

Let the Office of Head Start know parent involvement is critical. The revised standards for the program fail to incorporate a two-gen approach which will consequently dilute parent engagement. We know from research and practice that when parents do better so do children. Be a voice for children and send in your comments today!

1) The new standards propose to eliminate the Family Partnership Agreement. This agreement between family support workers and parents helps to ensure that parents set clear goals, families get the assistance they need, and families receive individualized help.

2) The new standards weaken the Head Start parent policy council-an elected body made up of a majority of parents. The policy council helps inform the program what families need and shares joint responsibility with the board of directors on key decisions. It also provides parents with training and empowers them by giving them a voice at the table. Unfortunately, the new standards would put the board in charge and strip parents of any real authority. They do so by establishing an impasse policy where the only winner is the board. OHS approach is very one-sided.

3) Finally, OHS eliminates the requirement that every center have a parent committee. Parent committees are set up to inform the center and/or site about what families want for their children and make sure the program is attuned to the needs of low income folks.