



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: Establishing Guiding Principles

BACKGROUND: A set of guiding principles have been drafted for the Task Force's review and consideration as they move forward with developing recommendations for the Board. The purpose of establishing guiding principles is to have a framework for which to guide decisions and outcomes of the work of the Task Force.

Regional Boundary Task Force Draft Guiding Principles for Decision Making

Background

The original Regional boundaries were established in 2007 based on the following criteria that boundaries would reflect:

- Where families access services (this criteria was intended as a means to define the planning area, not as a restriction as to where families could access services);
- Alignment with existing boundaries or service areas of organizations providing early childhood services;
- The ability to maximize collaboration with service systems, regions and local governments; and
- Availability of demographic and other information.

Proposed Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles are proposed for the Task Force's consideration as they move forward with developing recommendations for the Board. The purpose of establishing guiding principles is to have a framework for which to guide our decisions and outcomes of the work of the Task Force so that decisions are grounded in moving the work of First Things First and the regional councils forward, are transparent and cannot be viewed as arbitrary.

Recommendations brought forward by the Task Force will have an opportunity for public review and comment. Furthermore, any recommendations that include changes to regional boundaries will include a set of steps for ensuring open communication, transparency and joint planning by the FTF Board and regional council leadership for transition planning.

As a Task Force appointed by the FTF Board we will propose regional boundary recommendations that do the following:

- Maintain or increase access to services;
- Promote scale of services and programming throughout a geographic region;
- Strengthen leadership capacity and infrastructure to create and sustain a high-quality service system;
- Recognize the uniqueness and diversity of individual communities that make up a region and that regional council representation across a geographic boundary can be achieved;
- Maximize and leverage resources resulting in efficiencies in creating and strengthening the service delivery system, thus reducing redundancies and duplication;
- Minimize disruption of service delivery for any regional boundary changes that are proposed.