

Local Memorandum of Understanding

Vision

Caring for children and helping them grow into healthy and productive members of society is a significant shared responsibility. It is the vision of early care and education providers to work together, sharing resources in such a way that all young children in Missouri are safe, healthy, and afforded opportunities to reach their full potential.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate an alliance between **Trenton R-IX School District** and **Green Hills Head Start**. Head Start programs are required to develop local agreements with relevant agencies in their geographic area. This agreement reflects an abbreviated version of the state-level memorandum of understanding that exists between the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri Department of Social Services, Region VII Administration of Children and Families, Missouri Head Start Association and the Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office.

This document is intended to address issues related to children with disabilities and their families as well as the needs of all young children within the specific service area. By signed agreement, all parties of this Understanding are committed to promoting awareness of the importance of early learning and the integration of early childhood educational resources.

Outcomes

It is agreed that whenever possible and appropriate, **Trenton R-IX School District** and **Green Hills Head Start** will coordinate activities related to:

- a. Educational activities, curricular objectives, and instruction;
- b. Sharing of relevant child information necessary for the provision and continuation of services to children with disabilities and children transitioning between entities;
- c. IEP or other staffing meetings intended for the purpose of making placement decisions, individualized educational planning or addressing other concerns related to jointly-served children and families.
- d. Public information dissemination and access to early education programs;
- e. Child recruitment and selection priorities for eligible children to be served;
- f. Definition of service areas;
- g. Identification of children and families that are defined as homeless by McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;

- h. Staff training, including opportunities for joint staff training on topics such as academic content standards, instructional methods, curricula, and social/emotional development;
- i. Program technical assistance;
- j. Provision of additional services to meet the needs of working parents, if applicable;
- k. Communications and parent outreach for smooth transitions to kindergarten;
- l. Provision and use of facilities, transportation, and other program elements;
- m. Other elements mutually agreed upon by both parties.

In addition to the cooperative activities listed above, it is understood that Green Hills Head Start will provide:

- 1. Information about children suspected to have a disability, particularly those not identified by the LEA but would be included in the annual child count as required;
- 2. Referral of children with a suspected disability for the purposes of an evaluation necessary to confirm the existence of a disability;

It is agreed and understood that both entities commit to the process of open communication, cooperative relationships, and collaborative development of high quality early care and education services for area children and families.

Local Education Agency	Date

Green Hills Head Start	Date