



**SWEETWATER COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT #1**

Consent Agenda Item 7-y

Recommendation to approve HighScope as the Head Start Preschool Curriculum beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. This comprehensive curriculum addresses all areas of development and key developmental indicators. This curriculum will be funded through the Head Start Federal Grant and was previously approved by the Head Start Policy Council on May 10, 2018.

SCSD #1 Head Start

Change of Curriculum from Teaching Strategies to HighScope

HighScope is based on three fundamental principles:

- Active participation of children in choosing, organizing, and evaluating learning activities, which are undertaken with careful teacher observation and guidance in a learning environment replete with a rich variety of materials located in various classroom learning centers.
- Regular daily planning by the teaching staff in accord with a developmentally based curriculum model and careful child observations.
- Developmentally sequenced goals and materials for children based on the HighScope “key experiences” (HighScope Educational Research Foundation, 1989).

The HighScope Preschool Curriculum is comprehensive and addresses all areas of development through eight content areas and 58 key developmental indicators (KDIs) — “the skills and behaviors at each stage of development that pave the way for school and adult success. Each KDI is connected to and reinforced by scaffolding strategies to support and gently extend children’s learning.” The COR Advantage is HighScope’s assessment tool and “is built on 36 items that are proven by research to best prepare children for school success. With the fewest items of any early childhood assessment, COR saves teachers time.

Teachers can use the valuable insight that they put in to the tool to create individualized lesson plans and detailed reports on child and classroom progress.

The online tool's in-the-moment support increases the accuracy of teacher's scores, delivering consistent data administrators can rely on to meaningfully guide their program to the next level.”

- HighScope website.

According to an article by G.S. Morrison of Pearson Allyn Bacon Prentice Hall, on Education.com, the HighScope curriculum has been extensively researched and tested.

The HighScope website includes a tool that illustrates the alignment of their Key Developmental Indicators (KDIs) with the HSELOF Domains and Sub-Domains. This tool and the Alignment of COR Advantage will be helpful when documenting child progress, and when considering revision to the School Readiness Goal.

The program’s training plan includes curriculum training to help ensure it is used as intended, and to the greatest benefit of the children. Supplemental curriculum materials will be supplied to teaching staff by the manager. Workshops for the core curriculum are available on line and include brief trainings as well as those that are more extensive. Release time for education staff to complete courses and assignments related to training will be arranged as determined by the Director and Education Services Manager. The manager will attend the courses to enable her to train and support staff in use of the curriculum. As noted, several monitoring tools are used and the described methods of follow up will continue to be used. Practice Based Coaching and the weekly meetings with teaching staff build relationships and provide opportunities for feedback regarding curriculum implementation. Classroom observations (formal and informal) are documented and are used to advise staff. The coach models desired practices and strategies in the classroom.