

<b>TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>	
<b>EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION</b>	<b>3.100</b>

To establish early childhood education and parent involvement programs of high quality, the State Board of Education adopts the following policy:<sup>1</sup>

1. Subject to the rules, regulations, policies, and guidelines of the State Board of Education, local school systems are encouraged to establish early childhood education programs which serve pre-kindergarten aged children. Such programs may not use any state funds appropriated for grades one through 12 or local funds required for participation in the state funds designated for grades one through 12.
2. Programs supported by state or federal funds designated to serve pre-kindergarten aged children will first be directed to children who are at risk due to economic disadvantages. The goal of the Master Plan for Tennessee Schools: Preparing for the 21st Century is to serve all low income eligible, three- and four-year-old children in pre-kindergarten programs by the year 2000.
3. All programs established by local school systems to serve pre-kindergarten age children and funded by state early childhood education allocations will reflect the principles of high quality programs and use the federal Head Start program as a model for organizing and delivering services. Particular emphasis will be given to family services and parent involvement.
4. State funds available for early childhood education programs will be made available to local school systems through a proposal approval process. Proposals will be reviewed and funded using criteria developed by the State Department of Education and based upon the policies and guidelines of the State Board of Education.
5. Local school systems may operate programs for pre-kindergarten aged children through a number of arrangements including direct management, contracted management, subcontracting of program, consortium with other agencies, or combinations of these as approved by the State Department of Education.

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<sup>1</sup> See Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-302(1)(1); SBE Rule 0520-1-3-.05(5).

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6. Local school systems will be accountable under the policies and guidelines established by the State Board of Education for the performance and management of programs established by the local school systems to serve pre-kindergarten aged children.
  
7. Local school systems will cooperate with other community agencies and Head Start programs to develop programs for at-risk, pre-kindergarten age children. New programs will complement the federal government's effort to increase funding for Head Start, such that all income eligible children will be served in a coordinated fashion within each community.
  
8. The State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, and local school systems will work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other appropriate federal government agencies to promote the continued improvement in Head Start program funding, standards, and coordination with schools.