

Participant Eligibility

To be eligible for Even Start, a family must have at least one eligible parent and one eligible child, as described below, participating together.

Parent:

Parent must be the "parent" of an eligible child (birth through age 7), and qualify under (1) or (2) described below.

- (1) Eligible for participation in adult basic education program under the Adult Education Act. This means the parent must meet the following requirements.
 - A. They are not enrolled in a secondary school.
 - B. They lack sufficient mastery of basic educational skills to enable them to function effectively in society or do not have a certification of graduation from a school providing secondary education and have not achieved an equivalent level of education.
 - C. They are not currently required to be enrolled in school; and
 - D. Their lack of mastery of basic skills results in an inability to speak, read, or write the English language which constitutes a substantial impairment of their ability to get or retain employment.
- (2) Within the State's compulsory school attendance age range. (The parent is required by state law to be enrolled in school because of his/her age.)

Children:

Children at birth through age seven are eligible to participate in Even Start if their parent or parents are eligible.

Families:

Families enrolled in Even Start must participate in all of the program components.

- Parents participate in adult basic skills and/or English as a Second Language and parent education;
- Children participate in early childhood education; and
- Parent(s) and children together participate in parent and child together time (PACT).