

Home School and Serving School for Preschool for All and other 3-5 yr. olds

General SIS Definition for Home School

The elementary, middle/junior, or high school that a student attends or would attend if not placed/transferred to another school/program to receive needed services.

General SIS Definition for Serving School

School or program where the student is being educated.

The above definition for home school were developed for grades K-12 and are based on the rules/laws governing residency as determined by public school and public school district boundaries; i.e., students', in grades K-12, home schools are determined by the residency of the student within those boundaries.

Preschool for All/Pre-K/Headstart Determinations of Student's Home School for Enrollment of SIS

For children 3-5 years old attending either a district's local pre-k program (maybe a tuition program), state pre-k programs such as Preschool for All, a Headstart program with a school district as the Headstart grantee, early childhood special education classrooms, or receiving itinerant special education services (such as speech only services) the above general definitions often are not adequate. They are different for a myriad of reasons:

- 1) the Preschool for All (PFA) pre-k programs don't have/recognize public school district or school boundaries. This is because PFA is not a mandated program and PFA students cannot be counted for General State Aid calculations. PFA is intended to serve the most at risk students in communities and if a PFA program has space/funding to serve children outside of the district's legal boundaries, they are encouraged to do so.
- 2) Preschool for All programs also include entities other than public school districts. Regional Offices of Education, not –for-profit agencies and organizations, for –profit child care centers, and Higher Education entities are all PFA grantees and administer the program.
- 3) Preschool for All programs may also be grants that have joint agreements, with one entity being the fiscal agent for the grant, but several entities having PFA classroom sites.
- 4) Some school districts also have their own Headstart grants which they administer. These programs may operate in conjunction with a district's PFA program or with a PFA that is not the district's program.
- 5) Some students may have IEP's that are developed and implemented by a school district, but they may attend a PFA classroom somewhere other than the district or in a school that didn't develop the IEP.

As there are several different scenarios that arise with 3-5 year olds and the various programs and entities that serve them, we have developed some additional SIS business rules that apply. In developing these rules we tried to ensure that we didn't adversely affect any funding criteria or data collections. The Early Childhood Division and the Division of Special Education collaborated on the

development of the rules. We've listed below all of the situations that we are aware of and their respective SIS enrollment rules.

1. A child who is a legal resident of a public school and district, has an IEP through them, and attends a PFA classroom that is not in his home school. To enroll that child in SIS, the legal home school will always be the SIS home school and the SIS serving school will be wherever the child attends the PFA program. (This may be another school within the district or it may be a school outside of the district or a child care that has the PFA program.)
2. A child who is a legal resident of a public school and district, has an IEP through them and does not attend any PFA program/classroom, but attends an early childhood special education classroom in the school that issued the IEP. The SIS home school and SIS serving school are the same, the child's legal home school that issued the IEP.
3. A child who is a legal resident of a public school and district, has an IEP and doesn't attend any classes/programs but receives itinerant Special Education services (ex. Speech Therapy only) through that same school/district. The SIS home school and SIS serving school are the same, the child's legal home school that issued the IEP.
4. A child who is a legal resident of a public school and district, has an IEP through them, and attends an Early Childhood Special Education classroom or receives Special Ed services from different school, district or entity. The SIS home school is the school that has developed the IEP and the SIS serving school is where the child is receiving services.
5. A child who is a legal resident of a public school and district, has an IEP through them and attends a Head Start program that is a public school district Head Start program (the district has its own Head Start grant) and also attends a partial day Early Childhood Special Education classroom or receives Special Ed services (from anywhere). The SIS home school is the school that has developed the IEP and the SIS school is the public school district's Head Start classroom. (This only applies to Head Start programs that are public school district Head Start Grantees. Otherwise the SIS home school and SIS serving school are the school that developed the IEP.
6. In general, the rules for enrolling children with IEP's are that the public school that has issued/developed the child's IEP is ALWAYS the SIS home school with SIS serving school adhering to the following priority. If the child also attends PFA, that entity is always the SIS serving school (even though the child may also be attending an Early Childhood Special Ed classroom or Head Start.) This is because Special Ed program and enrollment information is also recorded in separate systems, but SIS is the only collection method for Preschool for All enrollments.
7. A child who is a legal resident of a public school and district, does not have an IEP, and attends PFA classes there at his home school. To enroll that child in SIS, that school will be the SIS home school and the SIS serving school.
8. A child who is a legal resident of a public school and district, who doesn't have an IEP, and attends PFA classes at an entity that has a PFA grant but is not a public school district. To enroll that child in SIS, that entity will be the SIS home school and the SIS serving school. Ex. Susie attends a PFA classroom at Child Care Center A. Child Care Center A has a PFA grant and administers the program there in the center.

9. Preschool for All – Early Childhood Joint Agreements. School Districts. This is where a group of districts have a formal agreement to apply, receive and administer the Preschool for All program. One district serves as the fiscal agent for the grant for all of the other districts. To ensure that all public schools are able to enroll the children who are attending the PFA classrooms in their schools, every district that is a member of the joint agreement and has a PFA classroom in their school(s) will be both the SIS home and SIS serving school for those students. (The only exception is for students with IEP's and then the rule #1. above applies.)
10. Preschool for All Early Childhood Joint Agreements -Regional Offices of Education (ROE's). An ROE may form a joint agreement with school districts, not-for-profits or others to apply, receive and administer the Preschool for All program. In this instance, school districts that have PFA classrooms in a school will be the SIS home school and SIS serving school for those students. Not-for profits and child care centers joint agreement members that have the PFA classrooms located in them will have an E Category RCDTS code assigned to them and they will then be the SIS home and SIS serving school for those students. . (The only exception is for students with IEP's and then the rule #1. above applies.) Please contact the EC Division to acquire the Category E code.
11. Preschool for All grantees that rent spaces for PFA classrooms. These classroom sites will be assigned an E Category code and will be the SIS home and SIS serving school for these classroom sites.

Some programs have expressed concern that when their joint agreement members are the home and serving schools for a classroom that the enrollment reports won't be 'credited' to the fiscal agent of the joint agreement. The Early Childhood division has built a data table that includes all of the joint agreement members that the fiscal agent has listed in their eGrant so that in our enrollment reports that we review all of the member district/entity enrollments roll up to the fiscal agent. We also run the enrollment reports by both home and serving so that we capture enrollments that may only be indicated as PFA under the serving school.