

How to Make a Comment on Proposed Federal Changes to Head Start

On August 6, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the most significant [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NPRM) on Head Start Program Performance Standards in its decades-long history. The public comment period on the proposed rule change is open until October 6.

Make Your Voice Heard

During the comment period, anyone—including parents, child care providers, advocacy and civic organizations, businesses and citizens—may submit a comment via the Federal Register regarding the proposed changes.

After the comment period ends, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) must review and consider all public comments before issuing a Final Rule. There's no deadline for when a Final Rule must be issued.

All public comments will be posted on www.regulations.gov without change as they are submitted.

Concerns With the Proposed Changes

We've highlighted some of the concerns regarding the proposed rule changes in our NPRM summary here: [Head Start NPRM Summary](#). You'll find this document linked at the bottom of the purple box on [FFN's Administration Policy webpage](#). Find more information and concerns about the NPRM in our blog post, [Federal Officials Announce Proposed Changes to Head Start](#), or from the [First Five Years Fund's FAQ](#).

How to Submit a Public Comment

All comments must be submitted online through the Federal Register's website here: [Federal Register: Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs](#)

- After reviewing the proposal, click the green “**Submit a Public Comment**” button at the top right of the page to begin the submission process.
- When you have written or uploaded your comment, you will be prompted to provide some basic information about yourself.
- When finished, click “**Submit Comment**” at the bottom of the page to complete the process.

If you have any questions or need additional help, please contact FFN using this link: [Contact Us – First Five Nebraska](#)

Below is a sample comment highlighting three areas of concern in the NRPM. You may want to select others from the [NPRM Summary](#) that are of more concern to you, or you may have your own concerns to discuss. Making your comment personal to you always is most effective when commenting on a proposal.

Sample Public Comment on the Proposed Head Start Rule Change

Dear U.S. Administration for Children and Families,

I am writing to share my concerns about the proposed changes to the federal standards governing Head Start. As a *[Head Start parent/teacher/provider/community member]*, I have seen firsthand how Head Start helps children and families build a strong foundation for success. I have also seen how important it is for families to have access to consistent, high-quality early learning and comprehensive support services.

I'm especially concerned that the proposal would **lower standards for children with the fewest resources**. Head Start was created to give children and families access to high-quality early education and services such as health, dental and vision support. National standards help ensure that a child's access to these supports does not depend on their state or community.

I am also concerned that the proposal could **force programs to make tough staffing decisions**. Reducing staff such as teachers, family service workers, health personnel and home visitors could make it harder for programs to meet children's and families' needs. In my experience, these staff members play an important role in helping families overcome barriers and ensuring children receive the support they need.

Finally, I am concerned that without the current federal protections, the proposal would allow **expulsions and suspensions**. Children with disabilities, developmental delays, behavioral needs or experiences of trauma deserve support—not exclusion from the early learning opportunities they need.

Please reconsider these changes and preserve strong federal Head Start standards that protect children, support families and ensure quality services in every community.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[City, State]