

Frequently Asked Questions

Head Start and Early Head Start



What is Head Start?

Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program established in 1965 to ameliorate the negative effects of poverty on preschool children and families. Long Beach Unified School District's Head Start program is devoted to providing quality learning experiences in safe and nurturing environments. Our program supports parents by providing access to information, resources and experiences to strengthen their role as their child's first and most important teacher.

How many Head Start centers are in LBUSD?

LBUSD Head Start operates at 25 sites throughout Long Beach and Signal Hill. Most centers are located on school campuses.

How do I apply?

Our application process can be found at lbschools.net/EarlyEd or by scanning the QR code. Locate the "Early Childhood Education" section and select "Head Start and Early Head Start."



Are you hiring?

Yes. Head Start is hiring preschool and infant/toddler teachers.

What is required to be considered for hire as a Head Start preschool teacher?

- Hold an A.A. degree or higher in Child Development/Early Childhood Education or a related field, inclusive of 24 Early Childhood Education units.
- Hold and maintain a California Child Development Teacher Permit.
- Hold and maintain 16 hours of certification including eight hours of Pediatric First Aid and CPR; and an eight-hour Preventative Health and Safety Course upon hire or within 30 days of employment.
- Have two years of experience working with children ages 0-5.
- Be vaccinated for pertussis and measles prior to hiring (influenza vaccines are also required annually during the flu season).

What is required to be considered for hire as a Head Start infant/toddler teacher?

- Same requirements as a preschool teacher (see above).
- Three units of infant/toddler coursework.

What certification is needed to become a Head Start teacher?

A Child Development Teacher Permit or higher (Master Teacher Permit, Site Supervisor Permit, Program Director Permit).

What is the work year for a Head Start teacher?

Head Start preschool teachers work a 10-month calendar, and infant/toddler teachers work a 12-month calendar. The Head Start program follows the LBUSD calendar for holidays.

How long is my application active?

An application is active for one year. Applications expire within one year from the application date. Applicants are welcome to reapply if their application has expired.

How long does the process take?

This depends on many variables: number of applications submitted, Head Start agency needs, verification of requirements and references, fingerprinting processing, etc.

Head Start Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

What documents are needed for the application process?

Verification of experiences, resume/cover letter, three letters of reference from current or former supervisors, official transcripts (copies are accepted for application process) and a copy of a Child Development Permit.

What type of contract is offered by LBUSD Head Start?

The District offers Head Start applicants Special Contracts. A Special Contract is a one-year temporary contract that is generally renewed annually.

How many openings do you have and where?

Specific information about openings and locations is not available at this time. The number of openings and locations of those openings vary depending on child enrollment and staffing needs.

What is required for verification of education and work experience?

We require official, sealed transcripts from the accredited college(s) or university(ies) that you have attended. Official verification of work experience must be submitted and be completed by your prior employer(s).

How many years of salary credit does the District grant?

The District grants up to the highest salary credit for qualifying, verified certificated teaching experience.

What criteria are used to determine a teacher's starting salary?

Salary placement is based on the calendar assigned, verified educational background and teaching experience.

What types of Medical Plans are offered?

- Kaiser Permanente HMO, Aetna HMO, Aetna PPO
- Delta Dental (Dental PMI for Family)
- EyeMed (employee only)

What is the cost for benefits?

Full-time certificated employees currently have **zero cost for medical, dental, vision and basic life benefits** (except for dependent coverage if electing the PPO dental plan). The benefits are in place until age 67 for retirees with 17 years or more of service credit.

Who is eligible for District benefits?

You are generally eligible for benefits if you are under contract. Your dependents are also eligible for benefits.

For additional information on LBUSD's Head Start program, please visit lbschools.net/HeadStart.

