



IHSA Advisor:

Reflections & Connections

JULY 2016

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Updates from IHSA Executive Director, Lauri Morrison-Frichtl

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a successful 2016-17 school year. The 2016-17 program year promises to be full of new opportunities and with that come renewed possibilities. As you are aware, new Head Start Performance standards are expected to be released soon, late summer or early fall this year. The new standards are intended to improve services to children and families by removing burdensome requirements and at the same time allow for increased local innovation and flexibility.



Recently I heard Dr. Blanca Enriquez, Director of the Office of Head Start, speak and she said, "2016 is a new year for Head Start and full of opportunity". She best summed up the new year as an opportunity to: Reinvent - Rebuild - Reinvest. She also commented that we need to understand the new early childhood education landscape. Indicating it includes two basic elements, age and program type/funding source. She shared the following strategies encouraging Head Start/Early Head Start to take the leadership in each of our states. These strategies include:

- Leverage funding
- Align standards
- Support a qualified workforce
- Coordinate data and communication systems
- Develop strong collaborative partnerships

What about the FY17 Budget? We are waiting for more details to shake out in the next two to three weeks - namely what the Hill decides to do with extending funding and how the Standards will impact our FY 17 funding ask. We are working closely with NHSA on this and will keep you posted.

Other things that have happened since July:

IHSA Associate Head Start Collaboration Director, Shauna Ejeh, resigned and is moving on to take the Executive Director position with Baby Talk. IHSA has decided to move this position to contractual work with IHSA as this gives us more flexibility in these uncertain times. A Request for Proposal was shared last week and can be found on the IHSA website, www.ilheadstart.org or right below my article in the next box on the IHSAdvisor.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

RFP for IHSA Associate Head Start Collaboration Director / Due Friday

The Illinois Head Start Association (IHSA) is seeking a contractual position (s) to serve in the role as the Associate Collaboration Director who assists in the planning, development, and implementation of the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) activities.

[Request for Proposal](#)

Blog by Yasmina Vinci: Building Bridges with Head Start



August 8, 2016

Despite the pessimism in today's media and political discourse about the future ad potential of this country, the opportunity for real and impactful change does exist in today's America.

[SEE ENTIRE BLOG HERE](#)

Early childhood education gets push from \$1 billion federal investment

August 1, 2016

by Joe Helm via The Washington Post

Early education across the United States is a mishmash of day care, Head Start and preschool programs with a wide range of quality and effectiveness. But a federally sponsored program in 20 states has been effective at giving those states a way to assess and quantify early-childhood education options and make that information available to parents, educators and legislators, according to a study the U.S. Education Department plans to release Monday.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

Children with disabilities benefit from Head Start, study says

August 5, 2016

by Stephen Feller via UPI

Head Start early education programs were found in a recent study to have an especially good effect for children with disabilities, researchers in Michigan report. Disabled children enrolled in federal Head Start early school programs fare better on tests of literacy, math and reading than those not in the programs, and are more likely to have their disabilities verified by a doctor, according to a study by Michigan State University.

The Head Start programs, funded by the U.S. federal government and administered by individual states, are designed to improve children's readiness for kindergarten based on family income. The programs also help connect parents to poverty- and healthcare-related social services, which have also been shown to benefit children.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

David Sarasohn: Hobbled by scoring directive, Head Start gets a smart bipartisan push (opinion)

August 6, 2016

by David Sarasohn

In the middle of what may be the country's most bitterly divided July since Gettysburg, Jeff Merkley actually wrote the Obama administration a bipartisan letter. The Oregon Democratic senator joined with Republican colleague Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and their letter drew signatures from 17 other senators - 12 Democrats, four Republicans and one independent, which in our current political atmosphere makes this practically a spiritual moment.

And the letter even made sense.

In a recent policy change, the feds have ruled that any Head Start program scoring in the bottom 10 percent in any of three areas has to re-compete for its authorization. This turns the evaluation process into a game of musical chairs - except that, since nobody knows where the bottom 10 percent line will be, nobody knows how many chairs there are. And it sends programs into months of uncertainty and distraction before 83 percent of them get reauthorized anyway. Even if your goal is to make sure that 4-year-olds don't get too comfortable, CLASS - the Classroom Assessment Scoring System - seems like a clumsy approach.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Is Head Start a Failure?

August 9, 2016

by Lillian Mongeau via The Hechinger Report

Fifty-one years ago this summer, former President Lyndon B. Johnson announced the launch of Head Start in the White House Rose Garden.

"Five and six year old children are inheritors of poverty's curse and not its creators," Johnson told his audience as he explained that the federal government would be, for the first time, funding education and health services for children living in poverty in the form of a public preschool program. That first summer, according to a press release from the time, the program was to serve 530,000 children in 11,000 centers at a cost of \$112 million, or \$857 million in today's dollars.

This story also appeared in The Atlantic

"This program this year means that 30 million man-years - the combined life span of these youngsters - will be spent productively and rewardingly, rather than wasted in tax-supported institutions or in welfare-supported lethargy," Johnson promised. But has that come to pass? No rigorous research project followed the children Johnson was talking about to determine whether now, in their mid-fifties, the 1965 Head Start graduates are living the productive and rewarding lives predicted for them. Critics charge that Head Start is a big federal program spending billions of tax dollars on a pipe dream - that the effects of being born into poverty can be averted for a lifetime with a few hours a day spent in a classroom at age 4. On the other hand, its champions argue that everything Johnson predicted is still possible, if only we give the program the resources it needs to succeed.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Study: Benefits of high-quality Head Start last into middle school

August 11, 2016

by Greg Toppo via USA Today

A new review of Head Start by researchers at Georgetown University finds that, done well, the federal preschool program can have positive academic effects that last nearly a decade.

The new findings stand in contrast to a handful of recent studies of Head Start that suggest its effects wear off fairly quickly.

While a few studies have shown long-term positive impacts on factors such as grade repetition, high school graduation, college attendance and adult earnings, others have been less promising. Those include a federally sponsored 2010 review that found advantages for graduates of the program in just a few key

outcomes by the end of first grade.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

U.S. Rep. Tom Cole: Early childhood education crucial to building America's future



August 12, 2016

by U.S. Rep. Tom Cole

Childhood is a precious gift. It's a time of constant growth, and every child's potential is limitless. Unfortunately, there are many children in underserved communities across the country, where they face an increased risk of that potential being cut short by limited opportunities. Early childhood education is essential for success later in life, and every state needs solid resources to reinforce the benefits of schooling. I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Save the Children Action Network's President Mark Shriver and was reminded of just how important the collaboration between public, private, federal and local entities is when advocating for our most vulnerable youth.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

New Studies Underscore The Head Start Advantage

August 19, 2016

By Lauren Bauer and Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach

A growing body of rigorous evidence suggests that policy interventions aimed at early childhood bear fruit for decades. For example, reductions in air pollution in the first year of life and more experienced kindergarten teachers are associated with increases in later earnings, while childhood access to food stamps and Medicaid causes better health in adulthood. Across many studies of several programs, preschool attendance among disadvantaged children has been found to positively impact participants. Research has demonstrated strong long-term impacts of random assignment to high-quality preschool programs from the 1960s and 1970s, including Perry Preschool and the Abecedarian program. Head Start, the large-scale federal preschool program, has also been shown to improve post-preschool outcomes, including high school completion and health outcomes. In this Economic Analysis, we investigate the impact of Head Start on a new set of long-term outcomes, extending landmark analyses further into adulthood and considering the effect of Head Start on participants' children.ⁱ Among the key takeaways of the analysis are:

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

How free preschool may help poor kids when they become parents

August 24, 2016

by Emily Badger via The Washington Post

The first children of Head Start are old enough now to have children of their own. They've moved through high school - if they were able to get that far - and some much farther than that. They've entered the workforce and formed their own families. That means it's increasingly possible to track the long-term effects of a federal program, created in the mid-1960s, that sought to give 3- and 4-year-olds from struggling families an early lift out of poverty.

A new analysis from the Hamilton Project suggests that their lives today are measurably better in some important ways than those of poor children who never enrolled in the program. Their chances of finishing high school, attending college and earning postsecondary degrees or certificates were higher.

As adults, blacks in particular rated better on indicators of noncognitive skills such as planning and problem-solving. And as parents, the children of Head Start appear to invest more in their own children, suggesting that years after the government's initial investment, the program could indirectly touch a second generation.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Emanuel Announces Expansion to Early Childhood Education

August 29, 2016

By NBC Chicago

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced a new online enrollment system Monday that looks to improve access and enrollment to early childhood programming provided by Chicago Public Schools and other city-administered, community-based sites throughout the city.

"The single most important investment we can make in our future is in the children of Chicago and their education," Emanuel said in a statement. "Every child in every neighborhood deserves a quality education and that must begin in their critical earliest years."

"The new tool will help our families to more easily enroll their child in a quality program, and most importantly, will ensure that both pre-kindergarten programming and kindergarten readiness are truly an option for every child," the mayor added. The plan includes an additional 1,000 full day pre-kindergarten opportunities for families of four-year-olds starting this fall. Under Mayor Emanuel, these sorts of full-day opportunities have expanded by 60 percent. The new online enrollment system allows parents to choose from the more than 35,000 opportunities in over 600 schools and community-based program sites throughout the city. The new centralized system launched in May.

First Lady of Illinois Diana Rauner joined Emanuel at a press conference Monday announcing the early childhood expansion. Rauner is the president of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, an early childhood education nonprofit.

"Our children's early years are critical in setting a foundation for a lifetime of success in school and in life," Rauner said in a statement. "This is why we stand committed with Chicago and our partners statewide in building quality early learning opportunities that will ensure that all children are equipped to learn and thrive early on and when they enter kindergarten."

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Studies on Head Start Bolster Arguments for Long-Term Impact

August 30, 2016

By Christina A. Samuels

Almost since Head Start's creation half a century ago as part of the War on Poverty, advocates have sought a research-based answer to this question: Does it work?

Two new studies examining the long-term impact of the \$8.6 billion federal preschool program offer support to those who say the answer is yes.

Those studies—one of which took a look at Head Start participants in middle school and another that examined life outcomes at adulthood—say that Head Start has measurable long-term benefits for certain outcomes. Those include higher levels of high school and college completion found in one study, and lower levels of chronic absenteeism and grade retention found in another.

Whether Head Start can work "is an antiquated question at this point," said Deborah Phillips, a professor of psychology at Georgetown University and the co-author of a study that looked at middle school outcomes for children who took part in a Head Start program in Tulsa, Okla.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Check This Out!

Illinois Head Start Association is now offering
**YOU.....ONLINE Illinois Approved FOOD
HANDLER TRAINING and FOOD SAFETY
MANAGER CERTIFICATION TRAINING** at
SPECIAL PRICING only for Illinois Head Start
members!

[**CHECK THIS OUT!!!**](#)

Food Safety Manager Certification Training:

This Enhanced e-Learning course has been accepted for Professional Food Managers Certification training by most of the nation's regulatory agencies.

[Learn more here](#)

Food Handler Training

The State of Illinois requires an ANSI-accredited food handler card. The TAP Series Food Handler card is from an ANSI-accredited program, carries the ANSI logo, and is accepted by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

[Learn more here](#)

Check out our

UPCOMING TRAININGS

FEATURED BELOW



2016 - 2017 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PLAN

DATES-AT-A-GLANCE



IHSA Annual Conference and Parent Institute
February 1 - 3, 2017
Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Normal Illinois

Current Job Openings

JOB OPENINGS

NEW POSITIONS

- [Chicago, IL - Educare - EHS Assistant Teacher](#)
- [Chicago, IL - Educare - Teacher](#)
- [Kankakee, IL - CCR&R - Education Manager](#)
- [Kankakee, IL - CCR&R - Early Head Start ERSEA/Data Base Manager](#)
- [Kankakee, IL - CCR&R - Family Support Specialist Lead](#)

OPEN POSITIONS FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

- [EI Valor - CFO](#)
- [Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council - Sparta Teacher Assistant](#)
- [Chicago, IL - Korean American Community Services Early Childhood](#)

Meet the IHSA Board of Directors!



\$2 Per Child Campaign Head Start Works in Illinois!

The IL Head Start Association & the National Head Start Association support IL Head Start programs and their work by advocating on the state and national level. We need local agencies to support advocacy efforts through a local level \$2 Per Child Campaign. \$1 will be sent to NHSA and \$1 will stay in Illinois for the local association's work.

YOUR ILLINOIS \$\$ @ WORK!

- * Advocacy Visits to State & Federal Legislators
- * Parent Ambassador Support
- * Ensuring Head Start has a voice in state level discussions about issues that affect us.

Local Campaign Ideas for HS Parents, Alumni & Volunteers

Spare Change Drive
Silent Auction
Bake Sale
Raffles of Donated Items
Car Wash
Decorate Your Classroom Door Contest (\$1 per vote)
Pie in the Face (pay per vote to see your favorite manager take a pie)
Chili Cook Off Contest (pay to taste & vote)
Pay to PJ (staff pay to wear pjs to work)

Grand Opening
of our new website!

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK IT OUT!



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