<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department: Education</th>
<th>Approval Date: 5/9/2017</th>
<th>Policy Number: 4040</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regulation Number: 1302.21(b)(2)</td>
<td>Regulation Topic: Education</td>
<td>Policy Title: Early Head Start Continuity of Care and Head Start Multi-Age Grouping</td>
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</tbody>
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**Policy:**

In a center-based Early Head Start classroom, each teacher must be assigned consistent, primary responsibility for no more than four children to promote continuity of care for individual children. A direct service provider must minimize teacher changes throughout a child’s enrollment. Options for minimizing teacher changes include:

- Teachers moving with children from infant classrooms up to toddler classrooms (looping);
- Teachers and children in a similar age range starting together and staying together in a classroom during all the Early Head Start years (environmental continuity);
- One teacher who is the primary caregiver moving with half of the children up to an older classroom (primary caregiver tracking); or
- In circumstances such as having only one or two classrooms at a site, infants and toddlers cared for together in a multi-age setting (multi-age grouping).

The following program performance standard provides useful guidance for transitioning children out of Early Head Start when a system of continuity of care is in place: HSPPS 1302.70(b)(1-2) **Timing for Transitions.**

Head Start children in center-based settings will be served in multi-age classrooms with 3- to 5-year-olds combined.

MAHS partners will meet these requirements by the 2018-19 program year. Adherence to the above regulations and this policy is subject to random audit by MAHS staff.

Effective Date: 7/1/2018