

South Dakota Head Start State Collaboration Office

Purpose

The South Dakota head Start State Collaboration office (HSSCO), established in 1990, is the state's central point of contact between South Dakota Head Start programs and State government agencies. Head Start State Collaboration Offices are responsible for facilitating and enhancing coordination and collaboration between head Start agencies and other state and local entities that provide comprehensive services designed to benefit low-income children from birth to age five, as well as pregnant women and families. Its purpose is to disseminate information about Head Start, assist in development of multi-agency and public/private partnerships between Head Start and the State in order to build early childhood systems. The office is led by Rayne Dosch, S.D. Head Start State collaboration Director and is located in South Dakota's Department of Education, Office of Educational Services and Support.

Ten Federal Priority Areas

Health Care Services – including mental health

Homelessness – including services under the McKinney-Vento Act

Welfare – including collaboration with programs such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Child Welfare – including services for children in foster care and children referred by child welfare agencies

Child Care Services – including full working day and full calendar year services available to children who need such services

Family Literacy Services – including collaboration with entities providing reading readiness programs

Disabilities – including services provided under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Community Services – including partnerships with community-based organizations to strengthen families and community environments.

Education – including services for children with limited English proficiency and alignment of curricula with state Early Learning Guidelines

Professional Development – including access to institutions of higher learning for staff to meet Head Start degree requirements