

HEAD START CONFERENCE REPORT
AGREEMENTS AND KEY ISSUES

	Current Law	SENATE BILL	FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT
Access	<p>Currently funded at \$6.8 billion. Head Start serves less than half of eligible preschoolers and 3% of eligible infants and toddlers.</p> <p>Families below 100% of federal poverty line are eligible for program (\$20,600 for family of 4).</p> <p>10% of Head Start funds reserved for Early Head Start.</p>	<p><u>Policy: Expand Access</u> Authorizes: \$7.3 billion in FY08 (6.1% increase); \$7.6 billion in FY09 (3.9% increase); \$7.9 billion in FY10 (4.3% increase).</p> <p>Changes eligibility to 130% of federal poverty line (\$26,800 for family of 4).</p> <p>Doubles the Early Head Start reservation.</p> <p>Reserves new funds for Migrant Head Start and Indian Head Start.</p>	<p>Authorizes Head Start at Senate figures: \$7.3 billion in FY08; \$7.6 billion in FY09; \$7.9 billion in FY10; and such sums in FY11 and 12.</p> <p>Permits participation of low-income children and families (up to 130% of poverty), but not to exceed 35% of children enrolled in programs.</p> <p>Expands Early Head Start by \$83 million over course of the authorization (funds permitting), to serve an additional 8,000 low-income infants and toddlers. Permits programs to convert services to infants and toddlers, on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Reserves \$15 million (based on FY 08 appropriations) and up to \$20 million in out years to expand Indian and Migrant Head Start. Prioritizes expansion in these programs above all others. Additional 5,500 Indian and 5,100 migrant children estimated to be served (funds permitting).</p>
State Role	No mandated role for states.	<u>Policy: Expanded State Role</u> No block grant.	No block grant.

<p>Standards and School Readiness</p>	<p>Current Head Start Collaboration Office appointed by Governor; function varies state to state.</p>	<p>Head Start Collaboration Office in each state must survey and focus on Head Start's quality needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop local partnerships; - Expand services to children; - Coordinate training for staff; and - Align services to state early learning standards. <p><i>New Early Care and Education Council</i> in each state, responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - statewide needs assessment; - recommendations on statewide training plan for early educators; - unified data collection; and - review of state early learning standards. <p>\$100 million one time reservation from Head Start for new state incentive grants (competitive) to implement statewide Early Care and Education plan.</p> <p>Alexander "Centers of Excellence" bonus grants to exemplary Head Start programs.</p> <p>Policy: Enhance School Readiness Keeps Head Start's comprehensive standards (H.S. Outcomes Framework). Improves educational standards, and updates based on National Academies</p> <p>New requirements for Head Start children's transition to school, and alignment of Head Start services to state</p>	<p>Head Start Collaboration Office in each state must survey and focus on Head Start's quality needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop local partnerships; - Expand services to children; - Coordinate training for staff; and - Align services to state early learning standards. <p><i>New Early Care and Education Council</i> in each state, responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - statewide needs assessment; - recommendations on statewide training plan for early educators; - unified data collection; and - review of state early learning standards. <p>15% annual reservation of new funds (up to \$100 million) for new state incentive grants to implement statewide Early Care and Education plan.</p> <p>Alexander "Centers of Excellence" bonus grants to exemplary Head Start programs.</p> <p>Keeps Head Start's comprehensive standards (H.S. Outcomes Framework). Improves educational standards to promote the development of language and literacy, math, science, and other cognitive skills. Updates standards based on National Academies</p>
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		<p>early learning standards.</p> <p>New early literacy training for Head Start teachers.</p>	<p>New requirements for Head Start children's transition to school, and alignment of Head Start services to state early learning standards.</p>
<p>Workforce</p>	<p>Goal to ensure that 50% of teachers have Associates degree (AA) over 5 year period (by 2003). <i>Currently, 69% of teachers have an AA degree; 33% have a BA degree.</i></p>	<p><i>Policy: Strengthened Workforce</i> New goals (not requirements) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Head Start teachers with an AA in 5 years. 50% of teachers in each state with BA in 6 years. <i>Currently 26% in Massachusetts.</i> <p>Career development plan for all employees.</p>	<p>New goals (not requirements) that within 6 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teachers with an AA 50% of all Head Start teachers nationwide will have a BA. All curriculum specialists with a BA All assistant teachers with at least a child development associate credential, and working toward completing a degree within two years. <p>Guarantees Head Start programs an annual cost-of-living increase. Dedicates half of quality funds for Head Start to boost teacher salaries (approx. 20% of new funds)</p> <p>Career development plan for all employees.</p> <p>New grants to Colleges and Universities to better prepare and increase the number of staff serving Native American, African American and Latino children.</p>

<p>Accountability</p>	<p>Programs monitored and reviewed for quality every 3 years. Grants renewed periodically.</p> <p>Automatic renewal for agencies. No de-funding and open competition of grants, unless special circumstances.</p>	<p><i>Policy: Greater Accountability</i> Automatic renewal for agencies in good standing. Open competition for grantees with deficiencies, as determined by monitoring process (demonstrated record of serious non-compliance with Head Start standards).</p> <p>New policy to provide technical assistance and corrective action to grantees serving less than their funded enrollment. Recapturing and reduction of funds to programs enrolling less than 95% of children after 18 months.</p>	<p>New system to determine which agencies should be renewed, and which have a deficient record and should be subject to open competition. System to be implemented in 26 months, and phased in over 3 years.</p> <p>New policy to provide technical assistance and corrective action to grantees serving less than their funded enrollment. Recapturing and reduction of funds to programs less than 97% enrolled after 12 months.</p> <p>New system of governance, maintaining shared decision making between Parent Policy Councils and Governing Board of Head Start agencies.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Program-determined child assessments three times per year (reflecting the whole child: social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development)</p> <p>No national Head Start assessment</p>	<p><i>Policy: Appropriate Assessment and Outcomes</i> Suspends and terminates further development of the National Reporting System.</p>	<p>Terminates the National Reporting System.</p> <p>New guidance to programs on adoption and use of local assessment, to be informed by National Academies Study.</p>