



# IHSA Advisor:

## Reflections & Connections

JULY 2016

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Life is never dull in Head Start. Just when you think you have it figured out the ground shifts underneath. Shift Happens! And we have big shifts coming!



The biggest change we have seen in years is coming! OHS has said the New Performance Standards will be here by the start of the program year. When the standards come out, they are it. Nothing from the old standards will apply any more. We will be held responsible for what is in the document. So, as we begin the new school year we will have lots to think about. IHSA is planning a think tank discussion meeting in October. OHS will roll out training but we know from previous experiences that we will need to talk among our community to share, network, discuss what the changes mean and unpack them together.

The Illinois General Assembly passed a bipartisan budget and it included full FY2017 funding for education. The budget also included funding for human services, other state programs and operations for all of FY2016 and the first half of FY2017 (through December 2016).

What's in the budget?

The agreement includes:

- A significant \$79 million increase to the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), restoring the ECBG to just over its historically high funding level in FY2009
- Appropriations for federal early childhood funds, including home visiting funding, Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge and child care funds needed to continue payment to child care centers and for Child Care Resource and Referral operations
- Funding for Department of Human Services grant-funded programs, including home visiting (funded through Healthy Families and Parents Too Soon) at 65% of the amount they would normally have received over the 18-month period for services in FY2016 and FY 2017
- Funding for other previously unfunded programs such as Teen Reach, Children's Place and autism services at the 65% funding level

Early Intervention and family child care are not included in this budget but will continue through court orders and consent decrees.

**But, Illinois is entering its second fiscal year without a fully funded, comprehensive budget.**

[CONTINUE READING](#)

July Tidbits

**DCFS-HS/EHS Intergovernmental Agreement Effective July 1, 2016-June 30, 2019 found here:**

The Intergovernmental Agreement that that applies to all Illinois Head Start/Early Head Start program can be found at this [LINK](#). Please review the document and share with all staff that work with children and families. If you have any questions or need to be added to the email list for the quarterly DCFS/POS/HS regional meetings, please



contact Shauna at [sejeh@ilheadstart.org](mailto:sejeh@ilheadstart.org).

### **Child Care**

DHS has indicated that the Child Care Assistance Program will be returning to their roots as a work support for parents. This means that to remain eligible, student-parents will need to work or go to school over the summer months to be grandfathered in. Full-time student-parents will not be eligible if they have to reapply for benefits as new applicants in the fall.

Child care providers should be paid for services in FY16. DHS has been able to make payments to providers however, the department will need a new budget to spend money for FY17; as it is a new contracting year.

DHS has also addressed the recent notices to providers on the new attendance documentation policy and the billing process. A decision was made to hold back on this process until August as they are trying to implement a strengthened policy and are currently taking feedback under consideration. Since providers expressed concern about payments being delayed and the volume of records having to be kept under this new policy. DHS is now indicating that child care providers can use their current attendance system and simply keep the documentation on file so it can be presented when requested by DHS. This is in an effort to not place an undue burden on providers that currently have attendance system in place and to avoid any duplication of efforts.

### **Home Visitors Save the Date!**

The 22nd Annual Prevent Child Abuse Illinois Statewide Conference will be held October 19-21, 2016, at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre Hotel in Springfield, IL. This conference provides training for all home visitors in the state of Illinois. E/HS home visitors are invited to participate and are also eligible for scholarships to help offset travel costs. Registration information will be available next month.

### **ExceleRate**

HSSCO is working with OECD to encourage all directly operated E/HS sites to participate in ExceleRate and to get the process moving as soon as possible to take advantage of the RTTT funding being used for assessments before it runs out. Contact the HSSCO office as soon as possible if you would like to participate so site classroom assessments can be scheduled in the fall.

### **The National Academies of Medicine released a new consensus study:**

**Parenting Matters: Supporting Parents of Children Ages 0-8.** The study, conducted by an ad hoc committee of experts, tasked with examining the state of the research on parenting and family engagement - including parental knowledge, attitudes, and practices that support healthy child development- and with providing a robust set of policy recommendations and future research directions to help move this work forward. It was funded by public and private sector partners including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including the Administration for Children and Families. A link to a brief summary of the report can be found [HERE](#).

### **IDPH Zika Virus briefing for Community Partners**

The Illinois Department of Public Health will be providing a webinar briefing on the Zika Virus for community partners on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 from 10-11:00 a.m. Please see this [LINK](#) for more information.

Blog by Yasmina Vinci: Head Start: Paving the Way for Continued Education

July 22, 2016



In a recent New York Times article, Jamie Merisotis and Anne-Marie Slaughter wrote about "College Kids, With Kids," describing how finding affordable, high-quality early care and education can be an insurmountable barrier for parents who are trying to achieve their higher education goals and provide for their families. In many communities, Head Start has long been part of the solution to this challenge. Family-focused, two-generation programs and partnerships exist in Head Start settings across the country, customized based on the needs of each community.

In New York City, the Educational Alliance operates a comprehensive two-generation Head Start program for low-income families, focused on educational attainment and economic stability. Since 2011, The Educational Alliance's College Access and Success program, developed in partnership with the City University of New York, has provided hundreds of parents with the vital services they need to continue their education while supporting their children's learning and development. In 2015, NHSA highlighted the Educational Alliance and five other bright spots of two-generation programming in action in Head Start across the country with our Two Generations Together Project. Taken together, those six programs highlight the varied ways that Head Start programs have designed two-generation efforts to meet the needs of communities from the Lower East Side of New York to the Mississippi Delta.

[SEE ENTIRE BLOG HERE](#)

## Investment in Early Childhood Development Makes Good Business Sense

June 30, 2016

by Global Business Coalition for Education

\* Any views expressed in this article are those of the author and not of Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Investment in Early Childhood Development makes good business sense, says Global Business Coalition for Education

A new report published today by the Global Business Coalition for Education reveals that investment in early childhood programmes offer the highest returns on investments and are more successful and cost-effective than later interventions.

Currently early childhood development (ECD) programs in the poorest countries around the world are seriously underfunded and under-prioritized by international donors, country governments, and private philanthropy. Investing in early years is an opportunity for businesses to fill that funding gap and multiply the positive outcomes of their investments in health and education, whilst boosting economic growth.

80% of brain development is completed by age 3, so the achievement gap between advantaged and disadvantaged children shows up as early as nine months old. Quality ECD interventions give all children the chance to grow strong bodies and brains, leading to better school readiness and academic achievement.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

## SIUE Head Start Screening Better Prepares Greater East St. Louis Children

July 4, 2016

EDWARDSVILLE - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start is one of 30 partners working to ensure that Greater East St. Louis children are linked to high quality early learning programs and services that will help them succeed in school and life.

The Greater East St. Louis Early Learning Partnership & Innovation Zone is offering its second annual enrollment and developmental screening event for children and families in East St. Louis, Washington Park, Centreville and Alorton, **said G. Lynn Bailey, SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start program director.**

"Ready, Set, Enroll is a communitywide effort to connect parents, grandparents, foster parents and children to high quality early learning programs and services," said Janice Moenster, coordinator of the Greater East St. Louis Innovation Zone.

"These services are designed to support expectant parents, infants, toddlers and preschoolers "The Greater East St. Louis Innovation Zone is the entity that brings all community partners together to support the effort."

Parents from the community and partners from a variety of sectors, such as education, health, mental health, government and faith communities are engaged in Ready, Set, Enroll. Early learning partners include Child Care Centers, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Parenting for Success, More at Four YMCA, Vivian Adams and SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Head Start Programs Offer Educational Support to Low-Income Families

July 1, 2016

By Elizabeth Kamenicky

Expectant mothers and parents of infants, toddlers and young children have a chance to give their youngsters a head start in education through local programs. The College Station school district and Brazos Valley Community Action Agency are now accepting applications for their Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The federally funded programs offer preschool support and education to low-income children and their families, as well as benefits for pregnant women through home visits.

For nearly 50 years, Head Start has provided a well-rounded education to children ages 3 to 5 at eight of the district's elementary campuses, said Sharon Jackson, director of early education services in the College Station school district.

"We believe that anything that's good in early childhood is also good for a ninth-grade biology class," she said. "Our curriculum is research-based, and it has a social-emotional component as well as components in language, literacy and cognition."

Early Head Start, which was created in 1995, caters to the very young demographic and is more "adult-focused" than its older counterpart, Jackson said. Once a week, visitors come to the homes of pregnant women and children ages 3 and under to provide health screenings and give parents important information, including dental education, poison control information and medical training.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Durbin Announces More Than \$37.8 Million for Head Start & Early Head Start

July 3, 2017

by bignews.biz

**The funding, in addition to more than \$20.5 million earlier this month, total more than \$58 million for the month of June.**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) announced that the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families has awarded Illinois Head Start and Early Head Start providers grants totaling \$37,874,534 to support early education and comprehensive services for low-income children and families. The funding, in addition to more than \$20.5 million earlier this month, total more than \$58 million for the month of June.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

## How Kindergarten and Early Childhood Education is Changing

July 3, 2017

by highspringsherald.com

Education around the world is changing rapidly, and those changes are even trickling down into kindergarten and early childhood education. In the last decade or so, many casual observers have noticed that their children's kindergarten programs seem more academic than they expected, with standardized testing and even homework. A recent study by Sage Journals took a deeper look into this phenomenon, and it's left the educational community wondering - how much is too much when it comes to teaching our kids?

The concept of kindergarten began in Germany in the early 19th century with educator Friedrich Froebel, who set up his own school for young children that focused on learning through games and play instead of strict lessons. This concept was brought over to the United States when many German immigrants moved across the pond. Kindergarten evolved over the next two hundred years. Some schools treated it as an advanced daycare, while others focused on more structured lessons that taught children how to behave in a social setting and process new information. In the 1970's, kindergarten became a part of many public school curriculums, and activities and lessons became more like the kindergarten that many people are familiar with today, with short lessons on a variety of topics, as well as games and playtime.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Head Start Program Transforms Lives: Goodbye Poverty, PennState Says!

July 8, 2016

By Michael Lagura, UniversityHerald Reporter

The strong implementation of the Head Start pre-school program resulted to remarkable transformation among lives of local working parents of usually African American kids! Crystal Sanders, a head-starter representing the Department of African American Studies in the Pennsylvania State University, spells the program's utmost potential in mitigating poverty through academic opportunities.

The Head Start program had since been claimed to be one of the best-attained fruits of labor behind the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the PSU reported.

This act in 1964 was believed to be in accordance to the various federal anti-poverty programs developed by President Lyndon Johnson.

It is therefore worthy to note that during that time, the war that was being waged by

the president against poverty is surely high in arms.

Poverty had long been treated as a crippling enemy by the country.

And, the easy victims are always the black people.

In an interview, Sanders enunciates that the said program should be the answer to poverty.

But what is yet most interesting about the program is that it is strongly inclined to the academics.

The program is designed to provide comprehensive schooling services to the less endowed children, as well as secure high-waged teaching employment to black people/working Americans residing somewhere from within Mississippi to the outskirts of Pennsylvania, the Penn State Newsreported.

It is therefore deliberate of the program to focus more on the black workers and inaugurate in these states, since it is in these places that the workers conspicuously struggle with only two limited forms of livelihoods- agriculture and domestic services, the Eagle reported.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Head Start Brings Support to Migrant Farmworker Children and Their Parents

*July 12, 2016*

By Lara Burt

This article is cross-posted from New America's Family-Centered Social Policy blog.

"Getting an education is not easy for a child working in the fields, especially those from migrant farmworker families. I had several friends that came and went with their families between Michigan, Florida, Texas, and California. They all shared the same struggle: they were behind in their classes because they would spend more of their time in the fields than studying. Most of them would attend summer school with me but their attendance was terrible and so were their grades. They never caught up, but it didn't matter - soon they were on the move again. They too became another statistic - another farmworker youth who didn't finish school." - Griselda Tule-Aguirre, former child laborer and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start participant.

Last month, the newly formed Congressional Pre-K Caucus, which aims to expand early education opportunities for young children, hosted a briefing to highlight how Head Start programs serve local communities. During the presentation, four college-aged students were asked to stand up and introduce themselves. One of these students was Griselda Tule-Aguirre, a former child laborer from Michigan. What she and the other three students had in common was their former participation in the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) Program. As they stood, each participant shared a testimonial about the impact that the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program had on them and their families. They shared that the program "reassured their futures" and "made their families stronger."

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

## My Life Changed Completely When I Started Working in Early Childhood Education

July 13, 2016

by Gloria Garcia

In 1989, four years after we immigrated to the US, I was first introduced to Head Start preschool. I still remember those initial days walking my children to school each morning. Despite all of life's challenges, I could always look forward to my children's joy in anticipation of getting to school. They loved seeing their teachers, and truth be told, I loved seeing their teachers. I was inspired by these dedicated teachers who give everything to help children learn, despite all the odds stacked against them.

One day, the teachers asked me to stay for few minutes to help the children with their name tags and read to them. I was so nervous, I became red and my hands started sweating. Each day after that the teachers asked me to do a little bit more. Eventually, I was asked to join the policy committee and got more involved in how the program was run. This was all a very big deal for me. I come from a culture of submissiveness, where for years I had no voice. It was my husband's way or the highway. Suddenly, I found myself and started to recognize the power I had as a woman, and as a mother.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Building a Foundation for Children Starts in Pre-K

by Cody Summerville

Homeroom / The Official Blog of the US Department of Education

As a kindergarten teacher, I have seen that attending a high-quality pre-K program makes a significant difference in children's kindergarten success-and later success as well. This is why I am passionate that access to high-quality pre-K should not be a luxury afforded to some, but an invaluable resource offered to all.

From my experience, there are three major advantages students gain from high quality pre-K program:

They have key social skills.

In kindergarten, children constantly work in groups, whether in small teacher-led instructional groups, at activity learning "centers" or at math and phonics stations. In reading and writing workshop and most other activities, they work with partners or in small groups. This requires kids to negotiate disagreements, understand the social conventions of conversations, and balance their needs with others'. In pre-K, children have had lots of experiences like this.

They have pre math and literacy skills.

Most schools are working towards kindergarten students being able to read and solve simple addition and subtraction problems by the end of the year. If a child enters kindergarten with minimal knowledge about the alphabet or numbers, then they actually have to make more than one year's growth during their kindergarten year. While some children come with this knowledge base, high-quality pre-K helps ensure that no child starts kindergarten already behind.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Head Start, Preschool Programs Ready Kids for Future

July 15, 2016

By The Desert Sun

It's only mid-July, but Coachella Valley families with young ones should already be thinking about the coming school year.



For those with children on the cusp of beginning formal education, Palm Springs Unified is issuing the call for Head Start and State Preschool program applications. Research has shown that children who have the benefit of taking part in these programs do better in school and show better socialization skills. Palm Springs Unified says all of its elementary schools are participating except for two - Landau and Sunny Sands. Families must meet certain income requirements and children must be either 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, depending on the program. Also included are comprehensive health screenings and a nutrition program. Call (760) 416-8090 to find out more. State Preschool classes begin Aug. 11, and Head Start begins Aug. 15. Parents should take advantage of these programs to build a great foundation for the future of their children.

## A Rising Tide of Attention to the Early Childhood Workforce: Releasing the Early Childhood Career Pathway Statement

July 21, 2016

By Linda K. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Early Childhood Development (ECD) for the Administration for Children and Families

We are in the midst of a rising tide of attention to the early childhood workforce, and it's long overdue. Over the past year, we have seen many reports focusing on the importance of those working with children from birth to kindergarten, as well the professionalization of this workforce, including appropriate compensation. Last year, the Institute of Medicine released its expert consensus report, *Transforming the Workforce for Children from Birth through Age 8: A Unifying Framework*. Visit disclaimer page. That report outlined the sophisticated knowledge of child development and learning required for working with young children. It also specified a series of actions to support the competencies of early educators and a comprehensive, functioning system of professional development to promote a high-quality, well-compensated workforce across child care, Head Start, and school sponsored programs.

ACF is pleased to announce a new Policy Statement on Early Childhood Career Pathways as part of our focus on elevating the early childhood workforce in policy and practice. This policy paper focuses on lead teachers, with state and local recommendations for creating a sequence of stackable, portable credentials that reflect the sophisticated science of working with young children, combined with the supports educators need to advance their career.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Research News You Can Use: Family Engagement and Early Childhood Education

by Kyle Snow, Ph.D.

Meaningful family engagement in children's early learning supports school readiness and later academic success. Parental involvement is a critical element of high-quality early care and education. It has been mandated by the Head Start framework since Head Start's inception in 1964, built into model programs like Abecedarian, outlined in Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP), and incorporated into NAEYC standards for programs serving young children.

A pair of recent studies underscores the importance of family involvement in early education experiences. The first study looks at how frequently families engage in certain activities at home that promote readiness skills in relation to their views about several readiness skills. The second study examines family home practices

as they relate to child outcomes while enrolled in Head Start.

### **Families Expectations for Children at Kindergarten Entry Have Changed, but Their Home Practices Have Not**

The first study, released in February, 2012 by the National Institute for Early Education Research, used two waves of data (1993 and 2007) from the School Readiness Supplement to the National Household Education Survey(NHES). The NHES collects data from a nationally representative sample of families with school-age children. The School Readiness Supplement collects data specifically about young children (age 3 and 4) and their families as the children approach school age.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

### **The Influence of Low-Income Children's Participation in Head Start on their Parents' Education and Employment**

The Influence of Low-Income Children's Participation in Head Start on their Parents' Education and Employment

Author:  
Sabol, Terri J.  
Chase-Lansdale, P. Lindsay

[2015 RESULTS HERE](#)

### **Upcoming Training and Events**



### AUGUST 2016

August 4, 2016 - Vanessa Rich Leadership Experience Series Phase Three  
Catholic Charities Joliet



**IHSA Annual Conference and Parent Institute**  
**February 1 - 3, 2017**

COMING  
SOON!

2016 - 2017 IHSA Professional Development Training Packet!!

Current Job Openings

**JOB OPENINGS**

**NEW POSITIONS**

[El Valor - CFO](#)

[Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council - Sparta Teacher Assistant](#)

[Chicago, IL - Korean American Community Services Early Childhood Center - Early Childhood Teacher](#)

**OPEN POSITIONS FROM PREVIOUS MONTH**

[Childcare Network of Evanston - Head Start Director](#)

[Baby Talk - Executive Director](#)

[BCMW - Child Development & Education Services Manager](#)

Meet the IHSA Board of Directors!



Back row left to right: Terri Lawrence, Gene Howell, Antonio Brooks, Aaron Dorsey.  
Front row left to right: Donna Emmons, Denise Conkright, Alisa Newman, Sara Mixer,  
Teena Alpers, Sharon Cochran. Not pictured: Sharon Frame, Rita Conerly, Sharon  
De Berry, Dana Gardner, Aamina Iftikhar, Carolyn Jason, Tracey Kreipe, Candace  
Moore, George Davis, Kathy Fudge-White



# \$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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<http://www.ilheadstart.org>  
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Springfield, IL 62704



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