

Oregon Head Start Pre-K Model

Oregon Head Start Pre-K, a dually funded program with a single administrative system

In order to have the same child outcomes as federal Head Start, the state of Oregon decided to purchase the same services at the same cost as federal Head Start. Oregon adopted the federal Head Start Performance Standards, regulations and eligibility into state law for the state PreK program, therefore, the state PreK program is identical to the federal Head Start program. This allowed Oregon to develop a federal Head Start and state Pre-K partnership that we describe as a program with dual funding and a single collaborative administrative system.

Our program is referred to as the Oregon Head Start Pre-kindergarten program to reflect this partnership. We have a written Intra- governmental Agreement between the Oregon Department of Education and RX Office of Head Start that outlines the collaborative administrative system. State Pre-k funding must be used to increase the number of children served in the state and allows Oregon to use both funding sources to increase the overall percentage of eligible children served in the state.

How the Funding Works

Federal and state funds are not blended at the state level. Federal funds go directly to local grantees and state funds go to grantees through the Department of Education. Jointly funded grantees receive federal funding for X number of children and state funding for X number of children. The federal and state funds are blended at the local grantee level to serve the total number of state and federal children for which they have received funding. This eliminates the need to identify children or classes as state funded or federally funded. We also have grantees that only receive state pre-k funding. They are also required to meet the federal Head Start Performance Standards, regulations and eligibility. The Department of Education uses the federal Head Start monitoring tool and process to evaluate these programs and has the same reporting requirements for them.

Efficiencies and Benefits -- Non-Duplicative Administrative System

The efficiencies and benefits come when you have one collaborative administrative system for federal Head Start and state PreK, rather than two separate duplicative systems.

Non-Duplicative Paper Work and Reporting

The federal Head Start administrative system requires local grantees to provide annual continuation grants and budgets, PIR reports, assessments, monitoring, etc. In Oregon, the state requires the same information using the same forms and reports so that all grantees have the same reporting requirements, eliminating duplicate paper work and creating continuity.

Joint Planning

Funders work together to assure state and federal funding is coordinated at the local levels to avoid supplanting, duplication and overlapping of services. Joint planning occurs for expansion and/or reductions of state pre-k and federal Head Start funding resulting in joint grantee guidance and requirements.

Joint Guidance and Regulation Interpretation

Both funders work together to issue joint guidance, regulation interpretation, program requirements and share appropriate information to assure consistency in working with jointly funded grantees decreasing oppositional directives.

Non-Federal Share

In addition to their federal Head Start grant, federal Head Start grantees are required to generate a non-federal contribution equal to or greater than 25% of their federal grant. Jointly funded grantees may use state Pre-kindergarten funds to meet this requirement.