



**Plattsmouth Early Head Start/Sixpence
Birth to Three Programs**

2024-2025

PARENT HANDBOOK



Plattsmouth Community Schools 2024-2025 Calendar

AUGUST 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

- 5-7 PD New Teachers
- 8-13 PD All Staff/No Students
- 14 First Day of School 1st-9th; PM Kind.
- 15 First Day of School for AM Kind., 10th-12th
- 14-19 Early Childhood Home Visits
- 20 First Day for Early Childhood

September

- 5 No School - Staff & Students
- 6 No School - Teacher PD

October

- 2 P/T Conferences: HS 5-8 PM
- 8 P/T Conferences: ES/MS 4:30 PM-7:30 PM
- 9 End of 1st Qtr.=39 student days
- 9 P/T Conferences: ES/MS 4:30 PM-7:30 PM, HS 5-8 PM
- 10 No Students - Teacher Planning
- 11 No School for Staff & Students- Teacher Comp. Day
- 14 No Students - PD for All Teachers

November

- 6 & 7 P-T Conferences: EC 4:30 PM-7:30 PM
- 8 P-T Conferences: EC: 8 AM-4 PM, No classes

- 27-29 No School for Staff & Students

December

- 2 No Students - Teacher Planning
- 19 End of 2nd qtr.=45 student days, End of 1st semester
Student days=84, Teacher days=91(Oct. 11 is a comp. day)
- 20 No Students - Teacher Planning
- 23-31 No School- Staff & Students

January

- 1-3 No School- Staff & Students
- 6 No Students-PD for All Teachers
- 7 First Day of Second Semester
- 20 No School for Staff & Students

February

- 14 No Students - Teacher Planning
- 17 No Students-PD for All Teachers
- 19 EC Home Visits 4:30 PM-7:30 PM
- 20 EC Home Visits 8 AM - 7:30 PM
- 21 EC Home Visits 8 AM - 4 PM, No classes at EC

March

- 5 & 6 P/T Conferences: ES/MS 4:30 PM-7:30 PM, HS 5-8 PM
- 6 End of 3rd Qtr.=44 student days
- 7 No Students - Teacher Planning
- 10-14 No School-Spring Break (3/14 is a Teacher Comp. Day)
- 17 No Students - PD for All Teachers

April

- 18 No Students - Teacher Planning
- 24 No School - Staff & Students

May

- 7 & 8 PT Conferences: EC 4:30 PM-7:30 PM
- 9 P-T Conferences: EC 8 AM-4 PM, No classes at EC
- 12 EC Comp. Day, No classes at EC
- 18 High School Graduation
- 22 Half Day for Students - End of 4th Qtr.=46.5 student days, End of 2nd Semester=90.5 student days
- 23 No Students - Teacher Planning, Teacher days=95 (Mar. 14 is a comp. day)
- 23, 27-30 Inclement Weather Make-Up Days

JANUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

	Professional Development (PD)-New Teachers	<i>The regular dismissal times are 3:20 PM for ES and 3:30 PM for MS and HS.</i> <i>If necessary, the Board will revisit the calendar.</i>
	Professional Development (PD)-All Teachers-No Students	
	Half Day - Students	
	Parent/Teacher Conferences	
	No School for Staff & Students	
	Early Release for School-Age Buildings (ES 2:20 PM, MS and HS 2:30 PM)	
	Teacher Planning Day - No students	

Plattsmouth Community School District Mission Statement

Working in partnership to ensure academic *achievement*, responsible *behavior*, and *civic engagement*.

Plattsmouth Early Childhood Program Mission

To create a foundation for success through creative, interactive, and intentional experiences that build safe and positive relationships, develop independent problem-solvers, and foster each child's learning potential while displaying empathy, tolerance, and appreciation of differences.

Plattsmouth Early Childhood Program Vision

Students who attend the Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood program will have effective social skills that allow them to accept others, be cooperative, and appropriately accept individual needs and perspectives. Students will be able to self-regulate and manage emotions by using coping strategies. Our students will be able to recognize problems as well as identify and persistently work towards solutions. They will be creative, flexible, and critical thinkers who inquire about the world around them. Students will be independent and dedicated to ongoing learning and recognize the importance of doing things to the best of their ability.

Plattsmouth Early Childhood Program Beliefs

- Each child has the ability to enthusiastically learn and apply knowledge across a variety of new situations to achieve success.
- Promoting independence through developmentally appropriate, structured, safe, and nurturing environments based on children's interests is essential for learning.
- Children learn by and gain independence by exploring with hands-on learning activities that inspire curiosity.
- The collaborative efforts of students' home, family, school, and community are essential for success.
- Approaches to learning should include balanced comprehensive services focusing on the whole child.
- Balancing child-directed and teacher-directed instruction, that includes all domains of learning, is important for student learning.
- Children have a variety of languages in which to express ideas and need open-ended materials to express their languages.
- Children are *capable* by accommodating and accepting individual needs and perspectives while using social skills to solve problems and self-regulate.
- Providing structured opportunities and environments that allow children to make discoveries, solve problems, and challenge creative thinking is essential to an effective early childhood learning experience.
- Intentional, aligned, and systematic learning opportunities provide an effective foundation for children.

- Monitoring of progress and differentiating instruction is important for developing individual students to their full potential.
- It is important for children to develop secure, safe, and trusting relationships through positive interactions.

Welcome

Welcome to our early childhood program! We hope that this handbook assists you in the policies and procedures that you need to follow in order to meet the requirements of Early Head Start or Sixpence and to provide your child with a complete early childhood experience. Our Birth to Three education programs offer many opportunities for children to develop socially, intellectually, physically and emotionally in a manner appropriate to their age and stage of development. Our programs provide an organized series of experiences that are designed to meet the individual needs of the children and families that we serve.

Our Birth to Three programs are unique from many other toddler or childcare settings. Early Head Start and Sixpence are comprehensive child development programs that serve children ages prenatal to three and their families. Both programs are child-focused and family centered and provide a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development, medical, dental, mental health, nutrition, parent involvement, and disabilities.

Early Head Start programs are required to follow a set of performance standards. The Head Start Performance Standards are designed to ensure that the Early Head Start goals and objectives are implemented successfully, that the Early Head Start philosophy continues to thrive, and that all grantees or delegate agencies maintain the highest possible quality in the provision of Early Head Start Services. The Plattsmouth Community School District is our grantee agency for Early Head Start which serves all of Cass County.

The Sixpence Early Learning Fund is Nebraska's signature effort to put our state's youngest and most vulnerable children on the path to success in school and life. Sixpence promotes high-quality early care and learning opportunities that help parents guide the healthy development of their infants and toddlers. As a public-private collaboration at the state and local levels, Sixpence delivers efficiency, fiscal responsibility and measurable results for our investment in the next generation of Nebraska's citizens. The Plattsmouth Community School District is our grantee agency for Sixpence which serves families within the Plattsmouth school district boundaries.

Plattsmouth Board of Education Policies

Please note that the Plattsmouth Sixpence and Early Head Start programs are part of the Plattsmouth Community School District (PCSD) and, therefore, subject to all Plattsmouth Community School District policies as approved by the PCSD Board of Education. These policies are available on the PCSD website at www.pcsd.org under the Board of Education link under the About PCS tab and in the Policies files on the left side of the page.

Residence and Eligibility for Early Childhood Programs

Children/families are eligible for the Early Head Start program if their family resides in Cass County. Children who are eligible for special education services must be served by the school district in which they reside. Children with special education services may receive services outside their district **only** with the permission of their resident school district. Children/families are eligible for the Sixpence program if they are residents of the Plattsmouth

School District. It is the responsibility of the family to immediately report any change of residence to their home visitor.

Early Childhood Program Contact Information

Plattsmouth Early Childhood Center (PECC)
902 Main Street, Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-5250

Juli Beck, Early Childhood Director
Extension #2619

Early Childhood Staff

All the Early Childhood Home Visitors hold either a Nebraska teaching license (four year degree program) for Early Childhood Education and/or Early Childhood Special Education or a Bachelor's degree in nursing, child development, sociology, psychology, or social work. Other support staff may include a Family Support Advocate. Health and Nutrition services are monitored by a school nurse. Other staff members include: Speech Language Pathologist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Vision Specialist, ELL support personnel, school Psychologist, and a Dietician for those children/families qualifying for services.

Curriculum, Home Visits, and Assessment Section

Curriculum (Head Start Performance Standard 1302.32(a))

The Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three Program has chosen Growing Great Kids™ as a curriculum framework. Growing Great Kids™ (GGK) is a comprehensive strength-based approach to growing nurturing parent-child relationships and supporting healthy childhood development. GGK incorporates features specifically targeted to parents/parenting partners of children pre-birth to 3 years of age, including:

- **Relationship-Based Orientation:** All information related to child development and parenting is presented within the context of cultivating sensitive, responsive parent-child relationships. The home visitor's relationships with parents and parenting partners are central to supporting them to grow their attachment and parenting skills, strengthen their family, and build life skills.
- **Attachment/Infant Mental Health Assimilation:** Strategies for promoting infant mental health are woven into the GGK and child development activities. These strategies are rooted in (1) the parents gaining understanding of their infant's cues, temperament, and needs while growing skills for empathic parenting;(2) fostering trust, predictability, responsiveness, and security in the parent-child relationship; and (3) reducing the child's exposure to toxic stress.
- **Comprehensive Child Development And Health Content:** GGK offers anticipatory guidance to parents pertaining to all developmental domains, health, safety, and nutrition. Child development activities are coded by targeted child development domains to assist with identifying interventions associated with developmental delays. Activities are crafted to strengthen parent-child attachments. Activity format is designed to engage fathers and mothers.
- **Protective Factors Focus:** Research shows that certain risk factors have detrimental effects on children and families, while other "protective" factors can mitigate those effects and provide benefits.

GGK builds parenting and family life skills that translate into Protective Factors/Buffers for their children.

- **Strength-Based, Solution-Focused Parent Partnership Model:** The framework utilized in GGK's conversation guides with families draws the parents' attention to their strengths and motivations to grow their knowledge and skills. Parents build competencies for addressing their concerns with focused attention on building their skills and confidence.
- **Emergent Design:** Based on the family's knowledge, skills, interests and needs, the curriculum supports home visitors to partner with parents in sequencing curriculum content and activities. The amount of time devoted to a particular curriculum component can easily be tailored to the families' interests and needs.
- **Conversation Guides:** GGK provides conversation guides that include GKI Action Tools and other strategies for staying strength-based, solution-focused and skill-driven during home visits. For every three months of a child's development, there are conversation guides addressing: (1) Basic Care; (2) Social and Emotional Development, (3) Cues and Communication; (4) Physical and Brain Development; and (5) Play and Stimulation. Prenatal manuals include conversation guides specific to pre-birth visits, building family foundations, growing life skills and reducing stress.
- **Skill Driven Emphasis:** Home visitors who use GGK coach program parents from "knowledge to practice to skill mastery." Parents become their own "child development specialist," with secure attachments at the core. Parents learn how to manage their stress in ways that help them get what they want for themselves and their children.
- **Culturally Inclusive And Competent Approach:** Specific modules are devoted to encouraging families to learn more about their cultural values and traditions, and to explore how they will use their culture to strengthen their family and their child's sense of belonging.

Growing Great Kids™ is a developmentally appropriate curriculum which aligns with the Head Start Performance Standards and other regulations including the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five and the Early Learning Guidelines: Nebraska's Birth to Five Learning and Development Standards.

Home Visits

Home visits will follow a predictable sequence of events as outlined in the Growing Great Kids™ curriculum. This provides a structure for the visits which makes it easier for families and children to participate. Please be aware of the following expectations during a home visit:

- A home visit will occur each week for up to 1 ½ hours
- Parents/guardians are expected to actively participate during the home visit
- Parents/guardians will observe the home visitor demonstrate activities to support the child's learning while playing together
- Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to practice the new activities with the child and receive feedback from the home visitor on ways to expand the child's play
- Parents/guardians will have an opportunity to discuss any parenting concerns with the home visitor
- Parents/guardians will work with the home visitor to build on the strengths of the family in providing a healthy and nurturing environment for the child and family
- Videotaping will be used on visits to help parents/guardians develop their observation skills and to provide feedback
- Each visit will include:
 - a reflection on what has happened with the family since the last visit and an agreement on the plan for the current session
 - a parent-child interaction opportunity – usually around an activity

- o a development-centered parenting discussion – time for the parent/guardian to discuss concerns/issues and time for the home visitor to provide information on various family-centered topics
- o a reflection on the visit and time to make a plan together for the next visit
- For pregnant mothers enrolled in the program, the home visitor will visit at least twice monthly to explore together how to have a healthy pregnancy and prepare for baby’s arrival

Attendance

Regular attendance at home visits is required for participation in the Birth to Three program. It is vital that the parent and child(ren) attend in order to receive the most value from the program. **We ask that you call home visitor at 402-296-5250 or another phone number provided by them as soon as you know you will be unable to keep an appointment for a home visit.** If the home visitor cancels a visit for any reason, it will be made up.

Excessive (5 or more) home visit cancellations (not related to illness) will be reviewed with families and may be considered for dismissal from the program depending on the reasons for the cancellations. Considerations will be made for any participants who wish to stay in the program and have made plans to re-schedule their missed visits. The Birth to Three program year operates from August 1st to July 31st.

Procedure for Missed Home Visits:

1. After five missed home visits, the home visitor or family support advocate (FSA) will discuss the situation with the parents(s). Efforts will be made to remedy the problem by determining specific conditions contributing to the attendance problem and developing a plan to address controllable conditions that may assist in alleviating the problem.
2. If absences continue after the initial meeting, the home visitor and family support advocate (FSA) will set up a meeting with the parents(s) to develop an attendance contract.
3. Families will be considered for dismissal from the Birth to Three program if more than three absences happen after the development of the attendance contract.

Assessment (Head Start Performance Standard 1302.33(b)(c))

The Birth to Three staff assess children’s development with comprehensive observations rather than narrow tests, using the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment. Observing a broad range of behaviors over several weeks or months gives us a more accurate picture of children’s true capabilities than tests administered in one-time sessions. Home visitors will record anecdotes and collect information from caregivers describing what children do and say. Three times a year, teachers review these anecdotes and rate each child at the most accurate level he or she has demonstrated on the GOLD Developmental Continuum for more than 30 specific goals and objectives items in five areas of development: social/emotional, physical, language, cognitive, and literacy. Children’s GOLD scores help home visitors design individualized learning opportunities tailored to their level of development. The Continuum follows ages birth-5 so that home visitors can build on the child’s current stage of development throughout their time in the program. The GOLD is also used by home visitors to explain children’s progress to parents at least three times a year.

School Readiness

The Head Start/Plattsmouth Early Childhood Program has established school readiness goals which are the expectations of children's status and progress across domains of language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical well-being and motor development, and social and emotional development that will improve readiness for kindergarten goals. The school readiness goals are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five (HSELOF, 2015) and the Early Learning Guidelines: Nebraska's Birth to Five Learning and Development Standards.

The school readiness committee which consists of a parent representative from Policy Council/advisory committee, members of the leadership team, and teacher representatives meets at least three times a year to review data and update goals. The school readiness data is shared with the Policy Council/advisory committee and the Board of Education at least three times a year. The information is also on the PECC website and in the Annual Report which is also posted on the PECC website.

Child Find

If you have or know a young child from birth to 5 years of age and you have concerns about his/her development, please call the Plattsmouth Early Childhood Center at 402-296-5250; Ext. 2618.

Developmental concerns may include:

Low birth weight	High medical needs	Prematurity
Multiple births	Feeding concerns	Difficulty speaking
Hearing loss	Blindness or vision impairment	Physical disability
Slow to walk or crawl	Identified disabilities	Developmental delay
	Behavioral or emotional problem	

Early Development Network: Free early childhood intervention support is available across Nebraska. Call toll free: 1-888-806-6287.

Family Involvement Section

**All families are unique and will be treated with respect and dignity.
Strict confidentiality will be maintained to ensure the privacy of each family.**

Parent Engagement

- Parents are given opportunities to volunteer. The options include Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council (see below for more information) and the Sixpence Advisory Committee -- both of which allow you to have a voice in your child's education.
- Families work with the Family Support Advocate (FSA) to develop individualized Family Partnership Agreements based on each family's strengths and goals.
- Parent Groups are available that offer workshops on various topics throughout the year. Meetings are initially organized by the Home Visitor or FSA. These meetings are designed to be educational as well as

provide opportunities for social interaction. Parents will also be given an opportunity to advise staff in developing and implementing local program policies, activities, and services to ensure they meet the needs of children and families. Parents involved with the parent events/parent committee will elect a representative/liaison to the Policy Council to ensure ongoing communication between the two groups.

Parent and Child Together (PACT) Socializations (Head Start Performance Standard 1302.35(e))

Participation in PACT is encouraged for all infants, toddlers, and their families. PACT sessions provide an opportunity for children and parents to enjoy activities in a setting other than their home. Children have the opportunity to play in small groups with other children their age. Families can meet and build friendships with other families enrolled in the Birth to Three Program.

Important Facts About PACT

- PACT sessions are offered 24 times per year.
- Healthy snacks are part of the fun.
- PACT sessions provide a setting with new learning opportunities and experiences. Children experience new sights, sounds, smells, and textures.
- PACT sessions provide access to large motor play equipment, crafts, school readiness skills, and new foods.
- PACT sessions provide infants and toddlers the chance to be with other infants and toddlers and learn new skills from their friends.
- PACT sessions help infants and toddlers develop a sense of trust and confidence as they share these new experiences with their family members.
- PACT sessions offer opportunities for parents to socialize and learn new skills from one another.

Policy Council

Policy Council is a group of parents/guardians who are directly involved with the decision making process of the preschool program's planning and administration. Elections are held each year by secret ballot (one ballot per family) to obtain representation from each classroom and one from the Early Head Start program. Parents who have agreed to serve as representatives submit their names to be included in this election process. Training for members is provided throughout the school year. Meetings are held once a month (August through May) at a time most convenient to the majority of the members. The Policy Council is a federal requirement for all Head Start programs and the membership must consist of 51% parents/guardians who currently have enrolled children in the Head Start program. Parents of children enrolled in the tuition program are considered community representatives on the Policy Council.

Family Support Advocates (FSAs)

The Family Support Advocate staff will provide families with available resources for referrals or needs your family may have. All families have strengths and the FSA staff will assist all families enrolled in the Birth to Three program to develop family goals that capitalize on the family strengths. The FSA staff will be available to families on a regular basis and can also be accessed by asking the home visitor. Strict confidentiality is maintained with respect to family information. Please feel free to contact the center with requests or questions you may have at 402-296-5250.

School Social Worker

A school social worker is available to assist parents and staff with areas of concern. No appointment is necessary and a schedule will be distributed to parents/caregivers in the monthly newsletters. The school social worker is also available to assist parents and staff to understand mental health and to access mental health interventions, as needed. Information about local mental health resources are also available from Family Support Advocates, the school social worker, and home visitors.

Parent and Staff Responsibilities

The following are responsibilities for staff and parents/guardians involved in the **Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three** program. If you have questions regarding this information, please ask a staff member.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- participating in year round home visits on a weekly basis for up to 1 ½ hours
- participating in parent events such as Play'N Learn on a regular basis
- participating in the family involvement/support program which requires contacts in your home by the FSA staff and family goal setting
- ensuring that your child completes required immunizations and physical (well child checks), dental, and vision examinations
- providing copies of your child's immunization records, medical examinations and birth certificate in a timely manner
- reviewing the **Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three** Parent Handbook

Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three Staff Responsibilities:

- welcoming you, your family, and your child into the **Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three** program
- being available to parents/guardians to answer questions and to listen to concerns/comments
- understanding and following policies/procedures that address non-attendance
- working with parents/guardians to plan developmentally appropriate activities that will interest and challenge your child
- providing parents with information regarding your child's development throughout the year
- encouraging parent/guardian involvement

Verification of Information

Parents/guardians are asked to provide information about their families and their child throughout the application and enrollment process. Early Head Start/Sixpence staff members rely on this information to determine eligibility for Early Head Start, which is a federally sponsored program, and Sixpence, which is a state/private funds sponsored program. Staff members meet with parents/guardians to verify information such as income, age of child, foster care participant, etc. Parents are required to provide accurate information and sign the application to certify that the information they have provided is true and accurate. If any provided information is found to be false, participation in Early Head Start/Sixpence's programs may be terminated and the parent/guardian may be subject to legal action.

General Information Section

Birth Certificate

State law requires that a certified copy of a child's birth certificate be used when enrolling a new child in school. If your child is registering with Plattsmouth Community Schools for the first time, you may obtain this document from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which your child was born. Assistance in obtaining birth certificates may be obtained from Health Records Management, P.O. Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509-5065. There is a fee per certificate.

Please note: The document parents receive from the hospital looks like a birth certificate, but it is not a certified copy. A certified copy has the raised seal of the state of Nebraska on it and is signed by the director of vital statistics.

If a birth certificate is unavailable, other reliable proof of a student's identity may be used. These documents could include naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records, a passport, or a translation of a birth certificate from another country. The documents must be accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

Child Abuse/Neglect Reporting

When any Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood staff member or volunteer has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, or observes a child(ren) being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would result in abuse or neglect, he/she shall report such incident or cause a report to be made as soon as possible to the proper law enforcement agency or to Health and Human Services (Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 28-710; 28-711, PCSD Policy 5402). Anyone participating in good faith in these procedures shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal. Law providing privileged communication shall not apply in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline phone number for a report: **1-800-652-1999**

Closings/Inclement Weather

In the event that Plattsmouth Community School District (PCSD) is closed for the day, all Plattsmouth Early Childhood and Birth to Three programs will also be closed. The PCSD is part of a system that sends automated messages to families within the district. This system allows the district to contact parents in the event of school closings, late starts, emergencies, etc. Emergency contact numbers listed on your child's emergency card will be in the system. Text messaging is also available.

TV and radio stations will carry school closing messages as soon as any decision is made regarding school cancellation or dismissal early due to weather conditions and/or other emergencies. Announcements will be made over radio stations KFAB 1110AM, WOW 590AM, 94.1FM, and 89.7FM, and TV channels 7, 6, 3, and 42.

Please contact your home visitor or FSA with questions about your scheduled visit during inclement weather.

Complaint/Concern Procedure

When parents have a concern or complaint about the early childhood birth to three program, the following protocol should be followed:

1. Schedule a conference/meeting with the staff person most immediately or directly involved in the matter.
 - No matter the concern, address it with the person most directly involved first
 - It is appropriate to call for an appointment or to set up a time to meet with the staff person
 - When calling or setting up an appointment, it is courteous to let the person know the general nature of the concern
2. Address the concern to the Building/Program Administrator (Pam Dobrovlny at 402-296-5250) if the matter is not resolved at Step One.
 - Supervisory personnel will rarely have ready access to the information they need to be of immediate assistance and working through the issue will likely require additional time
3. Address the concern to the Superintendent if the matter is not resolved at Step Two.
 - When you believe you have taken the concern to the next level but still haven't achieved a satisfactory outcome, the Superintendent is the next person to involve
 - Keep in mind that a meeting with the Superintendent will likely require some advance planning
 - There is a specific complaint form to be used when a person has a complaint related to discrimination, harassment or retaliation on such bases in regard to employment or the programs and activities of the school district.
 - Refer to Board Policy 1200, 4003 and/or 5401 for the particulars of the complaint and grievance process.
 - The complaint form can be accessed on the PCSD website by choosing "About PCS" and then scrolling down and selecting "Board of Education". On the left hand side of the page choose the "Policies" tab, then select "1000 Community Relations." Select Policy 1200A for access to the form. Or use the following link: <https://www.pcsd.org/Page/20>
4. Address the concern to the Board of Education if the matter is not resolved at Step Three.
 - School Board members are elected to represent the interests of all parents and district residents and are available to hear the points of view of their constituents, however school board members do not have direct authority over day to day school operations and all authority is the result of official actions by a majority of the Board at meetings open to the public
 - Board members may be able to request that the Board review the specific policies that relate to the situation or propose new policies for the Board's consideration
 - Contact a Board member when a policy is being enforced that you believe results in bad consequences, when you believe a policy isn't being enforced, or when policies or procedures are not enforced fairly for all

Custody Agreements/Court Orders

If one parent has been given primary legal custody, **information about the child will not be released without the primary custodial parent's permission.** If parents have a joint custody agreement, information about the child will be released to both parents. It is a parents responsibility to submit any legal documents regarding custody or release of information to the home visitor or FSA. Once paperwork is received, program staff will comply with the court order.

Non-Discrimination on Basis of Race/Sex

It is a policy of the Plattsmouth Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, race, color, religion, marital status or national or ethnic origin in its educational programs, activities or employment policies. Inquiries regarding compliance with this policy may be directed to the Superintendent of Plattsmouth Community Schools, or to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Educational Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Parent Resource Library

There is a parent resource library located at PECC. Parents are able to check out resource materials and children's books and they can access pamphlets and brochures that address a number of issues such as toilet training, child discipline, etc. Check with personnel in the main office for assistance.

Program Fees

If fees are applicable to your program option, you will be notified. No fees will be charged for the regular preschool program for families that qualify for Early Head Start or Sixpence.

Publication of Child Pictures and Products

From time to time your child may have occasion to be photographed for the newspaper, television, the Head Start/PECC Facebook page, or PCSD Internet web pages. The news media will occasionally do stories on events occurring in school programs, presentations, and other newsworthy happenings. Teachers/home visitors may post pictures of classroom activities and field trips on PCSD Internet web pages.

Since pictures of your child are personally identifiable information, you have the opportunity to request that you child's picture not be used for the above purposes. **If you do not wish to have your child's picture or work available to the media or displayed on the Internet, please contact the main office at 402-296-5250 or your home visitor.** If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you agree to have your child's picture or work available to the media, on the Head Start/PECC Facebook page, or on the Internet should such an occasion arise.

Respect and Courtesy

It is the goal of Cass County Head Start to maintain a safe, caring, respectful environment for children, staff, and families. Unacceptable/dangerous behaviors will not be tolerated in any classroom/center, at Family Events, or anywhere children are present. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Use of abusive or offensive language, including, but not limited to harassment, threats, yelling, and profanity
- Theft or damage of property
- Physical or verbal abuse of children, staff, or other parents
- Defiance of authorities

Parents, children and staff are expected to maintain a respectful relationship with each other. Parents demonstrating any of the above unacceptable behaviors may be unable to participate in program activities. It is unacceptable for parents/family members to approach other parents/family members or children to 1010 Community Relations (Visitors)

- In addition, the administration may exercise its discretion and has the authority to direct that certain individuals who may pose a threat of harm to students or staff or who may create or have created a disruption to the educational program be prohibited from being on school grounds.

The following procedure outlines the correct way to handle a person who is inappropriately conducting themselves directly inside or outside of our classroom/center or at a Family Event.

Purpose:

To help ensure the safety of all students, teaching staff, and families while under the supervision of Head Start by outlining what to do in situations involving inappropriate adult conduct.

Procedure:

address an incident that happened at the Preschool. Parents must deal with such concerns through the Teaching Staff or Director.

- If an incident occurs, the parents/adult will be asked to leave the premises
- The parent/adult will be required to meet with the designated administrative staff person, depending on the severity of the incident, in order for the adult to participate in program activities
- If another incident occurs, the parent/adult will not be permitted in the school building and will receive a letter with the incidents.
- If any of the unacceptable behaviors continue, they will be banned from school grounds.

Sex Offender Policy

As parents, you have entrusted your child to the Head Start/PECC staff to keep them safe from harm – physically and emotionally. We take your trust very seriously and do all we can to keep children safe. As a safeguard, anyone (e.g., volunteers, parents, family members, community members, etc.), whom we are aware is a registered sex offender will not be allowed in the PECC building, on school grounds, or to participate in a PACT without prior written approval from the PSCD Superintendent of Schools. Please notify the main office if you have questions.

Student Record Data

The Plattsmouth Community Schools and the Early Childhood Programs are in compliance with HIPPA and FERPA guidelines. The HIPPA and FERPA policies are on file in the Elementary School office.

The Early Childhood Center collects and maintains records on each student in order to facilitate the instruction, guidance and educational progress of the student. The records contain information about the student and his/her education and may include but are not limited to the following types of records: identification data, attendance date, health and immunization records, records of achievement, family background data, assessment, educational plans, classroom observations and external agency reports. All books, papers, documents, reports, and records kept by the District may be retained as electronic records (BOE Policy #3560).

The records of each student are generally located in the building that he or she is attending. The persons responsible for maintenance of student records for each school building are the Home Visitors, FSAs, and the Health/Nutrition Manager.

The following persons, agencies and organizations may have restricted access to student records without proper written consent of the parent/guardian. Any other access to student records shall be only upon written consent or upon court order or legally issued subpoena.

1. School officials and teachers with legitimate educational interest
2. Representatives of state and local government when auditing and evaluating federal educational programs
3. Government officials to whom information is to be reported under state law
4. Organizations that process and evaluate standardized tests
5. Accrediting or organizations for accrediting purposes
6. Parents of dependent children, regardless of child's age

7. In connection with an emergency

Student records are reviewed when a student moves from the Early Childhood Program to the Elementary School and/or when a student transfers out of the District.

A procedure to be followed in exercising any of the rights under school policies or rules may be obtained from any building Principal or Director.

Those records not of a permanent nature are destroyed upon graduation or within three years of discontinued attendance in the district. Parents of students under the age of 18 may exercise the opportunity to review educational records of the student; to obtain copies of the records; to write a response to material in the records; to challenge the content of the record on the grounds of inappropriateness, inaccuracy, or an invasion of privacy; and to have the records explained.

The administrator of the program may release the following types of information to the public as he/she sees fit, keeping in mind the privacy of the student and the student's family: participation in officially recognized activities, dates of attendance, and awards received.

Any parent objecting to the public release of such information must sign a written form at the time of enrollment with the Early Childhood Program stating that the public does not have release of such information.

Transition

The Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three program assists families as they transition into and out of the various programs. Activities are planned throughout the year to assist families and children with these transitions.

Health Section

Child and Family Health Monitoring

Group	Health Requirements
Birth to age 3	Vision Screening – within 45 days of enrollment Hearing Screening – within 45 days of enrollment Developmental Screenings (EX: Ages & Stages & DECA, etc.) – twice a year
At 12 months of age	Lead Screening Hemoglobin Screening First Dental Exam
Birth to age 3	Documentation of well child checks are required at 2 weeks, 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 24, & 36 months. Documentation of immunizations at 2, 4, 6, 12, 15, 18, & 24 months.
Pregnant Women	A History and Physical & Pregnancy Health Appraisal and CCEHS Health & Nutrition Questionnaire for Pregnant Women filled out by physician.

Illness Policy

In order to ensure the safety and health of your family and children and our staff, we require that the family should notify the home visitor as soon as possible to re-schedule the home visit if any family members have any of the following conditions:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees or above
- Rash (if accompanied by a fever)
- Strep throat or the flu (unless on antibiotic for at least 24 hours)
- Live head lice (nits do not require exclusion)
- Severe or harsh cough accompanied by other symptoms such as fever, excessive fussing, and general discomfort
- Two or more episodes of diarrhea
- One or more episodes of vomiting (not associated with meal time)
- Red eyes with discharge
- Yellow eyes or jaundiced skin (requires immediate care)
- Impetigo, ringworm (if not able to cover)

Home visitors will plan to re-schedule your home visit if they are experiencing any of the above conditions in order to keep your family safe and healthy.

LOCATIONS AND TIMES OF AREA IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

SARPY/CASS COUNTY IMMUNIZATION CLINIC (P. (402) 593-3222 F. (402) 593-3034)

Free clinic – Donations Accepted

Eligible* children 0-18 years of age

*An eligible child is enrolled in Medicaid, uninsured, underinsured (has health insurance, but vaccines are not covered), or an American Indian/Alaskan Native.

Request an appointment online!

Please visit: <https://www.chihealth.com/en/location-search/midlands/immunization-clinic/immunization-clinic-appt.html>

PAPILLION – Midlands Medical Building One Phone – (402) 593-3222

First Thursday of the month from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Second and Fourth Thursdays from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

11109 South 84th Street, 5th Floor Suite 5800

Papillion, NE 68046

AREA HEALTH CARE SERVICES:

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services: www.accessnebraska.ne.gov

Provides medical insurance benefits to residents of Cass County who are income eligible or have Medicaid

Cass Family Medicine

Provides sliding scale payment options for those uninsured or underinsured

122 S 6th Street

Plattsmouth, NE 68048

(402) 296-2345

WIC Clinic

Herold Hall (next to St. Luke's Episcopal Church)

3rd Street & Avenue A

Plattsmouth, NE 68048

(402) 335-2988 or 877-691-8381

First and Third Mondays By Appointment Only

(8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m)

Sarpy/Cass Health Department

701 Olson Drive, Suite 101

Papillion, NE 68046

(402) 339-4334

Toll Free: 800-645-0134

Fax: (402) 339-4235

After hours health emergencies: (402) 506-1553

Sarpycasshealthdepartment.org

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	<p>4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine</p> <p>3 doses of Polio vaccine</p> <p>3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age</p> <p>3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine</p> <p>1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age</p> <p>1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted.</p> <p>4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age</p>
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 st Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	<p>3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday</p> <p>3 doses of Polio vaccine</p> <p>3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age</p> <p>2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month</p> <p>2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.</p>
Students entering 7 th grade	<p>Must be current with the above vaccinations</p> <p>AND receive</p> <p>1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)</p>
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	<p>Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.</p>

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. . For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: http://dbhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_t173.aspx (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)
 Updated 01/26/2018

AREA HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Dentistry

Louisville Family Dental
229 Main Street
Louisville, NE 68037
402-234-3000

Weeping Water Dental
105 West Eldora
Weeping Water, NE 68463
402-267-2325

McKnight Family Dental
2302 W 8th Ave Suite 2
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-2818

Capehart Family Dentistry
2110 Towne Centre Dr
Bellevue, NE 68123
402-885-8990

Main Street Family Dental and Orthodontics
619 Main St
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-2188

OneWorld Dental
*sliding scale options available
Omaha
4920 S. 30th Street, 3rd Floor
Omaha, NE 68107
402-932-7204

Bellevue
2207 Georgia Ave
Bellevue, NE 68005
402-502-8855

Optometry - Eye Clinic

Dr. John Bateman
Dr. Andrea Carda
2380 W 8th Ave, Suite 4
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-2200

Physicians/Pediatricians

Methodist Physician's Clinic
203 Main St
Louisville, NE 68037
402-234-2500

Children's Physicians
1938 E Highway 34
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-955-7150

UNMC Physicians
1938 E Highway 34
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-6009

Cass Family Medicine/OneWorld
Plattsmouth
122 South 6th St
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-2345

Weeping Water Medical Clinic
204 North Randolph St
Weeping Water, NE 68463
402-267-5330

Applicable Board of Education Policies/Procedures

All Board of Education policies can be accessed at the following link, <https://www.pcsd.org/Page/19> , or they can be found by going to the Plattsmouth Community Schools website (www.pcsd.org) and clicking on *About PCS*, scroll down and select *Board of Education* and then *Policies*. All of the most current policy updates can be found online.

POLICIES

1000 Community Relations

- 1120 Tobacco Policy
- 1200 Anti-discrimination

2000 Administration

3000 Business Operations

4000 Personnel

5000 Students

- 5104 Drug and Substance Use and Prevention
- 5202 Student Records
- 5306 Safe Pupil Transportation
- 5401 Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy
- 5410 Students with Disabilities
- 5417 Homeless Students Policy
- 5421 Student Privacy Protection

6000 Instruction

- 6286 Return to Learn From Cancer
- 6370 Multicultural Education
- 6500 Free and Reduced Price Meals

7000 New Construction

8000 Internal Board Policies

9000 By-laws of the Board