

Strong Beginnings

Quick Start Guide Section 8: Program Administration

Programs must comply with Child Care Licensing rules and notify ISD if change in license or special investigation.

- Nothing is new or different.

Requirements for numbers of days and weeks of instruction are the similar.

- Only 4 day per week school day programming is allowed.

Philosophy statement, comprehensive programming, and parent handbook are mostly the same.

- Parent Handbook must also contain an overview of the role of the Family Liaison. If the program offers payment for private transportation such as Uber or Lyft, the Parent Handbook must explain the policy and procedures.
- A 1:7 adult child ratio must be maintained at all times. Each classroom must have two consistent adults present even if seven or fewer children are enrolled or present at one time.

Staffing policies including credentialing for lead and associate teachers as well as other classroom staff; staffing noncompliance for lead and associate teachers, and team teaching are mostly the same.

- Experience and/or education with three-year-old children as well as infants and toddlers is strongly preferred for lead and associate teachers in Strong Beginnings classrooms.
- A teacher who is hired on a compliance plan for either Strong Beginnings or GSRP and does not fulfill requirements of that plan within three years may not be hired on a compliance plan for the other program.

Teaching practices and daily routine are mostly the same.

- Looping, when circumstances allow, and the assignment of primary caregivers to each child are recommended in Strong Beginnings

Policies for challenging behavior are the same.

- Nothing is new or different.

All meal and food related policies are mostly the same.

- Meals and snacks will generally take longer in Strong Beginnings classrooms and children will need more support with serving, eating and cleaning up.

Rest time policies are mostly the same.

- Children in Strong Beginnings should rest no more than one hour twenty minutes.

Transportation policies are somewhat similar.

- There are legal requirements necessitating the use of child restraint systems when transporting children who are not yet four years of age in school buses. Grantee must follow all legal requirements for three-year-old children.