

Head Start Policy Council

Policy Council has three critical roles in making things happen in Head Start:

1. They provide direction and oversight (because of legal and financial responsibility)
2. They develop, review and approve or disapprove
3. They do (implement)

What Policy Council's do:

1. Hear the treasurer's report
2. Make decisions about the design and operation of the Head Start program
3. Get involved in planning an developing program goals and helping to make personnel and budget decisions
4. Develop subcommittees for ongoing and/or temporary activities
5. Plan with staff and participate in conducting a program of self-assessment and report the results
6. Serve as a link to the general community and plan with governing body for input and feedback
7. Play a role in hiring staff
8. Attend meetings
9. Report to the Parent Center Committees

Policy Council Interacts with:

1. Governing bodies (G-K-B School Board)
2. Subcommittees
3. Staff
4. Center Committees
5. Community agencies
6. Business community
7. Larger Head Start community

Policy Council is not a rubber stamp. Policy Council must work in partnership with the governing body and key management staff to develop, review, and approve or disapprove policies and procedures of the program. Policy Council must have all relevant information to make good decisions.

Policy Council has a voice in developing all funding applications and any amendments to them, procedures for implementing shared decision making, procedures for program planning, and the program's philosophy and long- and short-range goals.

Policy Council has a voice in developing procedures for selecting delegate agencies, the composition of the Council and procedures for choosing members, the criteria for recruitment, selection and enrollment priorities, and procedures for the annual self-assessment.

Policy Council also has a voice in developing procedures for personnel policies and any changes to them, and decisions related to the hiring or termination of the Head Start director and any other staff person.