

Strong Beginnings

Quick Start Guide Section 5: Recruitment and Enrollment

ISDs are the grantees of Strong Beginnings and may run classrooms themselves or may choose to contract with subrecipients.

- Children may not be enrolled in Strong Beginnings across ISD boundaries.

Strong Beginnings and Head Start collaborate in enrollment decisions when a child is Head Start eligible. A formal protocol is in place.

- Children who are eligible for Head Start and attend Strong Beginnings after the referral process has been completed may attend GSRP without completing a second referral process.

Recruitment, Enrollment and Prioritization policies are mostly the same.

- ISDs must request a waiver from the CCRESA Implementation Team before admitting any child over 250% FPL.
- A waiting list must be carefully maintained as children from this list will also be entered into MSDS.
- Strong Beginnings eligible and non-eligible children may not be combined in the same classroom. No braiding is allowed of Strong Beginnings and tuition paying children or Strong Beginnings and Special Education funded children, for example.
- Strong Beginnings and Head Start funding cannot be used to fund children in a blended classroom.
- Only children with IEPs requiring ECSE services (and not placement in an ECSE classroom) are eligible for priority placement in Strong Beginnings' classrooms. No more than 10% of Strong Beginnings students (3 in 2 classrooms) may begin the school year with IEPs requiring ECSE services.
- While recruitment of Strong Beginnings children may begin in January, families cannot be promised enrollment in programs until July in order to accommodate the lowest income children with most risk factors who apply. Sites wishing a variance from this guidance must provide a rationale and alternate enrollment plan. In most cases, the alternate plan will need to leave at least three spaces for high-risk, low-income children who apply in the summer/early fall.