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, or special needs. This component area also assists families in their efforts to improve their quality of life.

As a Head Start/Early Head Start parent great things are expected of you on this journey towards **EXCELLENCE**. As a parent or guardian, you are expected to:

- Bring your child to school every day.
- Notify your child's provider if the child will be absent.
- Sign your child in upon arrival and sign out upon departure.
- Make sure the teacher or aide knows your child is present.
- Obtain a doctor's excuse if three or more consecutive days are missed.
- Only allow individuals on your "pick up" list to pick up your child from school.
- Make sure all individuals on the "pick up" list are over 19 years of age.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

To ensure your child's safety, they must be escorted by you or an authorized adult into each FCC site or center-based classroom where you must sign him/her in. When you pick your child up in the afternoon, you must sign him/her out. Please make sure your child does not arrive until the assigned arrival time and is picked up by the closing time. Picking your child up after the required pickup time could result in you being charged fees from your FCC provider or childcare center.

Your child will not be allowed to enter or exit the FCC site or center without an escort and the FCC provider or center-based teacher will not permit your child to enter or exit their home or classroom without an escort. If you are consistently late bringing your child to the FCC site or center, you will need to meet with your Family Engagement Specialist so that they may assist you with options to get your child to school in a timely manner. A pattern of picking up your child late is unacceptable, upsetting to your child and difficult for the provider or teacher that needs to close their site/home or classroom and attend to their own families. If you are consistently late in picking up your child, your FE Specialist will schedule a conference to assist you with developing strategies for picking up your child in a timely manner.

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES

The Family Childcare provider or center-based teacher will contact parents on the 1st day of an absence then, after three (3) consecutive days, the Family Engagement Specialist will contact the parent. If your child is absent for 4 consecutive days, has a pattern of absences and you have not contacted your FE Specialist, will attempt to contact you via telephone. If unsuccessful, then a home visit and conference will be scheduled with JCCDC Administration for problem-solving solutions. If your child continues to remain absent, then he/she will be removed from the active roll and placed back on the waiting list. After thirty (30) days your child will be terminated from the program. We know that children who attend on a regular basis have a better outcome. Therefore, we want to maximize the number of days your child attends.

Termination of Enrollment

Children can be terminated from the Head Start/Early Head Start program for the following reasons:

- Absenteeism- documented established pattern of excessive absences.
- Violating Head Start/Early Head Start policies.
- Knowingly falsifying eligibility determination or income documentation.
- Failure to maintain immunizations.

Head Start/Early Head Start is a federally funded program. Funds are paid for your child to be in attendance each day the school is open. When your child does not attend on a consistent basis, it not only upsets their continuity of education, but it also allows federal funds to be wasted. If federal funds are not used properly, we, JCCDC, can be asked to return funding. Returning funds means reduced access to developmentally appropriate education for some children in our program. This is not what we want to happen.



Nutrition



Here at JCCDC, we strive to ensure that the nutritional needs of our children and families are met consistently. We encourage family style dining within the Provider homes and to be re-enforced in the homes of our families. We do Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings at least two times per program year to make sure that the children are at a healthy weight according to their age and height. When children are well nourished, it helps with their healthy growth and development.

All JCCDC providers participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), where nutritious meals are prepared according to the USDA standards. All children are offered breakfast, lunch, and a snack each day. The meals are prepared with all allergies taken into consideration. Water and milk are required unless there are special dietary restrictions.

For center-based parents, please see our childcare partner for information on menus and meals served.

There are resources sent home to parents and posted within each provider's site. The providers participate in workshops to learn more creative ways to prepare meals for the children.

We work with the Health & Safety Specialist to identify any food allergies, especially in the child's health history completed at intake or on the physical exam received from the doctor.

For our families wanting to eat healthier, we offer resources to help facilitate opportunities for the transition to a healthier lifestyle.

For breastfeeding mothers, we support nursing practices at the agency and in provider sites.



Parent Complaint and Resolution Policy

The JCCDC Parent Complaint form can be completed for any complaints or incidents. If you need to submit a form, the following steps should be taken:

- If the complaint concerns another parent/child – complete the form and contact the Family Engagement Manager at (205) 379-6064.
- If the complaint concerns agency staff - complete the form and contact the Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director at (205) 379-6065.
- If the complaint concerns a provider - complete the form and contact the Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director at (205) 379-6065.

After a complaint has been recorded on the complaint form, every effort will be made to resolve the complaint quickly and fairly. All complaints must be filed no later than three (3) days from the date of the alleged incident. Forms can be mailed to 728 37th Street South Birmingham, Al 35222 or faxed to (205) 933-7828. Confidentiality will always be respected.

The form can also be found on the agency's website at www.jccdc.com under the "For Parents" dropdown.



**JCCDC HEAD START-EARLY HEAD START
PARENT COMPLAINT FORM**

Name:	Family Child Care Site or Center Classroom:
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Phone No:	E-mail Address:
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Date Complaints Occurred:

The issues are (use attachments if necessary):

The facts supporting this are (use attachments if necessary):

The solution that I am seeking is (use attachments if necessary):

Date:	Signature:
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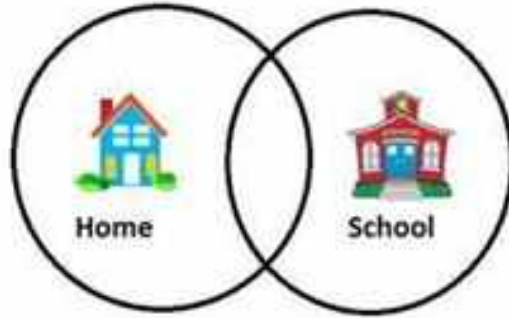
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Received:	Date of Conference:
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Response (use attachments if necessary):

Date:	Executive Director, HS-EHS Program Director
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“Who is teaching my child?”



My child’s provider or teacher is _____

My provider or teacher telephone number is _____

My provider or teacher address is _____

My FE Specialist _____

My Specialist’s direct extension is _____

DAY TO DAY PROGRAM OPERATIONS

FCC EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM HOURS OF OPERATION 7:30 am-4:30 pm	JCCDC CENTER-BASED HOURS OF OPERATION 7:30 am-3:30 pm
FCC HEAD START PROGRAM HOURS OF OPERATION 7:30 am-4:30 pm	

**JCCDC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION
8:00 am – 5:00 pm**

FCC Program Calendar

Jefferson County Child Development Council, Inc.

July 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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August 2024						
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September 2024						
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November 2024						
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2024-2025 EHS Program Calendar

FCC Program Option
728 37th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35222
Phone: 205-933-1095 Fax:205-933-7828

Jul 15 - 17	Pre-Service Training
Jul 18 - 19	Playground/Classroom Setup
Jul 19	Open House at FDCHs
Jul 22	First Day of School for Children
Sep 2	Labor Day
Sep 4	1st 45 Days of School
Oct 14	Professional Development Day
Oct 19	1st 90 Days of School
Nov 11	Veteran's Day
Nov 27-30	Student Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 23-Jan 3	Winter Break
Jan 6	Students return to School
Jan 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb 17	Professional Development Day
Mar 24-Mar 28	Spring Break
Apr 18	Professional Development Day
May 19 - May 23	End of School Celebration Week
May 23	Last Day of School
May 26	Memorial Day
May 27 - May 30	FCC Program Closeout
1st Home Visit - 08/19/24	
2nd Home Visit - 04/14/25	
1st Parent Teacher Conference - 08/05/24	
2nd Parent Teacher Conference - 01/17/25	
TSG Dates: 11/14/24, 03/14/25, 05/31/25	

Students - 197 Days
Teacher Workdays - 208 Days

Agency Observed Holidays/Closures	
Jul 4-5, 2024	Independence Day
Sep 2, 2024	Labor Day
Nov 11, 2024	Veterans Day
Nov 28-29, 2024	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 23, 2024-Jan 3, 2025	Winter Holiday
Jan 20, 2025	ML King Jr. Day
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day
June 19, 2025	Juneteenth Day

EHS Program Closeout Days
May 27, 2025 - May 30, 2025

- Weather Day if needed.

January 2025						
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February 2025						
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April 2025						
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May 2025						
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June 2025						
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Professional Development Days	
Jul 15- 17, 2024	PD - Preservice
Oct 14, 2024	PD - Inservice 1
Feb 17, 2025	PD - Inservice 2
Apr 18, 2025	PD - Inservice 3

Code of Service Provision	
	45 and 90 Day Timeline
	TSG Dates
	ASQ-3 Begin
	1st Home Visit
	Parent Teacher Conferences
	Program Year Closeout

	School Closed		PD Professional Development Day - No School for Students
	SRS Students Return to School		TSG TSG Begins
	OH Open House		HOL Holiday

	Parent Teacher Conferences
	First & Last Day of School
	Home Visit Dates

Center-Based Program Calendar

Jefferson County Child Development Council, Inc.

July 2024						
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August 2024						
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September 2024						
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October 2024						
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November 2024						
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December 2024						
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2024-2025 HS Program Calendar	
Center-Based/FCC Program Options 728 37th Street South Birmingham, AL 35222 Phone: 205-933-1095 Fax: 205-933-7828	
Jul 15 - 19	Pre-Service Training
Jul 29 - 31	Playground/Classroom Setup
Aug 1-2	Open House at Centers
Aug 5	First Day of School for Students
Sep 2	Labor Day
Sep 19	1st 45 Days of School
Oct 14	Professional Development Day
Nov 3	1st 90 Days of School
Nov 11	Veteran's Day
Nov 27-30	Student Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 23-Jan 3	Winter Break
Jan 6	Students return to School
Jan 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb 17	Professional Development Day
Mar 24-Mar 28	Spring Break
Apr 18	Professional Development Day
May 19 - May 23	End of School Celebration Week
May 23	Last Day of School
May 26	Memorial Day
May 27 - May 30	Center Program Closeout
1st Home Visit - 09/03/24	
2nd Home Visit - 04/14/25	
1st Parent Teacher Conference - 08/19/24	
2nd Parent Teacher Conference - 01/17/25	
TSG Dates: 11/14/24, 02/15/25, 05/17/25	

January 2025						
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February 2025						
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March 2025						
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April 2025						
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May 2025						
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June 2025						
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Students - 186 Days
Teacher Workdays - 203 Days

Agency Observed Holidays/Closures	
Jul 4-5, 2024	Independence Day
Sep 2, 2024	Labor Day
Nov 11, 2024	Veterans Day
Nov 28-29, 2024	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 23, 2024-Jan 3, 2025	Winter Holiday
Jan 20, 2025	ML King Jr. Day
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day
June 19, 2025	Juneteenth Day

HS Program Closeout Days
May 27, 2025 - May 30, 2025

Professional Development Days	
Jun 15 - 19, 2024	PD - Preservice
Oct 14, 2024	PD - Inservice 1
Feb 17, 2025	PD - Inservice 2
Apr 18, 2025	PD - Inservice 3

Code of Service Provision	
	45 and 90 Day Timeline
	TSG Dates
	ASQ-3 Begin
	1st and 2nd Home Visit
	Parent Teacher Conferences
	Program Year Closeout

SC School Closed	PD Professional Development Day - No School for Students	⏏ Parent Teacher Conferences	⦿ First & Last Day of School
SRS Students Return to School	TSG TSG Begins	🏠 Home Visit Dates	
OH Open House	HOL Holiday		