



# IHSA Advisor:

## Reflections & Connections

February/March 2017

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Updates from IHSA Executive Director, Lauri Morrison-Frichtl

"If your plan is for 1 year, plant rice. If your plan is for 10 years, plant trees. If your plan is for 100 years, educate children." - Confucius.

We hope this finds each of you doing well and enjoying the nice weather that we have had in February. We know the fruits of our work may not have an immediate outcome. But what we do know is that our efforts with children and families have long lasting impacts.



I was in DC last month and I have lots to share. As I look through my notes here are a few items I believe are important for you to know. First, back in December I had written about the release of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) report entitled State(s) of Head Start, which compares Head Start enrollment, quality, duration, and funding state by state. Now, this month we have a new administration and a new playbook. The latest report from the Heritage Foundation, "Blue Print for Balance - A Federal Budget for 2017", mandates the following recommendations -

- SLOW THE GROWTH IN SPENDING, while fully funding national security needs
- CUT TAXES by \$1.3 trillion over 10 years
- BALANCE THE BUDGET within seven years
- REDUCE SPENDING by \$10.5 trillion and cut the deficit by \$9.2 trillion over 10 years
- ELIMINATE BUDGET GIMMICKS and establish a process to address unauthorized appropriations
- ELIMINATE PROGRAMS that produce favoritism and limit opportunity

As you can guess, Head Start/Early Head Start does not fair very well in these recommendations. The Report mandates to "Sunset Head Start to Make Way for Better State and Local Alternatives" Their recommendation is, "Reduce funding for Head Start by 10 percent in FY 2017 and by an additional 10 percent every year thereafter until the program is sunsetted in 2026. This proposal saves \$935 million in FY 2017". Here is the rationale -

"In addition to its questionable status as a function of the federal government under the Constitution, the federal Head Start program has failed to live up to its stated mission of improving kindergarten readiness for children from low-income families. In December 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services, the agency that administers Head Start, released a scientifically rigorous evaluation of more than 5,000 children participating in the program. It found that Head Start had little to no impact on the cognitive skills, social-emotional well-being, health, or parenting practices of participants. Low-income families should not have to depend on distant, ineffective federal preschool programs. As such, Congress should sunset the federal Head Start program over a period of 10 years. The sunset provision will provide states with adequate time to determine whether they need to provide additional state funding to subsidize day care for low-income families. To begin phasing out the program, Congress should reduce Head Start funding by 10 percent in FY 2017. Ultimately, Head Start would be completely phased out by 2025".

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Updates from Associate Head Start State Collaboration  
Director, Donna Emmons



Happy Pi Day! March 14! And Einstein's birthday as well. [Celebrate science this month.](#)

Illinois Early Childhood Block Grant Re-Competition on the ISBE Early Childhood webpage, under Request for Proposals (RFP) Information, there is grant application assistance available through the Ounce of Prevention. See below.

Preparing for the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Re-Competition: Apply to receive individualized Technical Assistance (TA) and Support during application process

ISBE expects to release the re-designed RFPs to apply for FY18 ECBG funding very soon, with a bidders' conference to follow shortly afterward. Communities will have 60 days to submit their proposals. The FY18 ECBG funding will focus on five policy priorities:

- Prioritizing high need communities
- Serving children from priority populations - homelessness, 50% federal poverty level and below, children with special needs (IEP/IFSP), and current or recent child welfare involvement;
- Increasing number of slots that meet the Preschool Expansion model - full-day and comprehensive services;
- Encouraging/supporting community collaborations; and
- Building a birth to 3rd grade continuum of high quality services

Thus, the grant will emphasize providing high quality early childhood services to children and families with the highest needs, from pre-natal through age 5, so they have the best chance for success in school and life. To ensure that your community is able to prepare a competitive application for funding, it is important to set some dates now for community-based and school-based early childhood providers to begin planning together for this funding opportunity. Don't forget to include your Early Childhood Collaborations, Regional Offices of Education, TA providers from ISBE, StarNET, Early Choices, and the CCR&Rs, as well as community partners that support and contribute to child and family well-being, including physical and mental health services, housing providers, and homeless shelters.

Please check the ISBE early childhood webpage frequently for updates. Data will be provided through the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) webpage and will include kindergarten demographic data focused on the priority populations, maps of current Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative and Head Start slots, as well as community risk profiles. ISBE has begun posting webinars, resources, and links to help support communities and programs in the process of proposal writing; additional materials will be added in the coming weeks. Some of these materials were developed through work groups of the Early Learning Council's Integration and Alignment Committee.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

By Yasmina Vinci

As we roar into 2017, the Head Start community is fueled by tremendous, bipartisan support. A host of new studies continue to bolster the case for Head Start's comprehensive approach to early childhood interventions that target very young disadvantaged children and their families. And Head Start teachers, administrators and partners are embracing the continued pursuit of excellence and opportunities to magnify impact and maximize outcomes.

A recent report "State(s) of Head Start," in fact, graphically and strikingly reinforces that Head Start has lived up to its promise to deliver locally designed, quality early learning programs. The report asserts, unequivocally, that increasing access to the Head Start advantage is a winning proposition for vulnerable children, families - indeed the nation. And while the Head Start community wholeheartedly agrees that increased federal funding is critical to expanding access, we do take issue with the alleged "faults" the report finds with some programs: variation and quality - two of the very areas our community considers strengths.

As local programs, Head Start grantees are expected to adapt to their communities' needs and resources. The report views these variations in access, hours of service, teacher credentials, and more, as a weakness, whereas we view much of this variation as a strength. From the schedule of the program calendar to different comprehensive services provided for children and families, Head Start intentionally allows for variation in program features to best meet the needs of each unique community it serves. Local Head Start programs provide differentiated services while consistently maintaining high levels of quality instruction.

The report then goes on to cherry pick data and offer a narrow interpretation to assert that some Head Start programs are of lower quality. But the data that the report itself provides, in addition to several other metrics, only prove that Head Start is some of the highest quality programming available to young children. Specifically:

[SEE ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Chef Hugh Acheson Partners with Head Start to Promote Nutrition

Hayley Sugg  
February 01, 2017

The Top Chef star and restaurateur has partnered with the non-profit organization to fight America's childhood obesity epidemic.

Today, Cooking Light contributor and renowned chef Hugh Acheson announced his partnership with the National Head Start Association as a Healthy Living Ambassador.

Acheson, a Top Chef judge and owner of several Georgia restaurants, revealed Wednesday via Instagram his new endeavor with the non-profit organization. As an ambassador, the James Beard award winner will be traveling across the United States to visit National Head Start Association programs and talk about the importance of nutrition.

Along with investing time, Acheson is also putting his money where his mouth is. Starting this month through May, two of his restaurants, Five & Ten and Empire State South, will feature specialty "Head Start Dishes." All the proceeds go straight to the National Head Start Association's Garden Grant and Dollar Per Child advocacy. Head Start emphasizes and focuses on issues like nutrition and accessibility to healthy food choices. Through their Garden Grants, Head Start programs across the nation receive funds to create their own gardens to teach children about plants and nourishment.

## Marnie Kaplan: Sometimes Government IS the Solution - Reauthorizing Head Start, 10 Years Later

February 7, 2017  
by MARNIE KAPLAN

Americans are more skeptical than ever before of federal-level government action, a result of years of declining public approval of Congress and divisive partisan politics. In the House of Representatives, we have Speaker Paul Ryan saying "a better way" is to dismantle existing government interventions which "limit [Americans'] ability to get ahead." In the domain of federal education law, we have the recent passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which moved control back to the states. We also have researchers and policy wonks deeming one of President Barack Obama's signature education programs - School Improvement Grants - an abysmal failure (even though we can't decisively say whether the program worked or not).

But it hasn't always been this way - and we shouldn't always be this skeptical of making broad changes using federal-level action. In fact, we are coming up on the 10-year anniversary of a federal-level policy change that did exactly what it set out to do.

Ten years ago, a bipartisan coalition in Congress passed legislation to improve Head Start, the early childhood education program that serves our country's poorest children. The law included a mandate that required 50 percent of classroom teachers to obtain a bachelor's degree in early childhood education by 2013. The goal of this requirement was to increase teacher quality and provide children in Head Start with the most developmentally appropriate learning experiences. Research at the time suggested that employing teachers with higher levels of educational attainment was the most impactful way to improve children's readiness for school.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Pay Head Start Teachers More

By Sara Mead | Opinion Contributor  
Feb. 9, 2017

A decade ago, Congress and then-President George W. Bush passed a new Head Start law that made significant changes to the program. Among them was a requirement that half of Head Start teachers hold a bachelor's degree with training in early childhood education by 2013.

Ten years on, Head Start has not only met the bachelor's degree requirement, it's surpassed it. In 2006, only one in three Head Start teachers had a bachelor's degree. Today, 74 percent of all Head Start teachers have a bachelor's degree and training in early childhood education.

This dramatic change is particularly impressive because the 2007 law did not provide additional funding to help Head Start teachers obtain new credentials, nor did it invest in building college and university capacity to train Head Start teachers. As such, Head Start's experience over the past decade offers lessons for efforts to boost the knowledge and skills of teachers in other early childhood settings. Congress raised degree requirements for Head Start because research suggested that better educated preschool teachers provide higher quality learning experiences

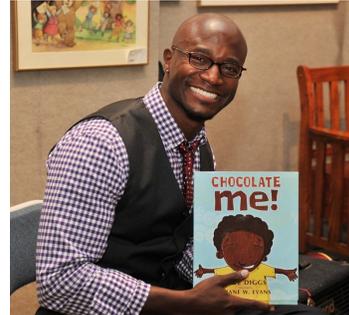
for young children. Federal policymakers also believe that raising educational credentials for Head Start teachers would professionalize the image of the Head Start workforce. And there's some evidence that higher educational requirements for Head Start teachers have contributed to improved learning experiences for Head Start children today.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Taye Diggs: This black history month let's promote cultural literacy for our nation's youngest learners

Feb 13, 2017

As our nation celebrates Black History Month, I am especially excited to announce an upcoming activity with the National Head Start Association (NHSA) to promote family literacy and self-love and pride within our earliest learners!



As Head Start's Child Literacy Ambassador, this March we will launch our National Reading Month initiative utilizing my two children's books, *Chocolate Me!* and *Mixed Me!* to engage educators and parents in the critical task of sowing seeds of understanding, acceptance and love among all children!

I salute each member of the Head Start community for your passion and dedication to providing the Head Start advantage to every single vulnerable child in our nation. Because of your work, children struggling under the pressures of poverty have the opportunity to succeed in Kindergarten and beyond. The continuous commitment Head Start programs nationwide make to every child who walks through their doors makes me especially proud to partner with you; be on the lookout for information on how you can participate in the coming weeks!

## Newark man uses education to turn his life around and give parents a voice

By Barry Carter | The Star-Ledger  
February 21, 2017

He looked familiar last week as we walked past each other in front of the YMCA on Broad Street in Newark.

Ten minutes later, I'm in my car and the guy I didn't quite recognize is tapping the window on the passenger side. Thinking he wanted directions, I rolled it down and he told me that I had written a story about him eight years ago.

"What's the name?"

"Altorice Frazier," he said.

It clicked.

Frazier is a Newark resident, and a successful example of the many men who return home from jail and make it.

"I haven't looked back," he said.

Education saved his life while locked up, and it continues to fuel his life now.

Frazier, 40, has become a parent leader in the world of charter schools, telling mothers, fathers, grandparents and guardians that they have a voice in their children's education.

"He lets me know there is hope," said Tomeko Hoskins, an active parent at New Horizon Charter School. "He's awesome in big letters."

Frazier is the co-chair of the parent organization at Kipp Thrive Academy, but he's an activist citywide in getting parents involved and keeping them informed about

education reform and legislation.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

With supports, the impact of high-quality preschool does not fade out

February 23, 2017

The Washington Post

Regarding the Feb. 19 Outlook essay " Pre-K can provide a boost, but the gains can fade fast ":

The analysis by Drew Bailey, Greg Duncan and Candice Odgers struggled to thoroughly frame the issue. The writers noted that basic math and reading skills, while easy to test, are not the only measures of current knowledge or future success. Accordingly, we maintain that the long-term effects mentioned in the article, high school graduation, higher earnings, fewer arrests and healthier lifestyles, are related to one skill: executive function.

Executive function helps children persevere through adversity, turn basic skills into advanced comprehension and develop into self-regulating, successful citizens. These skills, which children learn in high-quality preschools, have a significant positive effect on life outcomes.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

VIDEO Secretary Colin Powell: We Need Preschool, We Need Head Start



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](#)

Check out our

UPCOMING  
TRAININGS

..... FEATURED BELOW .....

**MARCH**

**March 3: Webinar: How to Find Grants and Funding Streams**

**March 10: Central Education QEC**

**March 13: Central Family Services QEC / North Education QEC / South Education QEC**

**March 14: Central Mental Health & Disability QEC / North Family Services QEC / South Family Services QEC**

**March 15: South Mental Health & Disability QEC**

**March 16: Central Health & Nutrition QEC / South Health & Nutrition QEC**

**March 17: Central EHS QEC**

**March 20: Chicago Education QEC**

**March 21: Chicago Family Services QEC**

**March 22: Chicago Mental Health & Disability QEC**

**March 23: Chicago Health and & Nutrition QEC**

**March 24: Chicago EHS QEC**

**March 28: New Leaders Series #1 / Springfield**

**March 29 & 30 - CLASS Observation Training / Springfield**

**APRIL**

**April 21: ERSEA / Chicago**

**April 28: ERSEA / Joliet**

**MAY**

**May 2: Regional New Health Managers Orientation / Oak Brook**

**May 3: IHSA 2017 Health Institute / Oak Brook**

**May 4: New Directors Series #2 / Springfield**

**May 30 & 31: New Leaders Series #3 / Oak Brook**

**May 31 - June 1: Directors Institute / Oak Brook**

**JUNE**

**May 31 - June 1: Directors Institute / Oak Brook**

**June 19 & 20: Vanessa Rich Leadership Experience / Oak Brook**

**June 27: New Leaders Series #4 / Springfield**

**June 27 & 28: Practice Based Coaching - Coaches Training / Springfield**

**2016 - 2017 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
TRAINING PLAN**

**DATES-AT-A-GLANCE**

Current Job Openings

**JOB OPENINGS**

**NEW POSITIONS**

[Kankakee, IL - Kankakee School District - Director of Pre-School](#)

[Programs](#)

[Chicago, IL - Region V OHS and Office of Grants Management](#)

[- Information Management Support Specialist](#)

[Joliet, IL - Catholic Charities of Joliet - Senior Site Supervisor](#)

[Maywood, IL - PLCCA - Program Accountant Head Start](#)

[Champaign, IL - Tap In Leadership Academy - Tap In Prep Academy \(TIPA\)](#)

[Head Start Director](#)

[Champaign, IL - Tap In Leadership Academy - Tap In Prep Academy \(TIPA\)](#)

[Coordinator](#)

[Carbondale, IL - SIUC - Assistant Director of Head Start](#)

[Bloomington, IL - Heartland Head Start - Family Resource Advisor](#)

**OPEN POSITIONS FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS**

[Englewood, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Early Head Start Teacher](#)

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

[Schaumburg, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Early Head Start Teacher](#)

[Palatine, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Early Head Start Teacher](#)

\$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)



# I Am A Child



I AM NOT BUILT TO SIT STILL.

keep my hands to myself.

take turns, stand in line, be patient.



or keep quiet.



I need motion, I need novelty

I need adventure,

and I need to engage the  
WORLD WITH MY WHOLE BODY



## LET ME PLAY



Trust me, I am learning!

Author Unknown, Shared by Handing Kells in Kindergarten, Graphics from The Kids' Graphics



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