



IHSA Advisor:

Reflections & Connections

October 2016

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Updates from IHSA Executive Director, Lauri Morrison-Frichtl

Happy Halloween to All. If I could change professions, for just a day, I think I would choose to be a spy and have the ability to tap in and listen to the conversations in

Washington DC. But since this is not in my future I am going to predict what is on our horizon from reading and talking with colleagues about information coming out of DC. I want to highlight four things that I think are important to know more about. These are 1) Child Care Final Rule; 2) New Guidance on State Early Learning Advisory Councils; 3) GAO Report on Integrating Early Care and Education Funding; 4) New Guidance on Early Learning Opportunities in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). All of these, along with the new Head Start Performance Standards, are emerging at the same time. I believe it provides "clues" to what lies ahead.



A. Child Care Final Rule - On September 23, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published the final Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Rule. According to Linda Smith, "the new CCDF regulations will finally put a foundation under child care and will begin the difficult task of building an early care and education (ECE) system. Without a foundation, we cannot reasonably expect to have a real system. Although minimal, the new requirements for training, health and safety, regular monitoring, and background clearances will establish that floor on which we can build". The new rules update regulations to incorporate changes made through the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. Statutory changes focus on strengthening child care to better support the success of both parents and children. Final rule categories include -

- Protect the health and safety of children in child care
- Help parents make informed consumer choices and access information to support child development
- Support equal access to stable, high quality child care for low income children
- Enhance the quality of child care and the early childhood workforce

You can find the new regulations by visiting our CCDF reauthorization Web page at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/ccdf-reauthorization>

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Updates from Associate Head Start State Collaboration Director, Donna Emmons



DCFS-Quarterly meetings of the DCFS School Readiness staff, Head Start/Early Head Start program staff and Purchase of Service (POS) agencies were held this October, 2016. Directors, please look for notice of these meetings as we want to be sure to have HS/EHS represented. The meetings are all about how we can communicate and collaborate with our DCFS partners. They and we are serving the most vulnerable children and families in Illinois. We can help each other help our families. Look for the next quarterly meetings to be held in January, February or March. Please contact Donna Emmons at demmons@ilheadstart.org if you are not

sure which regional group you should attend.

MIECHV-The Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) in Illinois

has expanded. There has been an increase of the number of home visiting agencies from 27 to 34 programs as of July 1, 2016. This increase allows MIECHV to serve over 200 more families bringing their capacity up to 836 families. The new agencies are Children's Home and Aid Sycamore in DeKalb County; Children's Home and Aid Mid-Central Region in McLean, Piatt, DeWitt and Woodford Counties; Children's Home Association Peoria in Peoria and Tazewell Counties; Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center in East St. Louis; Aunt Martha's Kankakee in Kankakee County ; and Primo Center in Austin/North Lawndale. The new programs are fully staffed. MIECHV also has new federal benchmarks. There are 19 measures. More information can be found at <http://www.igrowillinois.org/miechv-providers/about-miechv/>.

ESSA- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on Dec. 10, 2015. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students. The new law builds on key areas of progress in recent years and ongoing efforts to improve educational opportunities for all students in Illinois.

The majority of the law does not take effect until 2017-18, with implementation occurring over the next year and a half. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is writing a plan on how the Act will be carried out in this state. This will replace No Child Left Behind. For the first time Early Childhood is listed in the Act. You may wish to take a look at the draft plan, make comments, or just keep up with the progress in Illinois. ISBE hopes to send in the Illinois plan in March, 2017. There will be at least 2 more drafts and revisions and more public comment periods. Additional information can be found at these links:

[Link to ESSA home page](#)

[Link to ESSA \(Every Student Succeeds Act\) Illinois Reader's Guide](#)

[Link to the current ESSA Draft Plan for Illinois](#)

CONTINUE READING

Will We Blame Politics For Killing Head Start? by Yasmina Vinci



October 18, 2016

Hearing the National Public Radio (NPR) segment "How Politics Killed Universal Child Care in the 1970s," and following the avid dissemination of this tragic story by my colleagues in the civil society sector, made me wonder who might, decades from now, be blamed for killing Head Start? Kill Head Start, the life advantage that some of the most disadvantaged children and families get, and over 30 million have gotten already? Who would do that?

In addition to elements and groups who have historically opposed the idea of providing opportunity to the families with most economic, racial, and developmental barriers to success, we are surprised to find that some of our colleagues in the Washington policy/advocacy civil society world are imagining that the nation's most vulnerable children and families could be better served by individual states' efforts

at universal early learning. Have they forgotten the history of why institutions in local communities (churches, schools, community action agencies, reservations, and migrant programs) were given direct grants to provide the window of opportunity to children who would have been excluded from it on the basis of their race or ethnic identity in some states? Do they not know that Mayors and County Commissioners (of both parties) rely on their Head Start programs to provide the Head Start advantage through their comprehensive whole-child, whole-family two-generation approaches?

Getting ready for a new Administration has ramped up the quest for big new ideas among many of us in Washington. And while the Head Start community nationwide explores and compares local innovations to increase attendance, improve conditions for the Head Start workforce and looks to use the flexibility in the new Performance Standards to serve their families and communities even better, many of the Washington bunch see the old idea of giving states the Head Start money in a block grant, as a shiny new idea. Everyone in the Head Start community, and leaders of their communities, know that block granting Head Start to states would kill this proven national commitment to providing the opportunity for the American Dream to our most at-risk children. Do we, for the sake of an idea - states building their own early learning systems with all different federal money streams at their disposal - dare deny to actual children in demographically and geographically unfavored areas the opportunity to be the next President of the Ford Foundation, or the CEO of the NAACP or Girl Scouts of the USA, or the US Secretary of Health and Human Services?!

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Head Start offers a step-up for kids by IHSA Parent Ambassador, Kyle Hubert

As we celebrate Head Start Awareness Month this October, I can't help but be mindful of my own son's journey with Head Start. I witness the transformative power of Head Start every day as both a parent and an advocate.

Champaign County Head Start helps families overcome major obstacles to provide a positive learning environment for their kids. My son is an example of this tremendous impact. His reading, vocabulary, critical thinking, math and problem-solving skills have all improved thanks to our local Head Start program. Head Start is critical because of the additional support the programs provide to families. I am a single dad, so when my son began attending Head Start, I wanted to be actively involved. Head Start provided me with the tools and opportunity to work hard and succeed.



Within just a few months, I became the county policy council chairman and the following year, I was elected a state ambassador for the Illinois Head Start Association. I now plan on running for election for the state board of directors in 2017.

The opportunities that Head Start offers families and their children are never-ending. So many parents continue to advocate for and support Head Start long after their kids have moved on from the program. The strength and long-lasting, positive effects of the Head Start Advantage are endless and continue to grow.

[SEE ARTICLE HERE](#)

Family boosted by Head Start now gives back through advocacy

By: Debbie Kelley
October 5, 2016

Head Start, the federal government's free preschool and parenting support program for low-income households, helped Victor Torres' family in ways he never would have thought.

He's pretty sure it saved his marriage, jump-started his kids' ability to earn prestigious scholarships to college and developed his passion to tout the program years later.

"It's not only about the kids, but it's also about the families," Torres said. "They help you with a hand up, not a hand out."

All five of his children attended Head Start, after he got out of the military and became disabled and bedridden, and his wife went to work full time.

"The curriculum created that opportunity for them to be inquisitive and imaginative," Torres said, "and set a good foundation."

Torres now heads the parent policy council of the Community Partnership for Child Development, or CPCD. He also is in his fourth year as a member of the nonprofit organization's board of directors.

CPCD administers the Head Start program for 3 and 4 year olds, the Early Head Start for children six weeks to 2 years old, and the Colorado Preschool Program. The latter is a state-funded early childhood education program for children at-risk of starting elementary school unprepared.

CPCD turns 30 next year and has stayed true to its mission of "getting everyone on the path to success," Torres said.

Two of his children are in college on full-ride Daniels Fund scholarships.

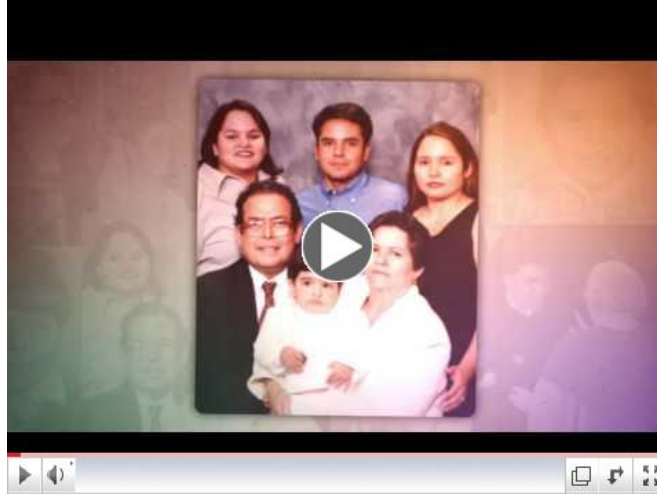
[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

October is Head Start Awareness Month! Check out these videos!

ABC News correspondent Steve Osunsami talks about his childhood and how Head Start helped him become who he is today!



America COO and Co-Founder David Medina talks about his childhood and how Head Start helped him become who he is today!



Ozark Action Head Start implementing Trauma Smart program

October 14, 2016

Ozark Action Head Start is collaborating with Crittenton Children's Center in Kansas City to bring the innovative Trauma Smart model to the six county area.

Trauma Smart brings trauma informed training and consultation to the Head Start community for Head Start teachers and staff, children, and families, as well as local community mental health providers. The goal is to create a common language for all community members to talk about trauma, build resiliency to its affects and to support community members who have had difficult experiences as they heal. Head Start staff will receive 20 hours of training that will be spread over the duration of the school year during in-service days. In between each in-service, Trauma Smart will provide coaching for staff in the classroom- actually working side by side teachers.

The parent program, called Smart Connections, will be completed on an individual basis with each family in Head Start.

Head Start officials say the goal is to get as many individuals who work with the children to participate, and hopefully extend the training to include local schools and community agencies in the future.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Let's take a minute to applaud a government program that works

By Rep. Donna Edwards
October 24, 2016

October is also known as "Head Start Awareness Month," so it is worth taking a look back at the crucial program providing education, health and nutrition services to under-privileged children.

When the Head Start program emerged in 1965, it was a summer program of only a few weeks, designed to give low-income children a leg up before starting the school year.

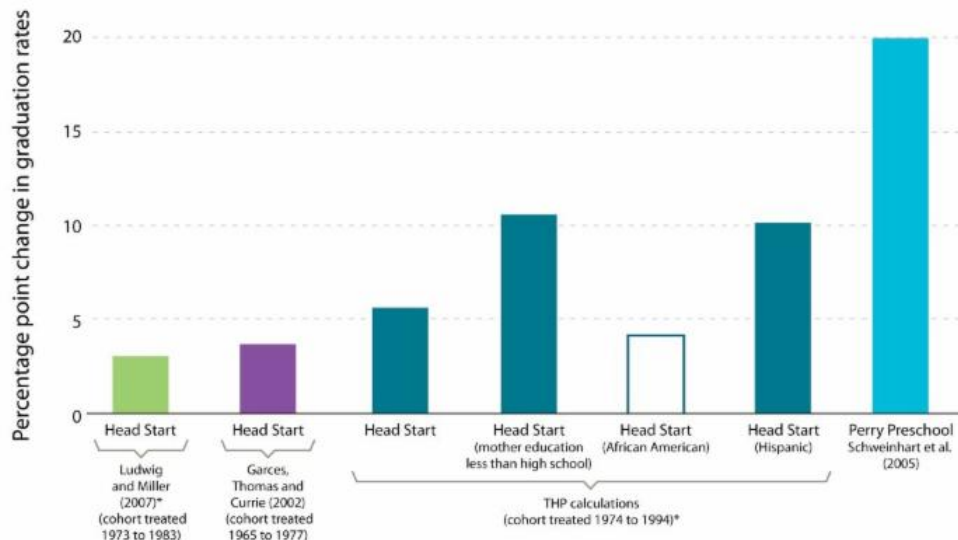
Little did its creators realize that it would become one of the longest-running and most proven programs in our fight to break the cycle of systemic poverty. Head Start now provides year-round services for children and families, offering educational, nutritional, health, and social services to nearly one million Americans annually. On the education side, Head Start focuses on language skills, problem solving, creativity, personal growth, and readiness skills to prepare preschool children to

enter the public school system. Research has shown that these skills stay with children throughout their schooling and well into adulthood, leading to increased graduation rates and career readiness.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

Head Start increases the probability that participants graduate from high school

FIGURE 1.
Effect of Early Education on High School Graduation Rates



Note: Hollowed bars are not statistically significant at the 10 percent level. *Estimate for Ludwig and Miller (2007) may include and THP calculations do include some GED completers, but authors estimate their contribution to the total is small. There is no differential effect for white students. See the technical appendix.

THE HAMILTON PROJECT
BROOKINGS

Letter: Head Start helps families

By Cherise Billington, VANCOUVER
Published: October 15, 2016, 6:00 AM

As an advocate and enrolled family of Head Start, it was pleasing to see Katie Gillespie's Oct. 7 story "Early learning program praised." The Early Childhood Education Assistance Program is a vital need in our communities, as is its sister program, Head Start.

After a doctor's visit with my son in 2012, we learned how lacking he was in school readiness. Head Start, through Educational Opportunities for Children & Families, worked to prepare him, as thoroughly as possible, for three months. As a result, my purpose has been to educate others, and for all children to have access to quality early learning education.

Head Start takes a whole-family approach to support, empower, build skills, and educate. Parents have a vital role in program governance. Should they choose to serve on policy council, they gain even more. The policy council teaches policy and procedure for classrooms and the agency, interviewing skills, community connections, and that every voice matters.

Head Start breaks barriers for low-income families. It equips us to believe in ourselves; that's what strengthens our future and communities.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

What's up with CLASS?

Posted October 26, 2016

By Alexandra R. Rosenblatt & Nicole M. Bacon

Via Feldsman, Tucker, Leifer, Fidell

On October 24, 2016, the Office of Head Start ("OHS") launched the CLASS section of the FY17 Aligned Monitoring Virtual Expo. This launch includes the "FY2017 CLASS Field Guide," "FY2017 CLASS Review At-A-Glance," and "Preparing for your CLASS Review Event." According to a letter from the Director of OHS, Dr. Blanca Enriquez, CLASS is one of three monitoring events that will continue this fiscal year.

CLASS, which stands for Classroom Assessment Scoring System is an observational tool developed to evaluate teacher performance. This review event has high stakes since low CLASS scores can have a devastating impact.

Under regulation, low CLASS scores can trigger recompetition:

- (1) if CLASS scores are below certain "minimum thresholds" (4 for Emotional Support, 3 for Classroom Organization and 2 for Instructional Support) or
- (2) if CLASS scores are among the lowest ten percent of all Head Start programs.

Since OHS's implementation of the Designated Renewal System (DRS), the use of CLASS scores to trigger recompetition has become increasingly controversial. The National Head Start Association, among others, is calling on Congress to prohibit OHS from requiring recompetition when CLASS scores are among the lowest ten percent. The calls have not been ignored. In July, a bipartisan group of 19 Senators sent a letter to urge OHS to "reform the Head Start Designation Renewal System ("DRS") by immediately suspending the use of the lowest 10 percent of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) trigger."

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

IHSA Staff Alumni Project

IHSA Staff Alumni Project - check us out on [FaceBook!](#)

Illinois Head Start Staff Alumni project mission: To encourage and support former Head Start staff who still love the program to reconnect, become informed, and receive opportunities to make a difference in local programs and the state association. You are Head Start.

Were you on staff in a Head Start program? Did you love it? Was it one of the most exciting times in your life? Did it seem like a calling rather than just a job?

IMAGINE if you could:

- Reconnect with colleagues from Head Start throughout Illinois;
- Build a social network; plan some activities including attendance at the Friend's component annual meeting at an affordable price;
- Get updated and informed on Head Start in Illinois and across the nation;
- Lend your voice to advocate for this wonderful program

- Get ideas and opportunities to volunteer or donate if you choose....
- Have fun
- Be a model for other Head Start programs across the country.

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](#)

Upcoming Training and Events



NOVEMBER:

November 1: ERSEA / Joliet

November 2: Chicago Health & Nutrition QEC / Chicago

November 3: Chicago EHS QEC / DeKalb

November 4: WEBINAR: TS Gold User Group Meeting

November 10: WEBINAR-Gateways To Opportunity / Registry
November 18: Transportation, Facilities and Safety / Springfield
November 29 & 30: Getting the Most from Your Staff / Springfield

DECEMBER

December 14 & 15: CLASS Observation Training / Springfield

JANUARY

January 11 & 12: New Directors Leaders Series #1 / Joliet

January 31 & February 1: IHSA Pre-Conference: Performance Standards
Excellence: Train the Trainers

FEBRUARY

February 1-3, 2017: IHSA Annual Conference / Marriott Hotel & Conference
Center / Bloomington-Normal

February 1: IHSA Pre-Conference: QEC Author Book Signing Event

February 7-9: Practice Based Coaching / Springfield

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

[Palatine, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Assistant Site Manager - Education Services](#)

[Palatine, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Bilingual Home-Visiting Teacher](#)

[Evanston, IL - McGaw YMCA - Head Start Lead Teacher / Added 10/21/16](#)

[Evanston, IL - McGaw YMCA - Head Start Assistant Teacher](#)

[Evanston, IL - McGaw YMCA - Head Start Associate Teacher](#)

[Chicago, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Director of Education Services](#)

OPEN POSITIONS FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS

[Gillespie, IL - IVEDC - Head Start/Early Head Start Education Coordinator](#)

[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](#)

\$2 Per Child Campaign!



\$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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Follow us on **twitter**

