

March 2-4, 2022
Orlando, FL







Florida Head Start Association 2022 Annual Conference & Expo Overview/Survey Results

The Florida Head Start Association celebrated its 2022 Annual Conference & Expo in Orlando, FL at the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal. Responses to the conference survey obtained via the email reflect a largely positive experience by the members and non-members in attendance.

The Florida Head Start Association hosted its Annual Conference & Expo on March 4-6, 2022, at the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal in Orlando, FL. This is the fourth year FHSA has hosted this event at this property. The event included three days of training geared toward the professional development of our Head Start, Early Head Start directors, front line staff, parents, volunteers, and community partners - thank you to everyone who was able to attend! This year's conference began with two special education tracks with Jeff Kortes on staff retention. Certainly, a hot topic among members due to the current climate in the early childcare staff challenges has resulted in an unprecedented turnover in Head Start. A few concurrent educational tracks ran alongside the special tracks. Our opening keynote speaker was Johnathan Edison, a Head Start alumni who really got attendees to their feet and pumped about the next few days of training and networking. This year's closing keynote speaker was an award-winning author and international, Holly Elissa Bruno. She certainly made an impression on our attendees with her interactive session and her powerful message of how we all can persevere to continue to do the Heart Work. We hosted hot topic discussions in the following devoted areas of Health & Disabilities, Enrollment, Education, Early Learning Systems, and over 24 educational training sessions. Attendees loved the hot topics and repeatedly said they would like more opportunities to connect with attendees to learn from their peers sharing the same experiences.

OVERVIEW BY NUMBERS

This year's Annual Conference & Expo attendance  by **20%** compared to last year.

- 171 Total Attendees
- 28 Breakout Sessions, facilitated by 28 Presenters
- 4 Hot Topic Roundtables
- 3 Amazing Keynote Speakers
- 25 Exhibiting companies' revenue  by **241%** compared to last year; however, compared to 2020 revenue, we were  by **29%**.
- 17 Sponsors revenue  by **306%** compared to the previous year; however, compared to 2020, we were  **152%**

PRESENTATION MATERIALS

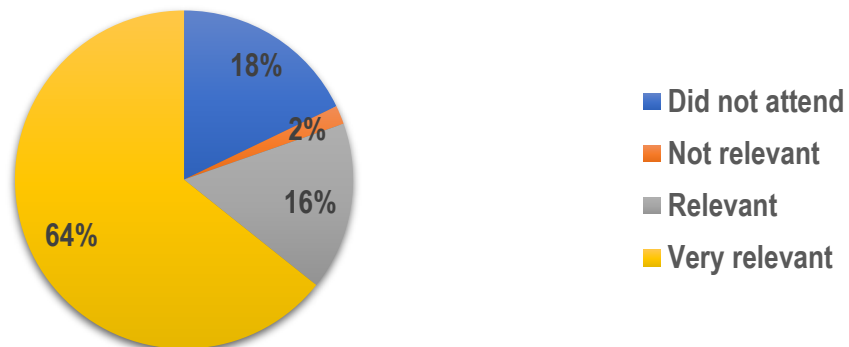
The presentations at the 2022 Annual Conference & Expo revolved around these four main themes:

- Curriculum/Instruction/Inclusion
- Social Equity & Innovation
- Ongoing Care & Well-Being
- Family, School & Community

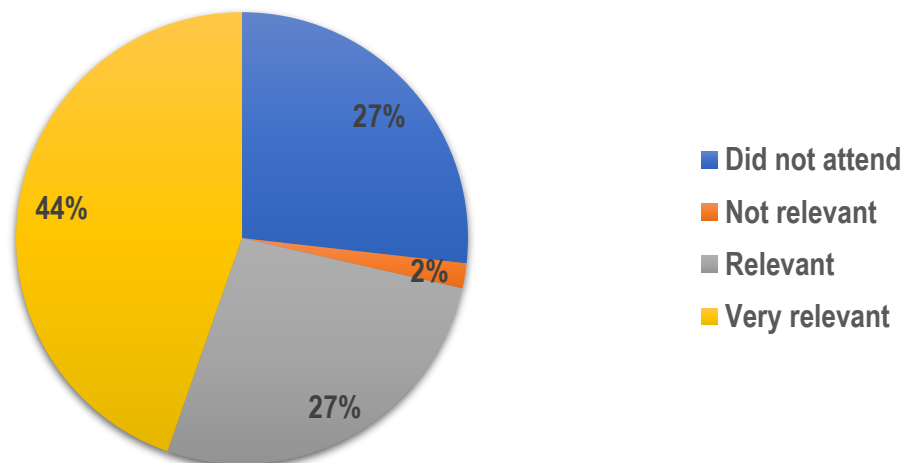
FHSA utilized The Link Event Professionals Inc. to host this year's conference app. This is the same company that hosted our app in 2020. This year the app saw a **63%** login rate. The most viewed items were the conference schedule and hot topic discussions. Attendees had an opportunity to send feedback via the conference app, and surveys were sent out to attendees each day after the conference. Overall, we saw a **33%** response rate from conference-goers. Here is what they had to say about this year's event.

CONFERENCE SURVEY FEEDBACK

Special Session Track: Give your Employees C.R.A.P... the Success Formula for Building Employee Loyalty, Jeff Kortes, Employee Retention Speaker



Give your Employees C.R.A.P... and 7 Other Secrets to Employee Retention, Jeff Kortes, Employee Retention Speaker



Thoughts and comments about Jeff Kortes' sessions.

This was an excellent presentation. He hit home with how many employees are feeling, especially in these trying times. It was refreshing to hear and back up what I've been saying about the importance of employers appreciating their employees. Well done, Mr. Jeff! I enjoyed this session

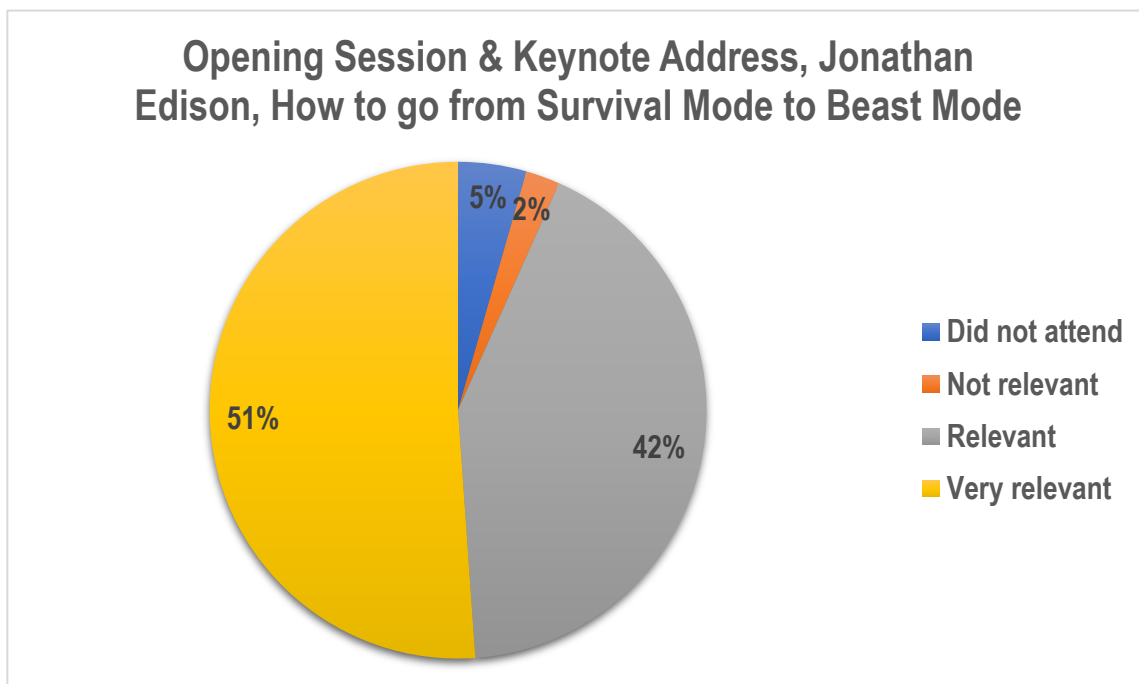
The speaker was very engaging and had shared great tips to motivate, inspire and retain employees.

This session wasn't as engaging as his first session. Great speaker. Just thought the second session was not as applicable to Head Start agencies.

I really enjoyed Jeff Kortess' presentation. I am looking forward to using some of the techniques at work.

I loved this as an opener! Great choice

The presenter was great. He kept everyone interested in the session. The sessions were perfect due to the staff shortages we are experiencing.



Thoughts and comments about the opening session.

I enjoyed Jonathan Edison's energy! It was well needed that morning after breakfast. Highly recommend him again for next year; He was engaging.

I look forward to reading his book and remembering that our parents are literally in survival mode.

Fantastic and enthusiastic message! Excellent job by Johnathan!!

Impactful but rubbed me the wrong way.

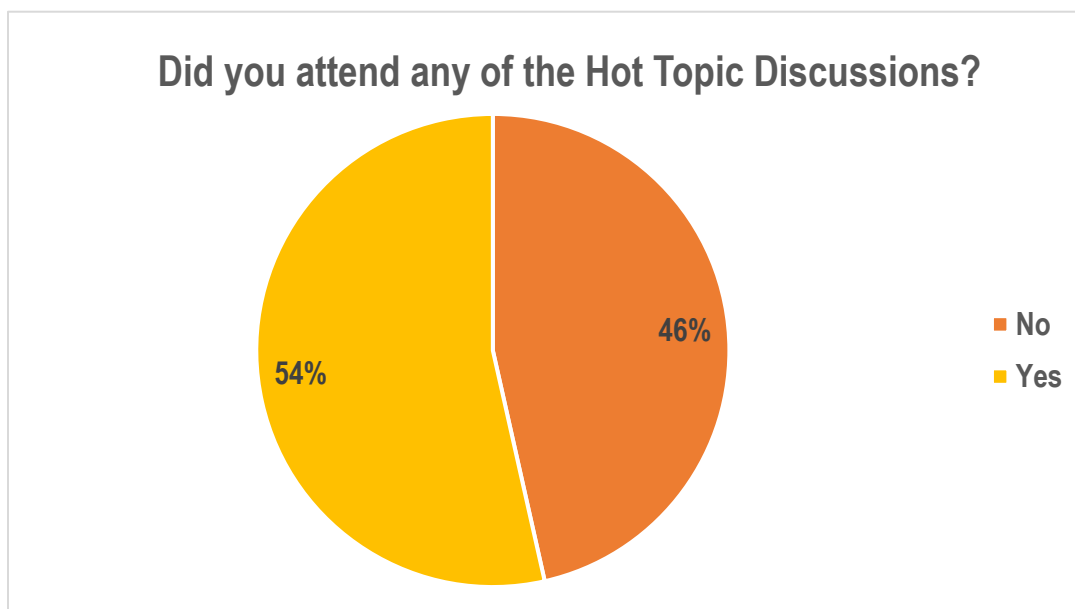
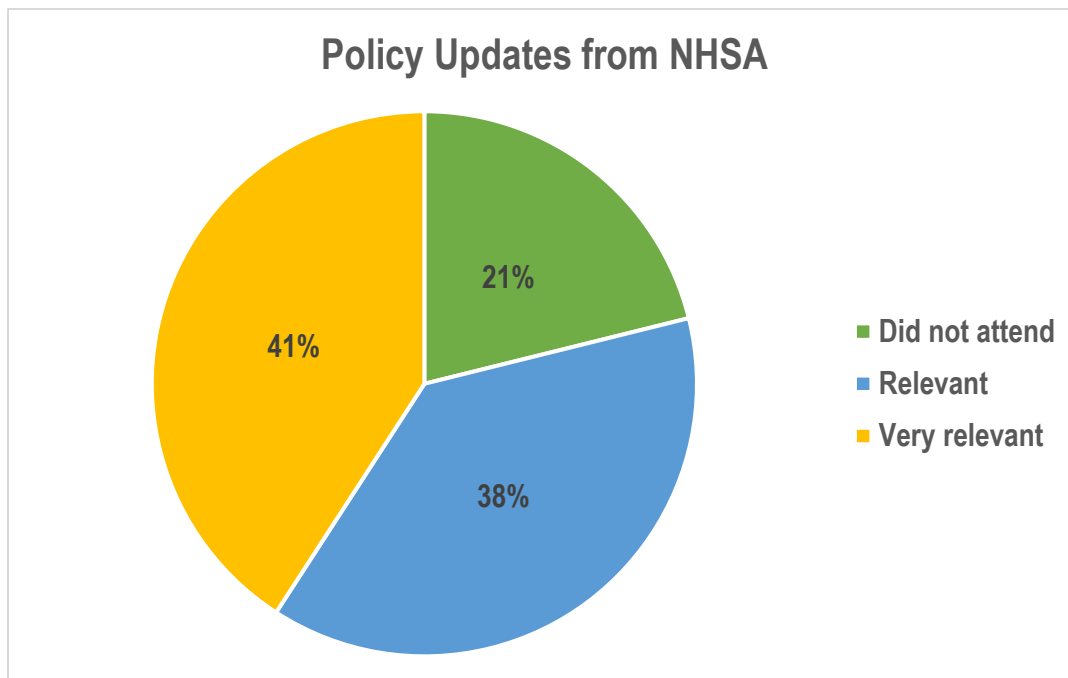
Loved this guy too! Life stories make presentations such as his so much more enjoyable.

I thought this was a very empowering session.

Very energetic and motivating!

Loved that he was a Head Start student, which makes him easy to relate to:)

He was a dynamic speaker! I love the fact that this speaker began as a Head Start child and could speak to his experiences as it related to Head Start.



Please supply any other comments about hot topics.

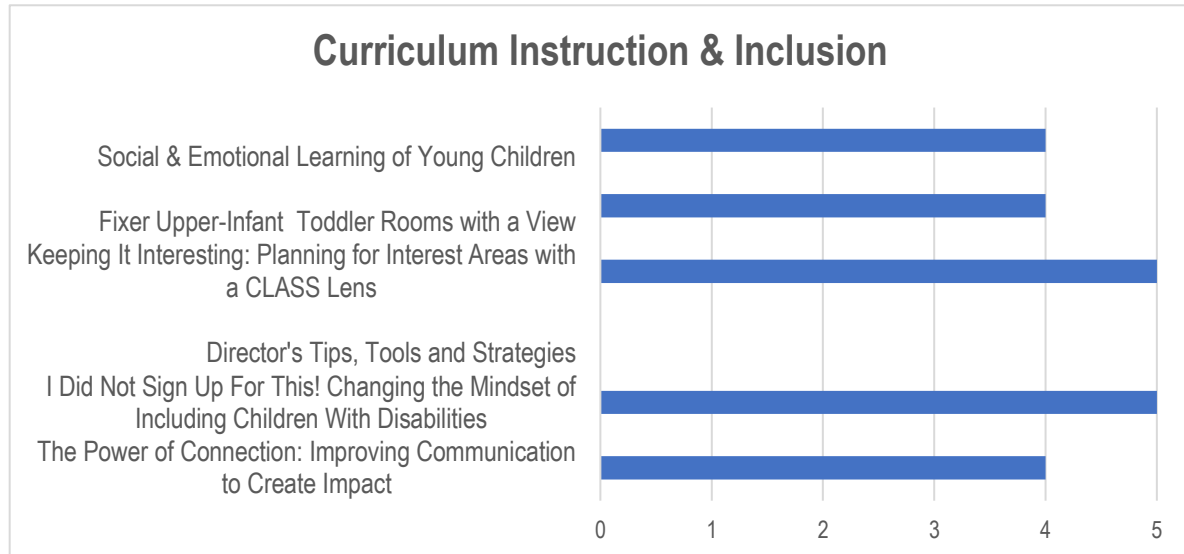
The Hot Topic discussions were a major hit!! Very engaging, informative, and fun!

Great conversation. Excellent!

I enjoyed the hot topics session! It was great to share and receive information from people having the same experiences.

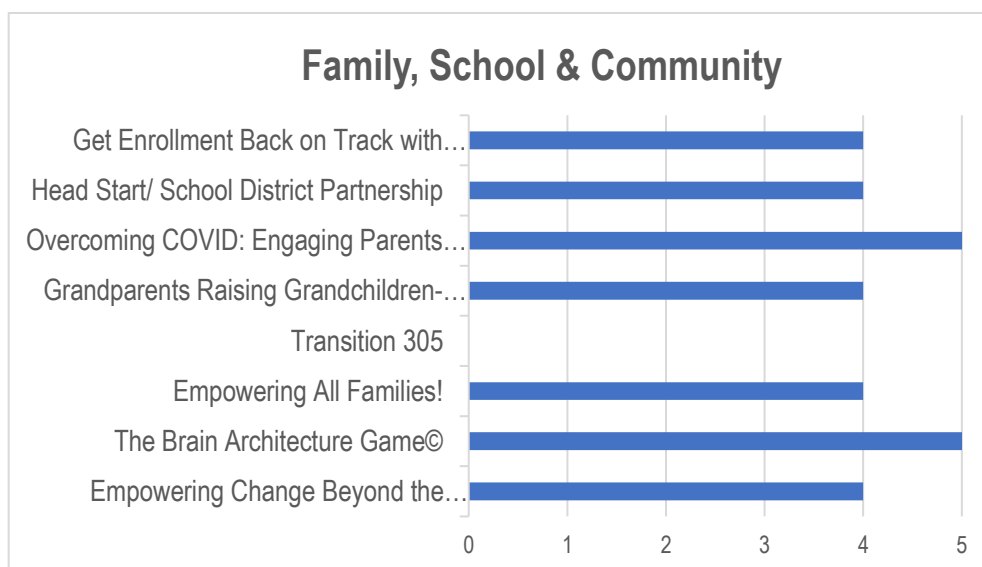
Hot topic gave me a chance to share my program's current needs and concerns and listen to other programs in similar situations. Everyone also shared their feedback. Great!!! Would love to see more of this.

Concurrent Education Sessions Survey Results



I Did Not Sign Up for This! Changing the Mindset of Including Children with Disabilities session comments: *the presenters were engaging, and I enjoyed hearing and seeing firsthand experiences. These experiences made the presentation relevant and meaningful, Excellent job! The presenters were very informed on disabilities AND abilities of Early Learners; I wish more teachers were here to hear this.*

Keeping It Interesting: Planning for Interest Areas with a CLASS Lens session shared great information. *Loved the extra resources provided. Thanks for introducing ways to help teachers to plan for interest areas. Excellent presentation and deeply knowledgeable of CLASS. I felt each presentation was carefully thought out and keyed in on everything we needed as teachers, coaches, administration, etc. As a coach, one of my primary duties is to help the teachers find ways to implement studies to make them interesting for the children. This presentation was beneficial and had great ideas; I got some information to take back to the Education manager in hopes that it will help our teachers.*



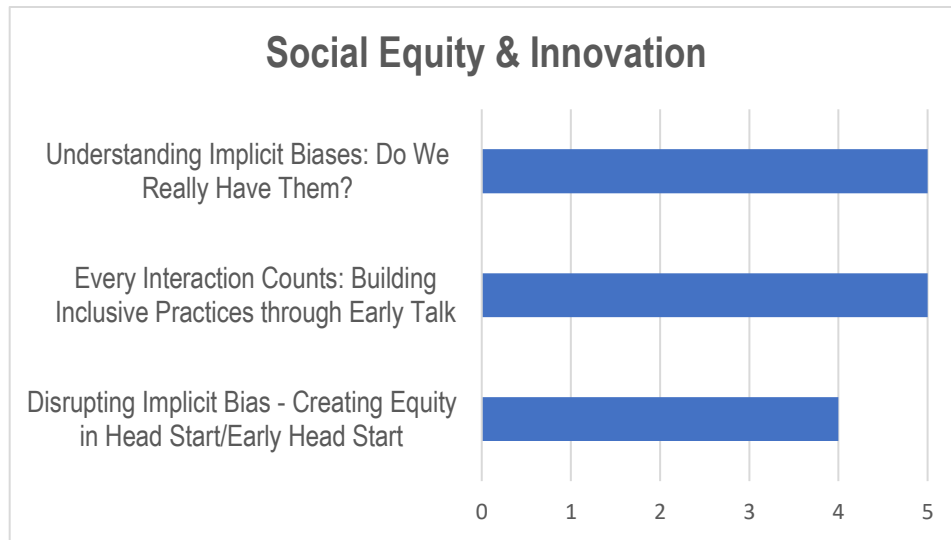
Get Enrollment Back on Track with Digital Recruitment Strategies and Solutions *session handout sheets would have been helpful.*

Head Start/ School District Partnership *session was highly informative, but informational handouts would have been helpful.*

Empowering All Families! *Excellent session: I Loved this training!! Informative; Presenters were knowledgeable about establishing rapport with the family. Would suggest PowerPoint with fewer paragraphs; Wonderful session on how to empower your families, especially by being mindful of the diverse cultural differences of our families*

The Brain Architecture Game© *session was very engaging, informative, and fun! Great presentation. Very hands-on and interactive. Loved it!! You can tell she is passionate about her job.*

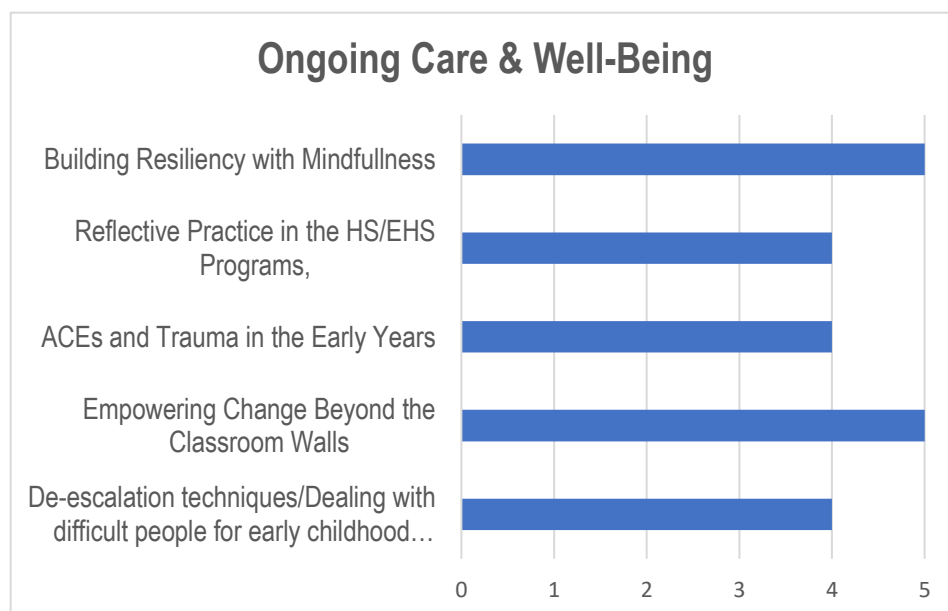
Overcoming COVID: Engaging Parents and Families with Technology *helpful session information and fantastic speakers! I learned new information and ways to help grandparents raise grandchildren and who I must contact, and new resources; Informative! Love it! Great information; Excellent presentation! Very meaningful! Learned a lot about how to support grandparents. I will use ideas in our program; I Truly enjoyed this session; Wonderful session on how we can support our Grandparents and non-relative caregivers by addressing how we can continue to aid them and help them with resources.*



Understanding Implicit Biases: Do We Really Have Them? *Very informative; Interactive; Ron's presentations are always fun, engaging, and thoughtful! Thanks, Ron! Loved Ron great presenter.*

Every Interaction Counts: Building Inclusive Practices through Early Talk, *Loved this informative session.*

Disrupting Implicit Bias - Creating Equity in Head Start/Early Head Start *session provided a great topic, ways to identify the issues, and suggestions for resolutions. She gave plenty of opportunities for dialogues.*



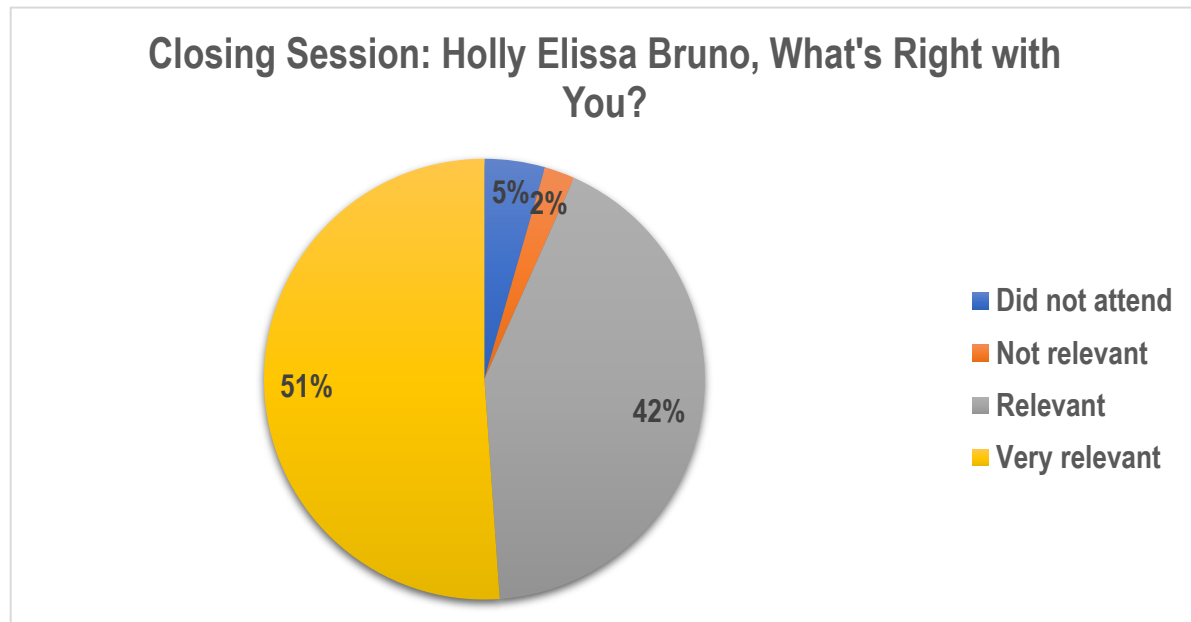
Reflective Practice in the HS/EHS Programs, *Great topic; Very informative; Valuable information; It could have been more interactive for the participants after lunch for more engagement.*

ACEs and Trauma in the Early Years session shared great information. I would like to see other topics related to how to support teachers with high ACEs that are working with children/families with high ACEs. Very informative; I would've loved to receive a takeaway to bring back to my organization. It was great info on understanding everyday Trauma & how it affects our children, families, & classrooms.

Empowering Change Beyond the Classroom Walls session Great presentation! Interesting, but would have liked more interactive activities.

De-escalation techniques/Dealing with difficult people for early childhood professionals' session was so informative; I learned a lot of strategies for de-escalating bad or unsafety behavior. I will try to implement them in unsafety situations. The de-escalation session was excellent. The speaker was very engaging and supplied great tips and information to utilize upon return to the agency. You should book him again.

Empowering Change Beyond the Classroom Walls session Great presentation! Interesting, but would have liked more interactive activities.



Thoughts and comments about the closing session.

I enjoyed this session. It was motivating and encouraging. The speaker involved the audience.

Fun and entertaining, with lots of helpful information.

Would instead session end earlier to avoid the stress of having to check out mid-session or before.

I felt she had a powerful message. One that said, you can be anything you want to be! I enjoyed her interaction and found her fascinating.

I liked her.... I thought she connected with the audience and made some key points to remind us of

We did attend, but honestly, it wasn't fulfilling to me. I would prefer to have more information about the newest policies as we did have on day 2nd at lunchtime.

Very interactive and cover many situations that we are having in the job right now.

I loved Holly's energy and the out-of-seat activities! It was a great way to end the week.

General Conference Feedback

Would like to buy more "Head Start" merchandise - shirts, bags, key rings, etc.

This conference was very great with very great speakers. Keep doing great!

Everything was well planned, Nice, and Beautiful. Suggestion to begin the first day with a general keynote that everyone can attend and then opportunities to mingle before going to the different tracks of the day.

Suggest closing keynote during breakfast or immediately following as many had to check out and begin the journey home.

As a first-time attendee, I could not have been more pleased. I thoroughly enjoyed everything from the opening keynote to the closing address was terrific! Very structured and detailed. Would like more opportunities to network, more sessions with hands-on, more hot topic time.

This is my first time attending the conference, and I have really enjoyed it. I have enjoyed all the sessions presented and look forward to another one next year. Everything was great! I had a fun time. Some cons rooms were cold, and I feel like although we should use every opportunity as a learning opportunity, I think that lunch break should have been a mental break for us. We sit during back-to-back classes, so relaxing during lunch would've been nice. I will attend again!

Thank you for all that you do. I enjoyed myself and felt a little more empowered to tackle my task.

Great event, very organized! Thank you

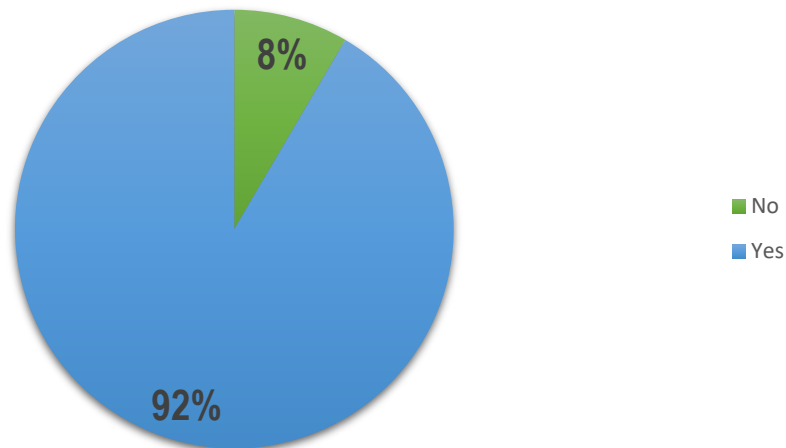
Love it! Everything was well organized, and the presenters were fantastic.

Would like an opportunity to network and meet other program staff.

I would like to see presentations on quality assurance. Helping teachers learn the importance of what QA does monthly and how to help them become better advocates for their classroom.

This was an impressive conference, I met new staff, and I got to see people I hadn't seen in 3 years. The Pandemic and Hurricane Michael had our world turned upside down. However, we made it through by the Grace of God. I can't wait for our next conference. Excellent job. Keep up the magnificent work!

Did you interact with exhibitors?



The top viewed sponsors/exhibitors in the conference app

Kaplan Early Learning

Teaching Strategies

Learning Beyond Paper

North Star Marketing

WellAir Solutions

Lena

Conference Venue



LOOKING FOR MORE?

If you have any questions, comments, or additional feedback, please contact Wanda Minick at Wanda@FLHeadStart.org. Additionally, we'll begin planning our 2023 Annual Conference & Expo soon. If you are interested in being a part of the planning process or have a suggestion for a speaker, please let us know!