Policy:

All Head Start teaching staff in center-based settings must meet one of the following requirements for each position listed below:

HEAD START-TEACHER

- Have an associate, baccalaureate or advanced degree in early childhood education;
- Have an associate, baccalaureate or advanced degree in another field with 30 hours of coursework related to early childhood education, 18 of which are in child development and/or early childhood curriculum;
- Have a Missouri state certificate to teach early childhood education; or,
- Have a baccalaureate degree and has been admitted into the Teach for America program, passed a rigorous early childhood content exam, such as the MEGA, participated in a Teach for America summer training institute that includes teaching preschool children, and is receiving ongoing professional development support from Teach for America’s professional staff.
- Have a baccalaureate or advanced degree in early childhood special education when working for a private agency, or in a classroom that is under a Missouri DESE contract, to provide special education services to preschool age children. A current Missouri Teaching Certificate must accompany transcripts.

HEAD START-TEACHER ASSISTANT

- Have a Preschool Child Development Associate (CDA) credential;
- Be enrolled in a CDA training program to be completed within two (2) years;
- Have a degree that includes at least nine (9) hours of early childhood/education coursework;
- Be currently and continually enrolled in a degree program which includes at least nine (9) hours of early childhood/education coursework;
- Have a degree and have completed 120 clock hours of CDA training through college coursework or an online CDA program; or,
- Have a degree and is enrolled in 120 clock hours of CDA training through college coursework or an online CDA program.
EARLY HEAD START – TEACHER

- Have an Infant/Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA) credential;
- Be enrolled in a CDA training program;
- Have a degree that includes at least nine (9) hours of early childhood/education coursework;
- Be currently and continually enrolled in a degree program which includes at least nine (9) hours of early childhood/education coursework;
- Have a degree and have completed 120 clock hours of CDA training through college coursework or an online CDA program; or,
- Have a degree and is enrolled in 120 clock hours of CDA training through college coursework or an online CDA program.

Supporting documents must be provided to the Grantee Quality Assurance Coordinator or other Grantee staff upon request.