

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND (ADD'L DETAIL):**

The Region IV Office advised the grantee that the Standards of Conduct must be approved in order to submit with the follow-up narrative to the Office of Head Start. Due to the short window for submitting the corrective actions as well as the Immediate Deficiency status, this policy must be approved as soon as possible. The Region IV Office is unwilling to wait for the Rule Adoption process required by Florida law. Failure to correct the Immediate Deficiency in a timely manner will result in termination of funds. Termination of funds would eliminate all comprehensive services (i.e., education, health, nutrition, dental, mental health, and family support) provided to 2,120 Head Start/Early Head Start students and their families. Cessation of these services will negatively impact our most at-risk families and result in children not being provided developmental screenings, health screenings and follow-up, dental services, referrals to social services, referrals to mental health providers and mental health support. Additionally, all children will lose breakfast, lunch, and snack daily as well as access to high-quality early learning services. In order to ensure the immediate safety and welfare of children, the Head Start Standards of Conduct specifically reference that staff will ensure children are not left alone or unsupervised while under their care and that they will use positive methods of child guidance and will not engage in corporal punishment, emotional or physical abuse, or humiliation. In addition, they will not employ methods of discipline that involve isolation, the use of food as punishment or reward, or the denial of basic needs.

When The School Board determines that public health, safety or welfare is endangered and that immediate action is required to protect the public interest, The School Board may adopt such emergency rules (policies) at any meeting during which a quorum is present, without complying with the waiting periods, public hearings and other similar requirements as provided in Policy 1001. The Superintendent shall properly record the effective date for any emergency rule (policy).

Any emergency rule (policy) shall not be valid in excess of ninety (90) days from the adoption or effective date. When an emergency rule (policy) is adopted and The School Board determines that such a rule (policy) shall be adopted as a permanent rule (policy), the non-emergency rule (policy) adoption proceedings prescribed in Policy 1001 shall be followed at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date of the emergency rule (policy).

The Head Start Standards of Conduct emergency rule (policy) will begin the non-emergency rule (policy) adoption proceedings prescribed in Policy 1001 immediately following the emergency approval as part of the Head Start/Early Head Start Major Program Policies and Procedures.

The draft policy was submitted to the Office of the General Counsel for review and comment.