


EARLY CHILDHOOD **High-Quality Implementation Crosswalk**

Mississippi Department of Education
Early Childhood Guidelines, Head Start Criteria, and
Mississippi Child Care Licensure Requirements

ENTRANCE AGE

| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
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| Cumulative records of students reflect that pre-kindergarten students shall have reached the age of three or four years on or before September 1.Evidence may include a birth certificate. | 1302.12(b)(2)(i)1302.12(b)(2)(ii) | For Head Start, a child must: be at least three years old, or turn three years old by the due date used to determine eligibility for public school in the community in which the Head Start programs is located.Be no older that the age required to attend school. |  |  |
| A birth certificate and current immunization record are in the cumulative record for each pre-kindergarten student.Evidence will include a birth certificate and a current immunization record. | 1302.15(e)  | A program must comply with state immunization enrollment and attendance requirements, with the exception of homeless children as described in §1302.16(c)1). | 1.6.3 (8) | Each facility shall maintain a notebook containing copies of the MSDH Certificate of Immunization Compliance (MSDH Form #121) for both staff and children at the facility. The notebook shall contain separate current alphabetical rosters of both staff and children. The certificates shall be filed in alphabetical order to match the current staff and child rosters. |

PHYSICAL SETTING

| **EXISTING STRUCTURE** |
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| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
| The classroom shall consist of no less than 35 square feet per child with a minimum of 600 square feet.  | 1302.21(d)(2) | A center-based program must have at least 35 square feet of unusable indoor space per child available for the care and use of children (exclusive of bathrooms, halls, kitchen, staff rooms, and storage places) and at least 75 square feet of unusable outdoor play space per child.  | 1.11.2(1) | Every license shall set forth the licensed facility’s maximum licensed capacity, which shall be based upon a minimum of thirty-five (35) square feet of usable indoor space per child. |
| Pre-Kindergarten classrooms shall be located at ground level. |  | As required by Licensure | 1.11.7(1)1.11.1(2)1.2.5 | At least two separate exit doors shall be provided from every floor level.All child care facility buildings shall meet all fire safety standards listed on the MSDH Form #333 and allall applicable local fire safety standards and/or ordinances.Certificate of Inspection by Fire Department: A certificate of inspection and approval by the fire department of the municipality or other political subdivision in which the child care facility is located shall be submitted to the licensing agency with the application and license fees. Except that if no fire department exists where the facility is located, the State Fire Marshall shall certify as to the inspection for safety from fire hazards.The inspection form to be used for fire inspections shall be MSDH Form #333 and shall be signed by a signatory authority of the fire inspection authority making the inspection. |
| Every closet latch shall be such that children can open the door from the inside.  |  |  As required by Licensure | 1.11.7(6) | Any latch or other fastening device on an exit door shall be provided with a knob, handle, panic bar, or other simple type of releasing device. Dual action door fasteners are not permitted. |
| The maximum distance to an exit from any point in the building shall not exceed 150 feet. The maximum distance from the classroom door at the corridor to an exit shall not exceed 100 feet.  |  |  As required by Licensure | 1.11.7(2) | Exit doors shall be remote from each other. |
| Safety covers are placed on all wall sockets which are not in use.  | Caring for Our Children Basics 5.2.4.2 | All accessible electrical outlets should be “tamper-resistant electrical outlets” that contain internal shutter mechanisms to prevent children from sticking objects into receptacles. In settings that do not have “tamper-resistant electrical outlets,” outlets should have “safety covers” that are attached to the electrical outlet by a screw or other means to prevent easy removal by a child. “Safety plugs” may also be used if they cannot be easily removed from outlets by children and do not pose a choking risk.  | 1.11.1(16) | Unused electrical outlets shall be protected by a safety plug cover. |
| Every toilet room door lock (applicably only for restroom attached to classrooms) shall be designed to permit opening of the locked door from the outside in an emergency, and the opening device shall be readily accessible to the staff. |  |  | B.4 Uniform Fire Safety Survey For All Child Care Facilities1.11.7(6)1.11.7(7) | All doors unlocked during hours of operation.Any latch or other fastening device on an exit door shall be provided with a knob, handle, panic bar, or other simple type of releasing device. Dual action door fastenersare not permitted.The force required to fully open exit doors shall not exceed 50 pounds applied to the latch stile (panic bar). |
| The classroom will not be located more than 125 feet from a bathroom. In the event of an emergency, adults shall be able to get to students, regardless of the student restroom location (classroom or hallway). |  | As required by Licensure | 1.11.5(1) | Toilets and hand washing lavatories shall be located within the physical confines of child care facility and shall be convenient to outside playground areas. |
| Furniture shall be of an appropriate height and will vary to meet the needs of all children. Tables and chairs shall be the furniture. | 1302.31(d) | To support implementation of the curriculum and the requirements described in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this section a program must provide age-appropriate equipment, materials, supplies and physical space for indoor and outdoor learning environments, including functional space. The equipment, materials and supplies must include any necessary accommodations and the space must be accessible to children with disabilities. Programs must change materials intentionally and periodically to support children’s interests, development, and learning. | 1.10.4 | Chairs and tables shall be of a size appropriate to the size and age of the children. There shall be an adequate number of chairs and tables to accommodate the children present at the facility. |

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| **NEW STRUCTURES ESTABLISHED AFTER 2017** |
| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
| The classroom shall be a minimum of 1,000 square feet. The minimum classroom width shall be 24 feet except in pod-type structures. | 1302.21(d)(1) | The facilities used by a program must meet state, tribal, or local licensing requirements, even if exempted by the licensing entity. When state, tribal, or local requirements vary from Head Start requirements, the most stringent provision takes precedence. | 1.11.3.(5)1.11.2(1)1.11.7.(5) | The width of doors shall accommodate wheelchairs and the needs of individuals with physical disabilities.Every license shall set forth the licensed facility’s maximum licensed capacity, which shall be based upon a minimum of thirty-five (35) square feet of usable indoor space per child. Likewise, the capacity for each room where children are kept shall have a minimum of thirty-five (35) square feet of usable space per child, measured on the inside, wall-to-wall dimensions,Exit doors shall be a minimum of 32 inches wide and open outward. No single leaf in an exit door shall be less than 28 inches wide or more than 48 inches wide.Any latch or other fastening device on an exit door shall be provided with a knob, handle, panic bar, or other simple type of releasing device. Dual action door fasteners are not permitted. |
| Classroom lighting shall contain operable standard fluorescent lights with area controls that provide adequate lighting. Switches within reach of the children will be located at the doors. Toilet rooms shall contain lighting fixtures. | 1302.47(b)(1)(v) | All facilities where children are served, including areas for learning, playing, sleeping, toileting, and eating are, at a minimum: Well lit, including emergency lighting. | 1.11.1(9)1.11.1(13) | All parts of the child care facility used by children shall be lead-safe, well lighted, ventilated, and free of hazardous conditions, such as but not limited to, open stairs and unprotected low windows.All ceiling lighting shall be shielded completely and encased in shatterproof materials. |
| The maximum distance to an exit from any point in the building shall not exceed 150 feet. The maximum distance from the interior classroom door at the corridor to an exit shall not exceed 100 feet. |  | As required by Licensure | 1.11.7(3) | Dead end corridors shall not exceed 20 feet in length. |
| Pre-kindergarten classrooms are to be located at ground level. | 1302.47(2)(i-v) | Equipment and materials. Indoor and outdoor play equipment, cribs, cots, feeding chairs, strollers, and other equipment used in the care of enrolled children, and as applicable, other equipment and materials meet standards set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) or the American Society for Testing and Materials, International (ASTM). All equipment and materials must at a minimum:1. Be clean and safe for children’s use and are appropriately disinfected;
2. Be accessible only to children for whom they are age appropriate;
3. Be designed to ensure appropriate supervision of children at all times;
4. Allow for the separation of infants and toddlers from preschoolers during play in center-based programs; and,
5. Be kept safe through an ongoing system of preventative maintenance.
 | 1.11.7(1)1.11.1(2)1.2.5  | At least two separate exit doors shall be provided from every floor level.All child care facility buildings shall meet all fire safety standards listed on the MSDH Form #333 and all applicable local fire safety standards and/or ordinancesCertificate of Inspection by Fire Department: A certificate of inspection and approval by the fire department of the municipality or other political subdivision in which the child care facility is located shall be submitted to the licensing agency with the application and license fees. Except that if no fire department exists where the facility is located, the State Fire Marshall shall certify as to the inspection for safety from fire hazards. The inspection form to be used for fire inspections shall be MSDH Form #333 and shall be signed by a signatory authority of the fire inspection authority making the inspection. |
| Each classroom shall contain a minimum of one bathroom that shall consist of a toilet and lavatory, or the lavatory may be omitted if the work counter area is equipped with a sink and is in close proximity to the toilet room door. | 1302.47(b)(1) | A program must develop A program must develop and implement a system of management, including ongoing training, oversight, correction and continuous improvement in accordance with §[1302.102](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-102-achieving-program-goals), that includes policies and practices to ensure all facilities, equipment and materials, background checks, safety training, safety and hygiene practices and administrative safety procedures are adequate to ensure child safety. | 1.11.5(1)1.11.5.(3) | Toilets and hand washing lavatories shall be located within the physical confines of child care facility and shall be convenient to outside playground areas.The following ratios shall apply: Toilets, urinals, and hand washing lavatories shall be apportioned at a ratio of 1:15. Urinals shall not exceed 33 percent of the total requiredtoilet fixtures. When the number of children in the ratio is exceeded by one, an additional fixture shall be required. |
| A toilet paper holder is required and is to be placed within a child’s reach from the toilet. |  | As required by Licensure | 1.11.5(5) | Toilets, urinals, hand washing lavatories, and sinks shall be clean and operational. Bathrooms, hand washing lavatories, and sinks shall be supplied with soap, and individual towels for drying hands. **Each toilet shall be supplied with toilet paper**. |
| Individual toilet rooms are required to accommodate the physically handicapped. | 1302.31(a) | As required by Licensure | 1.20.1(1) | The child care facility areas to be utilized by a child with special needs shall be adapted as necessary to accommodate special devices that may be required for the child to function independently, as appropriate. |
| Every toilet room door lock (applicable only for restrooms attached to classrooms) shall be designed to permit opening of the locked door from the outside in an emergency, and the opening device shall be readily accessible to the staff. |  | As required by Licensure | B.4 Uniform Fire Safety Survey For All Child Care Facilities | All doors unlocked during hours of operation. |
| The furniture shall be of appropriate height and variety to meet the needs of all children. Tables and chairs shall be the student furniture. | 1302.31(d) | To support implementation of the curriculum and the requirements described in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this section a program must provide age-appropriate equipment, materials, supplies and physical space for indoor and outdoor learning environments, including functional space. The equipment, materials and supplies must include any necessary accommodations and the space must be accessible to children with disabilities. Programs must change materials intentionally and periodically to support children’s interests, development, and learning. | 1.10.1.11.20.1.1 | Equipment, toys, and materials for both indoor and outdoor use shall be appropriate to the age and developmental needs of the children served.The child care facility areas to be utilized by a child with special needs shall be adapted as necessary to accommodate special devices that may be required for the child to function independently, as appropriate. |
| Classroom areas, not carpeted, must be covered with resilient flooring or other easily cleaned material. |  | As required by Licensure | 2.11.1.7 | The ceiling, floor, and/or floor covering shall be properly installed, kept clean and in good condition, and maintained in good repair. Carpeting is prohibited in kitchen areas. |
| Open storage units shall be provided for each student. |  | As required by Licensure | 1.21.3(3) | Provisions shall be made in sleeping areas for the use and storage of clothing and personal belongings and they shall be within easy reach of the child using them. |
| Wall receptacles shall be placed 10 feet to 15 feet apart in each classroom. Any receptacle in the counter area should not be located near a sink. A minimum of 6 outlets is required. Safety covers should be provided for wall sockets not in use. | Caring for Our Children Basics 5.2.4.2 | All accessible electrical outlets should be “tamper-resistant electrical outlets” that contain internal shutter mechanisms to prevent children from sticking objects into receptacles. In settings that do not have “tamper-resistant electrical outlets,” outlets should have “safety covers” that are attached to the electrical outlet by a screw or other means to prevent easy removal by a child. “Safety plugs” may also be used if they cannot be easily removed from outlets by children and do not pose a choking risk. | 1.11.1(16) | Unused electrical outlets shall be protected by a safety plug cover. |
| Every closet latch shall be such that children can open the door from the inside. |  | As required by Licensure | 1.11.7(6)1.11.7(7) | Any latch or other fastening device on an exit door shall be provided with a knob, handle, panic bar, or other simple type of releasing device. Dual action door fasteners are not permitted.The force required to open fully exit doors shall not exceed 50 pounds applied to the latch stile (panic bar). |
| Built-in cabinets or portable storage areas shall be constructed to promote accessibility of materials to the child in order to encourage the selection of activities, to facilitate room clean-up and to serve as learning center dividers. | 1302.31(d) | Materials and space for learning. To support implementation of the curriculum and the requirements described in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this section a program must provide age-appropriate equipment, materials, supplies and physical space for indoor and outdoor learning environments, including functional space. The equipment, materials and supplies must include any necessary accommodations and the space must be accessible to children with disabilities. Programs must change materials intentionally and periodically to support children’s interests, development, and learning. | 2.10.1.1 | Equipment, toys, and materials for both indoor and outdoor use shall be appropriate to the age and developmental needs of the children served.  |

CURRICULUM

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| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
| The instructional day shall include large and small group activities, learning center activities, and individual instructional activities. Evidence may include a class roster or lesson plans. | 1302.31(c)(2) | A program must ensure teachers implement well-organized learning environments with developmentally appropriate schedules, lesson plans, and indoor and outdoor learning experiences that provide adequate opportunities for choice, play, exploration, and experimentation among a variety of learning, sensory, and motor experiences and: for preschool age children, include teacher-directed and child-initiated activities, active and quiet learning activities, and opportunities for individual, small group, and large group learning activities. | 1.9.1(1)1.9.1(2)1.10.1(8) | The child care facility shall provide a basic program of activities geared to the age levels and developmental needs of the children served.The child care facility shall provide for the reading of age-appropriate materials to children.The daily activity schedule shall demonstrate that preschoolers are given opportunities to do a variety of activities, including both quiet and active, such as block play, art activities, puzzles, books, and learning games, and that stories are read to and discussed with each child every day. |
| Subjects for pre-kindergarten shall be integrated through a unit/thematic format. Evidence may include lesson plans. | 1302.32(a)(1)(iii) | Have an organized developmental scope and sequence that include plans and materials for learning experiences based on developmental progressions and how children learn. | 1.10.1.8 | The daily activity schedule shall demonstrate that preschoolers are given opportunities to do a variety of activities, including both quiet and active, such as block play, art activities, puzzles, books, and learning games, and that stories are read to and discussed with each child every day. |
| Teachers shall use a research-based curriculum that places an emphasis on early literacy and is aligned to the *Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants Through Four-Year-Old Children.*  Evidence may include lesson plans. | 1302.32(a)(1) (i)(ii)(iii) | 1. Center-based and family child care programs must implement developmentally appropriate research-based early childhood curricula, including additional curricular enhancements, as appropriate that:
2. Are based on scientifically valid research and have standardized training procedures and curriculum materials to support implementation;
3. Are aligned with the *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five* and, as appropriate, state early learning and development standards; and are sufficiently content-rich to promote measurable progress toward development and learning outlined in the Framework; and,
4. Have an organized developmental scope and sequence that include plans and materials for learning experiences based on developmental progressions and how children learn.
 | 1.9.1.1 | The child care facility shall provide a basic program of activities geared to the age levels and developmental needs of the children served. |
| A minimum of 5 learning centers containing manipulatives, and creative art materials shall be organized, arranged, and labeled so that they are accessible to children. They should be in simultaneous use. Non-fiction and fiction books, writing materials, and creative arts materials that are appropriate to children’s developmental states should be accessible to children throughout the day. Evidence may include class schedule and lesson plans. | 1302.31(c)(2) | A program must ensure teachers implement well-organized learning environments with developmentally appropriate schedules, lesson plans, and indoor and outdoor learning experiences that provide adequate opportunities for choice, play, exploration, and experimentation among a variety of learning, sensory, and motor experiences and:1. For preschool age children, include teacher-directed and child-initiated activities, active and quiet learning activities, and opportunities for individual, small group, and large group learning activities.
 | 1.9.1(1&2) | The child care facility shall provide a basic program of activities geared to the age levels and developmental needs of the children served.The child care facility shall provide for the reading of age-appropriate materials to children. |
| Every child enrolled in a pre-kindergarten program should be engaged in learning center activities for the purpose of learning and mastery of performance standards for a minimum of 120 minutes per day. Evidence may include class schedules and lesson plans. |  | As required by Licensure | 1.10.1.8 | The daily activity schedule shall demonstrate that preschoolers are given opportunities to do a variety of activities, including both quiet and active, such as block play, art activities, puzzles, books, and learning games, and that stories are read to and discussed with each child every day. |

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

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| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
| The initial expenditure for any new classroom for equipment, instructional materials and consumable supplies shall be adequate to equip a classroom of 20 children or the number being served if more than 20. Evidence may include budget reports, purchase orders, or invoices. | 1302.31(d) | To support implementation of the curriculum and the requirements described in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this section a program must provide age-appropriate equipment, materials, supplies and physical space for indoor and outdoor learning environments, including functional space. The equipment, materials and supplies must include any necessary accommodations and the space must be accessible to children with disabilities. Programs must change materials intentionally and periodically to support children’s interests, development, and learning. | 1.10.1.4 | Developmentally age-appropriate toys shall be available and accessible for preschoolers, and shall include but not be limited to the following: 1. Active play equipment for climbing and balancing.
2. Unit blocks and accessories.
3. Puzzles and manipulative toys.
4. Picture books, records, and musical instruments.
5. Art materials such as finger and tempera paints, clay, play dough, crayons, collage materials, markers, scissors, and paste.
6. Dramatic play materials such as dolls, dress-up clothes and props, child-sized furniture, and puppets.
7. Sand and water toys.
8. Children's original work shall be displayed in the child care facility.
9. Books shall be on shelves and tables for children to look at and read. Every child shall have age-appropriate materials (including picture books) read to and discussed with him or her every day. Where appropriate, the materials should cover topics with which the children are involved.
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| The district shall replenish the consumable supplies and instructional materials in each classroom at least once yearly. Evidence may include budget reports, purchase orders, or invoices. | 1302.31(d) | To support implementation of the curriculum and the requirements described in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this section a program must provide age-appropriate equipment, materials, supplies and physical space for indoor and outdoor learning environments, including functional space. The equipment, materials and supplies must include any necessary accommodations and the space must be accessible to children with disabilities. Programs must change materials intentionally and periodically to support children’s interests, development, and learning. | 1.10.1.1 | Equipment, toys, and materials for both indoor and outdoor use shall be appropriate to the age and developmental needs of the children served. |

ASSESSMENT

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| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
| All pre-kindergarten students are required to participate in the state-approved kindergarten readiness assessment. Evidence may include class rosters with completion dates, scores or results reports. |  |  |  |  |
| A continuous evaluation through use of a variety of techniques, procedures, and tools shall be used to determine individual students’ social, emotional, and academic enrichment needs. The evaluation shall be based on the learning outcomes in the required curriculum standards. Evidence may include examples of blank evaluation tools or completed student tools/results. | 1302.33(b)(1) | A program must conduct standardized and structured assessments, which may be observation-based or direct, for each child that provide ongoing information to evaluate the child’s developmental level and progress in outcomes aligned to the goals described in the *Head Start Early Learning Child Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five*. Such assessments must result in usable information for teachers, home visitors, and parents and be conducted with sufficient frequency to allow for individualization within the program year. |  |  |
| Schools must conduct vision/hearing screenings for all pre-kindergarten students within the first 45 school calendar days. Evidence may include a log of completed screenings, screening result reports, or letters to parents regarding results. | 1302.24(b)(2) | Within 45 calendar days after the child first attends the program or, for the home-based program option, receives a home visit, a program must either obtain or perform evidence-based vision and hearing screenings. |  |  |

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

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| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
| A designated area for supervised outside periods during the pre-kindergarten day shall be provided. | 1302.47(b)(5)(iii) | Safety practices. All staff and consultants follow appropriate practices to keep children safe during all activities, including, at a minimum: Appropriate indoor and outdoor supervision at all times. | 1.11.9 (4) | The outdoor playground area shall be well arranged so that all areas are visible to staff at all times. |
| All new and remodeled playgrounds shall be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. | 1302.31(d) | To support implementation of the curriculum and the requirements described in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this section a program must provide age-appropriate equipment, materials, supplies and physical space for indoor and outdoor learning environments, including functional space. The equipment, materials and supplies must include any necessary accommodations and the space must be accessible to children with disabilities. Programs must change materials intentionally and periodically to support children’s interests, development, and learning.  | 1.20.1(1) | The child care facility areas to be utilized by a child with special needs shall be adapted as necessary to accommodate special devices that may be required for the child to function independently, as appropriate. |
| The outside play area shall have defined boundaries to protect children from environmental hazards. Developmentally appropriate play premises and/or equipment shall be provided to facilitate learning and ensure safety. | 1302.47(b)(2) | Equipment and materials. Indoor and outdoor play equipment, cribs, cots, feeding chairs, strollers, and other equipment used in the care of enrolled children, and as applicable, other equipment and materials meet standards set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) or the American Society for Testing and Materials, International (ASTM). All equipment and materials must at a minimum:1. Be clean and safe for children’s use and are appropriately disinfected;
2. Be accessible only to children for whom they are age appropriate;
3. Be designed to ensure appropriate supervision of children at all times;
4. Allow for the separation of infants and toddlers from preschoolers during play in center-based programs; and,
5. Be kept safe through an ongoing system of preventative maintenance.
 | 1.11.9(8)1.11.9(5)1.10.2.11.10.2.2 | The outdoor playground area shall be enclosed with a fence. The fence shall be at least four feet in height and the bottom edge shall be no more than three and one-half (3½) inches off the ground. There shall be at least two exits from such areas, with at least one remote from the buildings. The gate latch or securing device shall be high enough or of such a type that it cannot be opened by small children. The openings in the fence shall be no greater than three and one-half (3½) inches, e.g., between the building and the fence. The fence shall be constructed to discourage climbing.Fencing at least four feet high shall be provided around the outdoor playground area. Fencing higher than four feet but not to exceed eight feet may be required if the licensing authority determines that a hazard exists. Fencing twist wires and bolts shall face away from the playground. As an alternative, exposed bolt ends may be cut to no more than two exposed threads. Then the bolt ends shall be ground/sanded smooth or capped.All playgrounds and playground equipment used by children 2 – 12 years of age shall meet the safety standards set forth in Appendix “D” of these regulations.Playground equipment shall be of safe design and in good repair. Outdoor climbing equipment and swings shall be set in concrete footings located at least 6” below ground surface. Indoor equipment shall be installed according to the manufacturer’s specifications. Swings shall have soft and/or flexible seats. Access to playground equipment shall be limited to age groups for which the equipment is developmentally appropriate. |
| Pre-kindergarten students do not simultaneously share an area with students in first grade or above during designated outside play periods. |  | As required by Licensure | 2.2.2 | Age separation for playgrounds intended to serve children of all ages, the layout of pathways and the landscaping of the playground should show the distinct areas for the different age groups. The areas should be separated at least by a buffer zone, which could be an area with shrubs or benches. This separation and buffer zone will reduce the chance of injury from older, more active children running through areas filled with younger children with generally slower movement and reaction times |

ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES

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| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
| The teacher-pupil ratio shall be 1:10 for four-year-olds and 1:7 for three-year-olds. If a full-time assistant teacher is assigned to the pre-kindergarten classroom, the teacher-pupil ratio shall not exceed 2:20 for four-year-olds or 2:14 for three-year-olds. A classroom with a mix of three- and four-year olds shall follow the three- year-old ratio guidelines. Evidence may include a class roster. | 1302.21(b)(4) | A class that serves a majority of children who are four and five years old must have no more than 20 children with a teacher and a teaching assistant or two teachers. A double session class that serves a majority of children who are four and five years old must have no more than 17 children with a teacher and a teaching assistant or two teachers.\*4 and 5-year olds- No more than 20 children enrolled in any class. No more than 17 children enrolled in any double session class.\*3-year olds- No more than 17 children enrolled in any class. No more than 15 children enrolled in any double session class. | 1.8.2 (1)1.8.2 (3) | The minimum ratio of caregiver staff-to-children present at all times shall be 1:14 for three-year-olds and 1:16 for four-year-olds In mixed age groups, the age of the youngest child in the group determines the staff-to child ratio. Preschool children shall not be grouped with school age children in any single area during normal classroom and playground or water activities. |
| The length of the school day for full-day programs should be at least 6 hours and provide 360 minutes of instruction. The length of the school day for half-day programs should be at least 3 hours and provide 180 minutes of instruction. Evidence may include a master schedule or class schedule. | 1302.21(c)(2)(iii) | By August 1, 2019, a program must provide 1,020 annual hours of planned class operations over the course of at least eight months per year for at least 50 percent of its Head Start center-based funded enrollment. | 1.4.1.m | Policy governing the maximum hours per day or week that a child can be left at the child care facility. |
| Students shall participate in physical activity for a minimum of 40 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes in full-day programs and a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes in half-day programs. The physical activity does not have to be continuous. Evidence may include a class schedule. | 1302.31(e)(4)Caring for Our Children Basics3.1.3.1 | A program must recognize physical activity as important to learning and integrate intentional movement and physical activity into curricular activities and daily routines in ways that support health and learning. A program must not use physical activity as reward or punishment.Programs should promote developmentally appropriate active play for all children, including infants and toddlers, every day. Children should have opportunities to engage in moderate to vigorous activities indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. | 1.9.5(2)1.9.7(3) | Toddler, preschool, and school age children shall have a minimum of two hours of outdoor activities per day, weather permitting. Children who attend at a facility for seven hours per day or less shall have a minimum of 30 minutes of outdoor activity per day, weather permitting.Preschoolers should accumulate a minimum of 60 minutes of structured moderate to vigorous physical activity per day. |
| Students should engage in a minimum of 30 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes of quiet time each day in full-day programs. Evidence may include a class schedule. | 1302.31(e)(1) | A program must implement an intentional, age appropriate approach to accommodate children’s need to nap or rest, and that, for preschool age children in a program that operates for 6 hours or longer per day provides a regular time every day at which preschool age children are encouraged but not forced to rest or nap. A program must provide alternative quiet learning activities for children who do not need or want to rest or nap. | 1.9.4 (1) | For preschool children, rest periods shall be scheduled for a minimum period of one hour and shall not exceed two and one-half (2½) hours. |

STAFF

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| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
| Public school pre-kindergarten teachers must have one of the following endorsements/credentials: * Pre-K/K endorsement (153) or Pre-K 122 endorsement
* K-Grade 3 endorsement (116) WITH 12 hours early childhood coursework
* K-Grade 4 endorsement (152) WITH 12 hours early childhood coursework
* K-Grade 6 endorsement (120) WITH 12 hours early childhood coursework
* Special Education endorsement (211)
* Special Education endorsement (221) WITH 12 hours early childhood coursework
* Special Education endorsement (222) WITH 12 hours early childhood coursework
* Special Education endorsement (223) WITH 12 hours early childhood coursework ***(All underlined endorsements will be accepted as a stand-alone until August 1, 2020)***

Evidence will include an educator license(s) and transcript. | 1302.91(e)(2) (ii) | *Head Start center-based teacher qualification requirements*. 1. The Secretary must ensure no less than fifty percent of all Head Start teachers, nationwide, have a baccalaureate degree in child development, early childhood education, or equivalent coursework.
2. As prescribed in section 648A(a)(3)(B) of the Act, a program must ensure all center-based teachers have at least an associate's or bachelor's degree in child development or early childhood education, equivalent coursework, or otherwise meet the requirements of section 648A(a)(3)(B) of the Act.
 | 1.5.4 | Caregivers: Caregivers shall be at least 18 years of age, and shall have at a minimum: 1. A high school diploma or equivalent (GED).

OR1. A current CECPR Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, a MDHS DECCD Child Care Director’s Credential, or MDHS OCY Director’s Child Care Credential.

OR1. Three years prior documented experience caring for children who are under 13 years of age and who are not related to the caregiver within the third degree computed according to civil law.

Staff failing to meet the requirements of education and/or experience to act as a caregiver shall be designated as caregiver assistants. |
| Assistant teachers shall have met one of the following:1. Early Childhood/Child Development Associate Degree
2. Associate Degree or 60 College Credit Hours WITH 12 hours early childhood coursework or Certificate of Completion of an early childhood training program
3. High School Diploma/GED & Verification of WorkKeys Scores WITH 12 hours early childhood coursework or Completion of an early childhood training program

***(All underlined*** ***credentials will be accepted as a stand-alone until August 1, 2020)***Evidence may include college degree, certificate, transcript and/or WorkKeys Score Sheet. | 1302.91(e)(3) | A program must ensure Head Start assistant teachers, at a minimum, have a CDA credential or a state-awarded certificate that meets or exceeds the requirements for a CDA credential, are enrolled in a program that will lead to an associate or baccalaureate degree or, are enrolled in a CDA credential program to be completed within two years of the time of hire. | 1.5.5 | Caregiver Assistants: Caregiver assistants shall be at least 16 years of age. Caregiver assistants shall work under the direct on-site supervision of a director or caregiver at all times. They shall not have the direct responsibility for a group of children as the sole caregiver. Caregiver assistants under the age of 18 shall not be given the authority to discipline children. |
| Pre-kindergarten teachers, assistant teachers, and program administrators must complete at least 15 hours of professional development specific to early childhood content approved by the MDE or the Mississippi Department of Health each year.Evidence may include sign-in sheets from district-providing training, CEU certificates, and agendas from attended trainings. | 1302.92(b)  | A program must establish and implement a systematic approach to staff training and professional development designed to assist staff in acquiring or increasing the knowledge and skills needed to provide high-quality, comprehensive services within the scope of their job responsibilities, and attached to academic credit as appropriate. At a minimum, the system must include:1. Staff completing a minimum of 15 clock hours of professional development per year. For teaching staff, such professional development must meet the requirements described in section 648A(a)(5) of the Act.
2. Training on methods to handle suspected or known child abuse and neglect cases, that comply with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws;
3. Training for child and family services staff on best practices for implementing family engagement strategies in a systemic way, as described throughout this part;
4. Training for child and family services staff, including staff that work on family services, health, and disabilities, that builds their knowledge, experience, and competencies to improve child and family outcomes; and,
5. Research-based approaches to professional development for education staff, that are focused on effective curricula implementation, knowledge of the content in *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five*, partnering with families, supporting children with disabilities and their families, providing effective and nurturing adult-child interactions, supporting dual language learners as appropriate, addressing challenging behaviors, preparing children and families for transitions (as described in subpart G of this part), and use of data to individualize learning experiences to improve outcomes for all children.
 | 1.5.8(2) | All child care staff, directors, director designees, and caregivers shall be required to complete 15 contact hours of staff development, accrued during the licensure year, annually. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), aleading organization in child care and early childhood education recommends annual training based on the needs of the program and the pre-service qualifications of the staff. Training should address the following:1. Health and safety.
2. Child growth and development.
3. Nutrition.
4. Planning learning activities.
5. Guidance and discipline techniques.
6. Linkages with community services.
7. Communications and relations with families.
8. Detection of child abuse.
9. Advocacy for early childhood programs.
10. Professional issues.
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EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

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| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
| The district shall replenish the consumable supplies and instructional materials in each classroom at least once yearly.Evidence may include budget reports, purchase orders, or invoices. | 1302.31(d) | To support implementation of the curriculum and the requirements described in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this section a program must provide age-appropriate equipment, materials, supplies and physical space for indoor and outdoor learning environments, including functional space. The equipment, materials and supplies must include any necessary accommodations and the space must be accessible to children with disabilities. Programs must change materials intentionally and periodically to support children’s interests, development, and learning. | 1.10.1. | 4.Developmentally age-appropriate toys shall be available and accessible for preschoolers, and shall include but not be limited to the following: 1. Active play equipment for climbing and balancing.
2. Unit blocks and accessories.
3. Puzzles and manipulative toys.
4. Picture books, records, and musical instruments.
5. Art materials such as finger and tempera paints, clay, play dough, crayons, collage materials, markers, scissors, and paste.
6. Dramatic play materials such as dolls, dress-up clothes and props, child-sized furniture, and puppets.
7. Sand and water toys.
8. Children’s original work shall be displayed in the child care facility.
9. Books shall be on shelves and tables for children to look at and read. Every child shall have age-appropriate materials (including picture books) read to and discussed with him or her every day. Where appropriate, the materials should cover topics with which the children are involved.
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FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

| **MDE CRITERIA1** | **HEAD START2** | **HEAD START CRITERIA2** | **LICENSURE****REGULATIONS3** | **LICENSURE CRITERIA3** |
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| Each school district shall develop and distribute a parent handbook. The handbook should include information that addresses the pre-kindergarten philosophy, goals, and information unique to a pre-kindergarten program (e.g. curriculum, credentials, and assessments).Evidence will include a copy of the district/school handbook. | 1302.34(b) | A program must offer opportunities for parents and family members to be involved in the program’s education services and implement policies to ensure:1. The program’s settings are open to parents during all program hours;
2. Teachers regularly communicate with parents to ensure they are well-informed about their child’s routines, activities, and behavior;
3. Teachers hold parent conferences, as needed, but no less than two times per program year, to enhance the knowledge and understanding of both staff and parents of the child’s education and developmental progress and activities in the program;
4. Parents have the opportunity to learn about and to provide feedback on selected curricula and instructional materials used in the program;
5. Parents and family members have opportunities to volunteer in the class and during group activities;
6. Teachers inform parents, about the purposes of and the results from screenings and assessments and discuss their child’s progress;
7. Teachers, except those described in paragraph (b)(8) of this section, conduct at least two home visits per program year for each family, including one before the program year begins, if feasible, to engage the parents in the child’s learning and development, except that such visits may take place at a program site or another safe location that affords privacy at the parent’s request, or if a visit to the home presents significant safety hazards for staff; and,
8. Teachers that serve migrant or seasonal families make every effort to conduct home visits to engage the family in the child’s learning and development.
 | 1.4.1 | Parental Information: Before a child's enrollment, the parent shall be provided with the following: 1. Operating information:
2. The child care facility's purpose, scope of service provided, philosophy, and any religious affiliation.
3. Name(s), business phone number, business address, and home phone number of the operator, director or an individual in authority who can be reached after the facility’s normal hours of operation.
4. The phone number of the child care facility.
5. Organization chart or other description of established lines of authority of persons responsible for the child care facility's management within the organization.
6. The program and services provided, and the ages of children accepted.
7. The hours and days of operation and holidays or other times closed.
8. The procedures for admission and registration of children.
9. Tuition plans for payment, and policies regarding delinquent payments.
10. Types of insurance coverage for children, or a statement that accident insurance is not provided or available.
11. If a facility does not provide liability insurance there shall be a statement in the child’s record, signed by the parent indicating that the parent is aware that the facility does not carry liability insurance.
12. Reasons/circumstances and procedures for removal of children from rolls when parents are requested by facility staff to remove a child.
13. Procedures to include the amount of notice a parent is required to give the facility before removing a child.
14. Policy governing the maximum hours per day or week that a child can be left at the child care facility.

2. Arrival and departure procedures for children:* 1. Procedure, approved by the licensing authority, for assuring a child's safe arrival and departure (All children shall be signed in and out of the facility by an authorized individual.).
	2. Procedures for protecting children from traffic and other hazards during arrival and departure and when crossing streets.
	3. Policy for release of children from the child care facility only to responsible persons for whom the child care facility has written authorization.
	4. Policy governing a parent picking up a child after closing hours and procedures if a child is not picked up.

3. Program and activities information:* 1. Policies and procedures about accepting and storing a child's personal belongings.
	2. Discipline policies including acceptable and unacceptable discipline measures.
	3. Transportation and safety policies and procedures.
	4. Policies prohibiting the photographing of a child without parental consent.
	5. Policies regarding a child's participation in extracurricular activities not sponsored by the child care facility, including but not limited to baseball, softball, soccer, ballet, or gymnastics.
	6. Policies regarding water activities and safety procedures. These policies shall include those water activities that take place away from the child care facility property, e.g., taking children to a public swimming pool.
	7. Policies encouraging sun safety practices and activities.

4. Health and emergency procedures:* 1. Procedures for storing and giving a child medication.
	2. Policy for reporting suspected child abuse.
	3. Provision for emergency medical care, treatment of illnesses and accidents, which include:
		1. A plan to handle a child in a medical crisis.
1. A plan to obtain prompt services of physician and hospitalization, if needed.
2. A plan for immediately notifying the parent of any illness, accident, or injury to the child.
3. A plan to acquire the services of a certified practitioner for a child exempt from medical care on religious grounds.
	1. Evacuation plan including procedures for notifying the parents of the relocation site.
	2. Policy and procedures for handling dangerous situations, including but not limited to, dealing with violent individuals, individuals entering facility with weapons, bomb threats, or conditions posing an immediate threat to children.

5. State regulations:* 1. A summary of the licensing regulations and any appendices thereto, provided by the licensing agency.
	2. Each child's record shall contain a statement signed by the child's parent, indicating that they have received a summary of licensing standards and other materials designated by the licensing agency for such distribution.
	3. The name and phone number of the MSDH licensing official responsible for the inspection of the facility.

 d. The toll-free phone number  (1- 866-489-8734) of the Child  Care Facility Complaint Hot  Line. |
| Parent/teacher conferences shall be conducted at least three times during the school year to inform parents or guardians of the child’s progress.Evidence may include sign-in sheets from parent-teacher conferences, letters to parents regarding conferences, and master calendar with marked conference dates. | 1302.34(3) | Teachers hold parent conferences, as needed, but no less than two times per program year, to enhance the knowledge and understanding of both staff and parents of the child’s education and developmental progress and activities in the program. |  |  |

1 Harms, T., Cryer, D., & Clifford, R.M. (2006). *Early childhood environment rating scale, revised edition.* New York: Teachers College Press.

2 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Office of Head Start. Head Start Program Performance Standards, 45 CFR Chapter XIII. September 2016.

3 Mississippi Department of Health (2017). *Regulations governing licensure of child care facilities.*