



Legislation Text

File #: 26-0305, **Version:** 1

Interoffice Memorandum

DATE: February 18, 2026

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings and County Commissioners

THROUGH: Venerria L. Thomas, Director

FROM: Sonya L. Hill, Manager

CONTACT: Sonya L. Hill

PHONE: (407) 836-7409

DIVISION: Head Start Division

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of Orange County Head Start Eligibility Priority Selection Criteria 2026-2027 to establish a formal selection process for eligible children and families. (Head Start Division)

PROJECT: N/A

PURPOSE: The Head Start Division requests Board approval of Orange County Head Start's Eligibility Priority Selection Criteria 2026-2027. The eligibility priority selection criteria is required to establish a formal selection process, as mandated by the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 and Head Start Program Performance Standard 1302.14 which indicates that a program must annually establish selection criteria that weighs the prioritization of selection of participants, based on community needs identified in the community needs assessment as described in §1302.11 (b). This represents a continuation of the Eligibility Priority Selection Criteria 2025-2026 with no changes.

The eligibility priority selection criteria awards more points for at-risk children and families with lower income at or below 100% of the poverty level. The Head Start Policy Council approved the eligibility priority selection criteria at its meeting on January 21, 2026.

BUDGET: N/A



Orange County Head Start



BCC Mtg. Date: March 10, 2026

Eligibility Priority Selection Criteria 2026-2027		Points 2025-2026	Proposed Points 2026-2027	Source / Community Assessment
A	4 years	95	95	HSPPS 1302.12
	3 years	55	55	HSPPS 1302.12
B	Foster Child	400	400	HSPPS 1302.12
	Homeless: McKinney Vento Act	500	500	HSPPS 1302.12 / CA2025 pg. 64-65
	Homeless: McKinney Vento Act with limited English proficiency/unsheltered McKinney	510	510	HSPPS 1302.12 / CA2025 pg. 30
	Public Assistance: Currently in TANF/SSI /SNAP benefits	100	100	HSPPS1302.12 / CA2025 Pg. 44 & 83-86
	Income Eligible: 0%-25% Poverty Level	125	125	HSPPS 1302.12
	Income Eligible: 26%-50% Poverty Level	100	100	HSPPS 1302.12
	Income Eligible: 51%-75% Poverty Level	75	75	HSPPS 1302.12
	Income Eligible: 76%-100% Poverty Level	50	50	HSPPS 1302.12
	Over Income IEP: 100% - 130% Poverty Level	0	0	HSPPS 1302.12
	Over Income IEP: Over 130% Poverty Level	0	0	HSPPS 1302.12
	Over Income: 100% - 130% Poverty Level	0	0	HSPPS 1302.12
	Over Income: Over 130% Poverty Level	0	0	HSPPS 1302.12
C	Diagnosed (Public School IEP)	300	300	HSPPS 1304.14 CA2025 pg. 71
	Diagnosed (Documented by Professional)	100	100	CA2025 Pg. 71
	Suspected (Documented by Professional)	25	25	CA2025 Pg. 71
	Parent Concerens (with no documentation)	10	10	CA2025 pg.71 Program Data Report 3501
D	Child Abuse/Neglected (Documented by Agency)	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 89
	Family without access to Medical Care	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 74
	Currently one or both parents/legal guardians unemployed and looking for employment	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 48-67
	Currently Income earned is not enough to cover rent and basic needs	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 42 & 111
	Foster, Kinship, Legal Guardian, Legal Relative Caregiver due to incarcerations of parents, substance abuse by parents, illness, disability or death of parents , etc. (Documented by Agency)	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 65
	Grandparents Caregivers or guardian	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 34
	Barriers to services (documented with or without agency referral)	10	10	CA 2025 Pg. 21, 25, 44, 62, 70, 71, 72 & 74
	Single Parent	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 42 & 90
	Limited access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 68
	Food insecurity (lack of food during the month/without food stamps)	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 67, 85, 106 & 111
	Child without access to medical care	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 74 & 75
	Child/family lack of English proficiency	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 30 & 36
	A sibling currently enrolled in Early Head Start or Head Start	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 40, 42, 51, 90, 91, 97& 104 - 108
E	Health Chronic Illness (Documented by Professional)	10	10	CA2025 Pg. 64 & 66
	Child Nutritional Needs (Special Diet/WIC Documented by Professional or Agency)	10	10	CA2022 Pg. 79, 83, 84 & 112
F	Transitioning from Early Head Start/Head Start Program (Documented by Agency)	200	200	HSPPS 1302.70
	2025-2026 Eligible Waitlisted Child	10	10	HSPPS 1302.14 & 70, Report 2025

DATES

Approved by Policy Council: January 21, 2026

Approved by BCC: