

110TH CONGRESS } <i>1st Session</i>	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SENATE	{ REPORT 110-_____
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IMPROVING HEAD START ACT, 2007

_____, 2007.—Ordered to be printed

_____, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1429]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 1429), to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of
4 2007”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of
6 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

- Sec. 2. Statement of purpose.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Financial assistance for Head Start programs.
- Sec. 5. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 6. Allotment of funds; limitations on assistance.
- Sec. 7. Designation of Head Start agencies.
- Sec. 8. Standards; monitoring of Head Start agencies and programs.
- Sec. 9. Powers and functions of Head Start agencies.
- Sec. 10. Head start transition and alignment with K–12 education.
- Sec. 11. Early childhood education, coordination, and improvement.
- Sec. 12. Administrative requirements and standards.
- Sec. 13. Participation in Head Start programs.
- Sec. 14. Early Head Start programs.
- Sec. 15. Appeals, notice, and hearing.
- Sec. 16. Records and audits.
- Sec. 17. Technical assistance and training.
- Sec. 18. Staff qualifications and development.
- Sec. 19. Research, demonstrations, and evaluation.
- Sec. 20. Reports.
- Sec. 21. Comparability of wages.
- Sec. 22. Limitation with respect to certain unlawful activities.
- Sec. 23. Political activities.
- Sec. 24. Parental consent requirement for health services.
- Sec. 25. Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood.
- Sec. 26. Rule of construction.
- Sec. 27. Compliance with Improper Payments Information Act of 2002.

1 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

2 Section 636 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831)

3 is amended to read as follows:

4 **“SEC. 636. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

5 “It is the purpose of this subchapter to promote the
6 school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their
7 cognitive, social, and emotional development—

8 “(1) in a learning environment that supports
9 children’s growth in language, literacy, mathematics,

1 science, social and emotional functioning, creative
2 arts, physical skills, and approaches to learning; and
3 “(2) through the provision to low-income chil-
4 dren and their families of health, educational, nutri-
5 tional, social, and other services that are determined,
6 based on family needs assessments, to be nec-
7 essary.”.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 637 of the Head Start
10 Act (42 U.S.C. 9832) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “(including a
12 community-based organization, as defined in section
13 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
14 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801))” after “nonprofit”;

15 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “, and fi-
16 nancial literacy.” after “self-sufficiency”;

17 (3) in paragraph (12), by striking “migrant and
18 seasonal Head Start program” and inserting “mi-
19 grant or seasonal Head Start program”;

20 (4) by striking paragraph (17) and inserting
21 the following:

1 “(17) The term ‘State’ means a State, the
2 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Co-
3 lumbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands
4 of the United States, and the Commonwealth of the
5 Northern Mariana Islands. The term includes the
6 Republic of Palau for fiscal years 2008 and 2009,
7 and (if the legislation described in section
8 **【640(a)(2)(B)(v)】** has not been enacted by Sep-
9 tember 30, 2009) for fiscal years 2010 through
10 2012.”; and

11 (5) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(18) The term ‘deficiency’ means—

13 “(A) a systemic or substantial material
14 failure of an agency in an area of performance
15 that the Secretary determines involves—

16 “(i) a threat to the health, safety, or
17 civil rights of children or staff;

18 “(ii) a denial to parents of the exer-
19 cise of their full roles and responsibilities
20 related to program operations;

1 “(iii) a failure to comply with stand-
2 ards related to early childhood development
3 and health services, family and community
4 partnerships, or program design and man-
5 agement;

6 “(iv) the misuse of funds received
7 under this subchapter;

8 “(v) loss of legal status (as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary) or financial viabil-
10 ity, loss of permits, debarment from receiv-
11 ing Federal grants or contracts, or the im-
12 proper use of Federal funds; or

13 “(vi) failure to meet any other Fed-
14 eral or State requirement that the agency
15 has shown an unwillingness or inability to
16 correct, after notice from the Secretary,
17 within the period specified;

18 “(B) systemic or material failure of the
19 governing body of an agency to fully exercise its
20 legal and fiduciary responsibilities; or

21 “(C) an unresolved area of noncompliance.

1 “(19) The term ‘homeless children’ has the
2 meaning given the term ‘homeless children and
3 youths’ in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento
4 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)).

5 “(20) The term ‘institution of higher education’
6 has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of
7 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
8 1001(a)).

9 “(21) The term ‘interrater reliability’ means
10 the extent to which 2 or more independent raters or
11 observers consistently obtain the same result when
12 using the same assessment tool.

13 “(22) The term ‘limited English proficient’,
14 used with respect to a child, means a child—

15 “(A)(i) who was not born in the United
16 States or whose native language is a language
17 other than English;

18 “(ii)(I) who is a Native American (as de-
19 fined in section 9101 of the Elementary and
20 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
21 7801)), an Alaska Native, or a native resident

1 of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or an out-
2 lying area (as defined in such section 9101);
3 and

4 “(II) who comes from an environment
5 where a language other than English has had
6 a significant impact on the child’s level of
7 English language proficiency; or

8 “(iii) who is migratory, whose native lan-
9 guage is a language other than English, and
10 who comes from an environment where a lan-
11 guage other than English is dominant; and

12 “(B) whose difficulties in speaking or un-
13 derstanding the English language may be suffi-
14 cient to deny such child—

15 “(i) the ability to successfully achieve
16 in a classroom in which the language of in-
17 struction is English; or

18 “(ii) the opportunity to participate
19 fully in society.

20 “(23) The term ‘principles of scientific re-
21 search’ means principles of research that—

1 “(A) applies rigorous, systematic, and ob-
2 jective methodology to obtain reliable and valid
3 knowledge relevant to education activities and
4 programs;

5 “(B) presents findings and makes claims
6 that are appropriate to and supported by meth-
7 ods that have been employed; and

8 “(C) includes, as appropriate to the re-
9 search being conducted—

10 “(i) use of systematic, empirical meth-
11 ods that draw on observation or experi-
12 ment;

13 “(ii) use of data analyses that are
14 adequate to support the general findings;

15 “(iii) reliance on measurements or ob-
16 servational methods that provide reliable
17 and generalizable findings;

18 “(iv) strong claims of causal relation-
19 ships, only with research designs that
20 eliminate plausible competing explanations

1 for observed results, such as, but not lim-
2 ited to, random assignment experiments;

3 “(v) presentation of studies and meth-
4 ods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow
5 for replication or, at a minimum, to offer
6 the opportunity to build systematically on
7 the findings of the research;

8 “(vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed
9 journal or critique by a panel of inde-
10 pendent experts through a comparably rig-
11 orous, objective, and scientific review; and

12 “(vii) consistency of findings across
13 multiple studies or sites to support the
14 generality of results and conclusions.

15 “(24) The term ‘professional development’
16 means high quality activities that will improve the
17 knowledge and skills of Head Start teachers and
18 staff, as relevant to their roles and functions, in pro-
19 gram administration and the provision of services
20 and instruction, as appropriate, in a manner that

1 improves service delivery to eligible children and
2 families, including activities that—

3 “(A) are part of a sustained effort to im-
4 prove overall program quality and outcomes for
5 eligible children and families;

6 “(B) are developed or selected with exten-
7 sive participation of administrators and teach-
8 ers from Head Start programs;

9 “(C) are developmentally appropriate for
10 the children being served;

11 “(D) include instruction in ways that Head
12 Start teachers and staff may work more effec-
13 tively with parents, as appropriate;

14 “(E) are designed to give Head Start
15 teachers and staff the knowledge and skills to
16 provide instruction and appropriate support
17 services to children of diverse backgrounds, as
18 appropriate;

19 “(F) may include a 1-day or short-term
20 workshop or conference, if the workshop or con-
21 ference is consistent with the goals in the pro-

1 professional development plan described in section
2 648A(f) and will be delivered by an institution
3 of higher education or other entity, with exper-
4 tise in delivering training in early childhood de-
5 velopment, training in family support, and other
6 assistance designed to improve the delivery of
7 Head Start services; and

8 “(G) in the case of teachers, assist teach-
9 ers with—

10 “(i) the acquisition of the content
11 knowledge and teaching strategies needed
12 to provide effective instruction and other
13 school readiness services regarding early
14 language and literacy, early mathematics,
15 early science, cognitive skills, approaches
16 to learning, creative arts, physical health
17 and development, and social and emotional
18 development linked to school readiness;

19 “(ii) meeting the requirements in
20 paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 648A(a),
21 as appropriate;

1 “(iii) improving classroom manage-
2 ment skills, as appropriate;
3 “(iv) advancing their understanding of
4 effective instructional strategies that are—
5 “(I) based on scientifically valid
6 research; and
7 “(II) aligned with—
8 “(aa) the Head Start Child
9 Outcomes Framework developed
10 by the Secretary and, as appro-
11 priate, State early learning
12 standards; and
13 “(bb) curricula, ongoing as-
14 sessments, and other instruction
15 and services, designed to help
16 meet the standards described in
17 section 641A(a)(1);
18 “(v) acquiring the knowledge and
19 skills to provide instruction and appro-
20 priate language and support services to in-
21 crease the English language skills of lim-

1 ited English proficient children, as appro-
2 priate; or

3 “(vi) methods of teaching children
4 with disabilities, as appropriate.

5 “(25) The term ‘scientifically valid research’ in-
6 cludes applied research, basic research, and field-ini-
7 tiated research in which the rationale, design, and
8 interpretation are soundly developed in accordance
9 with principles of scientific research.

10 “(26) The term ‘unresolved area of noncompli-
11 ance’ means failure to correct a noncompliance item
12 within 120 days, or within such additional time (if
13 any) as is authorized by the Secretary, after receiv-
14 ing from the Secretary notice of such noncompliance
15 item, pursuant to section 641A(c).”.

16 (b) REDESIGNATION AND REORDERING OF DEFINI-
17 TIONS.—Section 637 of such Act is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
19 (23) as paragraphs (1), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8),
20 (9), (10), (12), (16), (17), (18), (19), (22), (24),

1 (25), (2), (11), (13), (14), (15), (20), (21), (23),
2 and (26), respectively; and

3 (2) so that paragraphs (1) through (26), as so
4 redesignated in paragraph (1), appear in numerical
5 order.

6 **SEC. 4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HEAD START PRO-**
7 **GRAMS.**

8 Section 638 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9833)
9 is amended by inserting “for a period of 5 years” after
10 “provide financial assistance to such agency”.

11 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 Section 639 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9834)
13 is amended to read as follows:

14 **“SEC. 639. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
16 this subchapter (other than section 657B) \$7,350,000,000
17 for fiscal year 2008, \$7,650,000,000 for fiscal year 2009,
18 \$7,995,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, and such sums as
19 may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2011 and
20 2012.”.

1 **SEC. 6. ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS; LIMITATIONS ON ASSIST-**
2 **ANCE.**

3 (a) ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.—Section 640(a) of the
4 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)) is amended to read
5 as follows: **[**Note: There are likely to be several con-
6 forming amendments caused by the redesignations in sec-
7 tion 640(a).**]**

8 “(a)(1) Using the sums appropriated pursuant to sec-
9 tion 639 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate such
10 sums in accordance with paragraphs (2) through (5).

11 “(2)(A) The Secretary shall determine an amount for
12 each fiscal year for each State that is equal to the amount
13 received through base grants for the prior fiscal year by
14 the Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start
15 agencies) in the State that are not described in clause (ii)
16 or (iii) of subparagraph (B).

17 “(B) The Secretary shall reserve for each fiscal year
18 such sums as are necessary—

19 “(i) to provide each amount determined for a
20 State under subparagraph (A) to the Head Start
21 agencies (including Early Head Start agencies) in

1 the State that are not described in clause (ii) or (iii),
2 by allotting to each agency described in this clause
3 an amount equal to that agency's base grant for the
4 prior fiscal year;

5 “(ii) to provide an amount for the Indian Head
6 Start programs that is equal to the amount provided
7 for base grants for such programs under this sub-
8 chapter for the prior fiscal year, by allotting to each
9 Head Start agency (including each Early Head Start
10 agency) administering an Indian Head Start pro-
11 gram an amount equal to that agency's base grant
12 for the prior fiscal year;

13 “(iii) to provide an amount for the migrant and
14 seasonal Head Start programs that is equal to the
15 amount provided for base grants for such programs
16 under this subchapter for the prior fiscal year, by al-
17 lotting to each Head Start agency (including each
18 Early Head Start agency) administering a migrant
19 or seasonal Head Start program an amount equal to
20 that agency's base grant for the prior fiscal year;

1 “(iv) to provide an amount for each of Guam,
2 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-
3 ern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands of the
4 United States (for Head Start agencies (including
5 Early Head Start agencies) in the jurisdiction) that
6 is equal to the amount provided for base grants for
7 such jurisdiction under this subchapter for the prior
8 fiscal year, by allotting to each agency described in
9 this clause an amount equal to that agency’s base
10 grant for the prior fiscal year;

11 “(v) to provide an amount for the Republic of
12 Palau (for Head Start agencies (including Early
13 Head Start agencies) in the jurisdiction) for each of
14 fiscal years 2008 and 2009, and (if legislation ap-
15 proving a new agreement regarding United States
16 assistance for the Republic of Palau has not been
17 enacted by September 30, 2009) for each of fiscal
18 years 2010 through 2012, that is equal to the
19 amount provided for base grants for such jurisdic-
20 tion under this subchapter for the prior fiscal year,
21 by allotting to each agency described in this clause

1 an amount equal to that agency's base grant for the
2 prior fiscal year; and

3 “(vi) to provide an amount for a collaboration
4 grant under section 642B(a) for each State, for the
5 Indian Head Start programs, and for the migrant
6 and seasonal Head Start programs, in the same
7 amount as the corresponding collaboration grant
8 provided under this subchapter for fiscal year 2007.

9 “(C)(i) The Secretary shall reserve for each fiscal
10 year an amount that is not less than 2.5 percent and not
11 more than 3 percent of the sums appropriated pursuant
12 to section 639 for that fiscal year, to fund training and
13 technical assistance activities, from which reserved
14 amount—

15 “(I) the Secretary shall set aside a portion, but
16 not less than 20 percent, to be used to fund training
17 and technical assistance activities for Early Head
18 Start programs, in accordance with section
19 645A(g)(2); and

20 “(II) the Secretary shall set aside a portion,
21 equal to the rest of the reserved amount, to fund

1 training and technical assistance activities for other
2 Head Start programs, in accordance with section
3 648, of which portion—

4 “(aa) not less than 50 percent shall be
5 made available to Head Start agencies to use
6 directly, which may include at their discretion
7 the establishment of local or regional agree-
8 ments with community experts, institutions of
9 higher education, or private consultants, to
10 make program improvements identified by such
11 agencies, by carrying out the training and tech-
12 nical assistance activities described in section
13 648(d);

14 “(bb) not less than 25 percent shall be
15 available to the Secretary to support a State-
16 based training and technical assistance system,
17 or a national system, as described in section
18 648(e) for supporting program quality; and

19 “(cc) the remainder of the portion set
20 aside under this subclause shall be available to
21 the Secretary to assist Head Start agencies in

1 meeting and exceeding the standards described
2 in section 641A(a)(1) by carrying out activities
3 described in subsections (a), (b), (c), (f), and
4 (g) of section 648, including helping Head Start
5 programs address weaknesses identified by
6 monitoring activities conducted by the Secretary
7 under section 641A(c), except that not less than
8 \$3,000,000 of the remainder shall be made
9 available to carry out activities described in sec-
10 tion 648(a)(3)(B)(ii).

11 “(ii) In determining the portion set aside under
12 clause (i)(I) and the amount reserved under this subpara-
13 graph, the Secretary shall consider the number of Early
14 Head Start programs newly funded for that fiscal year.

15 “(D) The Secretary shall reserve not more than
16 \$20,000,000 to fund research, demonstration, and evalua-
17 tion activities under section 649, of which not more than
18 \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012
19 shall be available to carry out impact studies under section
20 649(g).

1 “(E) The Secretary shall reserve not more than
2 \$42,000,000 for discretionary payments by the Secretary,
3 including payments for all costs (other than compensation
4 of Federal employees) for activities carried out under sub-
5 section (c) or (e) of section 641A.

6 “(F) If the sums appropriated under section 639 are
7 not sufficient to provide the amounts required to be re-
8 served under subparagraphs (B) through (E), the
9 amounts shall be reduced proportionately.

10 “(G) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
11 deny the Secretary the authority, consistent with sections
12 641, 641A, and 646 to terminate, suspend, or reduce
13 funding to a Head Start agency.

14 “(3)(A) From any amount remaining for a fiscal year
15 after the Secretary carries out paragraph (2) (referred to
16 in this paragraph as the ‘remaining amount’), the Sec-
17 retary shall—

18 “(i) subject to clause (ii)—

19 “(I) provide a cost of living increase for
20 each Head Start agency (including each Early
21 Head Start agency) funded under this sub-

1 chapter for that fiscal year, to maintain the
2 level of services provided during the prior year;
3 and

4 “(II) subject to subparagraph (B), provide
5 \$10,000,000 for Indian Head Start programs,
6 and \$10,000,000 for migrant and seasonal
7 Head Start programs, to increase enrollment in
8 the programs involved;

9 “(ii) subject to clause (iii), if the remaining
10 amount is not sufficient to carry out clause (i)—

11 “(I) for each of fiscal years 2008, 2009,
12 and 2010—

13 “(aa) subject to subparagraph (B),
14 provide 5 percent of that amount for In-
15 dian Head Start programs, and 5 percent
16 of that amount for migrant and seasonal
17 Head Start programs, to increase enroll-
18 ment in the programs involved; and

19 “(bb) use 90 percent of that amount
20 to provide, for each Head Start agency (in-
21 cluding each Early Head Start agency)

1 funded as described in clause (i)(I), the
2 same percentage (but not less than 50 per-
3 cent) of the cost of living increase de-
4 scribed in clause (i); and

5 “(II) for fiscal year 2011 and each subse-
6 quent fiscal year—

7 “(aa) provide, for each Head Start
8 agency (including each Early Head Start
9 agency) funded as described in clause
10 (i)(I), the cost of living increase described
11 in clause (i); and

12 “(bb) subject to subparagraph (B),
13 with any portion of the remaining amount
14 that is not used under item (aa), provide
15 equal amounts for Indian Head Start pro-
16 grams, and for migrant and seasonal Head
17 Start programs, to increase enrollment in
18 the programs involved; and

19 “(iii) if the remaining amount is not sufficient
20 to carry out clause (ii) for the fiscal year involved,
21 use that amount to provide, for each Head Start

1 agency (including each Early Head Start agency)
2 funded as described in clause (i)(I), the same per-
3 centage of the cost of living increase described in
4 clause (i).

5 “(B)(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
6 paragraph, the Indian Head Start programs shall not re-
7 ceive more than a total cumulative amount of \$50,000,000
8 for all fiscal years, and the migrant and seasonal Head
9 Start programs shall not receive more than a total cumu-
10 lative amount of \$50,000,000 for all fiscal years, under
11 clause (i)(II), and subclauses (I)(aa) and (II)(bb) of clause
12 (ii), of subparagraph (A) (referred to in this subsection
13 as the ‘special expansion provisions’), to increase enroll-
14 ment in the programs involved.

15 “(ii)(I) Funds that are appropriated under section
16 639 for a fiscal year, and made available to Indian Head
17 Start programs or migrant or seasonal Head Start pro-
18 grams under the special expansion provisions, shall remain
19 available until the end of the following fiscal year.

20 “(II) For purposes of subclause (I)—

1 “(aa) if no portion is reallocated under clause
2 (iii), those funds shall remain available to the pro-
3 grams involved; or

4 “(bb) if a portion is reallocated under clause
5 (iii), the portion shall remain available to the recipi-
6 ents of the portion.

7 “(iii) Of the funds made available as described in
8 clause (ii), the Secretary shall reallocate the portion that
9 the Secretary determines is unobligated 18 months after
10 the funds are made available. The Secretary shall add that
11 portion to the balance described in paragraph (4), and re-
12 allocate the portion in accordance with paragraph (4), for
13 the following fiscal year referred to in clause (ii).

14 “(4)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B),
15 from any amount remaining for a fiscal year after the Sec-
16 retary carries out paragraphs (2) and (3) (referred to in
17 this paragraph as the ‘balance’), the Secretary shall—

18 “(i) reserve 40 percent to carry out subpara-
19 graph (C) and paragraph (5);

20 “(ii) reserve 45 percent to carry out subpara-
21 graph (D); and

1 “(iii) reserve 15 percent (which shall remain
2 available through the end of fiscal year 2012) to
3 provide funds for carrying out section 642B(b)(2).

4 “(B)(i) Under the circumstances described in clause
5 (ii), from the balance, the Secretary shall—

6 “(I) reserve 45 percent to carry out subpara-
7 graph (C) and paragraph (5); and

8 “(II) reserve 55 percent to carry out subpara-
9 graph (D).

10 “(ii) The Secretary shall make the reservations de-
11 scribed in clause (i) for a fiscal year if—

12 “(I) the total cumulative amount reserved
13 under subparagraph (A)(iii) for all preceding fiscal
14 years equals \$100,000,000; or

15 **【“(II) for each year in the 2-year period pre-
16 ceding such fiscal year funds were reserved under
17 subparagraph (A)(iii) and the Secretary received no
18 approvable applications from States for such funds.】**

19 “(C) The Secretary shall fund the quality improve-
20 ment activities described in paragraph (5) using the

1 amount reserved under subparagraph (A)(i) or subpara-
2 graph (B)(i)(I), as appropriate, of which—

3 “(i) a portion that is less than 10 percent may
4 be reserved by the Secretary to provide funding to
5 Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start
6 agencies) that demonstrate the greatest need for ad-
7 ditional funding for such activities, as determined by
8 the Secretary; and

9 “(ii) a portion that is not less than 90 percent
10 shall be reserved by the Secretary to allot, to each
11 Head Start agency (including each Early Head Start
12 agency), an amount that bears the same ratio to
13 such portion as the number of enrolled children
14 served by the agency involved bears to the number
15 of enrolled children served by all the Head Start
16 agencies (including Early Head Start agencies), ex-
17 cept that the Secretary shall account for the addi-
18 tional costs of serving children in Early Head Start
19 programs and may consider whether an agency is
20 providing a part-day program or whether an agency
21 is providing a part-year program.

1 “(D) The Secretary shall fund expansion of Head
2 Start programs (including Early Head Start programs)
3 using the amount reserved under subparagraph (A)(ii) or
4 subparagraph (B)(i)(II), as appropriate, of which the Sec-
5 retary shall—

6 “(i) use 0.2 percent for Head Start programs
7 funded under clause (iv) or (v) of paragraph (2)(B)
8 (other than Early Head Start programs);

9 “(ii) for any fiscal year after the last fiscal year
10 for which Indian Head Start programs receive funds
11 under the special expansion provisions, use 3 percent
12 for Head Start programs funded under paragraph
13 (2)(B)(ii) (other than Early Head Start programs),
14 except that the Secretary may increase that percent-
15 age if the Secretary determines that the results of
16 the study conducted under section 649(k) indicate
17 that the percentage should be increased;

18 “(iii) for any fiscal year after the last fiscal
19 year for which migrant or seasonal Head Start pro-
20 grams receive funds under the special expansion pro-
21 visions, use 4.5 percent for Head Start programs

1 funded under paragraph (2)(B)(iii) (other than
2 Early Head Start programs), except that the Sec-
3 retary may increase that percentage if the Secretary
4 determines that the results of the study conducted
5 under section 649(l) indicate that the percentage
6 should be increased; and

7 “(iv) from the remainder of the reserved
8 amount—

9 “(I) use 50 percent for Head Start pro-
10 grams funded under paragraph (2)(B)(i) (other
11 than Early Head Start programs), of which—

12 “(aa) the covered percentage shall be
13 allocated among the States serving less
14 than 60 percent (as determined by the Sec-
15 retary) of children who are 3 or 4 years of
16 age from families whose income is below
17 the poverty line, by allocating to each of
18 those States an amount that bears the
19 same relationship to that covered percent-
20 age as the number of children who are less
21 than 5 years of age from families whose in-

1 come is below the poverty line (referred to
2 in this subclause as ‘young low-income
3 children’) in that State bears to the num-
4 ber of young low-income children in all
5 those States; and

6 “(bb) the remainder shall be allocated
7 proportionately among the States on the
8 basis of the number of young low-income
9 children; and

10 “(II) use 50 percent for Early Head Start
11 programs.

12 “(E) In this paragraph, the term ‘covered percentage’
13 means—

14 “(i) for fiscal year 2008, 30 percent ;

15 “(ii) for fiscal year 2009, 40 percent;

16 “(iii) for fiscal year 2010, 50 percent;

17 “(iv) for fiscal year 2011, 55 percent; and

18 “(v) for fiscal year 2012, 55 percent.

19 “(5)(A) Not less than 50 percent of the amount re-
20 served under subparagraph (A)(i) or subparagraph
21 (B)(i)(I), as appropriate, of paragraph (4) to carry out

1 quality improvement activities under paragraph (4)(C)
2 and this paragraph shall be used to improve the compensa-
3 tion (including benefits) of educational personnel, family
4 service workers, and child counselors, as described in sec-
5 tions 644(a) and 653, in the manner determined by the
6 Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start agen-
7 cies) involved, to—

8 “(i) ensure that compensation is adequate to at-
9 tract and retain qualified staff for the programs in-
10 volved in order to enhance program quality;

11 “(ii) improve staff qualifications and assist with
12 the implementation of career development programs
13 for staff that support ongoing improvement of their
14 skills and expertise; and

15 “(iii) provide education and professional devel-
16 opment to enable teachers to be fully competent to
17 meet the professional standards established under
18 section 648A(a)(1), including—

19 “(I) providing assistance to complete post-
20 secondary course work;

1 “(II) improving the qualifications and
2 skills of educational personnel to become cer-
3 tified and licensed as bilingual education teach-
4 ers, or as teachers of English as a second lan-
5 guage; and

6 “(III) improving the qualifications and
7 skills of educational personnel to teach and pro-
8 vide services to children with disabilities.

9 “(B) Any remaining funds from the reserved amount
10 described in subparagraph (A) shall be used to carry out
11 any of the following activities:

12 “(i) Supporting staff training, child counseling,
13 and other services, necessary to address the chal-
14 lenges of children from immigrant, refugee, and
15 asylee families, homeless children, children in foster
16 care, limited English proficient children, children of
17 migrant or seasonal farmworker families, children
18 from families in crisis, children referred to Head
19 Start programs (including Early Head Start pro-
20 grams) by child welfare agencies, and children who
21 are exposed to chronic violence or substance abuse.

1 “(ii) Ensuring that the physical environments
2 of Head Start programs are conducive to providing
3 effective program services to children and families,
4 and are accessible to children with disabilities and
5 other individuals with disabilities.

6 “(iii) Employing additional qualified classroom
7 staff to reduce the child-to-teacher ratio in the class-
8 room and additional qualified family service workers
9 to reduce the family-to-staff ratio for those workers.

10 “(iv) Ensuring that Head Start programs have
11 qualified staff that promote the language skills and
12 literacy growth of children and that provide children
13 with a variety of skills that have been identified,
14 through scientifically based reading research, as pre-
15 dictive of later reading achievement.

16 “(v) Increasing hours of program operation, in-
17 cluding—

18 “(I) conversion of part-day programs to
19 full-working-day programs; and

20 “(II) increasing the number of weeks of
21 operation in a calendar year.

1 “(vi) Improving communitywide strategic plan-
2 ning and needs assessments for Head Start pro-
3 grams and collaboration efforts for such programs,
4 including outreach to children described in clause
5 (i).

6 “(vii) Transporting children in Head Start pro-
7 grams safely, except that not more than 10 percent
8 of funds made available to carry out this paragraph
9 may be used for such purposes.

10 “(viii) Improving the compensation and benefits
11 of staff of Head Start agencies, in order to improve
12 the quality of Head Start programs.

13 “(6) No sums appropriated under this subchapter
14 may be combined with funds appropriated under any pro-
15 vision other than this subchapter if the purpose of com-
16 bining funds is to make a single discretionary grant or
17 a single discretionary payment, unless such sums appro-
18 priated under this subchapter are separately identified in
19 such grant or payment and are used for the purposes of
20 this subchapter.

21 “(7) In this subsection:

1 “(A) The term ‘base grant’, used with respect
2 to a fiscal year, means the amount of permanent on-
3 going funding (other than funding described in sec-
4 tions 645A(g)(2)(A)(i) and paragraph
5 (2)(C)(i)(II)(aa)) provided to a Head Start agency
6 (including an Early Head Start agency) under this
7 subchapter for that fiscal year.

8 “(B) The term ‘cost-of-living increase’, used
9 with respect to an agency for a fiscal year, means
10 an increase in the funding for that agency, based on
11 the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index
12 for All Urban Consumers (issued by the Bureau of
13 Labor Statistics) for the prior fiscal year, calculated
14 on the amount of the base grant for that agency for
15 the prior fiscal year.

16 “(C) For the purposes of this subsection, the
17 term ‘State’ does not include Guam, American
18 Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the
19 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
20 the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of
21 the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”.

1 (b) MINIMUM ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT FOR
2 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.—Section 640(d) of the
3 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(d)) is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 “(d)(1) The Secretary shall establish policies and pro-
6 cedures to assure that, for fiscal year 2009 and thereafter,
7 not less than 10 percent of the total number of children
8 actually enrolled by each Head Start agency and each del-
9 egate agency will be children with disabilities who are de-
10 termined to be eligible for special education and related
11 services, or early intervention services, as appropriate, as
12 determined under the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-
13 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), by the State or local
14 agency providing services under section 619 or part C of
15 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.
16 1419, 1431 et seq.).

17 “(2) Such policies and procedures shall ensure the
18 provision of early intervening services, such as educational
19 and behavioral services and supports, to meet the needs
20 of children with disabilities, prior to an eligibility deter-

1 mination under the Individuals with Disabilities Education
2 Act.

3 “(3) Such policies and procedures shall require Head
4 Start agencies to provide timely referral to and collaborate
5 with the State or local agency providing services under
6 section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities
7 Education Act to ensure the provision of special education
8 and related services and early intervention services, and
9 the coordination of programmatic efforts, to meet the spe-
10 cial needs of such children.

11 “(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
12 limit or create a right to a free appropriate public edu-
13 cation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education
14 Act.”.

15 (c) SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS.—Section 640(f) of
16 the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(f)) is amended—

17 (1) by striking “(f) The” and inserting “(f)(1)
18 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
19 of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness
20 Act of 2007, the”;

1 (2) by striking “needs.” and inserting “needs,
2 including models that leverage the capacity and ca-
3 pabilities of the delivery system of early childhood
4 education and development services or programs.”;
5 and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(2) In establishing the procedures the Secretary
8 shall establish procedures to provide for—

9 “(A) the conversion of part-day programs to
10 full-working-day programs or part-day slots to full-
11 working-day slots; and

12 “(B) serving additional infants and toddlers
13 pursuant to section 645(a)(5).”.

14 (d) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Section 640(g) of the
15 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(g)) is amended—

16 (1) by striking paragraphs (1), (3), and (4);

17 (2) in paragraph (2)—

18 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
19 (A), by striking “, in allocating funds to an ap-
20 plicant within a State, from amounts allotted to
21 a State pursuant to subsection (a)(4),”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “per-
2 formance standards” and inserting “standards
3 described in section 641A(a)(1)”;

4 (C) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-
5 serting the following:

6 “(C) the extent to which the applicant has un-
7 dertaken a communitywide strategic planning and
8 needs assessment involving other entities, including
9 community organizations, and Federal, State, and
10 local public agencies (including the local educational
11 agency liaison designated under section
12 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless
13 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii))), that
14 provide services to children and families, such as—

15 “(i) family support services;

16 “(ii) child abuse prevention services;

17 “(iii) protective services;

18 “(iv) foster care;

19 “(v) services for families in whose homes

20 English is not the language customarily spoken;

1 “(vi) services for children with disabilities;
2 and
3 “(vii) services for homeless children;”;
4 (D) in subparagraph (D)—
5 (i) by striking “family and community
6 needs assessment” and inserting “family
7 needs assessment and communitywide strategic
8 planning and needs assessment”;
9 (ii) by striking “reflects” and insert-
10 ing “reflect”; and
11 (iii) by striking “other local” and in-
12 serting “the State and local”;
13 (E) by striking subparagraph (E) and in-
14 serting the following:
15 “(E) the number of eligible children, as de-
16 scribed in clause (i) or (ii) of section
17 645(a)(1)(B), in each community who are not
18 participating in a Head Start program or any
19 other publicly funded early childhood education
20 and development program;”;

1 (F) by striking subparagraphs (G) and (H)
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(G) the extent to which the applicant proposes
4 to foster partnerships with other service providers in
5 a manner that will leverage the existing delivery sys-
6 tems of such services and enhance the resource ca-
7 pacity of the applicant; and

8 “(H) the extent to which the applicant, in pro-
9 viding services, successfully coordinated activities
10 with the local educational agency serving the com-
11 munity involved (including the local educational
12 agency liaison designated under section
13 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless
14 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii))), and
15 with schools in which children participating in such
16 applicant’s program will enroll following such pro-
17 gram, with respect to such services and the edu-
18 cation services provided by such local educational
19 agency.”;

20 (3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
21 graph (1); and

1 (4) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in using funds
3 made available for expansion under subsection (a)(4)(D),
4 the Secretary shall first allocate the funds to qualified ap-
5 plicants proposing to use such funds to serve children from
6 families with incomes below the poverty line. Agencies who
7 receive such funds are subject to the eligibility and enroll-
8 ment requirements under section 645(a)(1).

9 “(3)(A) In the event that the amount appropriated
10 to carry out the program under this subchapter for a fiscal
11 year does not exceed the amount appropriated for the
12 prior fiscal year, or is not sufficient to maintain services
13 comparable to the services provided under this subchapter
14 during the prior fiscal year, a Head Start agency may ne-
15 gotiate with the Secretary a reduced funded enrollment
16 level without a reduction in the amount of the grant re-
17 ceived by the agency under this subchapter, if such agency
18 can reasonably demonstrate that such reduced funded en-
19 rollment level is necessary to maintain the quality of serv-
20 ices.

1 “(B) In accordance with this paragraph, the Sec-
2 retary shall set up a process for Head Start agencies to
3 negotiate the reduced funded enrollment levels referred to
4 in subparagraph (A) for the fiscal year involved.

5 “(C) In the event described in subparagraph (A), the
6 Secretary shall be required to notify Head Start agencies
7 of their ability to negotiate the reduced funded enrollment
8 levels if such an agency can reasonably demonstrate that
9 such reduced funded enrollment level is necessary to main-
10 tain the quality of services.”.

11 (e) VEHICLE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.—Section
12 640(i) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(i)) is
13 amended by adding at the end the following: “The regula-
14 tions shall also establish requirements to ensure the appro-
15 priate supervision of, and appropriate background checks
16 for, individuals with whom the agencies contract to trans-
17 port those children.”.

18 (f) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START PRO-
19 GRAMS.—Section 640(l) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
20 9835(l)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “children of
2 migrant and seasonal farmworker families” and in-
3 serting “children of migrant or seasonal farmworker
4 families”;

5 (2) in paragraph (2)—

6 (A) by striking “children of migrant farm-
7 workers” and inserting “children of migrant
8 farmworker families”;

9 (B) by striking “children of seasonal farm-
10 workers” each place it appears and inserting
11 “children of seasonal farmworker families”; and

12 (C) by striking “children of such farm-
13 workers” and inserting “children of such farm-
14 worker families”; and

15 (3) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
16 following:

17 “(3) In carrying out this subchapter, the Secretary
18 shall continue the administrative arrangement at the na-
19 tional level for meeting the needs of Indian children and
20 children of migrant and seasonal farmworker families and
21 shall ensure—

1 “(A) the provision of training and technical as-
2 sistance by staff with knowledge of and experience
3 in working with such populations; and

4 “(B) the appointment of a national Indian
5 Head Start collaboration director and a national mi-
6 grant and seasonal Head Start collaboration direc-
7 tor.

8 “(4)(A) For the purposes of paragraph (3), the Sec-
9 retary shall conduct an annual consultation in each af-
10 fected Head Start region, with tribal governments oper-
11 ating Head Start (including Early Head Start) programs.

12 “(B) The consultations shall be for the purpose of
13 better meeting the needs of Indian, including Alaska Na-
14 tive, children and their families, in accordance with this
15 subchapter, taking into consideration funding allocations,
16 distribution formulas, and other issues affecting the deliv-
17 ery of Head Start services in their geographic locations.

18 “(C) The Secretary shall publish a notification of the
19 consultations in the Federal Register before conducting
20 the consultations.

1 “(D) The Secretary shall ensure that a detailed re-
2 port of each consultation shall be prepared and made
3 available, within 90 days after the consultation, to all trib-
4 al governments receiving funds under this subchapter.”.

5 (g) ENROLLMENT OF HOMELESS CHILDREN; RULE
6 OF CONSTRUCTION; MATERIALS.—Section 640 of the
7 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835) is amended by adding
8 at the end the following:

9 “(m) The Secretary shall issue rules to establish poli-
10 cies and procedures to remove barriers to the enrollment
11 and participation of homeless children in Head Start pro-
12 grams. Such rules shall require Head Start agencies—

13 “(1) to implement policies and procedures to
14 ensure that homeless children, along with children
15 from other special populations, are identified and
16 prioritized for enrollment;

17 “(2) to allow families of homeless children to
18 apply to, enroll in, and attend Head Start programs
19 while required documents, such as proof of resi-
20 dency, immunization and other medical records,

1 birth certificates, and other documents, are obtained
2 within a reasonable time frame; and

3 “(3) to coordinate individual Head Start pro-
4 grams with efforts to implement subtitle B of title
5 VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.).

7 “(n) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed
8 to require a State to establish a publicly funded program
9 of early childhood education and development, or to re-
10 quire any child to participate in such a publicly funded
11 program, including a State-funded preschool program, or
12 to participate in any initial screening before participating
13 in a publicly funded program of early childhood education
14 and development, except as provided under sections
15 612(a)(3) and 635(a)(5) of the Individuals with Disabil-
16 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(3), 1435(a)(5)).

17 “(o) All curricula funded under this subchapter shall
18 be based on scientifically valid research, and be age and
19 developmentally appropriate. The curricula shall reflect all
20 areas of child development and learning and be aligned
21 with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework. Parents

1 shall have the opportunity to examine any such curricula
2 or instructional materials funded under this subchapter.”.

3 **SEC. 7. DESIGNATION OF HEAD START AGENCIES.**

4 Section 641 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836)
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 641. DESIGNATION OF HEAD START AGENCIES.**

7 “(a) **AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.**—

8 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized
9 to designate as a Head Start agency any local public
10 or private nonprofit agency, including community-
11 based and faith-based organizations, or for-profit
12 agency, within a community, pursuant to the re-
13 quirements of this section.

14 “(2) **INTERIM POLICY.**—Notwithstanding para-
15 graph (1), until such time as the Secretary develops
16 and implements the system for designation renewal
17 under this section, the Secretary is authorized to
18 designate as a Head Start agency, any local public
19 or private nonprofit agency, including community-
20 based and faith-based organizations, or for-profit
21 agency, within a community, in the manner and

1 process utilized by the Secretary prior to the enact-
2 ment of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness
3 Act of 2007.

4 “(b) APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL.—
5 To be considered for designation renewal, an entity shall
6 submit an application to the Secretary, at such time and
7 in such manner as the Secretary may require.

8 “(c) SYSTEM FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
10 a system for designation renewal that integrates the
11 recommendations of the expert panel convened under
12 paragraph (2) to determine if a Head Start agency
13 is delivering a high-quality and comprehensive Head
14 Start program that meets the educational, health,
15 nutritional, and social needs of the children and
16 families it serves, and meets program and financial
17 management requirements and standards described
18 in section 641A(a)(1), based on—

19 “(A) annual budget and fiscal management
20 data;

1 “(B) program reviews conducted under
2 section 641A(c);

3 “(C) annual audits required under section
4 647;

5 “(D) classroom quality as measured under
6 section 641A(c)(2)(F); and

7 “(E) Program Information Reports.

8 “(2) EXPERT PANEL.—Not later than 3 months
9 after the date of enactment of the Improving Head
10 Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, the Sec-
11 retary shall convene an expert panel of 7 members
12 to make recommendations to the Secretary on the
13 development of a transparent, reliable, and valid sys-
14 tem for designation renewal.

15 “(3) COMPOSITION OF EXPERT PANEL.—The
16 Secretary, in convening such panel, shall appoint the
17 following:

18 “(A)(i) One member, who has dem-
19 onstrated competency, as evidenced by training,
20 expertise, and experience, in early childhood
21 program accreditation.

1 “(ii) One member, who has demonstrated
2 competency (as so evidenced) in research on
3 early childhood development.

4 “(iii) One member, who has demonstrated
5 competency (as so evidenced) in governance and
6 finance of nonprofit organizations.

7 “(iv) One member, who has demonstrated
8 competency (as so evidenced) in delivery of
9 services to populations of children with special
10 needs and their families.

11 “(v) One member, who has demonstrated
12 competency (as so evidenced) in assessment and
13 evaluation of programs serving young children.

14 “(B) An employee from the Office of Head
15 Start.

16 “(C) An executive director of a Head Start
17 agency.

18 “(4) EXPERT PANEL REPORT.—Within 9
19 months after being convened by the Secretary, the
20 expert panel shall issue a report to the Secretary
21 that provides recommendations on a proposed sys-

1 tem for designation renewal that takes into account
2 the criteria in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of
3 paragraph (1) to evaluate whether a Head Start
4 agency is fulfilling its mission to deliver a high-quality
5 and comprehensive Head Start program, including
6 adequately meeting its governance, legal, and financial
7 management requirements.

8 “(5) PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION.—
9 Not later than 3 months after receiving the report
10 described in paragraph (4), the Secretary shall publish
11 a notice describing a proposed system for designation
12 renewal in the Federal Register, including
13 a proposal for the transition to such system, providing
14 at least 90 days for public comment. The Secretary
15 shall review and consider public comments
16 prior to finalizing the system for designation renewal
17 described in this subsection.

18 “(6) DESIGNATION RENEWAL SYSTEM.—Not
19 later than 12 months after publishing a notice describing
20 the proposed system under paragraph (5),

1 the Secretary shall implement the system for des-
2 ignation renewal and use that system to determine—

3 “(A) whether a Head Start grantee is suc-
4 cessfully delivering a high-quality and com-
5 prehensive Head Start program; and

6 “(B) whether the grantee has any unre-
7 solved deficiencies found during the last tri-
8 ennial review under section 641A(c).

9 “(7) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DESIGNATION
10 RENEWAL SYSTEM.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A grantee who is de-
12 termined under such system—

13 “(i) to be delivering a high-quality
14 and comprehensive Head Start program
15 shall be designated (consistent with section
16 643) as a Head Start agency for the pe-
17 riod of 5 years described in section 638;

18 “(ii) to not be delivering a high-qual-
19 ity and comprehensive Head Start program
20 shall be subject to an open competition as
21 described in subsection (d); and

1 “(iii) in the case of an Indian Head
2 Start agency, to not be delivering a high-
3 quality and comprehensive Head Start pro-
4 gram shall (notwithstanding clause (ii)) be
5 subject to the requirements of subpara-
6 graph (B).

7 “(B) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTA-
8 TION AND REEVALUATION.—On making a de-
9 termination described in subparagraph (A)(iii),
10 the Secretary shall engage in government-to-
11 government consultation with the appropriate
12 tribal government or governments for the pur-
13 pose of establishing a plan to improve the qual-
14 ity of Head Start programs operated by the In-
15 dian Head Start agency. Such plan shall be es-
16 tablished and implemented within 6 months
17 after the Secretary’s determination. Not more
18 than 6 months after the implementation of that
19 plan, the Secretary shall reevaluate the per-
20 formance of the Indian Head Start agency. If
21 the Indian Head Start agency is still not deliv-

1 ering a high-quality and comprehensive Head
2 Start program, the Secretary shall conduct an
3 open competition as described in subsection (d),
4 subject to the limitations described in sub-
5 section (e).

6 “(8) TRANSPARENCY, RELIABILITY, AND VALID-
7 ITY.—The Secretary shall ensure the system for des-
8 ignation renewal is fair, consistent, and transparent
9 and is applied in a manner that renews designations,
10 in a timely manner, grantees as Head Start agencies
11 for periods of 5 years if such grantees are delivering
12 high-quality and comprehensive Head Start pro-
13 grams. The Secretary shall periodically evaluate
14 whether the criteria of the system are being applied
15 in a manner that is transparent, reliable, and valid.

16 “(9) TRANSITION.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Head Start
18 agency shall be reviewed under the system for
19 designation renewal described in paragraph (6),
20 not later than 3 years after the implementation
21 of such system.

1 “(B) LIMITATION.—A Head Start agency
2 shall not be subject to the requirements of the
3 system for designation renewal prior to 18
4 months after the date of enactment of the Im-
5 proving Head Start for School Readiness Act of
6 2007.

7 “(C) SCHEDULE.—The Secretary shall es-
8 tablish and implement a schedule for reviewing
9 each Head Start agency under the system for
10 designation renewal described in paragraph (6),
11 consistent with subparagraphs (A) and (B).

12 “(10) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary
13 shall—

14 “(A) make available to the Committee on
15 Education and Labor of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Health,
17 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate
18 the report described in paragraph (4);

19 “(B) concurrently with publishing a notice
20 in the Federal Register as described in para-
21 graph (5), provide a report to the Committee on

1 Education and Labor of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives and the Committee on Health,
3 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate
4 that provides a detailed description of the pro-
5 posed system described in paragraph (5), in-
6 cluding a clear rationale for any differences be-
7 tween the proposed system and the rec-
8 ommendations of the expert panel, if any such
9 differences exist; and

10 “(C) prior to implementing the system for
11 designation renewal, provide a report to the
12 Committee on Education and Labor of the
13 House of Representatives and the Committee
14 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
15 the Senate—

16 “(i) summarizing the public comment
17 on the proposed system and the Sec-
18 retary’s response to such comment; and

19 “(ii) describing the final system for
20 designation renewal and the plans for im-
21 plementation of such system.

1 “(d) DESIGNATION WHEN NO ENTITY IS RE-
2 NEWED.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If no entity in a commu-
4 nity is determined to be successfully delivering a
5 high-quality and comprehensive Head Start pro-
6 gram, as specified in subsection (c), the Secretary
7 shall, after conducting an open competition, des-
8 ignate for a 5-year period a Head Start agency from
9 among qualified applicants in such community.

10 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS FOR DESIGNATION.—In
11 selecting from among qualified applicants for des-
12 ignation as a Head Start agency, the Secretary shall
13 consider the effectiveness of each such applicant to
14 provide Head Start services, based on—

15 “(A) any past performance of such appli-
16 cant in providing services comparable to Head
17 Start services, including how effectively such
18 applicant provided such comparable services;

19 “(B) the plan of such applicant to provide
20 comprehensive health, educational, nutritional,
21 social, and other services needed to aid partici-

1 pating children in attaining their full potential,
2 and to prepare children to succeed in school;

3 “(C) the plan of such applicant to attract
4 and retain qualified staff capable of delivering,
5 including implementing, a high-quality and
6 comprehensive program, including the ability to
7 carry out a research based curriculum aligned
8 with the Head Start Child Outcomes Frame-
9 work and, as appropriate, State early learning
10 standards;

11 “(D) the ability of such applicant to main-
12 tain child-to-teacher ratios and family service
13 worker caseloads that reflect best practices and
14 are tied to high-quality service delivery;

15 “(E) the capacity of such applicant to
16 serve eligible children with—

17 “(i) curricula that are based on sci-
18 entifically valid research, that are develop-
19 mentally appropriate, and that promote the
20 school readiness of children participating
21 in the program involved; and

1 “(ii) teaching practices that are
2 based, as appropriate, on scientifically
3 valid research, that are developmentally
4 appropriate, and that promote the school
5 readiness of children participating in the
6 program involved;

7 “(F) the plan of such applicant to meet
8 standards described in section 641A(a)(1), with
9 particular attention to the standards described
10 in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such section;

11 “(G) the proposed budget of the applicant
12 and plan of such applicant to maintain strong
13 fiscal controls and cost-effective fiscal manage-
14 ment;

15 “(H) the plan of such applicant to coordi-
16 nate and collaborate with other public or pri-
17 vate entities providing early childhood education
18 and development programs and services for
19 young children in the community involved, in-
20 cluding—

1 “(i) programs implementing grant
2 agreements under the Early Reading First
3 and Even Start programs under subparts
4 2 and 3 of part B of title I of the Elemen-
5 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
6 (20 U.S.C. 6371 et seq., 6381 et seq.);

7 “(ii) other preschool programs under
8 title I of that Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et
9 seq.);

10 “(iii) programs under section 619 and
11 part C of the Individuals with Disabilities
12 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et
13 seq.);

14 “(iv) State prekindergarten programs;

15 “(v) child care programs;

16 “(vi) the educational programs that
17 the children in the Head Start program in-
18 volved will enter at the age of compulsory
19 school attendance; and

20 “(vii) local entities, such as a public
21 or school library, for—

1 “(I) conducting reading readiness
2 programs;

3 “(II) developing innovative pro-
4 grams to excite children about the
5 world of books, including providing
6 fresh books in the Head Start class-
7 room;

8 “(III) assisting in literacy train-
9 ing for Head Start teachers; or

10 “(IV) supporting parents and
11 other caregivers in literacy efforts;

12 “(I) the plan of such applicant to coordi-
13 nate the Head Start program that the applicant
14 proposes to carry out, with public and private
15 entities that are willing to commit resources to
16 assist the Head Start program in meeting its
17 program needs;

18 “(J) the plan of such applicant—

19 “(i) to facilitate the involvement of
20 parents (including grandparents and kin-
21 ship caregivers, as appropriate) of children

1 participating in the proposed Head Start
2 program, in activities (at home and, if
3 practicable, at the location of the Head
4 Start program) designed to help such par-
5 ents become full partners in the education
6 of their children;

7 “(ii) to afford such parents the oppor-
8 tunity to participate in the development
9 and overall conduct of the program at the
10 local level, including transportation assist-
11 ance, as appropriate;

12 “(iii) to offer (directly or through re-
13 ferral to local entities, such as entities car-
14 rying out Even Start programs under sub-
15 part 3 of part B of title I of the Elemen-
16 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
17 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.), public and school
18 libraries, and entities carrying out family
19 support programs) to such parents—

20 “(I) family literacy services; and

21 “(II) parenting skills training;

1 “(iv) to offer to parents of partici-
2 pating children substance abuse counseling
3 (either directly or through referral to local
4 entities), if needed, including information
5 on the effect of drug exposure on infants
6 and fetal alcohol syndrome;

7 “(v) at the option of such applicant,
8 to offer (directly or through referral to
9 local entities) to such parents—

10 “(I) training in basic child devel-
11 opment (including cognitive, social,
12 and emotional development);

13 “(II) assistance in developing lit-
14 eracy and communication skills;

15 “(III) opportunities to share ex-
16 periences with other parents (includ-
17 ing parent-mentor relationships);

18 “(IV) regular in-home visitation;

19 “(V) health services, including in-
20 formation on maternal depression; or

1 “(VI) any other activity designed
2 to help such parents become full part-
3 ners in the education of their children;

4 “(vi) to provide, with respect to each
5 participating family, a family needs assess-
6 ment that includes consultation with such
7 parents (including foster parents, grand-
8 parents, and kinship caregivers, where ap-
9 plicable), in a manner and language that
10 such parents can understand, to the extent
11 practicable, about the benefits of parent in-
12 volvement and about the activities de-
13 scribed in this subparagraph in which such
14 parents may choose to become involved
15 (taking into consideration their specific
16 family needs, work schedules, and other re-
17 sponsibilities); and

18 “(vii) to extend outreach to fathers
19 (including father figures), in appropriate
20 cases, in order to strengthen the role of
21 those fathers in families, in the education

1 of young children, and in the Head Start
2 program, by working directly with the fa-
3 thers through activities such as—

4 “(I) in appropriate cases, includ-
5 ing the fathers in home visits and pro-
6 viding opportunities for direct father-
7 child interactions; and

8 “(II) targeting increased male
9 participation in the conduct of the
10 program;

11 “(K) the plan of such applicant to meet
12 the needs of limited English proficient children
13 and their families, including procedures to iden-
14 tify such children, plans to provide trained per-
15 sonnel, and plans to provide services to assist
16 the children in making progress toward the ac-
17 quisition of the English language, while making
18 meaningful progress in attaining the knowledge,
19 skills, abilities, and development described in
20 section 641A(a)(1)(B);

1 “(L) the plan of such applicant to meet
2 the diverse needs of the population served;

3 “(M) the plan of such applicant who chooses
4 to assist younger siblings of children who will
5 participate in the Head Start program to obtain
6 health services from other sources;

7 “(N) the plan of such applicant to meet
8 the needs of children with disabilities, including
9 procedures to identify such children, procedures
10 for referral of such children for evaluation to
11 State or local agencies providing services under
12 section 619 or part C of the Individuals with
13 Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419,
14 1431 et seq.), and plans for collaboration with
15 those State or local agencies;

16 “(O) the plan of such applicant to meet
17 the needs of homeless children, including trans-
18 portation needs, and the needs of children in
19 foster care; and

20 “(P) other factors related to the require-
21 ments of this subchapter.

1 “(3) PRIORITY.—In selecting from among
2 qualified applicants for designation as a Head Start
3 agency, the Secretary shall give priority to appli-
4 cants that have demonstrated capacity in providing
5 effective, comprehensive, and well-coordinated early
6 childhood education and development services and
7 programs to children and their families.

8 “(e) PROHIBITION AGAINST NON-INDIAN HEAD
9 START AGENCY RECEIVING A GRANT FOR AN INDIAN
10 HEAD START PROGRAM.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
12 provision of law, except as provided in paragraph
13 (2), under no condition may a non-Indian Head
14 Start agency receive a grant to carry out an Indian
15 Head Start program.

16 “(2) EXCEPTION.—In a community in which
17 there is no Indian Head Start agency available for
18 designation to carry out an Indian Head Start pro-
19 gram, a non-Indian Head Start agency may receive
20 a grant to carry out an Indian Head Start program
21 but only until such time as an Indian Head Start

1 agency in such community becomes available and is
2 designated pursuant to this section.

3 “(f) INTERIM PROVIDER.—If no agency in a commu-
4 nity is designated under subsection (d), and there is no
5 qualified applicant in the community, the Secretary shall
6 designate a qualified agency to carry out the Head Start
7 program in the community on an interim basis until a
8 qualified applicant from the community is designated
9 under subsection (d). **【Need HHS TA】**

10 “(g) PARENT AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.—
11 The Secretary shall require that the practice of signifi-
12 cantly involving parents and community residents in the
13 area affected by the program involved, in the selection of
14 Head Start agencies, be continued.

15 “(h) COMMUNITY.—For purposes of this subchapter,
16 a community may be a city, county, or multicounty or multi-
17 county unit within a State, an Indian reservation (includ-
18 ing Indians in any off-reservation area designated by an
19 appropriate tribal government in consultation with the
20 Secretary), or a neighborhood or other area (irrespective
21 of boundaries or political subdivisions) that provides a

1 suitable organizational base and possesses the com-
2 monality of interest needed to operate a Head Start pro-
3 gram.”.

4 **SEC. 8. STANDARDS; MONITORING OF HEAD START AGEN-**
5 **CIES AND PROGRAMS.**

6 Section 641A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
7 9836a) is amended to read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 641A. STANDARDS; MONITORING OF HEAD START**
9 **AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS.**

10 “(a) STANDARDS.—

11 “(1) CONTENT OF STANDARDS.—The Secretary
12 shall modify, as necessary, program performance
13 standards by regulation applicable to Head Start
14 agencies and programs under this subchapter, in-
15 cluding—

16 “(A) performance standards with respect
17 to services required to be provided, including
18 health, parental involvement, nutritional, and
19 social services, transition activities described in
20 section 642A, and other services;

1 “(B) scientifically based and develop-
2 mentally appropriate education performance
3 standards related to school readiness that are
4 based on the Head Start Child Outcomes
5 Framework to ensure that the children partici-
6 pating in the program, at a minimum, develop
7 and demonstrate—

8 “(i) language knowledge and skills, in-
9 cluding oral language and listening com-
10 prehension;

11 “(ii) literacy knowledge and skills, in-
12 cluding phonological awareness, print
13 awareness and skills, and alphabetic knowl-
14 edge;

15 “(iii) mathematics knowledge and
16 skills;

17 “(iv) science knowledge and skills;

18 “(v) cognitive abilities related to aca-
19 demic achievement and child development;

20 “(vi) approaches to learning related to
21 child development and early learning;

1 “(vii) social and emotional develop-
2 ment related to early learning, school suc-
3 cess, and social problemsolving;
4 “(viii) abilities in creative arts;
5 “(ix) physical development; and
6 “(x) in the case of limited English
7 proficient children, progress toward acqui-
8 sition of the English language while mak-
9 ing meaningful progress in attaining the
10 knowledge, skills, abilities, and develop-
11 ment described in clauses (i) through (ix),
12 including progress made through the use of
13 culturally and linguistically appropriate in-
14 structional services;
15 “(C) administrative and financial manage-
16 ment standards;
17 “(D) standards relating to the condition
18 and location of facilities (including indoor air
19 quality assessment standards, where appro-
20 priate) for such agencies, and programs, includ-
21 ing regulations that require that the facilities

1 used by Head Start agencies (including Early
2 Head Start agencies and any delegate agencies)
3 for regularly scheduled center-based and com-
4 bination program option classroom activities—

5 “(i) shall meet or exceed State and
6 local requirements concerning licensing for
7 such facilities; and

8 “(ii) shall be accessible by State and
9 local authorities for purposes of monitoring
10 and ensuring compliance, unless State or
11 local laws prohibit such access; and

12 “(E) such other standards as the Secretary
13 finds to be appropriate.

14 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING STAND-
15 ARDS.—In developing any modifications to standards
16 required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

17 “(A) consult with experts in the fields of
18 child development, early childhood education,
19 child health care, family services (including lin-
20 guistically and culturally appropriate services to
21 non-English speaking children and their fami-

1 lies), administration, and financial manage-
2 ment, and with persons with experience in the
3 operation of Head Start programs;

4 “(B) take into consideration—

5 “(i) past experience with use of the
6 standards in effect under this subchapter
7 on the date of the Improving Head Start
8 for School Readiness Act of 2007;

9 “(ii) changes over the period since Oc-
10 tober 27, 1998, in the circumstances and
11 problems typically facing children and fam-
12 ilies served by Head Start agencies;

13 “(iii) recommendations from the study
14 on Developmental Outcomes and Assess-
15 ments for Young Children by the National
16 Academy of Sciences, consistent with sec-
17 tion 649(j);

18 “(iv) developments concerning re-
19 search-based practices with respect to early
20 childhood education and development, chil-
21 dren with disabilities, homeless children,

1 children in foster care, and family services,
2 and best practices with respect to program
3 administration and financial management;
4 “(v) projected needs of an expanding
5 Head Start program;
6 “(vi) guidelines and standards that
7 promote child health services and physical
8 development, including participation in
9 outdoor activity that supports children’s
10 motor development and overall health and
11 nutrition;
12 “(vii) changes in the characteristics of
13 the population of children who are eligible
14 to participate in Head Start programs, in-
15 cluding country of origin, language back-
16 ground, and family structure of such chil-
17 dren, and changes in the population and
18 number of such children who are in foster
19 care or are homeless children;
20 “(viii) mechanisms to ensure that chil-
21 dren participating in Head Start programs

1 make a successful transition to the schools
2 that the children will be attending;

3 “(ix) the need for Head Start agen-
4 cies to maintain regular communications
5 with parents, including conducting periodic
6 meetings to discuss the progress of indi-
7 vidual children in Head Start programs;
8 and

9 “(x) the unique challenges faced by
10 individual programs, including those pro-
11 grams that are seasonal or short term and
12 those programs that serve rural popu-
13 lations;

14 “(C)(i) review and revise as necessary the
15 standards in effect under this subsection; and

16 “(ii) ensure that any such revisions in the
17 standards will not result in the elimination of or
18 any reduction in quality, scope, or types of
19 health, educational, parental involvement, nutri-
20 tional, social, or other services required to be
21 provided under such standards as in effect on

1 the date of enactment of the Improving Head
2 Start for School Readiness Act of 2007; and

3 “(D) consult with Indian tribes, including
4 Alaska Natives, experts in Indian, including
5 Alaska Native, early childhood education and
6 development, linguists, and the National Indian
7 Head Start Directors Association on the review
8 and promulgation of standards under para-
9 graph (1) (including standards for language ac-
10 quisition and school readiness).

11 “(3) STANDARDS RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS
12 TO DELEGATE AGENCIES.—In developing any modi-
13 fications to standards under paragraph (1), the Sec-
14 retary shall describe the obligations of a Head Start
15 agency to a delegate agency to which the Head Start
16 agency has delegated responsibility for providing
17 services under this subchapter.

18 “(b) MEASURES.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
20 tion with representatives of Head Start agencies and
21 with experts in the fields of early childhood edu-

1 cation and development, family services, and pro-
2 gram management, shall use the study on Develop-
3 mental Outcomes and Assessments for Young Chil-
4 dren by the National Academy of Sciences and other
5 relevant research to inform, revise, and provide guid-
6 ance to Head Start agencies for utilizing, scientif-
7 ically based measures that support, as appropriate—

8 “(A) classroom instructional practices;

9 “(B) identification of children with special
10 needs;

11 “(C) program evaluation; and

12 “(D) administrative and financial manage-
13 ment practices.

14 “(2) CHARACTERISTICS OF MEASURES.—The
15 measures under this subsection shall—

16 “(A) be developmentally, linguistically, and
17 culturally appropriate for the population served;

18 “(B) be reviewed periodically, based on ad-
19 vances in the science of early childhood develop-
20 ment;

1 “(C) be consistent with relevant, nationally
2 recognized professional and technical standards
3 related to the assessment of young children;

4 “(D) be valid and reliable in the language
5 in which they are administered;

6 “(E) be administered by staff with appro-
7 priate training for such administration;

8 “(F) provide for appropriate accommoda-
9 tions for children with disabilities and children
10 who are limited English proficient;

11 “(G) be high-quality research-based meas-
12 ures that have been demonstrated to assist with
13 the purposes for which they were devised; and

14 “(H) be adaptable, as appropriate, for use
15 in the self-assessment of Head Start agencies,
16 including in the evaluation of administrative
17 and financial management practices.

18 “(3) USE OF MEASURES; LIMITATIONS ON
19 USE.—

20 “(A) USE.—The measures shall be de-
21 signed, as appropriate, for the purpose of—

1 “(i) helping to develop the skills,
2 knowledge, abilities, and development de-
3 scribed in subsection (a)(1)(B) of children
4 participating in Head Start programs, with
5 an emphasis on measuring skills that sci-
6 entifically valid research has demonstrated
7 are related to children’s school readiness
8 and later success in school;

9 “(ii) improving classroom practices,
10 including reviewing children’s strengths
11 and weaknesses and individualizing in-
12 struction to better meet the needs of the
13 children involved;

14 “(iii) identifying the special needs of
15 children; and

16 “(iv) improving overall program per-
17 formance in order to help programs iden-
18 tify problem areas that may require addi-
19 tional training and technical assistance re-
20 sources.

1 “(B) LIMITATIONS.—Such measures shall
2 not be used to exclude children from Head
3 Start programs.

4 “(4) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary,
6 through regulation, shall ensure the confiden-
7 tiality of any personally identifiable data, infor-
8 mation, and records collected or maintained
9 under this subchapter by the Secretary and any
10 Head Start agency. Such regulations shall pro-
11 vide the policies, protections, and rights equiva-
12 lent to those provided to a parent, student, or
13 educational agency or institution under section
14 444 of the General Education Provisions Act
15 (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

16 “(B) PROHIBITION ON NATIONWIDE DATA-
17 BASE.—Nothing in this subsection shall be con-
18 strued to authorize the development of a na-
19 tionwide database of personally identifiable
20 data, information, or records on children result-

1 ing from the use of measures under this sub-
2 section.

3 “(5) SPECIAL RULE.—

4 “(A) PROHIBITION.—The use of assess-
5 ment items and data on any assessment author-
6 ized under this subchapter by any agent of the
7 Federal Government is prohibited for the pur-
8 poses of—

9 “(i) ranking, comparing, or otherwise
10 evaluating individual children for purposes
11 other than research, training, or technical
12 assistance; and

13 “(ii) providing rewards or sanctions
14 for individual children or teachers.

15 “(B) RESULTS.—The Secretary shall not
16 use the results of a single assessment as the
17 sole method for assessing program effectiveness
18 or making agency funding determinations at
19 the national, regional, or local level under this
20 subchapter.

1 “(c) MONITORING OF LOCAL AGENCIES AND PRO-
2 GRAMS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To determine whether
4 Head Start agencies meet standards described in
5 subsection (a)(1) established under this subchapter
6 with respect to program, administrative, financial
7 management, and other requirements, and in order
8 to help the programs identify areas for improvement
9 and areas of strength as part of their ongoing self-
10 assessment process, the Secretary shall conduct the
11 following reviews of Head Start agencies, including
12 the Head Start programs operated by such agencies:

13 “(A) A full review, including the use of a
14 risk-based assessment approach, of each such
15 agency at least once during each 3-year period.

16 “(B) A review of each newly designated
17 Head Start agency immediately after the com-
18 pletion of the first year such agency carries out
19 a Head Start program.

20 “(C) Followup reviews, including—

1 “(i) return visits to Head Start agen-
2 cies with 1 or more findings of deficiencies,
3 not later than 6 months after the Sec-
4 retary provides notification of such find-
5 ings, or not later than 12 months after
6 such notification if the Secretary deter-
7 mines that additional time is necessary for
8 an agency to address such a deficiency
9 prior to the review; and

10 “(ii) a review of Head Start agencies
11 with significant areas of noncompliance.

12 “(D) Other reviews, including unan-
13 nounced site inspections of Head Start centers,
14 as appropriate.

15 “(2) CONDUCT OF REVIEWS.—The Secretary
16 shall ensure that reviews described in subparagraphs
17 (A) through (C) of paragraph (1)—

18 “(A) are conducted by review teams that—

19 “(i) include individuals who are
20 knowledgeable about Head Start programs

1 and, to the maximum extent practicable,
2 individuals who are knowledgeable about—

3 “(I) other early childhood edu-
4 cation and development programs,
5 personnel management, financial ac-
6 countability, and systems development
7 and monitoring; and

8 “(II) the diverse (including lin-
9 guistic and cultural) needs of eligible
10 children (including children with dis-
11 abilities, homeless children, children in
12 foster care, and limited English pro-
13 ficient children) and their families;

14 “(ii) include, to the maximum extent
15 practicable, current or former employees of
16 the Department of Health and Human
17 Services who are knowledgeable about
18 Head Start programs; and

19 “(iii) shall receive periodic training to
20 ensure quality and consistency across re-
21 views;

1 “(B) include as part of the reviews, a re-
2 view and assessment of program strengths and
3 areas in need of improvement;

4 “(C) include as part of the reviews, a re-
5 view and assessment of whether programs have
6 adequately addressed population and commu-
7 nity needs (including those of limited English
8 proficient children and children of migrant or
9 seasonal farmworker families);

10 “(D) include as part of the reviews, an as-
11 sessment of the extent to which the programs
12 address the communitywide strategic planning
13 and needs assessment described in section
14 640(g)(1)(C);

15 “(E) include information on the innovative
16 and effective efforts of the Head Start agencies
17 to collaborate with the entities providing early
18 childhood and development services or programs
19 in the community and any barriers to such col-
20 laboration that the agencies encounter;

1 “(F) include as part of the reviews, a valid
2 and reliable research-based observational instru-
3 ment, implemented by qualified individuals with
4 demonstrated reliability, that assesses class-
5 room quality, including assessing multiple di-
6 mensions of teacher-child interactions that are
7 linked to positive child development and later
8 achievement;

9 “(G) are conducted in a manner that eval-
10 uates program performance, quality, and overall
11 operations with consistency and objectivity, are
12 based on a transparent and reliable system of
13 review, and are conducted in a manner that in-
14 cludes periodic interrater reliability checks, to
15 ensure quality and consistency, across and with-
16 in regions, of the reviews and of noncompliance
17 and deficiency determinations;

18 “(H) in the case of reviews of Early Head
19 Start agencies and programs, are conducted by
20 a review team that includes individuals who are

1 knowledgeable about the development of infants
2 and toddlers;

3 “(I) include as part of the reviews a pro-
4 tocol for fiscal management that shall be used
5 to assess compliance with program require-
6 ments for—

7 “(i) using Federal funds appro-
8 priately, including assuring that no Fed-
9 eral funds are used in a manner that
10 would provide an inappropriate personal
11 benefit to Head Start staff;

12 “(ii) using Federal funds specifically
13 to purchase property (consistent with sec-
14 tion 644(f)) and to compensate personnel;

15 “(iii) securing and using qualified fi-
16 nancial officer support; and

17 “(iv) reporting financial information
18 and implementing appropriate internal
19 controls to safeguard Federal funds;

20 “(J) include as part of the reviews of the
21 programs, a review and assessment of whether

1 the programs are in conformity with the eligi-
2 bility requirements under section 645(a)(1), in-
3 cluding regulations promulgated under such
4 section and whether the programs have met the
5 requirements for the outreach and enrollment
6 policies and procedures, and selection criteria,
7 in such section, for the participation of children
8 in programs assisted under this subchapter;

9 “(K) include as part of the reviews, a re-
10 view and assessment of whether agencies have
11 adequately addressed the needs of children with
12 disabilities, including whether the agencies in-
13 volved have met the 10 percent minimum en-
14 rollment requirement specified in section 640(d)
15 and whether the agencies have made sufficient
16 efforts to collaborate with State and local agen-
17 cies providing services under section 619 or
18 part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-
19 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.); and

20 “(L) include as part of the reviews, a re-
21 view and assessment of child outcomes and per-

1 formance as they relate to agency-determined
2 school readiness goals described in subsection
3 (g)(2), consistent with subsection (b)(5).

4 “(3) STANDARDS RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS
5 TO DELEGATE AGENCIES.—In conducting a review
6 described in paragraph (1)(A) of a Head Start agen-
7 cy, the Secretary shall determine whether the agency
8 complies with the obligations described in subsection
9 (a)(3). The Secretary shall consider such compliance
10 in determining whether to renew financial assistance
11 to the Head Start agency under this subchapter.

12 “(4) USE OF REVIEW FINDINGS.—The findings
13 of a review described in paragraph (1) of a Head
14 Start agency shall, at a minimum—

15 “(A) be presented to the agency in a time-
16 ly, transparent, and uniform manner that con-
17 veys information of program strengths and
18 weaknesses and assists with program improve-
19 ment; and

1 capital advance in an amount sufficient to
2 cover the estimated expenses involved dur-
3 ing an agreed upon disbursing cycle; and

4 “(ii) only if there is continuity of serv-
5 ices.

6 “(4) TERMINATION.—The Head Start agency
7 may not terminate a delegate agency’s contract or
8 reduce a delegate agency’s service area without
9 showing cause or demonstrating the cost-effective-
10 ness of such a decision.

11 “(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
12 this subsection shall be construed to limit the pow-
13 ers, duties, or functions of the Secretary with re-
14 spect to Head Start agencies or delegate agencies
15 that receive financial assistance under this sub-
16 chapter.

17 “(e) CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR HEAD START AGEN-
18 CIES.—

19 “(1) DETERMINATION.—If the Secretary deter-
20 mines, on the basis of a review pursuant to sub-
21 section (c), that a Head Start agency designated

1 pursuant to section 641 fails to meet the standards
2 described in subsection (a)(1) or fails to address the
3 communitywide strategic planning and needs assess-
4 ment, the Secretary shall—

5 “(A) inform the agency of the deficiencies
6 that shall be corrected and identify the assist-
7 ance to be provided consistent with paragraph
8 (3);

9 “(B) with respect to each identified defi-
10 ciency, require the agency—

11 “(i) to correct the deficiency imme-
12 diately, if the Secretary finds that the defi-
13 ciency threatens the health or safety of
14 staff or program participants or poses a
15 threat to the integrity of Federal funds;

16 “(ii) to correct the deficiency not later
17 than 90 days after the identification of the
18 deficiency if the Secretary finds, in the dis-
19 cretion of the Secretary, that such a 90-
20 day period is reasonable, in light of the na-
21 ture and magnitude of the deficiency; or

1 “(iii) in the discretion of the Sec-
2 retary (taking into consideration the seri-
3 ousness of the deficiency and the time rea-
4 sonably required to correct the deficiency),
5 to comply with the requirements of para-
6 graph (2) concerning a quality improve-
7 ment plan; and

8 “(C) initiate proceedings to terminate the
9 designation of the agency unless the agency cor-
10 rects the deficiency.

11 “(2) QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—

12 “(A) AGENCY AND PROGRAM RESPONSIBIL-
13 ITIES.—To retain a designation as a Head
14 Start agency under this subchapter, or in the
15 case of a Head Start program to continue to re-
16 ceive funds from such agency, a Head Start
17 agency that is the subject of a determination
18 described in paragraph (1), or a Head Start
19 program that is determined to have a deficiency
20 under subsection (d)(2) (excluding an agency
21 required to correct a deficiency immediately or

1 during a 90-day period under clause (i) or (ii)
2 of paragraph (1)(B)) shall—

3 “(i) develop in a timely manner, a
4 quality improvement plan that shall be
5 subject to the approval of the Secretary, or
6 in the case of a program, the sponsoring
7 agency, and that shall specify—

8 “(I) the deficiencies to be cor-
9 rected;

10 “(II) the actions to be taken to
11 correct such deficiencies; and

12 “(III) the timetable for accom-
13 plishment of the corrective actions
14 specified; and

15 “(ii) correct each deficiency specified,
16 not later than the date for correction of
17 such deficiency specified in such plan
18 (which shall not be later than 10 months
19 after the date the agency or program ob-
20 tains approval of its quality improvement
21 plan).

1 “(B) SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITY.—Not
2 later than 30 days after receiving from a Head
3 Start agency a proposed quality improvement
4 plan pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Sec-
5 retary shall either approve such proposed plan
6 or specify the reasons why the proposed plan
7 cannot be approved.

8 “(C) AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY.—Not later
9 than 30 days after receiving from a Head Start
10 program a proposed quality improvement plan
11 pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Head Start
12 agency involved shall either approve such pro-
13 posed plan or specify the reasons why the pro-
14 posed plan cannot be approved.

15 “(3) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—
16 The Secretary shall provide training and technical
17 assistance to Head Start agencies and programs
18 with respect to the development or implementation
19 of such quality improvement plans to the extent the
20 Secretary finds such provision to be feasible and ap-

1 appropriate given available funding and other statutory
2 responsibilities.

3 “(f) SUMMARIES OF MONITORING OUTCOMES.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
5 after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall
6 publish a summary report on the findings of reviews
7 conducted under subsection (c) and on the outcomes
8 of quality improvement plans implemented under
9 subsection (e), during such fiscal year.

10 “(2) REPORT AVAILABILITY.—Such report shall
11 be made widely available to—

12 “(A) parents with children receiving assist-
13 ance under this subchapter—

14 “(i) in an understandable and uniform
15 format; and

16 “(ii) to the extent practicable, in a
17 language that the parents understand; and

18 “(B) the public through means such as—

19 “(i) distribution through public agen-
20 cies; and

1 “(ii) posting such information on the
2 Internet.

3 “(3) REPORT INFORMATION.—Such report shall
4 contain detailed data—

5 “(A) on compliance with specific standards
6 and measures; and

7 “(B) sufficient to allow Head Start agen-
8 cies to use such data to improve the quality of
9 their programs.

10 “(g) SELF-ASSESSMENTS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
12 once each program year, with the consultation and
13 participation of policy councils and, as applicable,
14 policy committees and, as appropriate, other commu-
15 nity members, each Head Start agency, and each
16 delegate agency, that receives financial assistance
17 under this subchapter shall conduct a comprehensive
18 self-assessment of its effectiveness and progress in
19 meeting program goals and objectives and in imple-
20 menting and complying with standards described in
21 subsection (a)(1).

1 “(2) GOALS, REPORTS, AND IMPROVEMENT
2 PLANS.—

3 “(A) GOALS.—An agency conducting a
4 self-assessment shall establish agency-deter-
5 mined program goals for improving the school
6 readiness of children participating in a program
7 under this subchapter, including school readi-
8 ness goals that are aligned with the Head Start
9 Child Outcomes Framework, State early learn-
10 ing standards as appropriate, and requirements
11 and expectations of the schools the children will
12 be attending.

13 “(B) IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—The agency
14 shall develop, and submit to the Secretary a re-
15 port containing, an improvement plan approved
16 by the governing body of the agency to
17 strengthen any areas identified in the self-as-
18 sessment as weaknesses or in need of improve-
19 ment.

20 “(3) ONGOING MONITORING.—Each Head Start
21 agency (including each Early Head Start agency)

1 and each delegate agency shall establish and imple-
2 ment procedures for the ongoing monitoring of their
3 respective programs, to ensure that the operations of
4 the programs work toward meeting program goals
5 and objectives and standards described in subsection
6 (a)(1).

7 “(h) REDUCTION OF GRANTS AND REDISTRIBUTION
8 OF FUNDS IN CASES OF UNDERENROLLMENT.—

9 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 “(A) ACTUAL ENROLLMENT.—The term
11 ‘actual enrollment’ means, with respect to the
12 program of a Head Start agency, the actual
13 number of children enrolled in such program
14 and reported by the agency (as required in
15 paragraph (2)) in a given month.

16 “(B) BASE GRANT.—The term ‘base grant’
17 has the meaning given the term in section
18 640(a)(7).

19 “(C) FUNDED ENROLLMENT.—The term
20 ‘funded enrollment’ means, with respect to the
21 program of a Head Start agency in a fiscal

1 year, the number of children that the agency is
2 funded to serve through a grant for the pro-
3 gram during such fiscal year, as indicated in
4 the grant agreement.

5 “(2) ENROLLMENT REPORTING REQUIRE-
6 MENT.—Each entity carrying out a Head Start pro-
7 gram shall report on a monthly basis to the Sec-
8 retary and the relevant Head Start agency—

9 “(A) the actual enrollment in such pro-
10 gram; and

11 “(B) if such actual enrollment is less than
12 the funded enrollment, any apparent reason for
13 such enrollment shortfall.

14 “(3) SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND PLAN.—The
15 Secretary shall—

16 “(A) on a semiannual basis, determine
17 which Head Start agencies are operating with
18 an actual enrollment that is less than the fund-
19 ed enrollment based on not less than 4 consecu-
20 tive months of data;

1 “(B) for each such Head Start agency op-
2 erating a program with an actual enrollment
3 that is less than its funded enrollment, as de-
4 termined under subparagraph (A), develop, in
5 collaboration with such agency, a plan and
6 timetable for reducing or eliminating under-
7 enrollment taking into consideration—

8 “(i) the quality and extent of the out-
9 reach, recruitment, and communitywide
10 strategic planning and needs assessment
11 conducted by such agency;

12 “(ii) changing demographics, mobility
13 of populations, and the identification of
14 new underserved low-income populations;

15 “(iii) facilities-related issues that may
16 impact enrollment;

17 “(iv) the ability to provide full-work-
18 ing-day programs, where needed, through
19 funds made available under this sub-
20 chapter or through collaboration with enti-
21 ties carrying out other early childhood edu-

1 cation and development programs, or pro-
2 grams with other funding sources (where
3 available);

4 “(v) the availability and use by fami-
5 lies of other early childhood education and
6 development options in the community
7 served; and

8 “(vi) agency management procedures
9 that may impact enrollment; and

10 “(C) provide timely and ongoing technical
11 assistance to each agency described in subpara-
12 graph (B) for the purpose of assisting the Head
13 Start agency to implement the plan described in
14 such subparagraph.

15 “(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Upon receipt of the
16 technical assistance described in paragraph (3)(C), a
17 Head Start agency shall immediately implement the
18 plan described in paragraph (3)(B). The Secretary
19 shall, where determined appropriate, continue to
20 provide technical assistance to such agency.

1 “(5) SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT
2 FOR CHRONIC UNDERENROLLMENT.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If, after receiving
4 technical assistance and developing and imple-
5 menting the plan as described in paragraphs
6 (3) and (4) for 12 months, a Head Start agen-
7 cy is operating a program with an actual enroll-
8 ment that is less than 97 percent of its funded
9 enrollment, the Secretary may—

10 “(i) designate such agency as chron-
11 ically underenrolled; and

12 “(ii) recapture, withhold, or reduce
13 the base grant for the program by a per-
14 centage equal to the percentage difference
15 between funded enrollment and actual en-
16 rollment for the program for the most re-
17 cent year for which the agency is deter-
18 mined to be underenrolled under para-
19 graph (3)(A).

20 “(B) WAIVER OR LIMITATION OF REDUC-
21 TIONS.—The Secretary may, as appropriate,

1 waive or reduce the percentage recapturing,
2 withholding, or reduction otherwise required by
3 subparagraph (A), if, after the implementation
4 of the plan described in paragraph (3)(B), the
5 Secretary finds that—

6 “(i) the causes of the enrollment
7 shortfall, or a portion of the shortfall, are
8 related to the agency’s serving significant
9 numbers of highly mobile children, or are
10 other significant causes as determined by
11 the Secretary;

12 “(ii) the shortfall can reasonably be
13 expected to be temporary; or

14 “(iii) the number of slots allotted to
15 the agency is small enough that under-
16 enrollment does not create a significant
17 shortfall.

18 “(6) REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds held by the
20 Secretary as a result of recapturing, with-
21 holding, or reducing a base grant in a fiscal

1 year shall be redistributed in such fiscal year
2 **【Get TA from department】** as follows:

3 “(i) INDIAN HEAD START PRO-
4 GRAMS.—If such funds are derived from
5 an Indian Head Start program, then such
6 funds shall be redistributed to increase en-
7 rollment in such fiscal year in 1 or more
8 Indian Head Start programs.

9 “(ii) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD
10 START PROGRAMS.—If such funds are de-
11 rived from a migrant or seasonal Head
12 Start program, then such funds shall be
13 redistributed to increase enrollment in
14 such fiscal year in 1 or more programs of
15 the type from which such funds are de-
16 rived.

17 “(iii) EARLY HEAD START PRO-
18 GRAMS.—If such funds are derived from
19 an Early Head Start program, then such
20 funds shall be redistributed to increase en-

1 rollment in such fiscal year in 1 or more
2 Early Head Start programs.

3 “(iv) OTHER HEAD START PRO-
4 GRAMS.—If such funds are derived from a
5 Head Start program in a State (excluding
6 programs described in clauses (i) through
7 (iii)), then such funds shall be redistrib-
8 uted to increase enrollment in such fiscal
9 year in 1 or more Head Start programs
10 (excluding programs described in clauses
11 (i) through (iii)) that are carried out in
12 such State.

13 “(B) ADJUSTMENT TO FUNDED ENROLL-
14 MENT.—The Secretary shall adjust as necessary
15 the requirements relating to funded enrollment
16 indicated in the grant agreement of a Head
17 Start agency receiving redistributed funds
18 under this paragraph.”.

1 **SEC. 9. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF HEAD START AGEN-**
2 **CIES.**

3 Section 642 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837)
4 is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 642. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF HEAD START AGEN-**
6 **CIES.**

7 “(a) **AUTHORITY.**—To be designated as a Head Start
8 agency under this subchapter, an agency shall have au-
9 thority under its charter or applicable law to receive and
10 administer funds under this subchapter, funds and con-
11 tributions from private or local public sources that may
12 be used in support of a Head Start program, and funds
13 under any Federal or State assistance program pursuant
14 to which a public or private nonprofit or for-profit agency
15 (as the case may be) organized in accordance with this
16 subchapter, could act as grantee, contractor, or sponsor
17 of projects appropriate for inclusion in a Head Start pro-
18 gram. Such an agency shall also be empowered to transfer
19 funds so received, and to delegate powers to other agen-
20 cies, subject to the powers of its governing board and its
21 overall program responsibilities. The power to transfer

1 funds and delegate powers shall include the power to make
2 transfers and delegations covering component projects in
3 all cases where this will contribute to efficiency and effec-
4 tiveness or otherwise further program objectives.

5 “(b) FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT; FAM-
6 ILY SERVICES.—To be so designated, a Head Start agency
7 shall, at a minimum, do all the following to involve and
8 serve families and communities:

9 “(1) Provide for the regular and direct partici-
10 pation of parents and community residents in the
11 implementation of the Head Start program, includ-
12 ing decisions that influence the character of such
13 program, consistent with paragraphs (2)(D) and
14 (3)(C) of subsection (c).

15 “(2) Seek the involvement of parents, commu-
16 nity residents, and local business in the design and
17 implementation of the program.

18 “(3) Establish effective procedures—

19 “(A) to facilitate and seek the involvement
20 of parents of participating children in activities

1 designed to help such parents become full part-
2 ners in the education of their children; and

3 “(B) to afford such parents the oppor-
4 tunity to participate in the development and
5 overall conduct of the program at the local
6 level, including transportation assistance as ap-
7 propriate.

8 “(4) Offer (directly or through referral to local
9 entities, such as entities carrying out Even Start
10 programs under subpart 3 of part B of title I of the
11 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
12 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.), public and school libraries,
13 and entities carrying out family support programs)
14 to such parents—

15 “(A) family literacy services; and

16 “(B) parenting skills training.

17 “(5) Offer to parents of participating children
18 substance abuse counseling (either directly or
19 through referral to local entities), if needed, includ-
20 ing information on the effect of drug exposure on in-
21 fants and fetal alcohol syndrome.

1 “(6) At the option of such agency, offer (di-
2 rectly or through referral to local entities) to such
3 parents—

4 “(A) training in basic child development
5 (including cognitive, social, and emotional devel-
6 opment);

7 “(B) assistance in developing literacy and
8 communication skills;

9 “(C) opportunities to share experiences
10 with other parents (including parent-mentor re-
11 lationships);

12 “(D) health services, including information
13 on maternal depression;

14 “(E) regular in-home visitation; or

15 “(F) any other activity designed to help
16 such parents become full partners in the edu-
17 cation of their children.

18 “(7) Provide, with respect to each participating
19 family, a family needs assessment that includes con-
20 sultation with such parents (including foster par-
21 ents, grandparents, and kinship caregivers, where

1 applicable), in a manner and language that such
2 parents can understand (to the extent practicable),
3 about the benefits of parent involvement and about
4 the activities described in this subsection in which
5 such parents may choose to be involved (taking into
6 consideration their specific family needs, work sched-
7 ules, and other responsibilities).

8 “(8) Consider providing services to assist
9 younger siblings of children participating in its Head
10 Start program to obtain health services from other
11 sources.

12 “(9) Perform community outreach to encourage
13 individuals previously unaffiliated with Head Start
14 programs to participate in its Head Start program
15 as volunteers.

16 “(10)(A) Inform custodial parents in single-par-
17 ent families that participate in programs, activities,
18 or services carried out or provided under this sub-
19 chapter about the availability of child support serv-
20 ices for purposes of establishing paternity and ac-
21 quiring child support.

1 “(B) Refer eligible parents to the child support
2 offices of State and local governments.

3 “(11) Provide to parents of limited English pro-
4 ficient children outreach and information, in an un-
5 derstandable and uniform format and, to the extent
6 practicable, in a language that the parents can un-
7 derstand.

8 “(12) Provide technical and other support need-
9 ed to enable parents and community residents to se-
10 cure, on their own behalf, available assistance from
11 public and private sources.

12 “(13) Promote the continued involvement of the
13 parents (including foster parents, grandparents, and
14 kinship caregivers, as appropriate) of children that
15 participate in Head Start programs in the education
16 of their children upon transition of their children to
17 school, by working with the local educational agen-
18 cy—

19 “(A) to provide training to the parents—

1 “(i) to inform the parents about their
2 rights and responsibilities concerning the
3 education of their children; and

4 “(ii) to enable the parents—

5 “(I) to understand and work with
6 schools in order to communicate with
7 teachers and other school personnel;

8 “(II) to support the schoolwork
9 of their children; and

10 “(III) to participate as appro-
11 priate in decisions relating to the edu-
12 cation of their children; and

13 “(B) to take other actions, as appropriate
14 and feasible, to support the active involvement
15 of the parents with schools, school personnel,
16 and school-related organizations.

17 “(14) Establish effective procedures for timely
18 referral of children with disabilities to the State or
19 local agency providing services under section 619 or
20 part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education
21 Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.), and collabora-

1 tion with that agency, consistent with section
2 640(d)(3).

3 “(15) Establish effective procedures for pro-
4 viding necessary early intervening services to chil-
5 dren with disabilities prior to an eligibility deter-
6 mination by the State or local agency responsible for
7 providing services under section 619 or part C of
8 such Act, consistent with section 640(d)(2).

9 “(16) At the option of the Head Start agency,
10 partner with an institution of higher education and
11 a nonprofit organization to provide college students
12 with the opportunity to serve as mentors or reading
13 partners for Head Start participants.

14 “(c) PROGRAM GOVERNANCE.—Upon receiving des-
15 ignation as a Head Start agency, the agency shall estab-
16 lish and maintain a formal structure for program govern-
17 ance, for the oversight of quality services for Head Start
18 children and families and for making decisions related to
19 program design and implementation. Such structure shall
20 include the following:

21 “(1) GOVERNING BODY.—

1 “(II) are selected for their exper-
2 tise in education, business administra-
3 tion, or community affairs.

4 “(v) Exceptions shall be made to the
5 requirements of clauses (i) through (iv) for
6 members of a governing body when those
7 members oversee a public entity and are
8 selected to their positions with the public
9 entity by public election or political ap-
10 pointment.

11 “(vi) If a person described in clause
12 (i), (ii), or (iii) is not available to serve as
13 a member of the governing body, the gov-
14 erning body shall use a consultant, or an
15 other individual with relevant expertise,
16 with the qualifications described in that
17 clause, who shall work directly with the
18 governing body.

19 “(C) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Members
20 of the governing body shall—

1 “(i) not have a conflict of interest
2 with the Head Start agency (including any
3 delegate agency);

4 “(ii) not receive compensation for
5 serving on the governing body or for pro-
6 viding services to the Head Start agency;

7 “(iii) not be employed, nor shall mem-
8 bers of their immediate family be em-
9 ployed, by the Head Start agency (includ-
10 ing any delegate agency); and

11 “(iv) operate as an entity independent
12 of staff employed by the Head Start agen-
13 cy.

14 “(D) EXCEPTION.—If an individual holds
15 a position as a result of public election or polit-
16 ical appointment, and such position carries with
17 it a concurrent appointment to serve as a mem-
18 ber of a Head Start agency governing body, and
19 such individual has any conflict of interest de-
20 scribed in clauses (i) through (iii) of subpara-
21 graph (C), such individual shall not be prohib-

1 “(iv) be responsible for other activi-
2 ties, including—

3 “(I) selecting delegate agencies
4 and the service areas for such agen-
5 cies;

6 “(II) establishing procedures and
7 criteria for recruitment, selection, and
8 enrollment of children;

9 “(III) reviewing all applications
10 for funding and amendments to appli-
11 cations for funding for programs
12 under this subchapter;

13 “(IV) establishing procedures
14 and guidelines for accessing and col-
15 lecting information described in sub-
16 section (d)(2);

17 “(V) reviewing and approving all
18 major policies of the agency, includ-
19 ing—

20 “(aa) the annual self-assess-
21 ment and financial audit;

1 “(bb) such agency’s progress
2 in carrying out the programmatic
3 and fiscal provisions in such
4 agency’s grant application, in-
5 cluding implementation of correc-
6 tive actions; and

7 “(cc) personnel policies of
8 such agencies regarding the hir-
9 ing, evaluation, termination, and
10 compensation of agency employ-
11 ees;

12 “(VI) developing procedures for
13 how members of the policy council are
14 selected, consistent with paragraph
15 (2)(B);

16 “(VII) approving financial man-
17 agement, accounting, and reporting
18 policies, and compliance with laws and
19 regulations related to financial state-
20 ments, including the—

1 “(aa) approval of all major
2 financial expenditures of the
3 agency;
4 “(bb) annual approval of the
5 operating budget of the agency;
6 “(cc) selection (except when
7 a financial auditor is assigned by
8 the State under State law or is
9 assigned under local law) of inde-
10 pendent financial auditors who
11 shall report all critical accounting
12 policies and practices to the gov-
13 erning body; and
14 “(dd) monitoring of the
15 agency’s actions to correct any
16 audit findings and of other action
17 necessary to comply with applica-
18 ble laws (including regulations)
19 governing financial statement
20 and accounting practices;

1 “(VIII) reviewing results from
2 monitoring conducted under section
3 641A(c), including appropriate fol-
4 lowup activities;

5 “(IX) approving personnel poli-
6 cies and procedures regarding the hir-
7 ing, evaluation, compensation, and
8 termination of the Executive Director,
9 Head Start Director, Director of
10 Human Resources, Chief Fiscal Offi-
11 cer, and any other person in an equiv-
12 alent position with the agency;

13 “(X) establishing, adopting, and
14 periodically updating written stand-
15 ards of conduct that establish stand-
16 ards and formal procedures for dis-
17 closing, addressing, and resolving—

18 “(aa) any conflict of inter-
19 est, and any appearance of a con-
20 flict of interest, by members of
21 the governing body, officers and

1 employees of the Head Start
2 agency, and consultants and
3 agents who provide services or
4 furnish goods to the Head Start
5 agency; and

6 “(bb) complaints, including
7 investigations, when appropriate;
8 and

9 “(XI) to the extent practicable
10 and appropriate, at the discretion of
11 the governing body, establishing advi-
12 sory committees to oversee key re-
13 sponsibilities related to program gov-
14 ernance and improvement of the Head
15 Start program involved.

16 “(2) POLICY COUNCIL.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Head Start
18 agency shall have a policy council responsible
19 for the direction of the Head Start program, in-
20 cluding program design and operation, and
21 long- and short-term planning goals and objec-

1 tives, taking into account the annual com-
2 munitywide strategic planning and needs as-
3 sessment and self-assessment.

4 “(B) COMPOSITION AND SELECTION.—

5 “(i) The policy council shall be elected
6 by the parents of children who are cur-
7 rently enrolled in the Head Start program
8 of the Head Start agency.

9 “(ii) The policy council shall be com-
10 posed of—

11 “(I) parents of children who are
12 currently enrolled in the Head Start
13 program of the Head Start agency
14 (including any delegate agency), who
15 shall constitute a majority of the
16 members of the policy council; and

17 “(II) members at large of the
18 community served by the Head Start
19 agency (including any delegate agen-
20 cy), who may include parents of chil-
21 dren who were formerly enrolled in

1 the Head Start program of the agen-
2 cy.

3 “(C) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Members
4 of the policy council shall—

5 “(i) not have a conflict of interest
6 with the Head Start agency (including any
7 delegate agency); and

8 “(ii) not receive compensation for
9 serving on the policy council or for pro-
10 viding services to the Head Start agency.

11 “(D) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The policy
12 council shall approve and submit to the gov-
13 erning body decisions about each of the fol-
14 lowing activities:

15 “(i) Activities to support the active in-
16 volvement of parents in supporting pro-
17 gram operations, including policies to en-
18 sure that the Head Start agency is respon-
19 sive to community and parent needs.

20 “(ii) Program recruitment, selection,
21 and enrollment priorities.

1 “(iii) Applications for funding and
2 amendments to applications for funding for
3 programs under this subchapter, prior to
4 submission of applications described in this
5 clause.

6 “(iv) Budget planning for program ex-
7 penditures, including policies for reim-
8 bursement and participation in policy
9 council activities.

10 “(v) Bylaws for the operation of the
11 policy council.

12 “(vi) Program personnel policies and
13 decisions regarding the employment of pro-
14 gram staff, consistent with paragraph
15 (1)(E)(iv)(IX), including standards of con-
16 duct for program staff, contractors, and
17 volunteers and criteria for the employment
18 and dismissal of program staff.

19 “(vii) Developing procedures for how
20 members of the policy council of the Head
21 Start agency will be elected.

1 “(viii) Recommendations on the selec-
2 tion of delegate agencies and the service
3 areas for such agencies.

4 “(3) POLICY COMMITTEES.—Each delegate
5 agency shall create a policy committee, which shall—

6 “(A) be elected and composed of members,
7 consistent with paragraph (2)(B) (with respect
8 to delegate agencies);

9 “(B) follow procedures to prohibit conflict
10 of interest, consistent with clauses (i) and (ii)
11 of paragraph (2)(C) (with respect to delegate
12 agencies); and

13 “(C) be responsible for approval and sub-
14 mission of decisions about activities as they re-
15 late to the delegate agency, consistent with
16 paragraph (2)(D) (with respect to delegate
17 agencies).

18 “(d) PROGRAM GOVERNANCE ADMINISTRATION.—

19 “(1) IMPASSE POLICIES.—The Secretary shall
20 develop policies, procedures, and guidance for Head
21 Start agencies concerning—

1 “(A) the resolution of internal disputes, in-
2 cluding any impasse in the governance of Head
3 Start programs; and

4 “(B) the facilitation of meaningful con-
5 sultation and collaboration about decisions of
6 the governing body and policy council.

7 “(2) CONDUCT OF RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each
8 Head Start agency shall ensure the sharing of accu-
9 rate and regular information for use by the gov-
10 erning body and the policy council, about program
11 planning, policies, and Head Start agency oper-
12 ations, including—

13 “(A) monthly financial statements, includ-
14 ing credit card expenditures;

15 “(B) monthly program information sum-
16 maries;

17 “(C) program enrollment reports, including
18 attendance reports for children whose care is
19 partially subsidized by another public agency;

1 “(D) monthly reports of meals and snacks
2 provided through programs of the Department
3 of Agriculture;

4 “(E) the financial audit;

5 “(F) the annual self-assessment, including
6 any findings related to such assessment;

7 “(G) the communitywide strategic planning
8 and needs assessment of the Head Start agen-
9 cy, including any applicable updates;

10 “(H) communication and guidance from
11 the Secretary; and

12 “(I) the program information reports.

13 “(3) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—
14 Appropriate training and technical assistance shall
15 be provided to the members of the governing body
16 and the policy council to ensure that the members
17 understand the information the members receive and
18 can effectively oversee and participate in the pro-
19 grams of the Head Start agency.

20 “(e) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—To be
21 so designated, a Head Start agency shall collaborate and

1 coordinate with public and private entities, to the max-
2 imum extent practicable, to improve the availability and
3 quality of services to Head Start children and families,
4 including carrying out the following activities:

5 “(1) Conduct outreach to schools in which chil-
6 dren participating in the Head Start program will
7 enroll following the program, local educational agen-
8 cies, the local business community, community-based
9 organizations, faith-based organizations, museums,
10 and libraries to generate support and leverage the
11 resources of the entire local community in order to
12 improve school readiness.

13 “(2)(A) In communities where both a public
14 prekindergarten program and a Head Start program
15 operate, collaborate and coordinate activities with
16 the local educational agency or other public agency
17 responsible for the operation of the prekindergarten
18 program and providers of prekindergarten, including
19 outreach activities to identify eligible children.

20 “(B) With the permission of the parents of chil-
21 dren enrolled in the Head Start program, regularly

1 communicate with the schools in which the children
2 will enroll following the program, to—

3 “(i) share information about such children;

4 “(ii) collaborate with the teachers in such
5 schools regarding professional development and
6 instructional strategies, as appropriate; and

7 “(iii) ensure a smooth transition to school
8 for such children.

9 “(3) Coordinate activities and collaborate with
10 programs under the Child Care and Development
11 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.),
12 the agencies responsible for administering section
13 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) and parts B and E of title
15 IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq.,
16 670 et seq.), programs under subtitle B of title VII
17 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
18 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), Even Start programs under
19 subpart 3 of part B of title I of the Elementary and
20 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381
21 et seq.), programs under section 619 and part C of

1 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20
2 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.), and other entities pro-
3 viding early childhood education and development
4 programs or services, serving the children and fami-
5 lies served by the Head Start agency.

6 “(4) Take steps to coordinate activities with the
7 local educational agency serving the community in-
8 volved and with schools in which children partici-
9 pating in the Head Start program will enroll fol-
10 lowing the program, including—

11 “(A) collaborating on the shared use of
12 transportation and facilities, in appropriate
13 cases;

14 “(B) collaborating to reduce the duplica-
15 tion and enhance the efficiency of services while
16 increasing the program participation of under-
17 served populations of eligible children; and

18 “(C) exchanging information on the provi-
19 sion of noneducational services to such children.

20 “(5) Enter into a memorandum of under-
21 standing, not later than 1 year after the date of en-

1 actment of the Improving Head Start for School
2 Readiness Act of 2007, with the appropriate local
3 entity responsible for managing publicly funded pre-
4 school programs in the service area of the Head
5 Start agency, that shall—

6 “(A)(i) provide for a review of each of the
7 activities described in clause (ii); and

8 “(ii) include plans to coordinate, as appro-
9 priate, activities regarding—

10 “(I) educational activities, curricular
11 objectives, and instruction;

12 “(II) public information dissemination
13 and access to programs for families con-
14 tacting the Head Start program or any of
15 the preschool programs;

16 “(III) selection priorities for eligible
17 children to be served by programs;

18 “(IV) service areas;

19 “(V) staff training, including opportu-
20 nities for joint staff training on topics such
21 as academic content standards, instruc-

1 tional methods, curricula, and social and
2 emotional development;

3 “(VI) program technical assistance;

4 “(VII) provision of additional services
5 to meet the needs of working parents, as
6 applicable;

7 “(VIII) communications and parent
8 outreach for smooth transitions to kinder-
9 garten as required in paragraphs (3) and
10 (6) of section 642A(a);

11 “(IX) provision and use of facilities,
12 transportation, and other program ele-
13 ments; and

14 “(X) other elements mutually agreed
15 to by the parties to such memorandum;

16 “(B) be submitted to the Secretary and the
17 State Director of Head Start Collaboration not
18 later than 30 days after the parties enter into
19 such memorandum, except that—

20 “(i) where there is an absence of pub-
21 licly funded preschool programs in the

1 service area of a Head Start agency, this
2 paragraph shall not apply; or

3 “(ii) where the appropriate local enti-
4 ty responsible for managing the publicly
5 funded preschool programs is unable or
6 unwilling to enter into such a memo-
7 randum, this paragraph shall not apply
8 and the Head Start agency shall inform
9 the Secretary and the State Director of
10 Head Start Collaboration of such inability
11 or unwillingness; and

12 “(C) be revised periodically and renewed
13 biennially by the parties to such memorandum,
14 in alignment with the beginning of the school
15 year.

16 “(f) QUALITY STANDARDS, CURRICULA, AND AS-
17 SESSMENT.—To be so designated, each Head Start agency
18 shall—

19 “(1) take steps to ensure, to the maximum ex-
20 tent practicable, that children maintain the develop-
21 mental and educational gains achieved in Head Start

1 programs and build upon such gains in further
2 schooling;

3 “(2) establish a program with the standards set
4 forth in section 641A(a)(1), with particular atten-
5 tion to the standards set forth in subparagraphs (A)
6 and (B) of such section;

7 “(3) implement a research-based early child-
8 hood curriculum that—

9 “(A) promotes young children’s school
10 readiness in the areas of language and cognitive
11 development, early reading and mathematics
12 skills, socio-emotional development, physical de-
13 velopment, and approaches to learning;

14 “(B) is based on scientifically valid re-
15 search and has standardized training proce-
16 dures and curriculum materials to support im-
17 plementation;

18 “(C) is comprehensive and linked to ongo-
19 ing assessment, with developmental and learn-
20 ing goals and measurable objectives;

1 “(D) is focused on improving the learning
2 environment, teaching practices, family involve-
3 ment, and child outcomes across all areas of de-
4 velopment; and

5 “(E) is aligned with the Head Start Child
6 Outcomes Framework developed by the Sec-
7 retary and, as appropriate, State early learning
8 standards;

9 “(4) implement effective interventions and sup-
10 port services that help promote the school readiness
11 of children participating in the program;

12 “(5) use research-based assessment methods
13 that reflect the characteristics described in section
14 641A(b)(2) in order to support the educational in-
15 struction and school readiness of children in the pro-
16 gram;

17 “(6) use research-based developmental screen-
18 ing tools that have been demonstrated to be stand-
19 ardized, reliable, valid, and accurate for the child
20 being assessed, to the maximum extent practicable,

1 for the purpose of meeting the relevant standards
2 described in section 641A(a)(1);

3 “(7) adopt, in consultation with experts in child
4 development and with classroom teachers, an evalua-
5 tion to assess whether classroom teachers have mas-
6 tered the functions discussed in section 648A(a)(1);

7 “(8) use the information provided from the as-
8 sessment conducted under section 641A(c)(2)(F) to
9 inform professional development plans, as appro-
10 priate, that lead to improved teacher effectiveness;

11 “(9) establish goals and measurable objectives
12 for the provision of health, educational, nutritional,
13 and social services provided under this subchapter
14 and related to the program mission and to promote
15 school readiness; and

16 “(10) develop procedures for identifying chil-
17 dren who are limited English proficient, and inform-
18 ing the parents of such children about the instruc-
19 tional services used to help children make progress
20 towards acquiring the knowledge and skills described

1 in section 641A(a)(1)(B) and acquisition of the
2 English language.

3 “(g) FUNDED ENROLLMENT; WAITING LIST.—Each
4 Head Start agency shall enroll 100 percent of its funded
5 enrollment and maintain an active waiting list at all times
6 with ongoing outreach to the community and activities to
7 identify underserved populations.

8 “(h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING
9 PLAN.—In order to receive funds under this subchapter,
10 a Head Start agency shall develop an annual technical as-
11 sistance and training plan. Such plan shall be based on
12 the agency’s self-assessment, the communitywide strategic
13 planning and needs assessment, the needs of parents and
14 children to be served by such agency, and the results of
15 the reviews conducted under section 641A(c).

16 “(i) FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.—In order to receive
17 funds under this subchapter, a Head Start agency shall
18 document strong fiscal controls, including the employment
19 of well-qualified fiscal staff with a history of successful
20 management of a public or private organization.”.

1 **SEC. 10. HEAD START TRANSITION AND ALIGNMENT WITH**
2 **K-12 EDUCATION.**

3 Section 642A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
4 9837a) is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 642A. HEAD START TRANSITION AND ALIGNMENT**
6 **WITH K-12 EDUCATION.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each Head Start agency shall
8 take steps to coordinate with the local educational agency
9 serving the community involved and with schools in which
10 children participating in a Head Start program operated
11 by such agency will enroll following such program to pro-
12 mote continuity of services and effective transitions, in-
13 cluding—

14 “(1) developing and implementing a systematic
15 procedure for transferring, with parental consent,
16 Head Start program records for each participating
17 child to the school in which such child will enroll;

18 “(2) establishing ongoing channels of commu-
19 nication between Head Start staff and their counter-
20 parts in the schools (including teachers, social work-
21 ers, local educational agency liaisons designated

1 under section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-
2 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
3 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)), and health staff) to facilitate co-
4 ordination of programs;

5 “(3) establishing ongoing communications be-
6 tween the Head Start agency and local educational
7 agency for developing continuity of developmentally
8 appropriate curricular objectives (which for the pur-
9 pose of the Head Start program shall be aligned
10 with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework
11 and, as appropriate, State early learning standards)
12 and for shared expectations for children’s learning
13 and development as the children transition to school;

14 “(4) organizing and participating in joint train-
15 ing, including transition-related training for school
16 staff and Head Start staff;

17 “(5) establishing comprehensive transition poli-
18 cies and procedures that support children
19 transitioning to school, including by engaging the
20 local educational agency in the establishment of such
21 policies;

1 “(6) conducting outreach to parents and ele-
2 mentary school (such as kindergarten) teachers to
3 discuss the educational, developmental, and other
4 needs of individual children;

5 “(7) helping parents of limited English pro-
6 ficient children understand—

7 “(A) the instructional and other services
8 provided by the school in which such child will
9 enroll after participation in Head Start; and

10 “(B) as appropriate, the information pro-
11 vided to parents of limited English proficient
12 children under section 3302 of the Elementary
13 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
14 U.S.C. 7012);

15 “(8) developing and implementing a family out-
16 reach and support program, in cooperation with en-
17 tities carrying out parental involvement efforts
18 under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and
20 family outreach and support efforts under subtitle B
21 of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-

1 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), taking into con-
2 sideration the language needs of parents of limited
3 English proficient children;

4 “(9) assisting families, administrators, and
5 teachers in enhancing educational and developmental
6 continuity and continuity of parental involvement in
7 activities between Head Start services and elemen-
8 tary school classes;

9 “(10) linking the services provided in such
10 Head Start program with educational services, in-
11 cluding services relating to language, literacy, and
12 numeracy, provided by such local educational agen-
13 cy;

14 “(11) helping parents (including grandparents
15 and kinship caregivers, as appropriate) to under-
16 stand the importance of parental involvement in a
17 child’s academic success while teaching them strate-
18 gies for maintaining parental involvement as their
19 child moves from Head Start to elementary school;

20 “(12) helping parents understand the instruc-
21 tional and other services provided by the school in

1 which their child will enroll after participation in the
2 Head Start program;

3 “(13) developing and implementing a system to
4 increase program participation of underserved popu-
5 lations of eligible children; and

6 “(14) coordinating activities and collaborating
7 to ensure that curricula used in the Head Start pro-
8 gram are aligned with—

9 “(A) the Head Start Child Outcomes
10 Framework, as developed by the Secretary; and

11 “(B) State early learning standards, as ap-
12 propriate, with regard to cognitive, social, emo-
13 tional, and physical competencies that children
14 entering kindergarten are expected to dem-
15 onstrate.

16 “(b) CONSTRUCTION.—In this section, a reference to
17 a Head Start agency, or its program, services, facility, or
18 personnel, shall not be construed to be a reference to an
19 Early Head Start agency, or its program, services, facility,
20 or personnel.

1 “(c) DISSEMINATION AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
2 ANCE.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary
3 of Education, shall—

4 “(1) disseminate to Head Start agencies infor-
5 mation on effective policies and activities relating to
6 the transition of children from Head Start programs
7 to public schools; and

8 “(2) provide technical assistance to such agen-
9 cies to promote and assist such agencies to adopt
10 and implement such effective policies and activi-
11 ties.”.

12 **SEC. 11. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, COORDINATION,**
13 **AND IMPROVEMENT.**

14 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is
15 amended by inserting after section 642A the following:

16 **“SEC. 642B. HEAD START COLLABORATION; STATE EARLY**
17 **EDUCATION AND CARE.**

18 “(a) HEAD START COLLABORATION.—

19 “(1) From amounts made available under
20 **【**paragraph (2)(B)(vi) of section ____**】**, the Sec-

1 retary shall award the collaboration grants described
2 in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4).

3 “(2)(A) The Secretary shall award, upon sub-
4 mission of a written request, a collaboration grant to
5 each State and to each national administrative office
6 serving Indian Head Start programs and migrant or
7 seasonal Head Start programs to facilitate collabora-
8 tion among Head Start agencies (including Early
9 Head Start agencies) and entities that carry out ac-
10 tivities designed to benefit low-income children from
11 birth to school entry, and their families. The na-
12 tional administrative offices shall use the funds
13 made available through the grants to carry out the
14 authorities and responsibilities described in subpara-
15 graph (B) and paragraphs (3) and (4), as appro-
16 priate.

17 “(B) Grants described in subparagraph (A)
18 shall be used to—

19 “(i) assist Head Start agencies to collabo-
20 rate with entities involved in State and local
21 planning processes to better meet the needs of

1 low-income children from birth to school entry,
2 and their families;

3 “(ii) assist Head Start agencies to coordi-
4 nate activities with the State agency responsible
5 for administering the State program carried out
6 under the Child Care and Development Block
7 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.)
8 and entities providing resource and referral
9 services in the State, to make full-working-day
10 and full calendar year services available to chil-
11 dren;

12 “(iii) promote alignment of curricula used
13 in Head Start programs and continuity of serv-
14 ices with the Head Start Child Outcomes
15 Framework and, as appropriate, State early
16 learning standards;

17 “(iv) promote better linkages between
18 Head Start agencies and other child and family
19 agencies, including agencies that provide health,
20 mental health, or family services, or other child
21 or family supportive services, such as services

1 provided under section 619 or part C of the In-
2 dividuals with Disabilities Education Act (20
3 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.); and

4 “(v) carry out the activities of the State
5 Director of Head Start Collaboration authorized
6 in paragraph (4).

7 “(3) In order to improve coordination and deliv-
8 ery of early childhood education and development to
9 children in the State, a State that receives a collabo-
10 ration grant under paragraph (2) shall—

11 “(A) appoint or designate an individual to
12 serve as, or carry out the responsibilities of, the
13 State Director of Head Start Collaboration;

14 “(B) ensure that the State Director of
15 Head Start Collaboration holds a position with
16 sufficient authority and access to ensure that
17 the collaboration described in paragraph (2) is
18 effective and involves a range of State agencies;
19 and

20 “(C) involve the State Head Start Associa-
21 tion in the selection of the Director and involve

1 State officials responsible for services de-
2 scribed in this clause;

3 “(ii) assist Head Start agencies to de-
4 velop a plan for the provision of full work-
5 ing-day, full calendar year services for chil-
6 dren enrolled in Head Start programs who
7 need such services;

8 “(iii) assist Head Start agencies to
9 align curricula and assessments used in
10 Head Start programs with the Head Start
11 Child Outcomes Framework and, as appro-
12 priate, State early learning standards; and

13 “(iv) enable Head Start agencies to
14 better access professional development op-
15 portunities for Head Start staff, such as
16 by working with Head Start agencies to
17 enable the agencies to meet the degree re-
18 quirements described in section
19 648A(a)(2)(A), including providing dis-
20 tance learning opportunities for Head
21 Start staff, where needed to make higher

1 education more accessible to Head Start
2 staff; and

3 “(v) enable the Head Start agencies
4 to better conduct outreach to eligible fami-
5 lies;

6 “(C) promote partnerships between Head
7 Start agencies, State and local governments,
8 and the private sector to help ensure that chil-
9 dren from low-income families, who are in Head
10 Start programs or are preschool age, are receiv-
11 ing comprehensive services to prepare the chil-
12 dren for elementary school;

13 “(D) consult with the chief State school of-
14 ficer, local educational agencies, and providers
15 of early childhood education and development,
16 at both the State and local levels;

17 “(E) promote partnerships between Head
18 Start agencies, schools, law enforcement, rel-
19 evant community-based organizations, and sub-
20 stance abuse and mental health treatment agen-
21 cies to strengthen family and community envi-

1 ronments and to reduce the impact on child de-
2 velopment of substance abuse, child abuse, do-
3 mestic violence, and other high-risk behaviors
4 that compromise healthy development;

5 “(F) promote partnerships between Head
6 Start agencies and other organizations in order
7 to enhance Head Start program quality, includ-
8 ing partnerships to promote inclusion of more
9 books in Head Start classrooms;

10 “(G) identify other resources and organiza-
11 tions (both public and private) for the provision
12 of in-kind services to Head Start agencies in
13 the State; and

14 “(H) serve on the State Advisory Council
15 in order to assist the efforts of Head Start
16 agencies to engage in effective coordination and
17 collaboration.

18 “(b) STATE EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE.—

19 “(1)(A) The Governor of the State shall—

20 “(i) designate or establish a council to
21 serve as the State Advisory Council on Early

1 Childhood Education and Care for children
2 from birth to school entry (in this subchapter
3 referred to as the ‘State Advisory Council’); and

4 “(ii) designate an individual to coordinate
5 activities of the State Advisory Council, as de-
6 scribed in subparagraph (D)(i).

7 “(B) The Governor may designate an existing
8 entity in the State to serve as the State Advisory
9 Council, and shall appoint such representatives to
10 the State Advisory Council at the Governor’s discre-
11 tion. In designating an existing entity, the Governor
12 shall take steps to ensure that membership includes,
13 to the extent possible, representatives consistent
14 with subparagraph (C).

15 “(C) Members of the State Advisory Council
16 shall include, to the maximum extent possible—

17 “(i) a representative of the State agency
18 responsible for child care;

19 “(ii) a representative of the State edu-
20 cational agency;

1 “(iii) a representative of local educational
2 agencies;

3 “(iv) a representative of institutions of
4 higher education in the State;

5 “(v) a representative of local providers of
6 early childhood education and care;

7 “(vi) a representative from Head Start
8 agencies located in the State, including migrant
9 and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian
10 Head Start programs;

11 “(vii) the State Director of Head Start
12 Collaboration;

13 “(viii) a representative of the State agency
14 responsible for programs under section 619 or
15 part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-
16 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.);

17 “(ix) a representative of the State agency
18 responsible for health or mental health care;
19 and

1 “(x) representatives of other entities deter-
2 mined to be relevant by the Governor of the
3 State.

4 “(D)(i) The State Advisory Council shall, in ad-
5 dition to any responsibilities assigned to the Council
6 by the Governor of the State—

7 “(I) conduct a periodic statewide needs as-
8 sessment concerning the quality and availability
9 of early childhood education and care for chil-
10 dren from birth to school entry, including an
11 assessment of the availability of high quality
12 pre-kindergarten services for low-income chil-
13 dren in the State;

14 “(II) identify opportunities for, and bar-
15 riers to, collaboration and coordination among
16 Federally-funded and State-funded child devel-
17 opment, child care, and early childhood edu-
18 cation and care programs, including collabora-
19 tion and coordination among State agencies re-
20 sponsible for administering such programs;

1 “(III) develop recommendations for in-
2 creasing the overall participation of children in
3 existing Federal, State, and local early child-
4 hood education and child care programs, includ-
5 ing outreach to underrepresented and special
6 populations;

7 “(IV) develop recommendations regarding
8 the establishment of a unified data collection
9 system for public early childhood education and
10 care throughout the State;

11 “(V) develop recommendations regarding a
12 Statewide professional development and career
13 advancement plans for early childhood edu-
14 cators in the State;

15 “(VI) assess the capacity and effectiveness
16 of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions
17 of higher education in the State toward sup-
18 porting, the development of early childhood edu-
19 cators, including the extent to which such insti-
20 tutions have in place articulation agreements,
21 professional development and career advance-

1 ment plans, and practice or internships for stu-
2 dents to spend time in a Head Start or pre-
3 kindergarten program; and

4 “(VII) make recommendations for im-
5 provements in State early learning standards
6 and undertake efforts to develop high quality
7 comprehensive early learning standards, as ap-
8 propriate.

9 “(ii) The State Advisory Council shall hold pub-
10 lic hearings and provide an opportunity for public
11 comment on the activities described in **【clause (iv)】**.
12 The State Advisory Council shall submit a Statewide
13 strategic report addressing the activities described in
14 **【clause (iv)】** to the State Director of Head Start
15 Collaboration and the Governor of the State.

16 “(iii) After submission of a Statewide strategic
17 report under clause (ii), the State Advisory Council
18 shall meet periodically to review any implementation
19 of the recommendations in such report and any
20 changes in State and local needs.

1 “(2)(A) The Secretary shall use the portion re-
2 served under clause (i) to award, on a competitive
3 basis, one-time startup grants of not less than
4 \$500,000 to eligible States to enable such States to
5 pay for the Federal share of developing and imple-
6 menting a plan pursuant to the responsibilities in-
7 cluded under **【subparagraph (E)(iv)(I)】**. A State
8 that receives funds **【under (i)】** shall use such funds
9 to facilitate the development of high-quality systems
10 of early childhood education and care designed to
11 improve school preparedness through one or more of
12 the following activities—

13 “(i) promoting school preparedness of chil-
14 dren from birth through school entry, including
15 activities to encourage families and caregivers
16 to engage in highly interactive, developmentally
17 and age-appropriate activities to improve chil-
18 dren’s early social, emotional, and cognitive de-
19 velopment, support the transition of young chil-
20 dren to school, and foster parental and family

1 involvement in the early education of young
2 children;

3 “(ii) supporting professional development,
4 recruitment, and retention initiatives for early
5 childhood educators;

6 “(iii) enhancing existing early childhood
7 education and care programs and projects (in
8 existence on the date on which the grant in-
9 volved is awarded), including quality improve-
10 ment activities authorized under the Child Care
11 and Development Block Grant Act of 1990; and

12 “(iv) carrying out other activities con-
13 sistent with the State’s Early Education and
14 Care plan, pursuant to paragraph (iii).

15 “(B) To be eligible to receive a grant under this
16 paragraph, a State shall prepare and submit to the
17 Secretary a plan and application, for a 3-year pe-
18 riod, at such time, in such manner, and containing
19 such information as the Secretary shall require, in-
20 cluding—

1 “(i) the Statewide strategic report de-
2 scribed in **【subparagraph (E)(iv)(II)】**, includ-
3 ing a description of the Advisory Council’s re-
4 sponsibilities under **【subparagraph (E)(iv)(I)】**;

5 “(ii) a description, for each fiscal year, of
6 how the State will make effective use of funds
7 available under this paragraph, with funds de-
8 scribed in **【clause (iv)】**, to create an early
9 childhood education and care system, by devel-
10 oping or enhancing programs and activities con-
11 sistent with the strategic report described in
12 **【subparagraph (E)(iv)(II)】**;

13 “(iii) a description of the State early learn-
14 ing standards and the State’s goals for increas-
15 ing the number of children entering kinder-
16 garten ready to learn;

17 “(iv) information identifying the agency or
18 joint interagency office and individual des-
19 ignated to carry out the activities under this
20 paragraph, which may be the individual des-
21 ignated under **【subparagraph (E)(i)(II)】**; and

1 “(v) a description of how the State plans
2 to sustain activities under this paragraph be-
3 yond the grant period.

4 “(C) The Federal share of the cost of activities
5 proposed to be conducted under **【clause (ii)】** shall
6 be 30 percent, and the State shall provide the non-
7 Federal share.

8 “(D) Funds made available under this para-
9 graph shall be used to supplement, and not sup-
10 plant, other Federal, State, and local funds ex-
11 pended to carry out activities related to early child-
12 hood education and care in the State.

13 “(E) Not later than 18 months after the date
14 a State receives a grant under this paragraph, the
15 State shall submit an interim report to the Sec-
16 retary. A State that receives a grant under this
17 paragraph shall submit a final report to the Sec-
18 retary at the end of the grant period. Each report
19 shall include—

20 “(i) a description of the activities and serv-
21 ices carried out under the grant, including the

1 outcomes of such activities and services in
2 meeting the needs described in the periodic
3 needs assessment and Statewide strategic re-
4 port;

5 “(ii) information about how the State used
6 such funds to meet the goals of this section
7 through activities to develop or enhance high
8 quality systems of early childhood education, in-
9 crease effectiveness of delivery systems and use
10 of funds, and enhance existing programs and
11 services;

12 “(iii) information regarding the remaining
13 needs described in the periodic needs assess-
14 ment and statewide strategic report that have
15 not yet been addressed by the State; and

16 “(iv) any other information that the Sec-
17 retary may require.

18 “(F) Nothing in this subsection shall be con-
19 strued to provide the State Advisory Council with
20 authority to modify, supersede, or negate the re-
21 quirements of this subchapter.”.

1 **SEC. 12. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND STAND-**
2 **ARDS.**

3 Section 644 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9839)
4 is amended—

5 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(a)(1) Each Head Start agency shall observe stand-
8 ards of organization, management, and administration
9 that will ensure, so far as reasonably possible, that all pro-
10 gram activities are conducted in a manner consistent with
11 the purposes of this subchapter and the objective of pro-
12 viding assistance effectively, efficiently, and free of any
13 taint of partisan political bias or personal or family favor-
14 itism. Each such agency shall establish or adopt rules to
15 carry out this section, which shall include rules to assure
16 full staff accountability in matters governed by law, regu-
17 lations, or agency policy. Each agency shall also provide
18 for reasonable public access to information, including pub-
19 lic hearings at the request of appropriate community
20 groups and reasonable public access to books and records
21 of the agency or other agencies engaged in program activi-

1 ties or operations involving the use of authority or funds
2 for which it is responsible.

3 “(2) Each Head Start agency shall make available
4 to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal
5 year that discloses the following information from the
6 most recently concluded fiscal year, except that reporting
7 such information shall not reveal personally identifiable in-
8 formation about an individual child or parent:

9 “(A) The total amount of public and private
10 funds received and the amount from each source.

11 “(B) An explanation of budgetary expenditures
12 and proposed budget for the fiscal year.

13 “(C) The total number of children and families
14 served, the average monthly enrollment (as a per-
15 centage of funded enrollment), and the percentage of
16 eligible children served.

17 “(D) The results of the most recent review by
18 the Secretary and the financial audit.

19 “(E) The percentage of enrolled children that
20 received medical and dental exams.

1 “(F) Information about parent involvement ac-
2 tivities.

3 “(G) The agency’s efforts to prepare children
4 for kindergarten.

5 “(H) Any other information required by the
6 Secretary.

7 “(3) Each such agency shall adopt for itself and other
8 agencies using funds or exercising authority for which it
9 is responsible, rules designed to—

10 “(A) establish specific standards governing sal-
11 aries, salary increases, travel and per diem allow-
12 ances, and other employee benefits;

13 “(B) assure that only persons capable of dis-
14 charging their duties with competence and integrity
15 are employed and that employees are promoted or
16 advanced under impartial procedures calculated to
17 improve agency performance and effectiveness;

18 “(C) guard against personal or financial con-
19 flicts of interest; and

20 “(D) define employee duties in an appropriate
21 manner that will in any case preclude employees

1 from participating, in connection with the perform-
2 ance of their duties, in any form of picketing, pro-
3 test, or other direct action that is in violation of
4 law.”; and

5 (2) in subsection (f)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
8 (A) through (E) as subparagraphs (B)
9 through (F), respectively; and

10 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph
11 (B), as redesignated by clause (i), the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(A) a description of the efforts by the agency
14 to coordinate or collaborate with other providers in
15 the community to seek assistance, including financial
16 assistance, prior to the use of funds under this sec-
17 tion;”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “, from
19 the amount reserved under section
20 640(a)(2)(A),”.

1 **SEC. 13. PARTICIPATION IN HEAD START PROGRAMS.**

2 Section 645 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840)
3 is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
6 ing the following:

7 “(a)(1)(A) The Secretary shall by regulation pre-
8 scribe eligibility for the participation of persons in Head
9 Start programs assisted under this subchapter.

10 “(B) Except as provided in paragraph (2), such regu-
11 lation shall provide—

12 “(i) that children from low-income families shall
13 be eligible for participation in programs assisted
14 under this subchapter if their families’ incomes are
15 below the poverty line, or if their families are eligible
16 or, in the absence of child care, would potentially be
17 eligible for public assistance;

18 “(ii) that homeless children shall be deemed be
19 to be eligible for such participation;

20 “(iii) that programs assisted under this sub-
21 chapter may include—

1 “(I) to a reasonable extent (but not to ex-
2 ceed 10 percent of participants), participation
3 of children in the area served who would benefit
4 from such programs but who are not eligible
5 under clause (i) or (ii); and

6 “(II) from the area served, an additional
7 35 percent of participants who are not eligible
8 under clause (i) or (ii) and whose families have
9 incomes below 130 percent of the poverty line,
10 if—

11 “(aa) the Head Start agency involved
12 establishes and implements outreach and
13 enrollment policies and procedures that en-
14 sure such agency is meeting the needs of
15 children eligible under clause (i) or (ii)
16 prior to meeting the needs of children eligi-
17 ble under this subclause; and

18 “(bb) in prioritizing the selection of
19 children to be served, the Head Start agen-
20 cy establishes criteria that provide that the
21 agency will serve children eligible under

1 clause (i) or (ii) prior to serving the chil-
2 dren eligible under this subclause;

3 “(iv) that any Head Start agency serving chil-
4 dren eligible under clause (iii)(II) shall report annu-
5 ally to the Secretary information on—

6 “(I) how such agency is meeting the needs
7 of children eligible under clause (i) or (ii), in
8 the area served, including local demographic
9 data on families of children eligible under
10 clause (i) or (ii);

11 “(II) the outreach and enrollment policies
12 and procedures established by the agency that
13 ensure the agency is meeting the needs of chil-
14 dren eligible under clause (i) or (ii) prior to
15 meeting the needs of children eligible under
16 clause (iii)(II);

17 “(III) the efforts, including outreach ef-
18 forts (that are linguistically and culturally ap-
19 propriate to the community involved), of such
20 agency to be fully enrolled with children eligible
21 under clause (i) or (ii);

1 “(IV) the policies, procedures, and selec-
2 tion criteria such agency is implementing to
3 serve eligible children, consistent with clause
4 (iii)(II);

5 “(V) the agency’s enrollment level, and en-
6 rollment level over the fiscal year prior to the
7 fiscal year in which the report is submitted;

8 “(VI) the number of children served by the
9 agency, disaggregated by whether such children
10 are eligible under clause (i), clause (ii), clause
11 (iii)(I), or clause (iii)(II); and

12 “(VII) the eligibility criteria category of
13 the children on the agency’s waiting list;

14 “(v) that a child who has been determined to
15 meet the eligibility criteria described in this subpara-
16 graph and who is participating in a Head Start pro-
17 gram in a program year shall be considered to con-
18 tinue to meet the eligibility criteria through the end
19 of the succeeding program year.

20 “(C) In determining, for purposes of this paragraph,
21 whether a child who has applied for enrollment in a Head

1 Start program meets the eligibility criteria, an entity may
2 consider evidence of family income during the 12 months
3 preceding the month in which the application is submitted,
4 or during the calendar year preceding the calendar year
5 in which the application is submitted, whichever more ac-
6 curately reflects the needs of the family at the time of
7 application.”; and

8 (B) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(3)(A) In this paragraph:

10 “(i) The term ‘dependent’ has the meaning
11 given the term in paragraphs (2)(A) and (4)(A)(i) of
12 section 401(a) of title 37, United States Code.

13 “(ii) The terms ‘member’ and ‘uniformed serv-
14 ices’ have the meanings given the terms in para-
15 graphs (23) and (3), respectively, of section 101 of
16 title 37, United States Code.

17 “(B) The following amounts of pay and allowance of
18 a member of the uniformed services shall not be consid-
19 ered to be income for purposes of determining the eligi-
20 bility of a dependent of such member for programs funded
21 under this subchapter:

1 “(i) The amount of any special pay payable
2 under section 310 of title 37, United States Code,
3 relating to duty subject to hostile fire or imminent
4 danger.

5 “(ii) The amount of basic allowance payable
6 under section 403 of such title, including any such
7 amount that is provided on behalf of the member for
8 housing that is acquired or constructed under the al-
9 ternative authority for the acquisition and improve-
10 ment of military housing under subchapter IV of
11 chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, or any
12 other related provision of law.

13 “(4) After demonstrating a need through a com-
14 munitywide strategic planning and needs assessment, a
15 Head Start agency may apply to the Secretary to convert
16 part-day sessions, particularly consecutive part-day ses-
17 sions, into full-working-day sessions.

18 “(5)(A) Upon written request and pursuant to the
19 requirements of this paragraph, a Head Start agency may
20 use funds under section **【640(a)】** to serve infants and tod-
21 dlers if the agency submits an application to the Secretary

1 containing, as specified in rules issued by the Secretary,
2 all of the following information:

3 “(i) The amount of funds under section
4 **[640(a)]** that are proposed to be used in accordance
5 with section 645A(b).

6 “(ii) A communitywide strategic planning and
7 needs assessment demonstrating how the use of such
8 funds would best meet the needs of the community.

9 “(iii) A description of how the needs of preg-
10 nant women, and of infants and toddlers, will be ad-
11 dressed in accordance with section 645A(b), and
12 with regulations prescribed by the Secretary pursu-
13 ant to section 641A in areas including the agency’s
14 approach to child development and provision of
15 health services, approach to family and community
16 partnerships, and approach to program design and
17 management.

18 “(iv) A description of how the needs of eligible
19 children will be met in the community.

20 “(v) Assurances that the agency will participate
21 in technical assistance activities (including planning,

1 start-up site visits, and national training activities)
2 in the same manner as recipients of grants under
3 section 645A.

4 “(vi) Evidence that the agency meets the same
5 eligibility criteria as recipients of grants under sec-
6 tion 645A.

7 “(B) An application that satisfies the requirements
8 specified in subparagraph (A) shall be approved by the
9 Secretary unless the Secretary finds that—

10 “(i) the agency lacks adequate capacity and ca-
11 pability to carry out an effective Early Head Start
12 program; or

13 “(ii) the information provided under subpara-
14 graph (A) is inadequate.

15 “(C) In approving such applications, the Secretary
16 shall take into account the costs of serving persons under
17 section 645A.

18 “(D) Any Head Start agency with an application ap-
19 proved under subparagraph (B) shall be considered to be
20 an Early Head Start agency and shall be subject to the
21 same rules, regulations, and conditions as apply to recipi-

1 ents of grants under section 645A, with respect to activi-
2 ties carried out under this paragraph.”;

3 (2) in the first sentence of subsection (c), by
4 striking “(age 3 to compulsory school attendance)”;
5 and

6 (3) in subsection (d)—

7 (A) by striking paragraph (3); and

8 (B) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act,
10 an Indian tribe or tribes that operates both an Early Head
11 Start program under section 645A and a Head Start pro-
12 gram may, at its discretion, at any time during the grant
13 period involved, reallocate funds between the Early Head
14 Start program and the Head Start program in order to
15 address fluctuations in client populations, including preg-
16 nant women and children from birth to compulsory school
17 age. The reallocation of such funds between programs by
18 an Indian tribe or tribes during a year shall not serve as
19 the basis for the Secretary to reduce a base grant (as de-
20 fined in section 641A(h)(1)) for either program in suc-
21 ceeding years.”.

1 **SEC. 14. EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS.**

2 Section 645A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
3 9840a) is amended—

4 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-
5 ing the following:

6 **“SEC. 645A. EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS.”;**

7 (2) in subsection (a) by striking “The Sec-
8 retary” and all that follows through “for programs”
9 and inserting “The Secretary shall make grants to
10 entities (referred to in this subchapter as ‘Early
11 Head Start agencies’) in accordance with this sec-
12 tion for programs (referred to in this subchapter as
13 ‘Early Head Start programs’)”;

14 (3) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-
16 ing the following:

17 “(4) provide services to parents to support their
18 role as parents (including parenting skills training
19 and training in basic child development) and services
20 to help the families move toward self-sufficiency (in-

1 including educational and employment services, as ap-
2 propriate);”;

3 (B) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-
4 ing the following:

5 “(5) coordinate services with services provided
6 by programs in the State (including home-based
7 services) and programs in the community (including
8 programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities
9 and programs for homeless infants and toddlers) to
10 ensure a comprehensive array of services (such as
11 health and mental health services and family support
12 services);”;

13 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7),
14 (8), and (9), as paragraphs (7), (10), (11), and
15 (12), respectively;

16 (D) by inserting after paragraph (5) the
17 following:

18 “(6) ensure that children with documented be-
19 havioral problems, including problems involving be-
20 havior related to prior or existing trauma, receive
21 appropriate screening and referral;”;

1 (E) by inserting after paragraph (7), as re-
2 designated by subparagraph (C), the following:

3 “(8) develop and implement a systematic proce-
4 dure for transitioning children and parents from an
5 Early Head Start program to a Head Start program
6 or other local early childhood education and develop-
7 ment program;

8 “(9) establish channels of communication be-
9 tween staff of the Early Head Start program, and
10 staff of a Head Start program or other local pro-
11 viders of early childhood education and development
12 programs, to facilitate the coordination of pro-
13 grams;” and

14 (F) by striking paragraph (11), as redesign-
15 nated by subparagraph (C), and inserting the
16 following:

17 “(11) ensure formal linkages with providers of
18 early intervention services for infants and toddlers
19 with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabil-
20 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), with
21 the State interagency coordinating council, as estab-

1 lished in part C of the Individuals with Disabilities
2 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), and with
3 the agency responsible for administering section 106
4 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 5106a);” **【Note: Need to check a cross**
6 **reference in subsection (c).】**

7 (4) in subsection (d), by striking paragraphs
8 (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

9 “(1) entities operating Head Start programs
10 under this subchapter;

11 “(2) entities operating Indian Head Start pro-
12 grams or migrant or seasonal Head Start programs;
13 and

14 “(3) other public entities, and nonprofit or for-
15 profit private entities, including community-based
16 and faith-based organizations, capable of providing
17 child and family services that meet the standards for
18 participation in programs under this subchapter and
19 meet such other appropriate requirements relating to
20 the activities under this section as the Secretary may
21 establish.”;

1 (5) by striking subsection (g) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(g) MONITORING, TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSIST-
4 ANCE, AND EVALUATION.—

5 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—In order to ensure the
6 successful operation of programs assisted under this
7 section, the Secretary shall use funds made available
8 under section **【640(a)(2)(C)(i)(I)】** to monitor the
9 operation of such programs, evaluate their effective-
10 ness, and provide training and technical assistance
11 tailored to the particular needs of such programs,
12 consistent with section 640(c).

13 “(2) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

14 “(A) ACTIVITIES.—Of the portion set aside
15 under **【section 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(I)】**—

16 “(i) not less than 50 percent shall be
17 made available to Early Head Start agen-
18 cies to use directly, which may include, at
19 their discretion, the establishment of local
20 or regional agreements with community ex-
21 perts, institutions of higher education, or

1 private consultants, for training and tech-
2 nical assistance activities in order to make
3 program improvements identified by such
4 agencies;

5 “(ii) not less than 25 percent shall be
6 made available to the Secretary to support
7 a State-based training and technical assist-
8 ance system described in section 648(e),
9 including infant and toddler specialists, to
10 support Early Head Start agencies, con-
11 sistent with subparagraph (B); and

12 “(iii) the remainder of such amount
13 shall be made available to the Secretary to
14 assist Early Head Start agencies in meet-
15 ing and exceeding the standards described
16 in section 641A(a)(1) (directly, or through
17 grants, contracts, or other agreements or
18 arrangements with an entity with dem-
19 onstrated expertise relating to infants, tod-
20 dlers, and families) by—

1 “(I) providing ongoing training
2 and technical assistance to Early
3 Head Start agencies, including devel-
4 oping training and technical assist-
5 ance materials and resources to sup-
6 port program development and im-
7 provement and best practices in pro-
8 viding services to children and fami-
9 lies served by Early Head Start pro-
10 grams;

11 “(II) supporting a national net-
12 work of infant and toddler specialists
13 designed to improve the quality of
14 Early Head Start programs;

15 “(III) providing ongoing training
16 and technical assistance on Early
17 Head Start program development and
18 improvement for regional staff
19 charged with monitoring and over-
20 seeing the administration of the pro-

1 gram carried out under this section;
2 and

3 “(IV) if funds remain after the
4 activities described in subclauses (I),
5 (II), and (III) are carried out, carry
6 out 1 or more of the following activi-
7 ties:

8 “(aa) Providing support and
9 program planning and implemen-
10 tation assistance for new Early
11 Head Start agencies, including
12 for agencies who want to use
13 funds under section **【640(a)】** to
14 serve infants and toddlers as de-
15 scribed in section 645(a)(5).

16 “(bb) Creating special train-
17 ing and technical assistance ini-
18 tiatives targeted to serving high-
19 risk populations, such as children
20 in the child welfare system and
21 homeless children.

1 “(cc) Providing professional
2 development designed to increase
3 program participation for under-
4 served populations of eligible chil-
5 dren.

6 “(B) CONTRACTS.—For the purposes of
7 supporting a State-based system, as described
8 in subparagraph (A)(ii), that will meet the
9 needs of Early Head Start agencies and provide
10 high quality, sustained, and intensive training
11 and technical assistance on programming for
12 infants and toddlers to Early Head Start agen-
13 cies, and in order to help such agencies meet or
14 exceed the standards described in section
15 641A(a)(1), the Secretary shall—

16 “(i) use funds reserved under sub-
17 paragraph (A)(ii) in combination with
18 funds reserved under section **【640(a)】** **【(**
19 **)】** to ensure the contracts described in sec-
20 tion 648(e)(1) provide for a minimum of 1
21 full-time specialist with demonstrated ex-

1 pertise in the development of infants and
2 toddlers; and

3 “(ii) ensure that such contracts and
4 the services provided in the contracts are
5 integrated with and augment the contracts
6 awarded and services provided under sec-
7 tion 648(e);” and

8 (6) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(h) CENTER-BASED STAFF.—The Secretary shall—

10 “(1) ensure that, not later than September 30,
11 2010, all teachers providing direct services to chil-
12 dren and families participating in Early Head Start
13 programs located in Early Head Start centers, have
14 a minimum of a child development associate creden-
15 tial, and have been trained (or have equivalent
16 coursework) in early childhood development; and

17 “(2) establish staff qualification goals to ensure
18 that not later than September 30, 2012, all such
19 teachers have been trained (or have equivalent
20 coursework) in early childhood development with a
21 focus on infant and toddler development.

1 “(i) STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.—

2 “(1) HOME VISITOR STAFF STANDARDS.—In
3 order to further enhance the quality of home visiting
4 services provided to families of children participating
5 in home-based, center-based, or combination pro-
6 gram options under this subchapter, the Secretary
7 shall establish standards for training, qualifications,
8 and the conduct of home visits for home visitor staff
9 in Early Head Start programs.

10 “(2) CONTENTS OF STANDARDS.—The stand-
11 ards for training, qualifications, and the conduct of
12 home visits shall include content related to—

13 “(A) structured child-focused home visiting
14 that promotes parents’ ability to support the
15 child’s cognitive, social, emotional, and physical
16 development;

17 “(B) effective strengths-based parent edu-
18 cation, including methods to encourage parents
19 as their child’s first teachers;

20 “(C) early childhood development with re-
21 spect to children from birth through age 3;

1 “(D) methods to help parents promote
2 emergent literacy in their children from birth
3 through age 3, including use of research-based
4 strategies to support the development of literacy
5 and language skills for children who are limited
6 English proficient;

7 “(E) ascertaining what health and develop-
8 mental services the family receives and working
9 with providers of these services to eliminate
10 gaps in service by offering annual health, vi-
11 sion, hearing, and developmental screening for
12 children from birth to entry into kindergarten,
13 when needed;

14 “(F) strategies for helping families coping
15 with crisis; and

16 “(G) the relationship of health and well-
17 being of pregnant women to prenatal and early
18 child development.”.

19 **SEC. 15. APPEALS, NOTICE, AND HEARING.**

20 Section 646(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
21 9841(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
2 striking “procedures to assure that”;

3 (2) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by inserting
4 “procedures to assure that” after the paragraph des-
5 ignation;

6 (3) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(3) procedures to assure that financial assist-
9 ance under this subchapter may be terminated or re-
10 duced, and an application for refunding may be de-
11 nied, after the recipient has been afforded reason-
12 able notice and opportunity for a full and fair hear-
13 ing, including—

14 “(A) a right to file a notice of appeal of a
15 decision not later than 30 days after notice of
16 the decision from the Secretary; and

17 “(B) access to a full and fair hearing of
18 the appeal, not later than 120 days after re-
19 ceipt by the Secretary of the notice of appeal;

1 “(4) procedures (including mediation proce-
2 dures) are developed and published, to be used in
3 order to—

4 “(A) resolve in a timely manner conflicts
5 potentially leading to an adverse action be-
6 tween—

7 “(i) recipients of financial assistance
8 under this subchapter; and

9 “(ii) delegate agencies, or policy coun-
10 cils of Head Start agencies;

11 “(B) avoid the need for an administrative
12 hearing on an adverse action; and

13 “(C) prohibit a Head Start agency from
14 expending financial assistance awarded under
15 this subchapter for the purpose of paying legal
16 fees, or other costs incurred, pursuant to an ap-
17 peal under paragraph (3);

18 “(5) procedures to assure that the Secretary
19 may suspend financial assistance to a recipient
20 under this subchapter—

1 “(A) except as provided in subparagraph
2 (B), for not more than 30 days; or

3 “(B) in the case of a recipient under this
4 subchapter that has multiple and recurring de-
5 ficiencies for 180 days or more and has not
6 made substantial and significant progress to-
7 ward meeting the goals of the grantee’s quality
8 improvement plan or eliminating all deficiencies
9 identified by the Secretary, during the hearing
10 of an appeal described in paragraph (3), for
11 any amount of time; and

12 “(6) procedures to assure that in cases where
13 a Head Start agency prevails in a decision under
14 paragraph (4), the Secretary may determine and
15 provide a reimbursement to the Head Start agency
16 for fees deemed reasonable and customary.”.

17 **SEC. 16. RECORDS AND AUDITS.**

18 Section 647 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9842)
19 is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(c) Each recipient of financial assistance under this
21 subchapter shall—

1 “(1) maintain, and annually submit to the Sec-
2 retary, a complete accounting of the recipient’s ad-
3 ministrative expenses (including a detailed statement
4 identifying the amount of financial assistance pro-
5 vided under this subchapter used to pay expenses for
6 salaries and compensation and the amount (if any)
7 of other funds used to pay such expenses);

8 “(2) not later than 30 days after the date of
9 completion of an audit conducted in the manner and
10 to the extent provided in chapter 75 of title 31,
11 United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Single
12 Audit Act of 1984’), submit to the Secretary a copy
13 of the audit management letter and of any audit
14 findings as they relate to the Head Start program;
15 and

16 “(3) provide such additional documentation as
17 the Secretary may require.”.

18 **SEC. 17. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**

19 Section 648 of the of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
20 9843) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 648. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**

2 “(a) SECRETARIAL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL AS-
3 SISTANCE.—

4 “(1) AUTHORITY.—From the funds provided
5 under **【section 640(a)(2)(C)(iii)】**, the Secretary
6 shall provide, directly or through grants, contracts,
7 or other agreements or arrangements as the Sec-
8 retary considers appropriate, technical assistance
9 and training for Head Start programs for the pur-
10 poses of improving program quality and helping pre-
11 pare children to succeed in school.

12 “(2) PROCESS.—The process for determining
13 the technical assistance and training activities to be
14 carried out under this section shall—

15 “(A) ensure that the needs of local Head
16 Start agencies and programs relating to im-
17 proving program quality and to program expan-
18 sion are addressed to the maximum extent prac-
19 ticable; and

20 “(B) incorporate mechanisms to ensure re-
21 sponsiveness to local needs, including an ongo-

1 ing procedure for obtaining input from the indi-
2 viduals and agencies carrying out Head Start
3 programs.

4 “(3) ACTIVITIES.—In providing training and
5 technical assistance and for allocating resources for
6 such assistance under this section, the Secretary
7 shall—

8 “(A) give priority consideration to—

9 “(i) activities to correct program and
10 management deficiencies identified through
11 reviews carried out pursuant to section
12 641A(e) (including the provision of assist-
13 ance to local programs in the development
14 of quality improvement plans under section
15 641A(d)(2));

16 “(ii) assisting Head Start agencies in
17 ensuring the school readiness of children;
18 and

19 “(iii) activities that supplement those
20 funded with amounts provided under [sec-
21 tion 640(a)(3)(C)(ii)] to address the train-

1 ing and career development needs of class-
2 room staff (including instruction for pro-
3 viding services to children with disabilities,
4 and for activities described in section
5 1222(d) of the Elementary and Secondary
6 Education Act of 1965), and non-class-
7 room staff, including home visitors and
8 other staff working directly with families,
9 including training relating to increasing
10 parent involvement and services designed
11 to increase family literacy and improve
12 parenting skills; and

13 “(B) to the maximum extent practicable—

14 “(i) assist Head Start agencies in the
15 development of collaborative initiatives
16 with States and other entities within the
17 States, to foster effective professional de-
18 velopment systems for early childhood edu-
19 cation and development services;

20 “(ii) provide technical assistance and
21 training, either directly or through a grant,

1 contract, or cooperative agreement with an
2 entity that has experience in the develop-
3 ment and operation of successful family lit-
4 eracy services programs, for the purpose
5 of—

6 “(I) assisting Head Start agen-
7 cies providing family literacy services,
8 in order to improve the quality of
9 such family literacy services; and

10 “(II) enabling those Head Start
11 agencies that demonstrate effective
12 provision of family literacy services,
13 based on improved outcomes for chil-
14 dren and their parents, to provide
15 technical assistance and training to
16 other Head Start agencies and to
17 service providers that work in collabo-
18 ration with such agencies to provide
19 family literacy services;

20 “(iii) assist Head Start agencies and
21 programs in conducting and participating

1 in communitywide strategic planning and
2 needs assessments, including the needs of
3 homeless children and their families, and
4 in conducting self-assessments;

5 “(iv) assist Head Start agencies and
6 programs in developing and implementing
7 full-working-day and full calendar year
8 programs where community need is clearly
9 identified and making the transition to
10 such programs, with particular attention to
11 involving parents and programming for
12 children throughout the day, and assist the
13 agencies and programs in expediting the
14 sharing of information about innovative
15 models for providing full-working-day, full
16 calendar year services for children;

17 “(v) assist Head Start agencies in
18 better serving the needs of families with
19 very young children, including providing
20 support and program planning and imple-
21 mentation assistance for Head Start agen-

1 cies that apply to serve or are serving addi-
2 tional infants and toddlers, in accordance
3 with section 645(a)(5);

4 “(vi) assist Head Start agencies and
5 programs in the development of sound
6 management practices, including financial
7 management procedures;

8 “(vii) assist in efforts to secure and
9 maintain adequate facilities for Head Start
10 programs;

11 “(viii) assist Head Start agencies in
12 developing innovative program models, in-
13 cluding mobile and home-based programs;

14 “(ix) provide support for Head Start
15 agencies (including policy councils and pol-
16 icy committees) that meet the standards
17 described in section 641A(a) but that have,
18 as documented by the Secretary through
19 reviews conducted pursuant to section
20 641A(c), programmatic, quality, and fiscal
21 issues to address;

1 children in Head Start classrooms that are
2 serving both children with disabilities and
3 children without disabilities;

4 “(xii) assist Head Start agencies and
5 programs to address the unique needs of
6 programs located in rural communities, in-
7 cluding—

8 “(I) removing barriers related to
9 the recruitment and retention of Head
10 Start teachers in rural communities;

11 “(II) developing innovative and
12 effective models of professional devel-
13 opment for improving staff qualifica-
14 tions and skills for staff living in rural
15 communities;

16 “(III) removing barriers related
17 to outreach efforts to eligible families
18 in rural communities;

19 “(IV) removing barriers to par-
20 ent involvement in Head Start pro-
21 grams in rural communities;

1 “(V) removing barriers to pro-
2 viding home visiting services in rural
3 communities; and

4 “(VI) removing barriers to ob-
5 taining health screenings for Head
6 Start participants in rural commu-
7 nities;

8 “(xiii) provide training and technical
9 assistance to members of governing bodies,
10 policy councils, and, as appropriate, policy
11 committees, to ensure that the members
12 can fulfill their functions;

13 “(xiv) provide activities that help en-
14 sure that Head Start programs have quali-
15 fied staff who can promote prevention of
16 childhood obesity by integrating develop-
17 mentally appropriate research-based initia-
18 tives that stress the importance of physical
19 activity and healthy, nutritional choices in
20 daily classroom and family routines;

1 “(xv) assist Indian Head Start agen-
2 cies to provide on-site and off-site training
3 to staff, using approaches that identify and
4 enhance the positive resources and
5 strengths of Indian children and families,
6 to improve parent and family engagement
7 and staff development, particularly with re-
8 gard to child and family development; and

9 “(xvi) assisting Head Start agencies
10 in selecting and using the measures de-
11 scribed in section 641A(b).

12 “(b) ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall
13 provide, either directly or through grants, contracts or
14 other arrangements, funds from **§**section
15 640(a)(2)(C)(iii) **§** to—

16 “(1) support an organization to administer a
17 centralized child development and national assess-
18 ment program leading to recognized credentials for
19 personnel working in early childhood education and
20 development programs; and

21 “(2) support training for personnel—

1 “(A) providing services to limited English
2 proficient children and their families (including
3 services to promote the acquisition of the
4 English language);

5 “(B) providing services to children deter-
6 mined to be abused or neglected or children re-
7 ferred by or receiving child welfare services;

8 “(C) in helping children cope with commu-
9 nity violence;

10 “(D) to recognize common health, includ-
11 ing mental health, problems in children for ap-
12 propriate referral;

13 “(E) to address the needs of children with
14 disabilities and their families;

15 “(F) to address the needs of migrant and
16 seasonal farmworker families; and

17 “(G) to address the needs of homeless fam-
18 ilies.

19 “(c) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall develop and
20 implement a program of outreach to recruit and train pro-
21 fessionals from diverse backgrounds to become Head Start

1 teachers in order to reflect the communities in which Head
2 Start children live and to increase the provision of quality
3 services and instruction to children with diverse back-
4 grounds.

5 “(d) FUNDS TO AGENCIES.—Funds made available
6 under [section 640(a)(2)(C)(i)] shall be used by a Head
7 Start agency to provide high quality, sustained, and inten-
8 sive training and technical assistance as follows:

9 “(1) For 1 or more of the following:

10 “(A) Activities that ensure that Head
11 Start programs meet or exceed the standards
12 described in section 641A(a)(1).

13 “(B) Activities that ensure that Head
14 Start programs have adequate numbers of
15 trained, qualified staff who have skills in work-
16 ing with children and families, including chil-
17 dren and families who are limited English pro-
18 ficient and children with disabilities and their
19 families.

20 “(C) Activities to improve the management
21 and implementation of Head Start services and

1 systems, including direct training for expert
2 consultants working with staff.

3 “(D) Activities that help ensure that Head
4 Start programs have qualified staff who can
5 promote language skills and literacy growth of
6 children and who can provide children with a
7 variety of skills that have been identified as
8 predictive of later reading achievement, school
9 success, and the skills, knowledge, abilities, de-
10 velopment, and progress described in section
11 641A(a)(1)(B)(ii).

12 “(E) Activities to improve staff qualifica-
13 tions and to assist with the implementation of
14 career development programs and to encourage
15 the staff to continually improve their skills and
16 expertise, including developing partnerships
17 with programs that recruit, train, place, and
18 support college students in Head Start centers
19 to deliver an innovative early learning program
20 to preschool children.

1 “(F) Activities that help local programs
2 ensure that the arrangement, condition, and im-
3 plementation of the learning environments in
4 Head Start programs are conducive to pro-
5 viding effective program services to children
6 and families.

7 “(G) Activities to provide training nec-
8 essary to improve the qualifications of Head
9 Start staff and to support staff training, child
10 counseling, health services, and other services
11 necessary to address the needs of children en-
12 rolled in Head Start programs, including chil-
13 dren from families in crises, children who expe-
14 rience chronic violence or homelessness, children
15 who experience substance abuse in their fami-
16 lies, and children under 3 years of age, where
17 applicable.

18 “(H) Activities to provide classes or in-
19 service-type programs to improve or enhance
20 parenting skills, job skills, and adult and family
21 literacy, including financial literacy, or training

1 to become a classroom aide or bus driver in a
2 Head Start program.

3 “(I) Additional activities deemed appro-
4 priate to the improvement of Head Start pro-
5 grams, as determined by the technical assist-
6 ance and training plans of the Head Start
7 agencies.

8 “(2) To support enhanced early language and
9 literacy development of children in Head Start pro-
10 grams, and to provide the children with high-quality
11 oral language skills and with environments that are
12 rich in literature in which to acquire language and
13 early literacy skills. Each Head Start agency, in con-
14 sultation with the State-based training and technical
15 assistance system, as appropriate, shall ensure
16 that—

17 “(A) all of the agency’s Head Start teach-
18 ers receive ongoing training in language and
19 emergent literacy (referred to in this subsection
20 as ‘literacy training’), including appropriate

1 curricula and assessment to improve instruction
2 and learning;

3 “(B) such literacy training shall include
4 training in methods to promote vocabulary de-
5 velopment and phonological awareness (includ-
6 ing phonemic awareness) in a developmentally,
7 culturally, and linguistically appropriate manner
8 and support children’s development in their na-
9 tive language;

10 “(C) the literacy training shall include
11 training in how to work with parents to en-
12 hance positive language and early literacy devel-
13 opment at home;

14 “(D) the literacy training shall include spe-
15 cific methods to best address the needs of chil-
16 dren who are limited English proficient;

17 “(E) the literacy training shall include
18 training on how to best address the language
19 and literacy needs of children with disabilities,
20 including training on how to work with special-
21 ists in language development; and

1 “(F) the literacy training shall be tailored
2 to the early childhood literacy background and
3 experience of the teachers involved;
4 except that funds made available under [section
5 640(a)(2)(C)(i)] shall not be used for long-distance
6 travel expenses for training activities available lo-
7 cally or regionally or for training activities substan-
8 tially similar to locally or regionally available train-
9 ing activities.

10 “(e) STATE-BASED TRAINING AND TECHNICAL AS-
11 SISTANCE SYSTEM.—For the purposes of delivering a
12 State-based training and technical assistance system
13 (which may include a consortium of 2 or more States with-
14 in a region) or a national system in the case of migrant
15 or seasonal Head Start and Indian Head Start programs,
16 as described in [section 640(a)(C)(ii)], that will meet the
17 needs of local grantees, as determined by such grantees,
18 and provide high quality, sustained, and intensive training
19 and technical assistance to Head Start agencies and pro-
20 grams in order to improve their capacity to deliver services

1 that meet or exceed the standards described in section
2 641A(a)(1), the Secretary shall—

3 “(1) enter into contracts in each State with 1
4 or more entities that have a demonstrated expertise
5 in supporting the delivery of high quality early child-
6 hood education and development programs, except
7 that contracts for a consortium of 2 or more States
8 within a geographic region may be entered into if
9 such a system is more appropriate to better meet the
10 needs of local grantees within a region, as deter-
11 mined by such grantees;

12 “(2) ensure that the entities described in sub-
13 paragraph (1) determine the types of services to be
14 provided through consultation with—

15 “(A) local Head Start agencies (including
16 Indian Head Start agencies and migrant or sea-
17 sonal Head Start agencies, as appropriate);

18 “(B) the State Head Start collaboration
19 office; and

20 “(C) the State Head Start Association;

1 “(3) encourage States to supplement the funds
2 authorized in **【section 640(a)(2)(C)(ii)】** with Fed-
3 eral, State, or local funds other than funds made
4 available under this subchapter, to expand training
5 and technical assistance activities beyond Head
6 Start agencies to include other providers of other
7 early childhood education and development programs
8 within a State;

9 “(4) provide a report to the Committee on Edu-
10 cation and Labor of the House of Representatives
11 and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
12 and Pensions of the Senate, not later than 90 days
13 after the end of the fiscal year, summarizing the
14 funding for such contracts and the activities carried
15 out thereunder;

16 “(5) periodically evaluate the effectiveness of
17 the delivery of services in each State in promoting
18 program quality; and

19 “(6) ensure that in entering into such contracts
20 as described in paragraph (1), such entities will ad-

1 dress the needs of grantees in both urban and rural
2 communities.

3 “(f) INDOOR AIR QUALITY.—The Secretary shall
4 consult with appropriate Federal agencies and other ex-
5 perts, as appropriate, on issues of air quality related to
6 children’s health and inform Head Start agencies of exist-
7 ing programs or combination of programs that provide
8 methods for improving indoor air quality.

9 “(g) CAREER ADVANCEMENT PARTNERSHIP PRO-
10 GRAM.—

11 “(1) AUTHORITY.—From amounts allocated
12 under **section 640(a)(2)(F)(iii)** the Secretary is
13 authorized to award demonstration grants, for a pe-
14 riod of not less than 5 years, to historically Black
15 colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institu-
16 tions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities—

17 “(A) to implement education programs
18 that increase the number of associate, bacca-
19 laurate, and graduate degrees in early child-
20 hood education and related fields that are
21 earned by Head Start agency staff members,

1 parents of children served by such agencies, and
2 members of the communities involved;

3 “(B) to provide assistance for stipends and
4 costs related to tuition, fees, and books for en-
5 rolling Head Start agency staff members, par-
6 ents of children served by such an agency, and
7 members of the communities involved in courses
8 required to complete the degree and certifi-
9 cation requirement to become teachers in early
10 childhood education and related fields;

11 “(C) to develop program curricula to pro-
12 mote high quality services and instruction to
13 children with diverse backgrounds, including—

14 “(i) in the case of historically Black
15 colleges and universities, to help Head
16 Start Agency staff members develop skills
17 and expertise needed to teach in programs
18 serving large numbers of African American
19 children;

20 “(ii) in the case of Hispanic-serving
21 institutions, programs to help Head Start

1 Agency staff members develop skills and
2 expertise needed to teach in programs serv-
3 ing large numbers of Hispanic children, in-
4 cluding programs to develop the linguistic
5 skills and expertise needed to teach in pro-
6 grams serving a large number of children
7 with limited English proficiency; and

8 “(iii) in the case of Tribal Colleges
9 and Universities, to help Head Start Agen-
10 cy staff members develop skills and exper-
11 tise needed to teach in programs serving
12 large numbers of Indian children, including
13 programs concerning tribal culture and
14 language;

15 “(D) to provide other activities to upgrade
16 the skills and qualifications of educational per-
17 sonnel to meet the professional standards in
18 subsection (a) to better promote high quality
19 services and instruction to children and parents
20 from populations served by historically Black

1 colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving insti-
2 tutions, or Tribal Colleges and Universities;

3 “(E) to provide technology literacy pro-
4 grams for Indian Head Start agency staff mem-
5 bers and families of children served by such
6 agency; and

7 “(F) to develop and implement the pro-
8 grams described under subparagraph (A) in
9 technology-mediated formats, including through
10 such means as distance learning and use of ad-
11 vanced technology, as appropriate.

12 “(2) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall,
13 using resources within the Department of Health
14 and Human Services—

15 “(A) provide appropriate technical assist-
16 ance to historically Black colleges and univer-
17 sities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and Tribal
18 Colleges and Universities receiving grants under
19 this section, including coordinating with the
20 White House Initiative on historically Black col-
21 leges and universities; and

1 “(B) ensure that the American Indian Pro-
2 grams Branch of the Office of Head Start of
3 the Administration for Children and Families of
4 the Department of Health and Human Services
5 can effectively administer the programs under
6 this section and provide appropriate technical
7 assistance to Tribal Colleges and Universities
8 under this section.

9 “(3) APPLICATION.—Each historically Black
10 college or university, Hispanic-serving institution, or
11 Tribal College or University desiring a grant under
12 this section shall submit an application, in partner-
13 ship with at least 1 Head Start agency enrolling
14 large numbers of students from the populations
15 served by historically Black colleges and universities,
16 Hispanic-serving institutions, or Tribal Colleges and
17 Universities, to the Secretary, at such time, in such
18 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
19 retary may require, including a certification that the
20 institution of higher education has established a for-
21 mal partnership with 1 or more Head Start agencies

1 for the purposes of conducting the activities de-
2 scribed in paragraph (1).

3 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

4 “(A) The term ‘Hispanic-serving institu-
5 tion’ has the meaning given such term in sec-
6 tion 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
7 (20 U.S.C. 1101a).

8 “(B) The term ‘historically Black college
9 or university’ has the meaning given the term
10 ‘part B institution’ in section 322(2) of the
11 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
12 1061(2)).

13 “(C) The term ‘Tribal College or Univer-
14 sity’ has the meaning given such term in sec-
15 tion 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of
16 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e(b)).

17 “(5) TEACHING REQUIREMENT.—A student at
18 an institution receiving a grant under this subsection
19 who receives assistance under a program funded
20 under this subsection shall teach in a center-based
21 Head Start program for a period of time equivalent

1 to the period for which they received assistance or
2 shall repay such assistance.”.

3 **SEC. 18. STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.**

4 Section 648A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
5 9843a) is amended—

6 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(a) CLASSROOM TEACHERS.—

9 “(1) PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The
10 Secretary shall ensure that each Head Start class-
11 room in a center-based program is assigned 1 teach-
12 er who has demonstrated competency to perform
13 functions that include—

14 “(A) planning and implementing learning
15 experiences that advance the intellectual and
16 physical development of children, including im-
17 proving the readiness of children for school by
18 developing their literacy, phonemic, and print
19 awareness, their understanding and use of lan-
20 guage, their understanding and use of increas-
21 ingly complex and varied vocabulary, their ap-

1 preciation of books, their understanding of early
2 math and early science, their problem-solving
3 abilities, and their approaches to learning;

4 “(B) establishing and maintaining a safe,
5 healthy learning environment;

6 “(C) supporting the social and emotional
7 development of children; and

8 “(D) encouraging the involvement of the
9 families of the children in a Head Start pro-
10 gram and supporting the development of rela-
11 tionships between children and their families.

12 “(2) DEGREE REQUIREMENTS.—

13 “(A) HEAD START TEACHERS.—The Sec-
14 retary shall ensure that not later than Sep-
15 tember 30, 2013, at least 50 percent of Head
16 Start teachers nationwide in center-based pro-
17 grams have—

18 “(i) a baccalaureate or advanced de-
19 gree in early childhood education; or

20 “(ii) a baccalaureate or advanced de-
21 gree and coursework equivalent to a major

1 relating to early childhood education, with
2 experience teaching preschool-age children.

3 “(B) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—The Secretary
4 shall ensure that, not later than September 30,
5 2013, all—

6 “(i) Head Start education coordina-
7 tors, including those that serve as cur-
8 riculum specialists, nationwide in center-
9 based programs—

10 “(I) have the capacity to offer as-
11 sistance to other teachers in the im-
12 plementation and adaptation of cur-
13 ricula to the group and individual
14 needs of children in a Head Start
15 classroom; and

16 “(II) have—

17 “(aa) a baccalaureate or ad-
18 vanced degree in early childhood
19 education; or

20 “(bb) a baccalaureate or ad-
21 vanced degree and coursework

1 equivalent to a major relating to
2 early childhood education, with
3 experience teaching preschool-age
4 children; and

5 “(ii) Head Start teaching assistants
6 nationwide in center-based programs
7 have—

8 “(I) at least a child development
9 associate credential;

10 “(II) enrolled in a program lead-
11 ing to an associate or baccalaureate
12 degree; or

13 “(III) enrolled in a child develop-
14 ment associate credential program to
15 be completed within 2 years.

16 “(C) PROGRESS.—

17 “(i) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Sec-
18 retary shall—

19 “(I) require Head Start agencies
20 to—

1 “(aa) describe continuing
2 progress each year toward achiev-
3 ing the goals described in sub-
4 paragraphs (A) and (B); and
5 “(bb) annually submit to the
6 Secretary a report indicating the
7 number and percentage of class-
8 room personnel described in sub-
9 paragraphs (A) and (B) in cen-
10 ter-based programs with child de-
11 velopment associate credentials
12 or associate, baccalaureate, or
13 advanced degrees;
14 “(II) compile and submit a sum-
15 mary of all program reports described
16 in subclause (I)(bb) to the Committee
17 on Education and Labor of the House
18 of Representatives and the Committee
19 on Health, Education, Labor, and
20 Pensions of the Senate; and

1 “(III) not impose any penalties
2 or sanctions on any individual Head
3 Start agency, program, or staff in the
4 monitoring of local agencies and pro-
5 grams under this subchapter not
6 meeting the requirements of subpara-
7 graph (A) or (B).

8 “(D) CONSTRUCTION.—In this paragraph
9 a reference to a Head Start agency, or its pro-
10 gram, services, facility, or personnel, shall not
11 be considered to be a reference to an Early
12 Head Start agency, or its program, services, fa-
13 cility, or personnel.

14 “(3) ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALING AND DE-
15 GREE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure
16 that, for center-based programs, each Head Start
17 classroom that does not have a teacher who meets
18 the qualifications described in clause (i) or (ii) of
19 paragraph (2)(A) is assigned one teacher who has
20 the following during the period specified:

21 “(A) Through September 30, 2011—

1 “(i) a child development associate cre-
2 dential that is appropriate to the age of
3 children being served in center-based pro-
4 grams;

5 “(ii) a State-awarded certificate for
6 preschool teachers that meets or exceeds
7 the requirements for a child development
8 associate credential;

9 “(iii) an associate degree in early
10 childhood education;

11 “(iv) an associate degree in a related
12 field and coursework equivalent to a major
13 relating to early childhood education, with
14 experience teaching preschool-age children;
15 or

16 “(v) a baccalaureate degree and has
17 been admitted into the Teach For America
18 program, passed a rigorous early childhood
19 content exam, such as the Praxis II, par-
20 ticipated in a Teach For America summer
21 training institute that includes teaching

1 preschool children, and is receiving ongoing
2 professional development and support from
3 Teach For America’s professional staff.

4 “(B) As of October 1, 2011—

5 “(i) an associate degree in early child-
6 hood education;

7 “(ii) an associate degree in a related
8 field and coursework equivalent to a major
9 relating to early childhood education, with
10 experience teaching preschool-age children;
11 or

12 “(iii) a baccalaureate degree and has
13 been admitted into the Teach For America
14 program, passed a rigorous early childhood
15 content exam, such as the Praxis II, par-
16 ticipated in a Teach For America summer
17 training institute that includes teaching
18 preschool children, and is receiving ongoing
19 professional development and support from
20 Teach For America’s professional staff.

1 “(4) WAIVER.—On request, the Secretary shall
2 grant—

3 “(A) through September 30, 2011, a 180-
4 day waiver ending on or before September 30,
5 2011, of the requirements of paragraph (3)(A)
6 for a Head Start agency that can demonstrate
7 that the agency has attempted unsuccessfully to
8 recruit an individual who has the qualifications
9 described in any of clauses (i) through (iv) of
10 paragraph (3)(A) with respect to an individual
11 who—

12 “(i) is enrolled in a program that
13 grants a credential, certificate, or degree
14 described in clauses (i) through (iv) of
15 paragraph (3)(A); and

16 “(ii) will receive such credential, cer-
17 tificate, or degree under the terms of such
18 program not later than 180 days after be-
19 ginning employment as a teacher with such
20 agency; and

1 exceeds the requirements for a child
2 development associate credential.

3 “(5) TEACHER IN-SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—
4 Each Head Start teacher shall attend not less than
5 15 clock hours of professional development per year.
6 Such professional development shall be high quality,
7 sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused in order
8 to have a positive and lasting impact on classroom
9 instruction and the teacher’s performance in the
10 classroom, and regularly evaluated by the program
11 for effectiveness.

12 “(6) SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
13 shall establish requirements to ensure that, in order
14 to enable Head Start agencies to comply with the re-
15 quirements of paragraph (2)(A), individuals who re-
16 ceive financial assistance under this subchapter to
17 pursue a degree described in paragraph (2)(A)
18 shall—

19 “(A) teach or work in a Head Start pro-
20 gram for a minimum of 3 years after receiving
21 the degree; or

1 “(B) repay the total or a prorated amount
2 of the financial assistance received based on the
3 length of service completed after receiving the
4 degree.

5 “(7) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall re-
6 quire that any Federal funds provided directly or in-
7 directly to comply with paragraph (2)(A) shall be
8 used toward degrees awarded by an institution of
9 higher education, as defined by section 101 or 102
10 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
11 1001, 1002).”;

12 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(c) FAMILY SERVICE WORKERS.—To improve the
15 quality and effectiveness of staff providing in-home and
16 other services (including needs assessment, development of
17 service plans, family advocacy, and coordination of service
18 delivery) to families of children participating in Head
19 Start programs, the Secretary, in coordination with con-
20 cerned public and private agencies and organizations ex-

1 amining the issues of standards and training for family
2 service workers, shall—

3 “(1) review and, as necessary, revise or develop
4 new qualification standards for Head Start staff
5 providing such services;

6 “(2) review, and as necessary, revise or develop
7 maximum caseload requirements, as suggested by
8 best practices;

9 “(3) promote the development of model cur-
10 ricula (on subjects including parenting training and
11 family literacy) designed to ensure the attainment of
12 appropriate competencies by individuals working or
13 planning to work in the field of early childhood and
14 family services;

15 “(4) promote the establishment of a credential
16 that indicates attainment of the competencies and
17 that is accepted nationwide; and

18 “(5) promote the use of appropriate strategies
19 to meet the needs of special populations (including
20 populations of limited English proficient children).”;

1 (3) in subsection (d)(3)(C) by inserting “(in-
2 cluding a center)” after “agency”; and

3 (4) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(f) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS.—Each
5 Head Start agency and program shall create, in consulta-
6 tion with an employee, a professional development plan for
7 all full-time Head Start employees who provide direct serv-
8 ices to children and shall ensure that such plans are regu-
9 larly evaluated for their impact on teacher and staff effec-
10 tiveness. The agency and the employee shall implement the
11 plan to the extent feasible and practicable.

12 “(g) STAFF RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION PROCE-
13 DURES.—Before a Head Start agency employs an indi-
14 vidual, such agency shall—

15 “(1) conduct an interview of such individual;

16 “(2) verify the personal and employment ref-
17 erences provided by such individual; and

18 “(3) obtain—

19 “(A) a State, tribal, or Federal criminal
20 record check covering all jurisdictions where the

1 grantee provides Head Start services to chil-
2 dren;

3 “(B) a State, tribal, or Federal criminal
4 record check as required by the law of the juris-
5 diction where the grantee provides Head Start
6 services; or

7 “(C) a criminal record check as otherwise
8 required by Federal law.”.

9 **SEC. 19. RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND EVALUATION.**

10 Section 649 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9844)
11 is amended—

12 (1) by amending subsection (a)(1)(B) to read
13 as follows:

14 “(B) use the Head Start programs to de-
15 velop, test, and disseminate new ideas based on
16 existing scientifically valid research, for ad-
17 dressing the needs of low-income preschool chil-
18 dren (including children with disabilities, home-
19 less children, children who have been abused or
20 neglected, and children in foster care) and their
21 families and communities (including demonstra-

1 tions of innovative non-center-based program
2 models such as home-based and mobile pro-
3 grams), and otherwise to further the purposes
4 of this subchapter.”;

5 (2) in subsection (d)—

6 (A) in paragraph (8), by adding “and” at
7 the end;

8 (B) by striking paragraphs (9) and (10),
9 and inserting the following:

10 “(10)(A) contribute to understanding the im-
11 pact of Head Start services delivered in classrooms
12 which include both children with disabilities and chil-
13 dren without disabilities, on all of the children; and

14 “(B) disseminate promising practices for in-
15 creasing the availability and quality of such services
16 and such classrooms.”;

17 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “early
18 childhood education, or child development serv-
19 ices” and inserting “early childhood education
20 and development or services programs”;

1 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
2 through (8) as paragraphs (6) through (9), re-
3 spectively; and

4 (E) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
5 following:

6 “(5)(A) identify successful strategies that pro-
7 mote good oral health and provide effective linkages
8 to quality dental services through pediatric dental
9 referral networks, for infants and toddlers partici-
10 pating in Early Head Start programs and children
11 participating in other Head Start programs; and

12 “(B) identify successful strategies that promote
13 good vision health through vision screenings for such
14 infants, toddlers, and children, and referrals for ap-
15 propriate followup care for those identified as having
16 a vision problem;”;

17 (3) in subsection (e)(3), by striking “child care,
18 early childhood education, or child development serv-
19 ices” and inserting “early childhood education and
20 development services or programs”;

1 (4) in subsection (g) by amending paragraph
2 (7)(C) to read as follows:

3 “(C) TRANSMITTAL OF REPORT TO CON-
4 GRESS.—Not later than September 30, 2009,
5 the Secretary shall transmit the final report to
6 the Committee on Education and Labor of the
7 House of Representatives and the Committee
8 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
9 the Senate.”; and

10 (5) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(h) LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT CHILDREN.—

13 “(1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the
14 date of enactment of the Improving Head Start for
15 School Readiness Act of 2007, the Secretary shall
16 conduct a study on the status of limited English
17 proficient children and their families participating in
18 Head Start programs (including Early Head Start
19 programs).

20 “(2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare
21 and submit to the Committee on Education and

1 Labor of the House of Representatives and the Com-
2 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
3 of the Senate, not later than September 30, 2010,
4 a report containing the results of the study, includ-
5 ing information on—

6 “(A) the demographics of limited English
7 proficient children from birth through age 5, in-
8 cluding the number of such children receiving
9 Head Start services and Early Head Start serv-
10 ices, and the geographic distribution of children
11 described in this subparagraph;

12 “(B) the nature of the Head Start services
13 and of the Early Head Start services provided
14 to limited English proficient children and their
15 families, including the types, content, duration,
16 intensity, and costs of family services, language
17 assistance, and educational services;

18 “(C) procedures in Head Start programs
19 and Early Head Start programs for the assess-
20 ment of language needs and the transition of
21 limited English proficient children to kinder-

1 garten, including the extent to which such pro-
2 grams meet the requirements of section 642A
3 for limited English proficient children;

4 “(D) the qualifications and training pro-
5 vided to Head Start teachers and Early Head
6 Start teachers who serve limited English pro-
7 ficient children and their families;

8 “(E) the languages in which Head Start
9 teachers and Early Head Start teachers are flu-
10 ent, in relation to the population, and instruc-
11 tional needs, of the children served;

12 “(F) the rate of progress made by limited
13 English proficient children and their families in
14 Head Start programs and in Early Head Start
15 programs, including—

16 “(i) the rate of progress made by lim-
17 ited English proficient children toward
18 meeting the additional educational stand-
19 ards described in section 641A(a)(1)(B)(ii)
20 while enrolled in such programs;

1 “(ii) a description of the type of as-
2 sessment or assessments used to determine
3 the rate of progress made by limited
4 English proficient children;

5 “(iii) the correlation between such
6 progress and the type and quality of in-
7 struction and educational programs pro-
8 vided to limited English proficient children;
9 and

10 “(iv) the correlation between such
11 progress and the health and family services
12 provided by such programs to limited
13 English proficient children and their fami-
14 lies; and

15 “(G) the extent to which Head Start pro-
16 grams and Early Head Start programs make
17 use of funds under **【section 640(a)(3)】** to im-
18 prove the quality of such services provided to
19 limited English proficient children and their
20 families.

1 “(i) RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES REL-
2 EVANT TO DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.—For purposes of con-
3 ducting the study described in subsection (h), activities de-
4 scribed in section 640(l)(5)(A), and other research and
5 evaluation activities relevant to limited English proficient
6 children and their families, migrant and seasonal farm-
7 worker families, and other families from diverse popu-
8 lations served by Head Start programs, the Secretary shall
9 award, on a competitive basis, funds from amounts made
10 available under section **【639(b)】** to 1 or more organiza-
11 tions with a demonstrated capacity for serving and study-
12 ing the populations involved.

13 “(j) REVIEW OF ASSESSMENTS.—

14 “(1) APPLICATION OF STUDY.—When the study
15 on Developmental Outcomes and Assessments for
16 Young Children by the National Academy of
17 Sciences is made available to the Secretary, the Sec-
18 retary shall—

19 “(A) integrate the results of the study, as
20 appropriate and in accordance with paragraphs

1 “(iii) developmental and linguistic ap-
2 propriateness of such assessments for chil-
3 dren assessed, including children who are
4 limited English proficient; and

5 “(iv) that the results can be used to
6 improve the quality of, accountability of,
7 and training and technical assistance in,
8 Head Start programs.

9 “(3) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
10 retary, in carrying out the process described in para-
11 graph (2), shall ensure that—

12 “(A) staff administering any assessments
13 under this subchapter have received appropriate
14 training to administer such assessments;

15 “(B) appropriate accommodations for chil-
16 dren with disabilities and children who are lim-
17 ited English proficient are made;

18 “(C) the English and Spanish (and any
19 other language, as appropriate) forms of such
20 assessments are valid and reliable in the lan-
21 guages in which they are administered; and

1 “(D) such assessments are not used to ex-
2 clude children from Head Start programs.

3 “(4) SUSPENDED IMPLEMENTATION OF NA-
4 TIONAL REPORTING SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall
5 suspend implementation and terminate further devel-
6 opment and use of the National Reporting System.

7 “(k) INDIAN HEAD START STUDY.—The Secretary
8 shall—

9 “(1) work in collaboration with the Head Start
10 agencies that carry out Indian Head Start pro-
11 grams, the Indian Head Start collaboration director,
12 and other appropriate entities, including tribal gov-
13 ernments and the National Indian Head Start Di-
14 rectors Association—

15 “(A) to undertake a study or set of studies
16 designed to focus on the American Indian and
17 Alaska Native Head Start-eligible population,
18 with a focus on issues such as curriculum devel-
19 opment, availability and need for services, ap-
20 propriate research methodologies and measures
21 for these populations, and best practices for

1 teaching and educating American Indian and
2 Alaska Native Head Start Children;

3 “(B) to accurately determine the number
4 of children nationwide who are eligible to par-
5 ticipate in Indian Head Start programs each
6 year;

7 “(C) to document how many of these chil-
8 dren are receiving Head Start services each
9 year;

10 “(D) to the extent practicable, to ensure
11 that access to Indian Head Start programs for
12 eligible children is comparable to access to other
13 Head Start programs for other eligible children;
14 and

15 “(E) to make the funding decisions re-
16 quired in **section 640(a)(2)(A)(iii)**, after com-
17 pletion of the studies required in that section,
18 taking into account:

19 “(i) the Federal government’s unique
20 trust responsibility to American Indians
21 and Alaska Natives;

1 “(ii) limitations faced by tribal com-
2 munities in accessing non-Federal sources
3 of funding to supplement Federal funding
4 for early childhood programs; and

5 “(iii) other factors that uniquely and
6 adversely impact children in American In-
7 dian and Alaska Native communities such
8 as highly elevated poverty, unemployment
9 and violent crime rates, as well as de-
10 pressed levels of educational achievement
11 and limited access to non-Federal health,
12 social and educational resources;

13 “(2) in carrying out paragraph (1), consult with
14 the Secretary of Education about the Department of
15 Education’s systems for collecting and reporting
16 data about, and maintaining records on, American
17 Indian and Alaska Native students;

18 “(3) not later than 9 months after the effective
19 date of this subsection, publish in the Federal Reg-
20 ister a notice of how the Secretary plans to carry out
21 paragraph (1) and shall provide a period for public

1 comment. To the extent practicable, the Secretary
2 shall consider comments received before submitting
3 a report to the Congress;

4 “(4) not later than 1 year after the effective
5 date of this subsection, submit a report to the Com-
6 mittee on Education and Labor of the House of
7 Representatives and the Committee on Health, Edu-
8 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, detailing
9 how the Department of Health and Human Services
10 plans to carry out paragraph (1);

11 “(5) through regulation, ensure the confiden-
12 tiality of any personally identifiable data, informa-
13 tion, and records collected or maintained by the Sec-
14 retary, by Head Start agencies that carry out Indian
15 Head Start programs, and by State Directors of
16 Head Start Collaboration, by the Indian Head Start
17 Collaboration Project Director and by other appro-
18 priate entities pursuant to this subsection (such reg-
19 ulations shall provide the policies, protections, and
20 rights equivalent to those provided a parent, stu-
21 dent, or educational agency or institution under sec-

1 tion 444 of the General Education Provisions Act.);
2 and

3 “(6) ensure that nothing in this subsection shall
4 be construed to authorize the development of a na-
5 tionwide database of personally identifiable informa-
6 tion on individuals involved in studies or other col-
7 lections of data under this subsection.

8 “(1) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START PRO-
9 GRAM STUDY.—

10 “(1) DATA.—In order to increase access to
11 Head Start services for children of migrant and sea-
12 sonal farmworkers, the Secretary shall work in col-
13 laboration with providers of migrant and seasonal
14 Head Start programs, the Secretary of Agriculture,
15 the Secretary of Labor, the Bureau of Migrant
16 Health, and the Secretary of Education to—

17 “(A) collect, report, and share data, within
18 a coordinated system, on children of migrant
19 and seasonal farmworkers and their families,
20 including health records and educational docu-
21 ments of such children, in order to adequately

1 account for the number of children of migrant
2 and seasonal farmworkers who are eligible for
3 Head Start services and determine how many of
4 such children receive the services; and

5 “(B) identify barriers that prevent children
6 of migrant and seasonal farmworkers who are
7 eligible for Head Start services from accessing
8 Head Start services, and develop a plan for
9 eliminating such barriers, including certain re-
10 quirements relating to tracking, health records,
11 and educational documents, and increasing en-
12 rollment.

13 “(2) PUBLICATION OF PLAN.—Not later than 1
14 year after the date of enactment of the Improving
15 Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, the
16 Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a no-
17 tice about how the Secretary plans to implement the
18 activities identified in paragraph (1) and shall pro-
19 vide a period for public comment. To the extent
20 practicable, the Secretary shall consider comments

1 received before implementing any of the activities
2 identified in paragraph (1).

3 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
4 the date of enactment of the Improving Head Start
5 for School Readiness Act of 2007, and annually
6 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the
7 Committee on Education and Labor of the House of
8 Representatives and the Committee on Health, Edu-
9 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate detailing
10 how the Secretary plans to implement the activities
11 identified in paragraph (1), including the progress
12 made in reaching out to and serving eligible children
13 of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and informa-
14 tion on States where such children are still under-
15 served.

16 “(4) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—The
17 Secretary shall, through regulation, ensure the pro-
18 tection of the confidentiality of any personally identi-
19 fiable data, information, and records collected or
20 maintained by the Secretary, by Head Start agencies
21 that carry out migrant or seasonal Head Start pro-

1 grams, by the State director of Head Start Collabo-
2 ration, and by the Migrant and Seasonal Farm-
3 worker Collaboration project Director (such regula-
4 tions shall provide the policies, protections, and
5 rights equivalent to those provided a parent, stu-
6 dent, or educational agency or institution under sec-
7 tion 444 of the General Education Provisions Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 1232g)).

9 “(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
10 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the
11 development of a nationwide database of personally
12 identifiable data, information, or records on individ-
13 uals involved in studies or other collections of data
14 under this subsection.

15 “(m) PROGRAM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.—

16 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
17 is to evaluate the emergency preparedness of the
18 Head Start programs and Early Head Start pro-
19 grams and make recommendations for how Head
20 Start shall enhance its readiness to respond to an
21 emergency.

1 “(2) STUDY.—The Secretary shall evaluate the
2 Federal, State, and local preparedness of Head Start
3 programs and Early Head Start programs to re-
4 spond appropriately in the event of a large-scale
5 emergency, such as the hurricanes Katrina, Rita,
6 and Wilma, the terrorist attacks of September 11,
7 2001, or other incidents where assistance may be
8 warranted under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
9 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
10 5121 et seq.).

11 “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
12 18 months after the date of the enactment of the
13 Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of
14 2007, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to
15 Committee on Education and Labor of the House of
16 Representatives and the Committee on Health, Edu-
17 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report
18 containing the results of the evaluation required
19 under paragraph (2), including—

20 “(A) recommendations for improvements
21 to Federal, State, and local preparedness and

1 response capabilities to large-scale emergencies,
2 including those that were developed in response
3 to hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, as they
4 relate to Head Start programs and Early Head
5 Start programs, and the Secretary's plan to im-
6 plement such recommendations;

7 “(B) an evaluation of the procedures for
8 informing families of children in Head Start
9 programs about the program protocols for re-
10 sponse to a large-scale emergency, including
11 procedures for communicating with such fami-
12 lies in the event of a large-scale emergency;

13 “(C) an evaluation of such procedures for
14 staff training on State and local evacuation and
15 emergency protocols; and

16 “(D) an evaluation of procedures for Head
17 Start agencies and the Secretary to coordinate
18 with appropriate Federal, State, and local emer-
19 gency management agencies in the event of a
20 large scale emergency and recommendations to
21 improve such procedures.”.

1 **SEC. 20. REPORTS.**

2 Section 650 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9846)
3 is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

6 (1)—

7 (i) by striking “Education and the
8 Workforce” and inserting “Education and
9 Labor”;

10 (ii) by striking “Labor and Human
11 Resources” and inserting “Health, Edu-
12 cation, Labor, and Pensions”; and

13 (iii) by striking “(including disabled
14 and non-English language background chil-
15 dren)” and inserting “(including children
16 with disabilities, limited English proficient
17 children, homeless children, children in fos-
18 ter care, and children participating in In-
19 dian Head Start programs and migrant or
20 seasonal Head Start programs)”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before
2 the semicolon the following: “, and information
3 on the number of children served under this
4 subsection, disaggregated by type of eligibility
5 criterion”;

6 (C) in paragraph (8), by inserting “home-
7 lessness, whether the child is in foster care or
8 was referred by a child welfare agency,” after
9 “background,”;

10 (D) in paragraph (12), by inserting “vision
11 care,” after “dental care,”;

12 (E) in paragraph (14)—

13 (i) by striking “Alaskan Natives” and
14 inserting “Alaska Natives”; and

15 (ii) by striking “seasonal farm-
16 workers” and inserting “seasonal farm-
17 worker families”; and

18 (F) in the flush matter at the end—

19 (i) by striking “Education and the
20 Workforce” and inserting “Education and
21 Labor”; and

1 (ii) by striking “Labor and Human
2 Resources” and inserting “Health, Edu-
3 cation, Labor, and Pensions”;

4 (2) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) by striking “Education and the Work-
6 force” and inserting “Education and Labor”;

7 (B) by striking “Labor and Human Re-
8 sources” and inserting “Health, Education,
9 Labor, and Pensions”; and

10 (C) by striking “Native Alaskan” and in-
11 sserting “Alaska Native”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(c) FISCAL PROTOCOL.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
15 duct an annual review to assess whether the design
16 and implementation of the triennial reviews de-
17 scribed in section 641A(c) include compliance proce-
18 dures that provide reasonable assurances that Head
19 Start agencies are complying with applicable fiscal
20 laws and regulations.

1 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after
2 the date the Secretary completes the annual review
3 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall report the
4 findings and conclusions of the annual review to the
5 Committee on Education and Labor of the House of
6 Representatives and the Committee on Health, Edu-
7 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

8 “(d) DISABILITY-RELATED SERVICES.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall track
10 the provision of disability-related services for chil-
11 dren, in order to—

12 “(A) determine whether Head Start agen-
13 cies are making timely referrals to the State or
14 local agency responsible for providing services
15 under section 619 or part C of the Individuals
16 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.
17 1419, 1431 et seq.);

18 “(B) identify barriers to timely evaluations
19 and eligibility determinations by the State or
20 local agency responsible for providing services

1 under section 619 or part C of the Individuals
2 with Disabilities Education Act; and

3 “(C) determine under what circumstances
4 and for what length of time Head Start agen-
5 cies are providing disability-related services for
6 children who have not been determined under
7 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
8 (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) to be children with
9 disabilities.

10 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
11 date of enactment of the Improving Head Start for
12 School Readiness Act of 2007, the Secretary shall
13 provide a report to the Committee on Education and
14 Labor of the House of Representatives and the Com-
15 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
16 of the Senate on the activities described in para-
17 graph (1).

18 “(e) EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS RE-
19 GARDING OBESITY PREVENTION.—Not later than 1 year
20 after the date of enactment of the Improving Head Start
21 for School Readiness Act of 2007 the Secretary shall sub-

1 mit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the
2 House of Representatives and the Committee on Health,
3 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report
4 on the Secretary's progress in assisting program efforts
5 to prevent and reduce obesity in children who participate
6 in Head Start programs, including progress on imple-
7 menting initiatives within the Head Start program to pre-
8 vent and reduce obesity in such children.”.

9 **SEC. 21. COMPARABILITY OF WAGES.**

10 Section 653 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9848)
11 is amended—

12 (1) by striking “The Secretary shall take” and
13 inserting “(a) COMPARABILITY OF WAGES.—The
14 Secretary shall take”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(b) LIMITATION.—No Federal funds shall be used
17 to pay the compensation of an individual employed by a
18 Head Start agency in carrying out programs under this
19 subchapter, either as direct or indirect costs or any prora-
20 tion of such costs, in an amount in excess of an amount
21 based on the rate payable for level II of the Executive

1 Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States
2 Code.”.

3 **SEC. 22. LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN UNLAW-**
4 **FUL ACTIVITIES.**

5 Section 655 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9850)
6 is amended by inserting “or in” after “assigned by”.

7 **SEC. 23. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.**

8 Section 656 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9851)
9 is amended—

10 (1) by striking all that precedes “chapter 15”
11 and inserting the following:

12 **“SEC. 656. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.**

13 “(a) STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY.—For purposes of”;
14 and

15 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
16 following:

17 “(b) RESTRICTIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A program assisted under
19 this subchapter, and any individual employed by, or
20 assigned to or in, a program assisted under this sub-
21 chapter (during the hours in which such individual

1 is working on behalf of such program), shall not en-
2 gage in—

3 “(A) any partisan or nonpartisan political
4 activity or any other political activity associated
5 with a candidate, or contending faction or
6 group, in an election for public or party office;
7 or

8 “(B) any activity to provide voters or pro-
9 spective voters with transportation to the polls
10 or similar assistance in connection with any
11 such election.

12 “(2) REGISTRATION.—No funds appropriated
13 under this subchapter may be used to conduct voter
14 registration activities. Nothing in this subchapter
15 prohibits the availability of Head Start facilities dur-
16 ing hours of operation for the use of any non-
17 partisan organization to increase the number of eli-
18 gible citizens who register to vote in elections for
19 Federal office.

20 “(3) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The Sec-
21 retary, after consultation with the Director of the

1 Office of Personnel Management, may issue rules
2 and regulations to provide for the enforcement of
3 this section, which may include provisions for sum-
4 mary suspension of assistance or other action nec-
5 essary to permit enforcement on an emergency
6 basis.”.

7 **SEC. 24. PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENT FOR HEALTH**
8 **SERVICES.**

9 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is
10 amended by adding at the end the following:

11 **“SEC. 657A. PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENT FOR NON-**
12 **EMERGENCY INTRUSIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINA-**
13 **TIONS.**

14 “(a) DEFINITION.—The term ‘nonemergency intru-
15 sive physical examination’ means, with respect to a child,
16 a physical examination that—

17 “(1) is not immediately necessary to protect the
18 health or safety of the child involved or the health
19 or safety of another individual; and

20 “(2) requires incision or is otherwise invasive,
21 or involves exposure of private body parts.

1 “(b) REQUIREMENT.—A Head Start agency shall ob-
2 tain written parental consent before administration of any
3 nonemergency intrusive physical examination of a child in
4 connection with participation in a program under this sub-
5 chapter.

6 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
7 tion shall be construed to prohibit agencies from using es-
8 tablished methods, for handling cases of suspected or
9 known child abuse and neglect, that are in compliance
10 with applicable Federal, State, or tribal law.”.

11 **SEC. 25. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.**

12 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), as
13 amended by section 24, is further amended by adding at
14 the end the following:

15 **“SEC. 657B. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILD-**
16 **HOOD.**

17 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘center
18 of excellence’ means a Center of Excellence in Early Child-
19 hood designated under subsection (b).

20 “(b) DESIGNATION AND BONUS GRANTS.—The Sec-
21 retary shall, subject to the availability of funds under this

1 section, establish a program under which the Secretary
2 shall—

3 “(1) designate not more than 200 exemplary
4 Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start
5 agencies, Indian Head Start agencies, and migrant
6 and seasonal Head Start agencies) as Centers of Ex-
7 cellence in Early Childhood; and

8 “(2) make bonus grants to the centers of excel-
9 lence to carry out the activities described in sub-
10 section (d).

11 “(c) APPLICATION AND DESIGNATION.—

12 “(1) APPLICATION.—

13 “(A) NOMINATION AND SUBMISSION.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to
15 receive a designation as a center of excel-
16 lence under subsection (b), except as pro-
17 vided in clause (ii), a Head Start agency in
18 a State shall be nominated by the Gov-
19 ernor of the State, after selection for nomi-
20 nation by such Governor through a com-
21 petitive process, and shall submit an appli-

1 cation to the Secretary at such time, in
2 such manner, and containing such infor-
3 mation as the Secretary may require.

4 “(ii) INDIAN AND MIGRANT AND SEA-
5 SONAL HEAD START PROGRAMS.—In the
6 case of an Indian Head Start agency or a
7 migrant or seasonal Head Start agency, to
8 be eligible to receive a designation as a
9 center of excellence under subsection (b),
10 such an agency shall be nominated by the
11 head of the appropriate regional office of
12 the Department of Health and Human
13 Services and shall submit an application to
14 the Secretary in accordance with clause (i).

15 “(B) CONTENTS.—At a minimum, the ap-
16 plication shall include—

17 “(i) evidence that the Head Start pro-
18 gram carried out by the agency has signifi-
19 cantly improved the school readiness of
20 children who have participated in the pro-
21 gram;

1 “(ii) evidence that the program meets
2 or exceeds standards described in section
3 641A, as evidenced by the results of moni-
4 toring reviews described in section
5 641A(c), and has no findings of defi-
6 ciencies in the preceding 3 years;

7 “(iii) evidence that the program is
8 making progress toward meeting the re-
9 quirements described in section 648A;

10 “(iv) an assurance that the Head
11 Start agency will develop a collaborative
12 partnership with the State (or a State
13 agency) and other providers of early child-
14 hood education and development programs
15 and services in the local community in-
16 volved to conduct activities under sub-
17 section (d);

18 “(v) a nomination letter from the
19 Governor, or appropriate regional office,
20 demonstrating the agency’s ability to pro-
21 vide the coordination, transition, and train-

1 ing services of the program to be carried
2 out under the bonus grant involved, includ-
3 ing coordination of activities with State
4 and local agencies that provide early child-
5 hood education and care to children and
6 families in the community served by the
7 agency, and carry out the activities de-
8 scribed under subsection (d)(1); and

9 “(vi) a description of how the Center,
10 in order to expand accessibility and con-
11 tinuity of quality early childhood education
12 and development services and programs,
13 will coordinate activities, as appropriate,
14 assisted under this section with—

15 “(I) programs carried out under
16 the Child Care and Development
17 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
18 9858 et seq.);

19 “(II) the Early Head Start pro-
20 grams carried out under section
21 645A;

1 “(III) Early Reading First and
2 Even Start programs carried out
3 under subparts 2 and 3 of part B of
4 title I of the Elementary and Sec-
5 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 6371 et seq., 6381 et seq.);

7 “(IV) other preschool programs
8 carried out under title I of that Act
9 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.);

10 “(V) programs carried out under
11 section 619 and part C of the Individ-
12 uals with Disabilities Education Act
13 (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.);

14 “(VI) State prekindergarten pro-
15 grams; and

16 “(VII) other programs of early
17 childhood education and development.

18 “(2) SELECTION.—In selecting agencies to des-
19 ignate as centers of excellence under subsection (b),
20 the Secretary shall designate not less than 1 from
21 each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, an

1 Indian Head Start program, a migrant or seasonal
2 Head Start program, and the Commonwealth of
3 Puerto Rico.

4 “(3) PRIORITY.—In making bonus grant deter-
5 minations under this section, the Secretary shall give
6 priority to programs that, through their applications,
7 demonstrate that they are of exceptional quality and
8 would serve as exemplary models for programs in
9 the same geographic region. The Secretary may also
10 consider the populations served by the applicants,
11 such as programs that serve large proportions of
12 families of limited English proficient children or
13 other underserved populations, and may make bonus
14 grants to programs that do an exceptional job meet-
15 ing the needs of children in such populations.

16 “(4) TERM OF DESIGNATION.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
18 graph (B), the Secretary shall designate a Head
19 Start agency as a center of excellence for a 5-
20 year term. During the period of that designa-
21 tion, subject to the availability of appropria-

1 tions, the agency shall be eligible to receive a
2 bonus grant under subsection (b).

3 “(B) REVOCATION.—The Secretary may
4 revoke an agency’s designation under subsection
5 (b) if the Secretary determines that the agency
6 is not demonstrating adequate performance or
7 has had findings of deficiencies described in
8 paragraph (1)(B)(ii).

9 “(5) AMOUNT OF BONUS GRANT.—The Sec-
10 retary shall base the amount of funding provided
11 through a bonus grant made under subsection (b) to
12 a center of excellence on the number of children eli-
13 gible for Head Start services in the community in-
14 volved. The Secretary shall, subject to the avail-
15 ability of funding, make such a bonus grant in an
16 amount of not less than \$200,000 per year.

17 【“(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A center of excellence that
18 receives a bonus grant under subsection (b)—】

19 【“(1) shall use not less than 15 percent of the
20 funds made available through the bonus grant to
21 disseminate to other Head Start agencies in the

1 State involved, best practices for achieving early aca-
2 demic success, including—】

3 【“(A) best practices for achieving school
4 readiness, including developing early literacy
5 and mathematics skills, for children at risk for
6 school difficulties;】

7 【“(B) best practices for achieving the ac-
8 quisition of the English language for limited
9 English proficient children, if appropriate to the
10 population served; and】

11 【“(C) best practices for providing high-
12 quality comprehensive services for eligible chil-
13 dren and their families;】

14 【“(2) may use the funds made available
15 through the bonus grant—】

16 【“(A) to provide Head Start services to
17 additional eligible children;】

18 【“(B) to better meet the needs of working
19 families in the community served by the center
20 by serving more children in existing Early Head
21 Start programs (existing as of the date the cen-

1 ter is designated under this section) or in full-
2 working-day, full calendar year Head Start pro-
3 grams;】

4 【“(C) to further coordinate early childhood
5 education and development programs and serv-
6 ices and social services available in the commu-
7 nity served by the center for at-risk children
8 (birth through age 8), their families, and preg-
9 nant women;】

10 【“(D) to provide professional development
11 for Head Start teachers and staff, including
12 joint training for Head Start teachers and staff,
13 child care providers, public and private pre-
14 school and elementary school teachers, and
15 other providers of early childhood education and
16 development programs;】

17 【“(E) to provide effective transitions be-
18 tween Head Start programs and elementary
19 schools and to facilitate ongoing communication
20 between Head Start and elementary school
21 teachers concerning children receiving Head

1 Start services to improve the teachers' ability to
2 work effectively with low-income, at-risk chil-
3 dren and their families;】

4 【“(F) to develop or maintain partnerships
5 with institutions of higher education and non-
6 profit organizations, including community-based
7 organizations, that recruit, train, place, and
8 support college students to serve as mentors
9 and reading partners to preschool children in
10 Head Start programs; and】

11 【“(G) to carry out other activities deter-
12 mined by the center to improve the overall qual-
13 ity of the Head Start program carried out by
14 the agency and the program carried out under
15 the bonus grant involved.】

16 “(e) RESEARCH AND REPORTS.—

17 “(1) RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall, subject
18 to the availability of funds to carry out this sub-
19 section, award a grant or contract to an independent
20 organization to conduct research on the ability of the
21 centers of excellence to use the funds received under

1 this section to improve the school readiness of chil-
2 dren receiving Head Start services, and to positively
3 impact school results in the earliest grades. The or-
4 ganization shall also conduct research to measure
5 the success of the centers of excellence at encour-
6 aging the center’s delegate agencies, additional Head
7 Start agencies, and other providers of early child-
8 hood education and development programs in the
9 communities involved to meet measurable improve-
10 ment goals, particularly in the area of school readi-
11 ness.

12 “(2) RESEARCH REPORT.—Not later than 48
13 months after the date of enactment of the Head
14 Start for School Readiness Act, the organization
15 shall prepare and submit to the Secretary and Con-
16 gress a report containing the results of the research
17 described in paragraph (1).

18 “(3) REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY.—Each cen-
19 ter of excellence shall submit an annual report to the
20 Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the
21 Secretary may require, that contains a description of

1 the activities the center carried out with funds re-
2 ceived under this [subchapter/section?], including a
3 description of how such funds improved services for
4 children and families.

5 [“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
7 necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to
8 make bonus grants to centers of excellence under sub-
9 section (b) to carry out activities described in subsection
10 (d) and research and report activities described in para-
11 graphs (1) and (2) of subsection (e).”.]

12 **SEC. 26. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

13 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), as
14 amended by section 25, is further amended by adding at
15 the end the following:

16 **“SEC. 657C. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

17 “(a) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subchapter shall
18 be construed to authorize or permit the Secretary or any
19 employee or contractor of the Department of Health and
20 Human Services to mandate, direct, or control, the selec-

1 tion of a curriculum, a program of instruction, or instruc-
2 tional materials, for a Head Start program.

3 “(b) SPECIAL RULE.—Nothing in this subchapter
4 shall be construed to authorize a Head Start program or
5 a local educational agency to require the other to select
6 or implement a specific curriculum or program of instruc-
7 tion.

8 “(c) DEFINITION.—In this subchapter, the term
9 ‘health’, when used to refer to services or care provided
10 to enrolled children, their parents, or their siblings, shall
11 be interpreted to refer to both physical and mental
12 health.”.

13 **SEC. 27. COMPLIANCE WITH IMPROPER PAYMENTS INFOR-**
14 **MATION ACT OF 2002.**

15 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term—

16 (1) “appropriate committees” means—

17 (A) the Committee on Health, Education,
18 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

19 (B) the Committee on Education and
20 Labor of the House of Representatives; and

1 (2) “improper payment” has the meaning given
2 that term under section 2(d)(2) of the Improper
3 Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321
4 note).

5 (b) REQUIREMENT FOR COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION
6 AND REPORT.—The Secretary of Health and Human
7 Services shall submit a report to the appropriate commit-
8 tees that—

9 (1) contains a certification that the Department
10 of Health and Human Services has, for each pro-
11 gram and activity of the Administration for Children
12 and Families, performed and completed a risk as-
13 sessment to determine programs and activities that
14 are at significant risk of making improper payments;
15 and

16 (2) describes the actions to be taken to reduce
17 improper payments for the programs and activities
18 determined to be at significant risk of making im-
19 proper payments.

And the Senate agree to the same.