

A Road Map to Success for Head Start & Early Head Start Decision-Makers



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Introduction

Shared decision making is a cornerstone in the foundation of Head Start/Early Head Start. Understanding the role of decision-makers is critical to the success of a Head Start/Early Head Start program. Decision-makers share many responsibilities with the management staff for ensuring there are effective policies and procedures which strengthen program quality. Sharing responsibility for program governance, supports the role of parents and the community in the program as a significant element in the success of Head Start and Early Head Start.



As demonstrated in the graphic below, the Governing Body and Policy Council have a variety of responsibilities in the design and delivery of services, and it is important that they fully understand the processes for meeting those responsibilities. Successful shared decision-making requires an ongoing commitment to change, growth, and continuous improvement of practices, policies and procedures. Successful shared decision-making means that sometimes it is more important to compromise than to win. Each respective player has a critical role in bringing his or her unique voice to balance the Head Start/Early Head Start equation.

This interim training booklet was developed specifically to assist decision-makers in putting those responsibilities into practice. **A Road Map to Success for Head Start & Early Head Start Decision-Makers** offers practical information that can help to de-mystify the many duties of the Head Start decision-maker. This booklet includes sections relevant for the Parent Committee, Governing Body, Policy Council, and appropriate management staff in the area of shared decision making. The current Head Start Program Performance Standards remain in effect unless any standard conflicts with ***The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*** (also referred to as the ***2007 Head Start Act***), in which case the law prevails.

