

2 FACTS

About Head Start School Readiness

WHAT IS SCHOOL READINESS?



Head Start defines school readiness as children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. [The Head Start Approach to School Readiness](#) means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children. Head Start is a leader in the early childhood field with a strong, clear, and comprehensive focus on all aspects of healthy development, including physical, cognitive, and social and emotional development, all of which are essential to children getting ready for school.

WHAT ARE SCHOOL READINESS GOALS?



School readiness goals articulate the program's expectations of children's status and progress across the five essential domains of child development and early learning that will improve children's readiness for kindergarten [Definition, 45 CFR § 1307.2]. Goals are broad statements that articulate the highest developmental achievement children should attain as a result of Head Start and Early Head Start services. Agencies outline the steps of progression toward these goals through a developmental sequence of age- and stage-appropriate behaviors, skills, and knowledge that children ages birth to 5 need to acquire to accomplish each broad goal. See examples of school readiness goals for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers[PDF, 164KB].