

Department: Mental Health	Approval Date: 2/2023	Policy Number: 2600
Regulation Number: 1302.33 1302.45 1302.46	Regulation Topic: Child Mental Health	Policy Title: Required Devereaux Early Childhood Assessments

Policy:

All MARC Head Start direct service providers will use Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) to obtain social and emotional information on children. DECA is a standardized screening and assessment tool used to identify the social and emotional strengths and needs of a child.

- Direct service providers will ensure that each child’s parent or guardian completes a DECA within 45 calendar days of when the child first attends the program or, for the home-based program option, receives a home visit.
- Educators will complete both a pre and post DECA assessment. Pre-assessment will be completed after the teacher or home-based staff has known the child for at least four weeks. Post-assessment will be completed during the months of March or April.
- Parent- or guardian-completed DECA’s will be documented in ChildPlus as the completed social and emotional screening.
- Both parent- and educator-completed DECA’s will be entered in E-DECA, the online system for entering social and emotional screenings and assessments.
- Direct service providers will run E-DECA reports for both pre- and post-assessment, and analyze the data to inform continuous program improvement planning.

Adherence to the above regulations and this policy is subject to random monitoring by MARC Head Start staff.

Effective Date: July 1, 2023