

YOUR CHILD DESERVES A HEAD START



For more information, call 786-469-4622,
email headstartinfo@miamidade.gov
or visit www.miamidade.gov/socialservices

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Head Start/Early Head Start?

The Head Start/Early Head Start Program is a federally funded program that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent engagement services to low-income children and their families.

2. How old does my child have to be to enroll in the program?

Head Start: A child must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, of the upcoming school year and no older than 5 after September 1. Early Head Start: Younger than 3 years old. Exception: A child transitioning from Early Head Start to Head Start program and a child diagnosed with an IEP.

3. What is open enrollment?

Open enrollment is the period of time when we begin accepting applications for the upcoming school year. Each year, open enrollment runs from January until May. Selection for the program will begin after the open enrollment period ends.

4. Do you still accept applications after open enrollment ends?

Yes, applications are still accepted after open enrollment ends. We accept applications year round.

5. How can I apply to the Head Start/Early Head Start program?

You can apply to the Head Start/Early Head Start program by downloading and printing our application from our website (www.miamidade.gov/socialservices/head-start), completing the application, gathering all the required documentation and submitting it to a center. You can also pick up the application at one of our many centers. A list of center locations can be found on the website.

6. What are the requirements for the Head Start/Early Head Start program?

Proof of age, income, and the family must reside in Miami-Dade County.

7. Are there any income limits or guidelines?

Yes, review the current poverty guidelines, posted in the centers or website.

8. Does the program provide transportation to and from school?

No. Transportation is provided only to children with an IEP receiving a prescribed treatment or therapy arranged by the Program. Staff will provide full details regarding transportation options. All field trips are free of charge to participants.



9. What services are offered through Head Start/Early Head Start?

The Head Start/Early Head Start program provides comprehensive child development services for low income children and families in Miami-Dade County. We offer full-day educational services, child development screenings, free breakfast, lunch and snack, health, nutrition, social services and more.

10. What is the cost for Head Start/Early Head Start?

Head Start services are free to Miami-Dade County residents.

11. I have already submitted an application to the Head Start program. When will I know if my child is accepted?

You will be notified in writing whether or not you are accepted the summer before the program year.

12. I received a letter advising me that my child has been accepted into the Head Start/Early Head Start program. What happens next?

If you have received a letter, contact the social services staff at the school to complete Part 2 of the application.

13. Can I apply to more than one Head Start/Early Head Start Center?

No, you can only submit one application.

14. I applied to one Head Start/Early Head Start center but am interested in transferring my application to another Head Start/Early Head start Center. How can I transfer my application?

Contact the staff where you submitted the application.

15. Does the program enroll children with asthma, anemia, diabetes, or a physical or mental disability?

Yes, the program does enroll children with any chronic condition or disability identified by a medical professional. The Head Start/Early Head Start program does not allow for discrimination on any basis.

16. Does a child have to be potty-trained to attend Head Start or Early Head Start?

No

17. What are the operational hours for Head Start/Early Head Start?

The hours of operation vary with each site and program.

18. My child has a diagnosed disability. Do you offer services for children with disabilities?

Yes, the Head Start/Early Head Start program includes children with disabilities, for whom Head Start/Early Head Start is an appropriate placement according to the Individual Educational Plan (IEP)/Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP). IEP Services are provided through M-DCPS Pre-K Special Education Department. IFSP services are provided through Early Steps.

19. If I live in Broward or Monroe counties am I eligible for Miami-Dade County Services?

No, Head Start services are for families residing in Miami-Dade County only.

Broward Head Start Program

School Board of Broward County
600 SE 3rd Avenue Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
(754)321-1961.

Monroe County Public School District

104801 Overseas Highway Key Largo, FL 33037
(305)453-1255 Ext. 57354.