

**§ 1305.8**

exists, no more than 30 calendar days may elapse before the vacancy is filled. A program may elect not to fill a vacancy when 60 calendar days or less remain in the program's enrollment year.

(c) If a child has been found income eligible and is participating in a Head Start program, he or she remains income eligible through that enrollment year and the immediately succeeding enrollment year. Children who are enrolled in a program receiving funds under the authority of section 645A of the Head Start Act (programs for families with infants and toddlers, or Early Head Start) remain income eligible while they are participating in the program. When a child moves from a program serving infants and toddlers to a Head Start program serving children age three and older, the family income must be reverified. If one agency operates both an Early Head Start and a Head Start program, and the parents wish to enroll their child who has been enrolled in the agency's Early Head Start program, the agency must ensure, whenever possible, that the child receives Head Start services until enrolled in school.

[57 FR 46725, Oct. 9, 1992, as amended at 63 FR 12658, Mar. 16, 1998]

**§ 1305.8 Attendance.**

(a) When the monthly average daily attendance rate in a center-based program falls below 85 percent, a Head Start program must analyze the causes of absenteeism. The analysis must include a study of the pattern of absences for each child, including the reasons for absences as well as the number of absences that occur on consecutive days.

(b) If the absences are a result of illness or if they are well documented absences for other reasons, no special action is required. If, however, the absences result from other factors, including temporary family problems that affect a child's regular attendance, the program must initiate appropriate family support procedures for all children with four or more consecutive unexcused absences. These procedures must include home visits or other direct contact with the child's parents. Contacts with the family must emphasize the benefits of regular attendance,

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while at the same time remaining sensitive to any special family circumstances influencing attendance patterns. All contacts with the child's family as well as special family support service activities provided by program staff must be documented.

(c) In circumstances where chronic absenteeism persists and it does not seem feasible to include the child in either the same or a different program option, the child's slot must be considered an enrollment vacancy.

**§ 1305.9 Policy on fees.**

A Head Start program must not prescribe any fee schedule or otherwise provide for the charging of any fees for participation in the program. If the family of a child determined to be eligible for participation by a Head Start program volunteers to pay part or all of the costs of the child's participation, the Head Start program may accept the voluntary payments and record the payments as program income.

Under no circumstances shall a Head Start program solicit, encourage, or in any other way condition a child's enrollment or participation in the program upon the payment of a fee.

**§ 1305.10 Compliance.**

A grantee's failure to comply with the requirements of this Part may result in a denial of refunding or termination in accordance with 45 CFR part 1303.

**PART 1306—HEAD START STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM OPTIONS**

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AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 9801 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 57 FR 58092, Dec. 8, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

**Subpart A—General****§ 1306.1 Purpose and scope.**

This Part sets forth requirements for Early Head Start and Head Start program staffing and program options that all Early Head Start and Head Start grantee and delegate agencies, with the exception of Parent Child Center programs, must meet. The exception for Parent Child Centers is for fiscal years 1995, 1996, and 1997 as consistent with section 645A(e)(2) of the Head Start Act, as amended. These requirements, including those pertaining to staffing patterns, the choice of the program options to be implemented and the acceptable ranges in the implementation of those options, have been developed to help maintain and improve the quality of Early Head Start and Head Start and to help promote lasting benefits to the children and families being served. These requirements are to be used in conjunction with the Head Start Program Performance Standards at 45 CFR Part 1304, as applicable.

[61 FR 57226, Nov. 5, 1996]

**§ 1306.2 Effective dates.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, Head Start grantees funded or refunded after June 7, 1993, must comply with these requirements by such times in their grant cycles as new groups of children begin receiving services. This does not preclude grantees from voluntarily coming into compliance with these regulations prior to the effective date.

(b) With respect to the requirements of § 1306.32(b)(2), grantees that are cur-

rently operating classes in double session center-based options for less than three and a half hours per day, but for at least three hours per day, may continue to do so until September 1, 1995, at which time they must comply with the three and one-half hour minimum class time requirement.

**§ 1306.3 Definitions.**

(a) *Center-based program option* means Head Start services provided to children primarily in classroom settings.

(b) *Combination program option* means Head Start services provided to children in both a center setting and through intensive work with the child's parents and family at home.

(c) *Days of operation* means the planned days during which children will be receiving direct Head Start component services in a classroom, on a field trip or on trips for health-related activities, in group socialization or when parents are receiving a home visit.

(d) *Double session variation* means a variation of the center-based program option that operates with one teacher who works with one group of children in a morning session and a different group of children in an afternoon session.

(e) *Full-day variation* means a variation of the center-based program option in which program operations continue for longer than six hours per day.

(f) *Group socialization activities* means the sessions in which children and parents enrolled in the home-based or combination program option interact with other home-based or combination children and parents in a Head Start classroom, community facility, home, or on a field trip.

(g) *Head Start class* means a group of children supervised and taught by two paid staff members (a teacher and a teacher aide or two teachers) and, where possible, a volunteer.

(h) *Head Start parent* means a Head Start child's mother or father, other family member who is a primary caregiver, foster parent, guardian or the person with whom the child has been placed for purposes of adoption pending a final adoption decree.