



MEMORANDUM

TO: John Tschoe, Program Specialist, Office of Head Start

FROM: Joandy Williams, Early Childhood Learning Manager

CC: Dr. Jeremiah Holiday, Interim Chief Academic Officer
Vickie Brown-Gurley, Interim Senior Director Curriculum and Instruction
Erin Hermann, Interim Head Start Program Supervisor

RE: MPS Head Start Class Size Waiver 2019-2020

DATE: July 15, 2019

The Milwaukee Public Schools Head Start Program is seeking approval to re-purpose seats into schools located in the North and South side of the city for 2019-2020 school year. MPS currently serves 1,435 students in 25 federal and 2 state sites of which three-year-old, half and full-day programming is provided. Additionally, four-year-old full day programming is also offered in these sites.

During the 2019-2020 school, ALBA and Kagel are schools that have chosen to provide different programming for the students, thus, providing the Head Start program, 60 seats to repurpose within the existing Head Start sites. The same quality services and seat allocation will continue to be provided for Head Start students in the upcoming school year. In order to maintain these services and seat allocation, the Administration is requesting approval to submit a Class Size Waiver narrative, which seeks a waiver from the following Head Start Performance Standard:

Class size of 17 requirement in a center-based option 1302.21(b)(3).

Equitable access to educational opportunities is a guiding principle of MPS. The requested waiver, based on the Community Assessment, is to provide additional seats in our bilingual and monolingual program sites that will afford families to keep siblings together.

The Head Start program will continue to provide comprehensive services and high-quality care to children and families in tandem with school-level support. School-level support includes the parent coordinator, social worker, psychologist, school support teacher, and Head Start program personnel during site visits to support the building leader and classroom teacher.

MPS is committed to a standard of care for all children. Providing additional seats, specifically in areas with wait lists for full-day programming, demonstrates the district's ability to be responsive to the community needs.