

**Head Start Program
Change in Scope-Enrollment Reduction**

The Santa Rosa County District Schools' Head Start Program is requesting that we be allowed to reduce the number of students in our Head Start Program from 240 to 220.

The requested reduction would take place this next school year beginning August 5, 2019.

We currently have 11 classes of 4-year-old students. Our plan is to reduce this number to 10 classes of 4-year-old students.

Our grantee is a school system. Due to this fact, our employee's salaries and fringe benefits are based on the school system's pay scales. Supplements are issued as well and are based on additional educational attainment and managerial duties. Negotiations are conducted each year for all staff salaries and benefits. All personnel receive the negotiated increase. For the past 9 years our budget has been flagged due to the high amount of salaries. This past grant period was very difficult for our program budget-wise, so it has become necessary to write and request an enrollment reduction.

By changing the enrollment numbers to 220 rather than 240 we can eliminate a teacher and assistant teacher's salary and fringe benefits. This saves our program approximately \$80,000.00 (depending on the employees' choice of benefits). This money can now be utilized to support increased hours for our licensed mental health consultant and to provide additional necessary supplies for our students.

Additionally, this past grant period it has been difficult to keep our 4-year-old Head Start Classes full. Primarily this is due to the State of Florida's Voluntary Pre-K Program that is free of charge to all citizens. When we contacted families about openings in our program they did not want to leave their current program because their children were settled and happy. The program has been unable to maintain an active waitlist. We are very concerned that if we continue with our current number of 4-year-old classes that we will eventually be out of compliance. Hence, another reason that there is a need for a reduction in enrollment.

There will be no changes to our annualized budget since we are only requesting a reduction in enrollment.