



Requirements for Mixed Delivery Preschool

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Head Start & Early Head Start

- Head Start is preschool for 3 to 5 year-olds. Early Head Start is for children 0 to 3 years of age.
- Families qualify if they are at the federal poverty level or below.
- 10% of Head Start slots are reserved for children with disabilities.
- Federal funds go directly from federal government towards local grantees. Funds do not pass through state.

Head Start & Early Head Start

- Federal funding provides half-day services. Head Start often blends with child care in order to offer full-day services for working families that qualify.
- In KY, Head Start and Early Head Start blend with public school or licensed child care.
- Must meet all requirements of both governing bodies if blended.

Public School Preschool

- Public school pre-k is for children starting at 3-years of age until starting kindergarten.
- Three-year-olds qualify if they have a diagnosed developmental delay. Four-year-olds can also qualify if they are at 160% of Federal Poverty Level.

Public School Preschool

- State of KY is required to provide a public school preschool spot for any child that is eligible, regardless of school district enrollment numbers.
- Most public school pre-k programs in KY are only half-day due to available space and access to qualified teaching staff.

Private Child Care

- Kentucky's child care system receives federal funds from the Child Care and Development Block Grant with specific funding obligations.
- Under 20% of children enrolled in child care in KY get child care subsidy. Most child care tuition is paid for by families.
- Parents can choose where to enroll their children; however, their community may have limited availability and access.

Private Child Care

- Child care regulations are typically less stringent than Head Start or public school pre-k, which can make it hard to blend classrooms.
- KY child care is most often a full-day program and frequently meets the hours of operation for working families.



Blended Programs - Staffing

Each type of program has different qualifications for staff. In order to successfully blend, the highest staff qualifications must be maintained.

Head Start and public school preschool require a Child Development Associate (CDA) for assistant teachers.

For a lead teacher,

- public school requires a 4-year degree in early childhood,
- Head Start requires a 4-year degree in early childhood, and
- child care requires a high school diploma or GED.

All programs require annual training hours; however, the required content may be different based on program.



Blended Programs Policies and Procedures

All programs require minimal health and safety requirements.

All programs in Kentucky participate in the All-STAR program.

All programs require lesson plans, but Head Start and public school preschool require individualized goals for each child.

Head Start and public school preschool require developmental assessments and tracking children's developmental milestones.

Head Start and public school preschool refer children for special education referrals.

Head Start requires a variety of family programs and supports.

Blended Programs - Finances

- Each program (child care, Head Start, and public school preschool) have a variety of regulations that dictate how funding is spent.
- Child care and Head Start funds must follow federal regulations that the state can not alter.
- If child care and Head Start are not accountable for federal regulations and monitoring visits, then federal funding can be revoked.
- Public school pre-k regulations are monitored by the state, and the state has the ability to alter those regulations.
- Programs that blend must adhere to funding requirements by each separate funding stream in order to maintain funding.



Accountability

- Typically blended programs must follow the regulations with the highest requirements, unless one program has a requirement not addressed by other programs.
- The advisory team for blended programs must know and understand the regulations from all three groups in order to protect funding.
- Blended programs must have annual monitoring visits and audits by all funding bodies in order to maintain all funds.
- Non-compliance with any program receiving federal funds can cause a loss of funds to the whole state or region.

Summary

- Mixed delivery preschool has huge benefits for children and families!
- It must be done in compliance with multiple regulatory bodies and multiple funding streams.
- All programs involved in mixed delivery programs must meet the highest requirements of the combined agencies.

Summary

- Non-compliance can cause the state to lose a great deal of federal funds that benefit families.
- Mixed delivery preschool must be done in cooperation with public agencies and privately-owned small businesses.
- Mixed delivery programs can help make private child care programs more financially viable, but small businesses must have the option to decline the partnership.



Questions?