

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA) AGREEMENT
Big Five Community Services, Inc. and Ada City Public Schools
2026-2027

This agreement is to describe the responsibilities of each entity, outline areas of cooperation and provide guidance for local cooperation, and coordination between and among all aforementioned parties in implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Amendments of 1997 (34 CFR300), Head Start program Performance Standards, and the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 1997 and 2008.

Each Head Start program must have a written agreement with the local education agency (LEA) to coordinate and collaborate to best meet the needs of children and their families.

Ada City Public Schools is the local education agency covering a designated area of Pontotoc County.

I. LEA Responsibilities:

- A. The LEA ensures that IDEA Part B section 619, (preschool) funds received for the provision of services to eligible children with disabilities ages three through five who are served in Head Start are expended in accordance with the requirements of Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).
- B. Upon referral from Head Start, the LEA shall provide a multidisciplinary team evaluation, when appropriate, for determination of the need for special education and related services under IDEA.
- C. The LEA shall be responsible for the provision of procedural safeguards, including due process and mediation procedures for any child determined to be eligible under the IDEA and enrolled in the Head Start Program.
- D. The LEA shall provide, through prior written notice of meetings, that the appropriate Head Start Program representative be directly involved and receive appropriate documentation throughout the process of referral, evaluation, IEP development, and/or placement of children with disabilities enrolled in the Head Start Program.
- E. The LEA shall ensure the provision of appropriate special education and related service to those eligible children with disabilities under IDEA enrolled in the Head Start Program with those services documented on the IEP with the responsible person(s)/agency specified for the provision of each service.
- F. The LEA will maintain and submit to the OSDE/SES the annual child count of IDEA eligible children with disabilities served in the LEA and by the Head Start Program.

II. Local Head Start Responsibilities:

- A. Head Start shall provide screening and assessments for all children enrolled in the Head Start Program as required by Head Start Performance Standards (45 CFR 1308 and 1304), shall participate in Child Find activities under IDEA with the LEA and in coordination with the LEA shall provide parents with their rights under these programs.
- B. Head Start shall provide all Head Start services to any child enrolled in Head Start who meets eligibility requirements in accordance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

- C. A Head Start representative will participate in the LEA referral procedures, multidisciplinary evaluation process, IEP development, implementation of the portions of the IEP identified for the Head Start Program, and the IEP review as appropriate.
- D. Head Start will provide a support system for families and children with disabilities through training, information, dissemination, and involvement in the program as well as collaboration with the LEA and other community services.
- E. The Head Start Program Disabilities Specialist, or another program representative shall work with the LEA for assurance of collaboration and coordination of services to preschool children with disabilities.
- F. Head Start will provide the number of children receiving IEP services to the LEA for the Child Find Count Reports prior to October 1, annually.
- G. Head Start agrees to provide and participate with the LEA in joint training of staff and parents as appropriate.
- H. Head Start will schedule a meeting with the schools' representatives to complete a Service Coordination Work Plan which addresses the responsibilities of each entity in accomplishing the goal of providing services for children with disabilities.

The Service Coordination Work Plan will address the following four areas:

- III. **Coordination of Cost Sharing:**
- IV. **Coordination of Required Paperwork:**
- V. **Coordination of Screenings:**
- VI. **Coordination of IEP Review:**
- VII. **Coordination of In-service Training:**

The LEA and the Head Start Program will agree to coordinate in-service training **when feasible**. Considerations for top priority training include:

- 1. IDEA procedural safeguards training for both entities.
- 2. Overview of Head Start program requirements.
- 3. Overview of LEA Special Education Program and requirements.
- 4. Identified local training needs.
- 5. Individual child needs.

VIII. Resolution of Dispute:

In the event of disputes between the Head Start Program and the LEA Special Education Program, the following process will be followed for resolution:

- A. The dispute will be brought to the attention of the LEA Special Education Director or LEA Superintendent, and the Head Start Director and/or the Disabilities Specialist to seek resolution of the dispute.
- B. If the issue is not resolved, the matter will then be submitted in writing to the Head Start Director and the LEA Special Education Director or LEA Superintendent to facilitate resolution.
- C. If the issue is not resolved, as described in section VII-B, then the matter will be submitted in writing to OSDE/SES, for assistance in the resolution of any IDEA dispute between the Head Start and the LEA.
- D. If the issue is not resolved and is an issue under the Head Start Program Performance Standards (45 CFR 1308), the matter will be submitted in writing to the Office of Head Start Region VI office.

It is further agreed:

1. Strict confidentiality of all program information will be maintained.
2. Staff from both programs will confer when needed for exchange of information, updates, problem-solving, etc.
3. This agreement will be reviewed yearly by the Superintendent and the Early Childhood Division Director or Designee for any corrections, additions, deletions, or changes.
4. Termination of this agreement will be preceded by at least 60 days' advance notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands the day and year on this _____ day of _____, 2027.

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY:
ADA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
PONTOTOC COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
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Name: Pat Liticker

Superintendent
Title

HEAD START PROGRAM:
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Jim Girtten

Head Start / Early Head Start Director
Title