

Head Start Timeline

Delve into key moments in Head Start history! Explore the timeline to see archival photographs, video, resources, and more.

1964

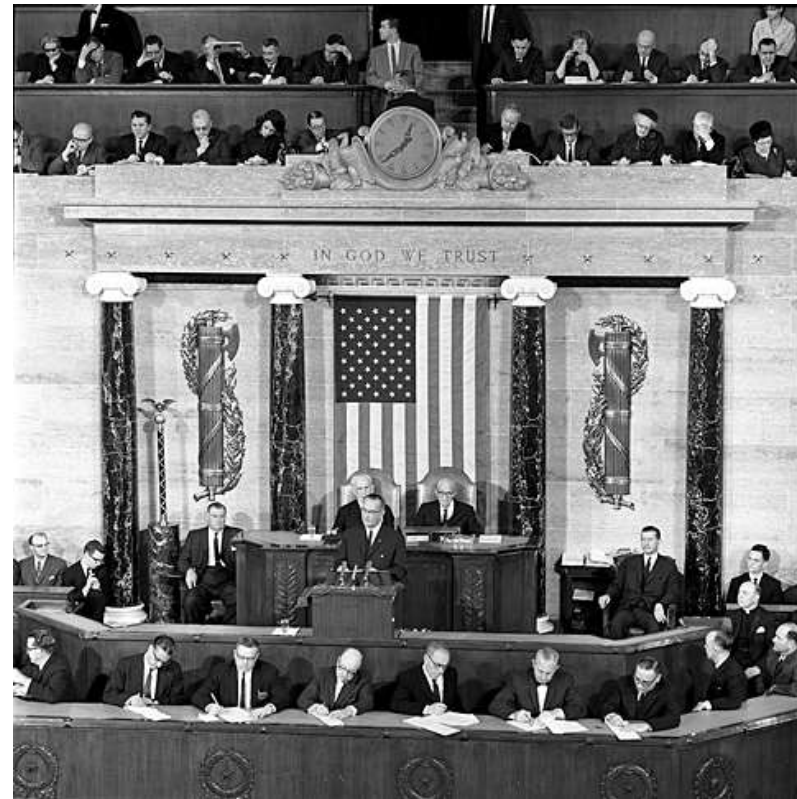
War on Poverty: On Jan. 8, President Lyndon Johnson takes up the cause of building a "Great Society" by declaring "War on Poverty" in his first State of the Union Address. The goal of the War on Poverty is to eradicate the causes of poverty by creating job opportunities, increasing productivity, and enhancing the quality of life.

- Watch this historic [State of the Union Address](#).

The **Economic Opportunity Act** of 1964 is enacted and includes programs such as: Job Corps, Urban/Rural Community Action, VISTA, Project Head Start and many more.

- Watch [Small Miracles](#), a short video about these programs.

Case for Early Education: As a former teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in Texas, President Johnson believes strongly that education was the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Moreover, child development experts have found that early intervention programs could significantly affect the cognitive and socio-emotional development of low-income children.



State of the Union, 1964

1965

Cooke Report: Dr. Robert Cooke sets up a steering committee of specialists to discuss how to give disadvantaged children a "head start." The committee develops recommendations that feature comprehensive education, health, nutrition and social services, and significant parent involvement.

- Read the [Cooke Report](#) [PDF, 47KB].

Head Start Launch: On May 18, President Lyndon B. Johnson officially announces Project Head Start from the White House Rose Garden. Head Start launches in the summer of 1965, serving more than 560,000 children and families across America in an eight-week summer program through Head Start Child Development Centers throughout the United States. The program is administered through the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

- Watch this video of the Rose Garden Speech.

American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start: OEO directly funds tribal governments in 14 states to begin Head Start programs.

- See the [2014 Program Services report](#) [PDF, 129KB] for AIAN programs.



Head Start children surround President Johnson at his desk in the Oval Office.

1966

Funded for a full school year: Based on success of the summer program, Congress authorizes Head Start as a primarily part day, nine-month program. The first school year programs had already started in the fall of 1965.

"How to Apply for Head Start": The application requires descriptions of the Policy Advisory committee; the use of Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds; Mobilizing Community Resources; Maintenance of local anti-poverty efforts; administrative staff; health services, social services, and psychological services programs; fiscal responsibility and reports; and program quality improvement.

- See the cover of the 1966 application manual.

Head Start Child of the Year: Frank "Pancho" Mansera, a 6-year-old Mexican-American is chosen as Head Start Child of the Year. At enrollment in 1965, his intellectual development was found to be between 18-24 months, and he had not grown physically since he was 2. His parents were aware their child was different, but could not afford medical attention. The Head Start medical screening examinations uncovered Pancho's hypothyroidism. Daily treatment improved his condition within two weeks. In the next year, he grew 5¼ inches, his speech changed, and he learned English. This medical intervention "made a new life possible for both Pancho and his family."

- See this [video on Pancho](#) from YouTube.



Pancho Mansera with Sargent Shriver and President Johnson at the Head Start Child of the Year Ceremony

1967

Infants and toddlers: The Parent and Child Centers demonstration project is established. It offers Head Start services to families with children birth to 3. This program eventually becomes Early Head Start, first funded in 1995.

Accountability and Improvement: The Government Accountability Office declares Project Head Start a success in child development. The same report finds challenges in parent engagement, spurring Head Start to improve policies on parent participation.

Early Training and Technical Assistance: Throughout the early years of Head Start, the OEO published the "Rainbow Series." These pamphlets addressed single aspects of the program, and described the regulations and offered suggestions for implementing them. Eventually there were more than 20 books covering topics from health to staff development, and from nutrition to necessary supplies.

- Explore training resources from this period:
 - [Staff development](#) [PDF, 2MB]
 - [Nutrition](#) [PDF, 1.2MB]



The Rainbow Series

1968

Head Start data and research: The Research and Evaluation Division of the OEO works with the Bureau of the Census to collect and disseminate data about Head Start children, families, staff and programs. Studies such as "Project Head Start 1956–1967: A Descriptive Report of Programs and Participants" and "Project Head Start 1968: The development of a program" offer rich details at the national level of Head Start programs. For example: In 1967, as in previous years, a larger proportion of families in the full year program (29 percent) were welfare recipients compared to those in the summer programs (20 percent). In addition, fewer families in full year reported a male household head (68 percent), than those in summer (77 percent). The proportion reporting both a mother and father present in the home was also lower in full year (66 percent) as compared to summer (74 percent).

- Read the report: [Project Head Start 1968: The development of a program](#) [PDF, 2.4MB].



Head Start Participation Certificate

1969

Assignment to new federal agency: As the OEO's major function was to innovate, experiment, and develop new approaches to the problems of poverty, Head Start is ready for assignment to an established department. Project Head Start is moved to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, where there is vigorous debate as to its place within the Office of Education or within the Children's Bureau. On the basis of the broad mandate of Head Start, many supporters are pleased with its eventual assignment to the newly established Office of Child Development, within the Children's Bureau.

Migrant Head Start: The Migrant Head Start program is begun to ensure that farmworker families and their children can enjoy the same advantages made available to other low-income children through Head Start. The program is initially established to provide for the needs of migrant farmworker children as they moved across the country with their families to pursue work. In 1998, these are expanded to include the services to children of seasonal agricultural workers.

- Watch a video of [migrant and seasonal Head Start parents](#) telling their story.

Video: *Migrant and Seasonal Head Start parents tell their story.*

[Download the video](#) [MP4, 54.6MB]

[Download the transcript](#) [PDF, 15KB]

1970

Parent participation as policy: The Head Start policy manual "70.2, The Parents" is published, mandating a local formal structure to empower and requiring parents' involvement in policy making and program operation through Parent Committees, Policy Committees and Policy Councils. Many Head Start grantees threaten to leave Head Start because 70.2 gives so much authority to parents.

- This training video explores the [knowledge, skills, and behaviors, which create successful Policy Councils.](#)

Jenny Is a Good Thing: A short film about the importance of good nutrition for Head Start children is nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Short, but loses the Oscar to Czechoslovakia 1968.

- See the [film](#) on YouTube.
- This Rainbow Series book shows how to use the film in Head Start programs.

Video: *Explore the continued importance of parent leadership in Head Start.*

[Download the video](#) [MP4, 127MB]

[Download the transcript](#) [PDF, 25KB]

1971

Training on Health: Head Start publishes "Healthy, That's Me" curriculum guide and parent handbooks. They prompt comprehensive services in Head Start with a focus on illness prevention, first aid procedures, and oral health.

Developing a Workforce: The number of low-income employees of full-year Head Start programs enrolled in college-level training for two-year and four-year degrees in 49 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands increases by 25 percent.

Video: *Explore the range of health services offered by Head Start and how they can impact the lives of children and families.*

[Download the video](#) [MP4, 106MB]

[Download the transcript](#) [PDF, 45KB]

1972

Services to Children with Disabilities: Congress amends the Economic Opportunity Act, calling to expand Head Start program opportunities for handicapped children. The legislation mandates that at least 10 percent of Head Start's national enrolment consist of handicapped children. Head Start collaborates with the Office of Education Bureau of Education for the Handicapped to fund 14 Resource Access Projects, or RAPs, to train and to offer technical assistance to Head Start teachers that work with handicapped children.

Collaboration on Health: Head Start collaborates with other federal programs through the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program (EPSDT), to provide comprehensive prevention and treatment services for children.

- Learn more about [EPSDT benefits](#).
- Explore the [Special Quest library](#) for numerous practical strategies and tools to help families and providers implement high-quality inclusive services.



A nurse plays with an infant wearing hearing aids.

1973

Improving options for professional development: Head Start establishes 13 pilot projects to develop Child Development Associate (CDA) curriculum and methodology. The CDA project has three major features: 1) Identification of basic competencies needed by adults who work in preschool centers, 2) pilot training programs which are developing competency-based training strategies, and 3) procedures for assessment and credentialing. Developing systems for assessment and credentialing is the responsibility of the CDA consortium. The consortium will issue a CDA credential to persons who demonstrate the CDA competencies ---Transmittal notice – Head Start Policy Manual 2/23/73.

- Find out more about the [history of the CDA](#).

Home Start: Home Start begins as a three-year demonstration program to provide Head Start services to children and parents in their own homes. A permanent program option is eventually added, and is called "Home Based".

- See this original [Home Start Flyer](#) [PDF, 371KB].
- Learn more about Home Visitors in this [video](#).

National association forms for Head Start advocacy: Head Start directors at a national Conference decide to establish a national association that could advocate specifically for the Head Start community in Congress. From that idea, the National Head Start Association (NHSA) is born. NHSA's mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.

- Discover more information about the [NHSA](#).



Home based Head Start logo from the time period

1974

Community Services Act: Congress enacts the Community Services Act of 1974, which includes three important provisions that affect Head Start. The act officially recognizes Head Start's transfer from the Office of Economic Opportunity to Health and Human Services; extends the program's authority for fiscal years 1975, 1976, and 1977; and establishes a mandatory formula to allocate funds among States.

Transitions to Elementary School: Head Start funds 15 grantees to participate in Project Development Continuity. The Project is designed to develop sequential and continuous educational and other services to children transitioning from Head Start to elementary school.

- Read about research need in this [report](#).



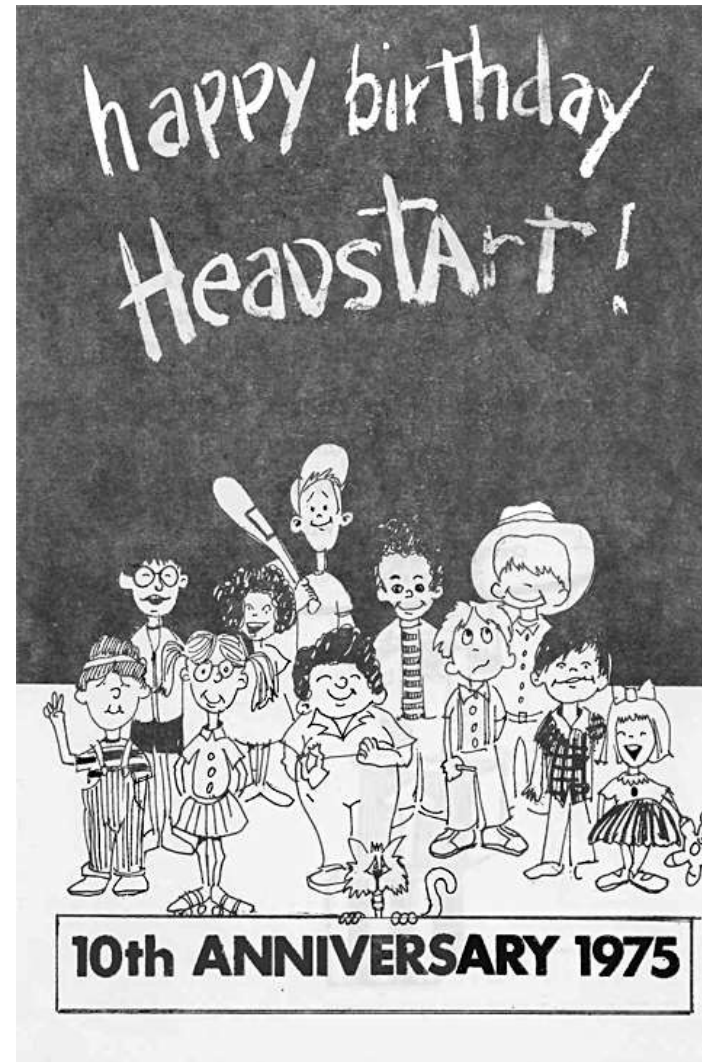
Volunteer Participation Certificate

1975

10th Anniversary: Head Start celebrated its 10th anniversary. An April 25, 1975 letter that went to governors says "Head Start has now seen more than 5.3 million children pass through its classrooms; it is now employing 79,000 professionals and non-professionals in 9,400 centers in every state and territory, and is using the services of 103,000 volunteers, including many parents."

Head Start Program Performance Standards: Head Start publishes first performance standards that detail guidelines for serving children ages 3 to 5. Head Start's idea of establishing performance standards spreads to a federal standards initiative for public schools.

- Read the 1975 [Head Start Program Performance Standards](#) [PDF, 1.2MB].



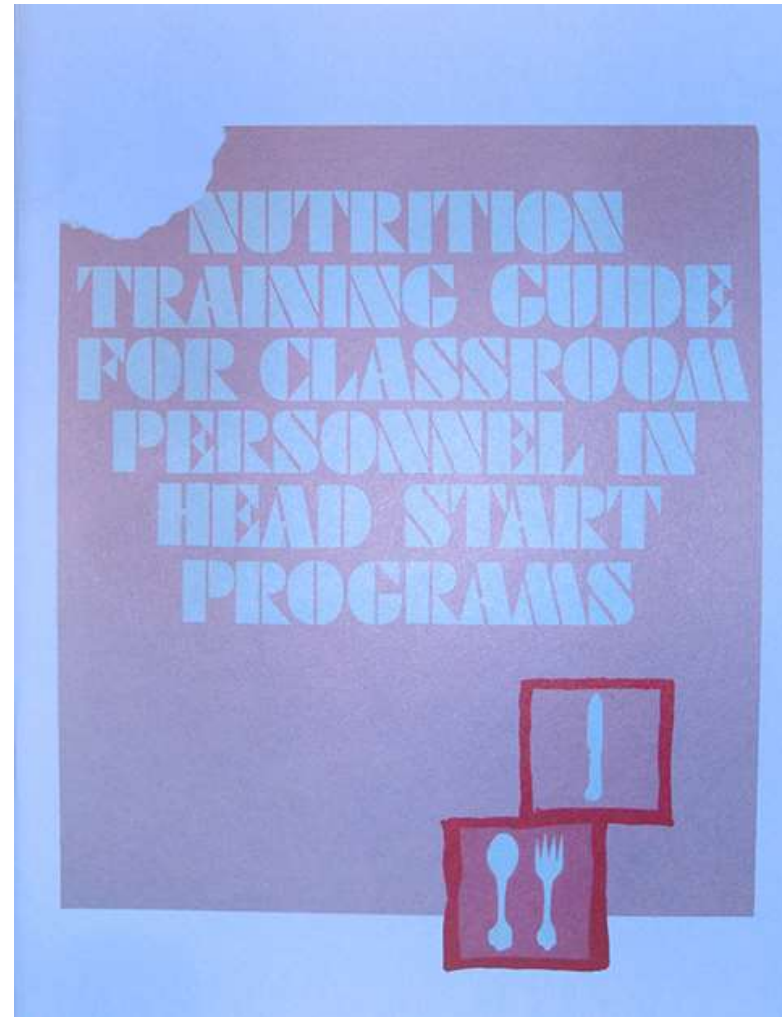
Birthday Card from the 10th Anniversary Celebration

1976

Training and Technical Assistance: The Head Start Bureau develops materials to help programs implement the new program performance standards.

Nutrition Education Guide for Classroom Personnel provides a framework around which to build a nutrition training plan suitable to the individual program needs. Accompanying books for children and staff are disseminated.

Improving services to Spanish speaking children: Research Workshop on bilingual and bicultural early childhood development informs a strategy for Spanish-speaking children. The workshop includes four priority areas: curriculum development, staff training, resource networks, and research.

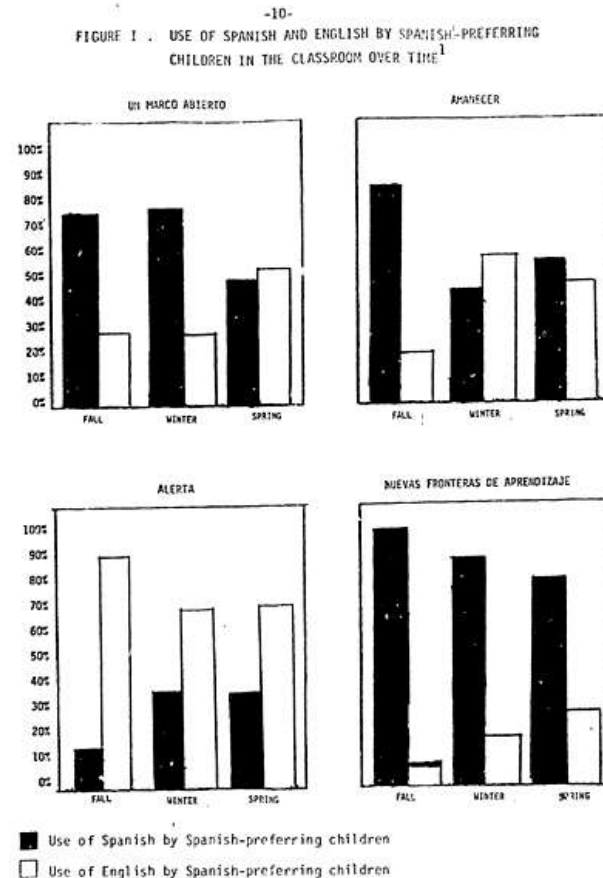


The Nutrition Training Guide for Classroom Personnel in Head Start Programs

1977

Research on Bilingual and Bicultural curriculum: Between 1976 and 1979, Head Start, as part of its strategy for Spanish-speaking children, develops Bilingual and Bicultural Curriculum Models and uses them for training. These models support children's cognitive and social growth and individualization of instruction based upon a child's linguistic dominance. Head Start also funds four institutions for the purpose of developing and implementing four distinct bilingual bicultural preschool curriculum models for use with Spanish-speaking children. A 1977 evaluation of the Head Start Bilingual Bicultural Curriculum Development Project found that Spanish-prefering Head Start children in all four bilingual curricula performed better on English language impact measures than did similar Head Start children not receiving one of the four curricula.

- Read the [evaluation report](#) for this curriculum project.



¹ Figure I is intended to illustrate the patterns of language use by Spanish-prefering Head Start children at four sites at the beginning, middle, and end of the preschool year. The bars in the figure indicate the proportion of Spanish and English used by the children in the classroom. Data is based on observations of a representative subgroup of Spanish-prefering children from each classroom using the models at Los Angeles, Corpus Christi, New York City, and Rio Grande City.



A figure from the 1977 Evaluation of the Head Start Bilingual Bicultural Curriculum Development Project

1978

Parent Advocacy: Winston Austin is the first Head Start parent to testify before Congress. The father from Akron Ohio serves as president of the National Head Start Parents Association.

Expansion: Congress enacts a budget that allows the first expansion opportunities for existing Head Start programs. The Economic Opportunity Act is amended to state that all Head Start programs must be operated in accordance with Performance Standards. Furthermore, they must be no less comprehensive than those in effect on the date of enactment.



Funding increase allows for first expansion opportunities for existing Head Start programs.

1979

Department of Education recommendation: President Carter recommends moving Head Start to the U.S. Department of Education. The Head Start community nationwide raises considerable resistance to this effort, and the President does not pursue the idea.

Reauthorization: Congress reauthorizes Head Start for five years, and allows for a 20 percent funding increase each year in the number of children and families served.



President Carter at a bill signing

1980

Children with Disabilities: Mainstreaming preschool children with disabilities is a major effort throughout the late 1970s and early 80s. The Head Start Bureau funds and publishes a series of manuals designed to help programs integrate children with disabilities into their classroom. This includes Children with health impairments, children with speech and language impairments, children with Hearing impairments, children with orthopedic handicaps, children with mental retardation, and children with emotional disturbances.

- Read 1980 report [The Status of Handicapped Children in Head Start Programs](#).



Program manuals on Children with health impairments, children with speech and language impairments, children with Hearing impairments, children with orthopedic handicaps, children with mental retardation, and children with emotional disturbances

1981

Arts: The Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning through the Arts is established in collaboration with Head Start to develop drama, music and movement activities that support children's learning through the arts, and to provide professional development to local program staff. Wolf Trap teaching artists participate in Head Start conferences and trainings even today.

- View this [video](#) of Wolf Trap teachers.
- Learn more about [Wolf Trap's mission](#).

Head Start funding avoids proposed cut. Head Start programs, supporters and members of Congress rally support to ensure that Head Start funding continues both without cuts and as a federal to local grant program.

Video: [*Wolf Trap teaching artists perform.*](#)

1982

Funding Increase: Congress authorizes a \$125 million increase in funding and a subsequent increase of 9,500 funded enrollment slots. Funded enrollment reaches 395,800.

End of Summer-only programs: Summer programs are required to convert to school-year programs, increasing the level of exposure enrolled children receive to Head Start comprehensive services.

- See the trends in summer enrollment in yellow on the "50 Years of Head Start Enrollment" graph at the bottom of the [2014 Program Fact Sheet](#).

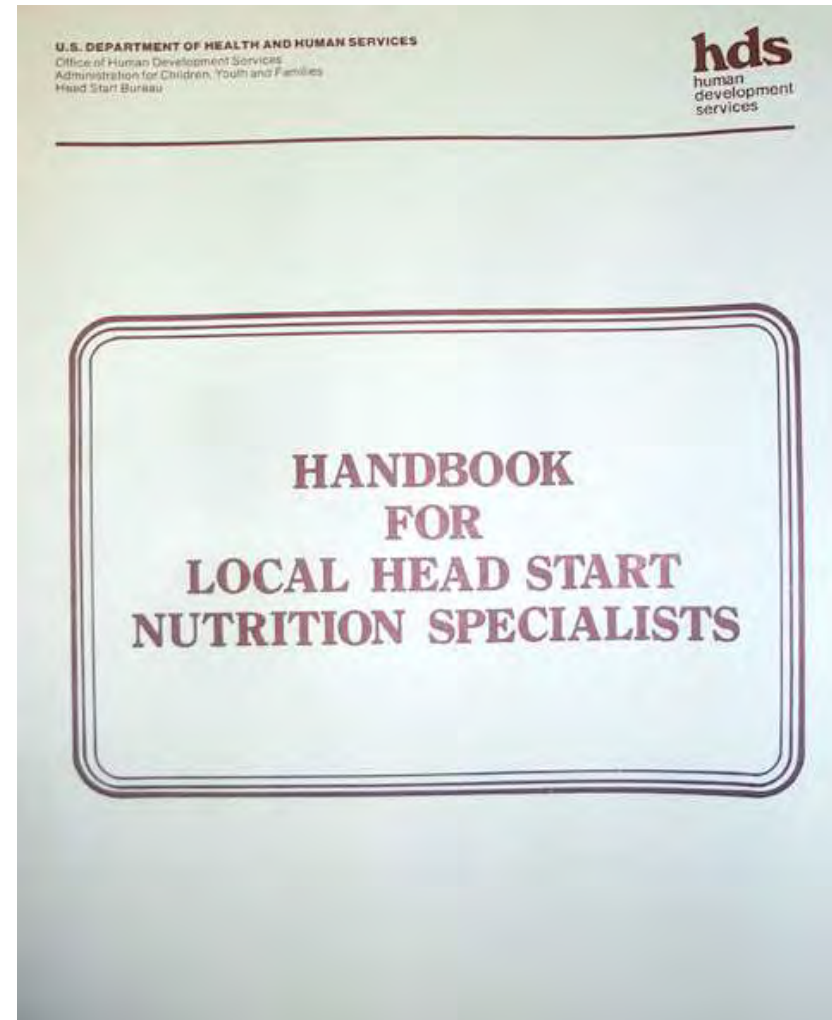


The graph illustrates enrollment trends over the past 50 years. After originating as an eight-week summer program, only a small number of summer-only programs continue into the 1970s and early 80s.

1983

Training Funds to maintain qualified staff: Essential training funds continue, in spite of a threat to funding, when Head Start grantees and supporters and Congress realize the importance of well-qualified and trained staff. Congress establishes important criteria for training funds.

Nutrition component: Calling for Head Start programs to consult with professional nutrition personnel, the Head Start Bureau publishes a Handbook for Local Head Start Nutrition Specialists. This handbook is prepared as a guide for the nutritionist who is providing services to Head Start and other preschool day care programs. The Head Start nutrition component has four major mandates. These are: 1. To provide nutritious food appropriate for children which help meet their nutritional requirements 2. To provide a physical and emotional environment conducive for children to develop positive food attitudes and eating habits 3. To help the parents and the staff understand the role of nutrition in the child's physical, mental and social development 4. To increase their ability to meet the child's nutritional needs.



Handbook for Local Head Start Nutrition Specialists

1984

Congress reauthorizes the Head Start program

through FY1986: The Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1984 ensures that training funds and funding for the National Child Development Associate continue. In addition, reauthorization emphasizes that children are eligible for two years of services and maintains the Head Start's Performance Standards.

Second expansion: Funding increase for Head Start programs allows another opportunity for expansion of existing Head Start programs. Head Start budget exceeds the one dollar billion mark and the number of children served since the 1965 reaches 9,144,990.



Graph shows Head Start appropriations over 50 years. Funding first reached the billion dollar mark in this period.

1985

Head Start celebrates 20th anniversary: Dr. Edward Zigler notes Head Start success stories are due to "the fact that Head Start is a quality child development program that involves parents, hires the best teachers that can be found locally, maintains small classes and provides comprehensive medical, dental, nutrition and social services."

Head Start Bulletins: The National Head Start Bulletins are first published as a "National Resource Exchange" by the *National Head Start Materials Center*. The bulletins are first published on a bimonthly basis, and are published at regular intervals until 2009.

- Read the last [Head Start bulletin, No. 80](#), on the topic of Mental Health.

ON FEBRUARY 19, 1965, A PLANNING COMMITTEE, HEADED BY DR. ROBERT COOKE OF JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, ISSUED A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS THAT BECAME THE DESIGN FOR HEAD START. SOON AFTERWARDS, ON MAY 18, 1965, PRESIDENT JOHNSON FORMALLY ANNOUNCED THE NEW PROGRAM AND WE WERE ON OUR WAY...580,000 CHILDREN WERE ENROLLED NATIONWIDE THAT FIRST SUMMER AS COMPARED TO THE 100,000 THAT THE EARLY PLANNERS THOUGHT COULD BE RECRUITED. THIS NATIONWIDE PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED IN A PERIOD OF FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS.

SINCE THEN THE PROGRAM HAS SERVED OVER 9 MILLION CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE BUDGET HAS GROWN FROM \$93 MILLION THAT FIRST SUMMER TO \$1,075,000 IN 1985. THE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO ENJOY BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT IN THE CONGRESS AS DEMONSTRATED BY A BUDGET INCREASE OF \$83 MILLION IN 1984 AND AN ADDITIONAL \$79 IN 1985 ENABLING US TO NOW SERVE 450,000 CHILDREN A YEAR IN EIGHT TO TWELVE MONTH PROGRAMS. WE DO NOT EXPECT A BUDGET INCREASE IN '86.

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES OVER THE 20 YEARS, INCLUDING THE MOVE FROM OEO TO HEW IN 1969, BUT THE BASIC GOALS AND GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THAT ORIGINAL PLANNING COMMITTEE HAVE NOT CHANGED. THAT ORIGINAL BLUEPRINT, PLUS THE OVERALL OEO GUIDELINES, ACCOUNTS FOR MUCH OF THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM.

Letter from Dr. Edward Zigler describes the accomplishments of the Head Start program over its first 20 years.

1986

Direction to not provide multiple years of services: In order to provide as many different children as possible with a Head Start experience, the Head Start Bureau urges a single year of service. This practice would also allow Head Start to serve more children without increasing funding. Head Start Bureau places emphasis on serving families who have not had children in Head Start before, and on increasing the days of operation in some Head Start projects.

Congress ensures children may receive multiple years of services: The *Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1986* reauthorizes the Head Start program through FY 1990. The Act ensures that children are able to remain in Head Start for multiple years. The policy debate over serving as many children as possible versus serving children for multiple years without increasing funding continues throughout the 1980s. Current practice takes research on continuity of care and dosage into consideration.

Low Head Start salaries get national attention: National Head Start Association (NHSA) discusses low salaries at Congressional committee hearing. This is the first time, the concerns about low salaries paid in Head Start programs are presented in testimony before a committee.

- See [1988](#) for what happens next!



President Ronald Reagan, Vice President George Bush (rear left) and Speaker Tip O'Neill (rear right) at the 1986 State of the Union. Collection of the U.S. House of Representatives, Photography Collection

1987

Do you have resources or initiatives developed in 1987? If so, please share them with us at HeadStart@eclkc.info.



1988

Head Start salary improvements: Spurred by the information provided in the hearing, Congress recognizes the important role that teachers and staff play in the lives of the children and families they serve. Congress appropriates more than \$50 million for Head Start salary improvements.



Teacher and teaching assistants engage with children in a Head Start classroom.

1989

Funds to improve quality: Congress appropriates a \$50 million quality set-aside. This appropriation represents an acknowledgement that funding is required to improve programs and ensure that all children receive a high-quality Head Start experience.



The Capital, Washington DC

1990

Congress funds quality improvement Congress passes the *Head Start Expansion and Quality Improvement Act* which includes set-aside funds for quality improvement and reserves two percent of total funding for training. The Act also, for the first time, sets minimum requirements for teachers—every classroom must have at least one teacher with a CDA or appropriate early childhood degree or credential.

Head Start-State Collaboration Projects: Twelve states implement a Collaboration project to facilitate significant state wide partnerships between Head Start and the state. By 1998, all 50 states and two territories have Head Start State Collaboration Offices.

- View this video commemorating the [20th anniversary of the Head Start State Collaboration Project](#).

Congress appropriates largest single funding increase in Head Start history. Further, Congress and the President promise “full funding” for the program.

Video: Watch this video commemorating 20 years of Head Start State Collaboration.

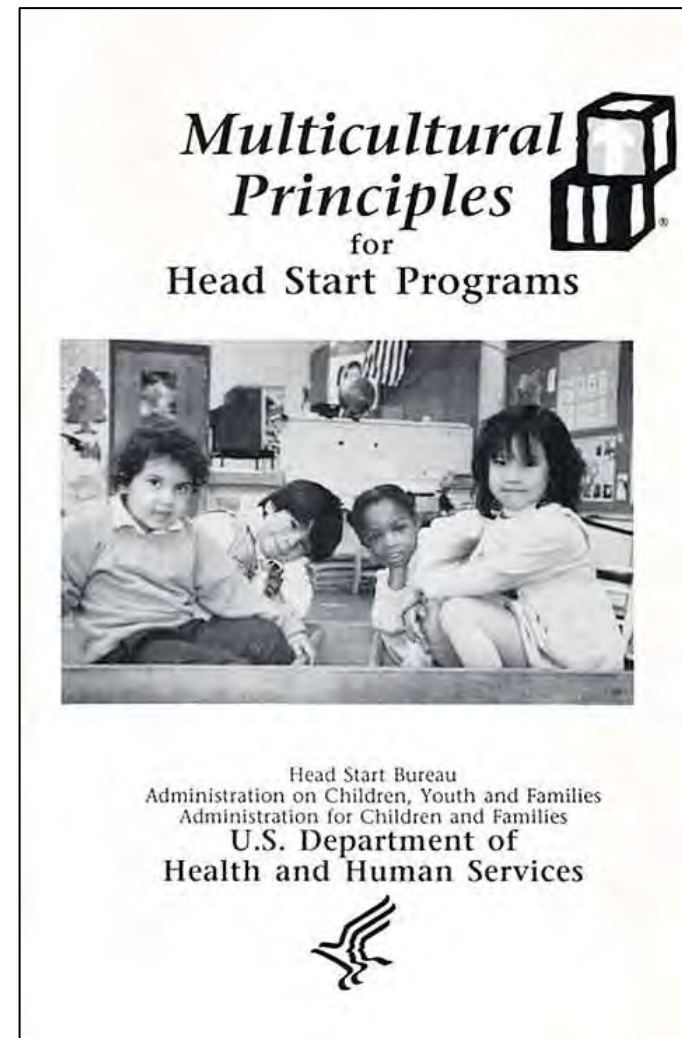
[Download the video](#) [MP4, 50MB]

[Download the transcript](#) [PDF, 69KB]

1991

Multicultural Principles: The Head Start Bureau publishes the Multicultural Principles for Head Start Programs. Its purpose is to stand as a challenge for programs to focus efforts on individualizing services so that every child and family feels respected and values, and is able to grow in accepting and appreciating different. These principles are revisited and updated in 2010.

- Explore the [Multicultural Principles for Head Start Programs](#) [PDF, 760KB], which were updated in 2010.



Front cover of the original Multicultural Principles

1992

Head Start funding increases by \$600 million. This additional appropriation extends Head Start services to another 180,000 children and families.

Congress passes the Head Start Improvement Act. This legislation codifies the ability for programs to purchase facilities, establishes transportation regulations, requires review of grantees after first year, and provides for health services for younger siblings and literacy and child development training for parents.

Services to Homeless children: Local Head Start programs are encouraged to target for enrollment those families with preschool-aged children experiencing homelessness in ACF-IM-92-12. In October 1993, the Head Start Bureau funded 16 Head Start grantees to implement three-year demonstration projects for homeless children and their families. The objectives of this initiative were to: (1) enhance access of homeless families to Head Start services; (2) provide services responsive to the special needs of homeless children and families; (3) identify effective methods of addressing the needs of homeless families; and (4) implement and document replicable strategies for collaboration between Head Start programs and community agencies on behalf of homeless families.

- Read the findings from the demonstration projects in [Head Start Demonstration Projects Serving Homeless Families: Descriptions, Effective Practices, and Lessons Learned](#) [PDF, 187KB].

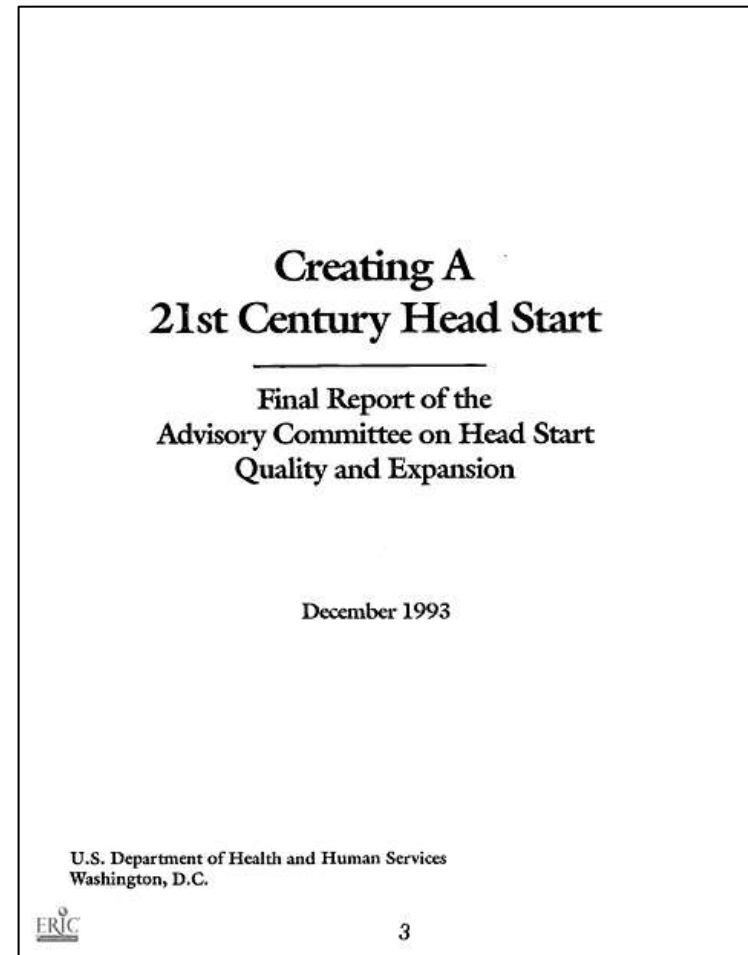


President Bush plays with children in a jungle gym at the Emily Harris Head Start Center in Catonsville, Maryland, 01/21/1992.

1993

Advisory Committee on Head Start Quality and Expansion publishes vision and recommendations in "Creating a 21st Century Head Start," issued in December 1993. This report forms the basis for the Head Start reauthorization in 1994.

Federal legislation allows Head Start programs to purchase buildings, and pay interest with federal dollars. This is very important to the quality of Head Start programs ensuring that all children are served in safe environments.



Creating a 21st Century Head Start Final Report of the Advisory Committee on Head Start Quality Expansion

1994

Early Head Start: Congress passes landmark Head Start reauthorization. The most groundbreaking provision was the creation of Early Head Start, establishing services for pregnant women, infants and toddlers. Further, the law expands Head Start, makes significant program quality improvements, focuses on staff qualifications and development and provides a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for staff. This reauthorization also requires revised performance standards and improved monitoring, and develops a system for continuing research and evaluation of the program. State Collaboration grants were also funded in this landmark legislation.

Head Start expands further: Head Start's appropriation for FY1995 is \$3.53 billion, with services to be provided to some 752,000 children.



Child plays in an Early Head Start classroom.

1995

First Early Head Start (EHS) grants awarded: These 68 new grants implement the vision in the 1994 reauthorization to provide services for infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. A rigorous national evaluation, including about 3,000 children and families in 17 sites also begins.

Fatherhood Initiatives: The federal Fatherhood Initiative brings several key government agencies together to evaluate the role of fathers in national policies and programs. The Head Start Bureau funded six male involvement demonstration projects between 1991 and 1994. In 1996, the "Head Start Handbook of the Parent Involvement Vision and Strategies" outlines how mothers and fathers can play critical roles in their children's education. Early Head Start also incorporates a special emphasis on fathers into its mission and program practices.

- Read this [2002 study on the impacts of Early Head Start](#) [PDF, 4MB].

Head Start celebrates 30th Anniversary.



Early Head Start children and caregivers on a bench

1996

The Head Start Bureau funds the Early Head Start National Resource Center. This training and technical assistance center supports implementation of the new Early Head Start (EHS) program.

Head Start gains a small funding increase in FY 1996. The increased appropriation comes when most social service programs are receiving drastic funding cuts.



Early Head Start National Resource Center Logo

1997

Head Start-Child Care partnership: One of the most exciting initiatives currently underway is partnerships between Head Start and Child Care. We share a dream for early childhood—to provide high quality, comprehensive, full-day services to meet the needs of children and their parents—and we've made great strides over the past year in carrying that vision forward. This vision will be encouraged throughout the 90s and 2000s, but is not funded until 2015.

White House hosts conference on Early Childhood development and Learning. This conference highlighted new scientific findings on brain development that support Head Start's goal of reaching children in the earliest years to give them a strong and healthy foundation for success.

"Head Start on the Hill": Local Head Start program and supporters bring a Head Start classroom up to Capitol Hill to provide Members and their staffs a chance to gain first-hand experience in a Head Start classroom.

HEAD START BULLETIN
Enhancing Head Start Communication

Head Start-Child Care Partnerships

ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING INITIATIVES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IS PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN HEAD START AND CHILD CARE. WE SHARE A DREAM FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD—TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, COMPREHENSIVE, FULL-DAY SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS—AND WE'VE MADE GREAT STRIDES OVER THE PAST YEAR IN CARRYING THAT VISION FORWARD.

The process we've undertaken is not always easy. Developing new and creative strategies for providing full-day services to children can be a challenge. We must remember that both Head Start and child care have their struggles. Child care brings its full-day experience to the table, and Head Start brings its comprehensive services and Program Performance Standards. We need to put these experiences together in a way that builds on these strengths and accommodates the diversity within the child care system.

We are also pleased to highlight HHS Secretary Donna Shalala's recent announcement of the Head Start expansion initiative

Under the initiative, Head Start expansion funds will be used for the first time to build partnerships with child care providers or to

lateral funds to deliver full-day, full-year Head Start services. Through partnerships, Head Start and child care agencies combine staff and funds to provide full-day, full-year services which meet Head Start Program Performance Standards. As Secretary Shalala observed, we need to give our children the start in life that they deserve, and we need to support parents who are moving to work. The Head Start expansion grants can build new partnerships that will make these two goals a reality for more families.

This issue of the Head Start Bulletin explores current initiatives in Head Start-child care partnerships, along with other issues of interest to the field. We hope that you will find it helpful in highlighting models or in generating your own responses to the growing need for high quality, comprehensive, full-day child care services. We also encourage you to remember our mutual goal—to make it work for children and families. Within that vision lies the promise of success.

Helene H. Taylor, Associate Commissioner, Head Start Bureau (left), and Joan Lombardi, Associate Commissioner, Child Care Bureau (right)

National Head Start Bulletin Issue No. 41
June/July 1997

Head Start Bulletin on Head Start-Child Care Partnerships

1998

HHS revises Head Start Performance Standards. The revised standards include EHS services for infants, toddlers and pregnant women and the requirement that at least one teacher in each Head Start preschool classroom must have a CDA.

Congress passes the Head Start Improvement Act. The reauthorization revises the purpose of Head Start from the development of social competence to the promotion of school readiness, creating a major culture change for Head Start. Further the law requires at least one teacher in each classroom to have an Associate degree, includes flexibility for full-day, full year services and develops measures for academic skills. In addition this legislation enhances comprehensive social services; focuses on partnerships with other early childhood providers; strengthens management systems and improves oversight; adds education requirements; and requires transition activities for children and families.

Head Start secures \$411 million and \$374 million increases for FYs 1997 and 1998 respectively. As the era of level funding and reduced funding continues in the 1990s, Head Start funding continues to grow.



Head Start Program Performance Standards

1999

Congress appropriates another funding increase for Head Start. Head Start funding increases by \$311 million in FY 1999 and increases by \$608 million in FY 2000.



Head Start appropriations increase dramatically around this period.

2000

Head Start celebrates 35th Anniversary. Further, Head Start marked five-year period of significant expansion in services to children and families with an enrolment increase of more than 100,000.

In addition the quality of the workforce improved with a 12 percent increase of Head Start teachers with degrees in early childhood education or a Child Development Associate credential.

Funding Opportunities: Grants to colleges and universities to improve the quality and long-term effectiveness of Head Start and Early Head Start programs in serving Hispanic children and families. The Head Start-Higher Education Hispanic Service Partnership (HS-HEHSP) projects support joint efforts between local Head Start or Early Head Start agencies that are serving significant numbers of Hispanic children and local higher education institutions with proven capabilities in educating and preparing professionals to work effectively with Hispanic children and their families.



Head Start Volunteer Award

2001

First Lady Laura Bush host The White House Summit on Early Childhood Cognitive Development. The summit outlines what parents, grandparents, early childhood educators, child care providers, and other caregivers can systematically do to provide children with rich and rewarding experiences during a period of child development that is marked by extraordinary growth and change.

- Learn about the [White House Summit](#).

Transportation Regulations: Head Start issues the nation's first official regulation on transportation of preschool children. This regulation governs how grantees transport children to and from program activities. The Head Start Transportation final rule requires grantees to use either "school buses" or "allowable alternate vehicles," and to ensure children are seated in height and weight appropriate child restraint systems. The rule describes operator qualifications and training requirements, vehicle and pedestrian safety training for parents and children, and how to transport children with disabilities.

- Read the [final rule](#) [PDF, 26KB].



Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia, Laura Bush, and Theresa DeGioia, who is holding young J.T. DeGioia, listen to speakers at the White House Summit on Early Childhood Cognitive Development at Georgetown University, July 26-27, 2001. White House photo by Moreen Ishikawa.

2002

The Bush Administration proposes *Good Start, Grow Smart*.

This proposed new early childhood initiative aims to help States and local communities strengthen early learning for young children to ensure that young children are equipped with the skills they will need to start school ready to learn. This initiative addresses three major areas; Strengthening Head Start, Partnering with States to Improve Early Childhood Education, and Providing Information to Teachers, Caregivers and Parents.

- Learn more about the [*Good Start, Grow Smart*](#) initiative.

The Department of Health and Human Services implements a national training program with the goal of training the nearly 50,000 Head Start teachers in early literacy teaching techniques.



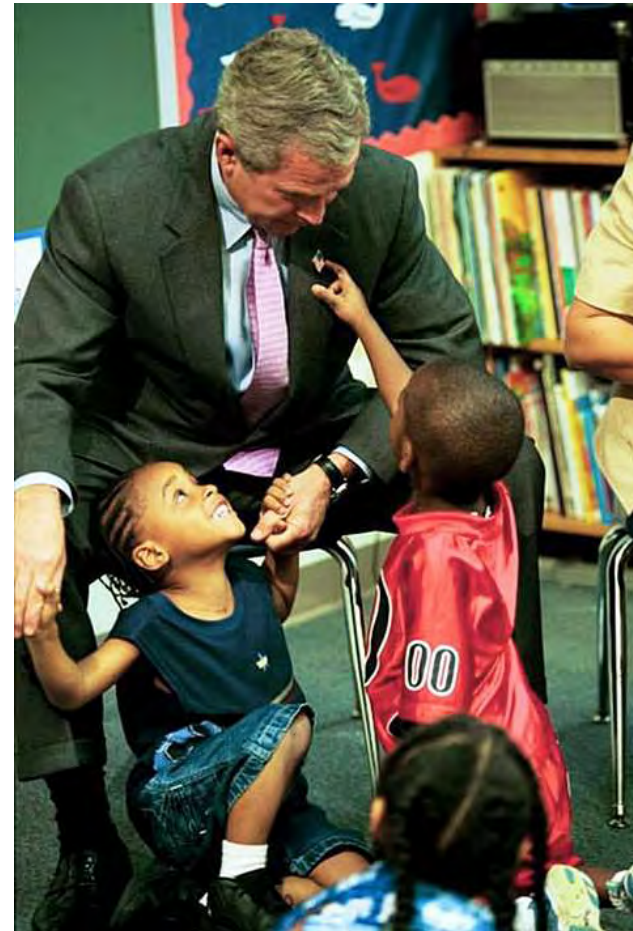
A teacher reads to children in a West Virginia Head Start program.

2003

Head Start Bureau implements the Head Start National Reporting System (NRS). As part of the Administration's Good Start, Grow Smart initiative, the NRS aims to collect information on a standard set of child outcomes in a consistent manner. This ambitious initiative aims to assess systematically the early literacy, language, and numeracy skills of all 4-and 5-year-olds enrolled in Head Start.

Child Outcomes Framework: Head Start promotes the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework to help programs plan their curricula and assess their children's progress and accomplishments of children. First published in 2000, and re-released in 2003, the framework is composed of eight general Domains, 27 domain elements, and numerous examples of specific Indicators of children's skills, abilities, knowledge, and behaviors. Head Start revises the framework in 2010.

- Read the [2003 Head Start Guide to Positive Child Outcomes](#) [PDF, 2.2MB].



During a tour of Highland Park Elementary School in Landover, MD, President George W. Bush plays with children at the school's Head Start Center on Monday, July 7, 2003. White House photo by Paul Morse.

2004

Region III Head Start launches a pilot initiative, I Am Moving, I Am Learning (IM/IL). This initiative aims to address childhood obesity in two states with significant need – Virginia and West Virginia and it is rolled out nationwide in the next few years. The goals of I Am Moving, I Am Learning are to:

- Increase time spent in moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) during the daily routine to meet national guidelines for physical activity;
- Improve the quality of structured movement experiences facilitated by teachers and adults; and
- Improve healthy nutrition choices for children every day.

The Head Start Bureau unveils the Head Start Management Initiative. This initiative focuses on administrative practices and builds on earlier efforts to ensure that Head Start children enter school ready to learn. This initiative has two major goals: 1) Improving Head Start's monitoring system to address under-enrollment, erroneous payments, child outcomes and grantee compliance with regulations, including executive administrative personnel compensation; and 2) improving Head Start's training and technical assistance system delivery, outcomes and impacts.

- Read the press release about [the Head Start Management Initiative](#).



The I Am Moving, I Am Learning initiative launches in Region 3 and quickly spreads throughout the country.

2005

Head Start Celebrates 40th Anniversary: Honoring the Past, Strengthening the Future. Total number of children served reaches more than 25 million.

- Watch the [Reflections: 40 Years of Head Start video](#).

Hurricane Katrina: In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Head Start is uniquely positioned to reach out to many of these families and help ease some of their suffering. About half a million people in New Orleans were displaced by floods caused by Hurricane Katrina. All Head Start grantees, particularly those in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee, are called to open their doors to those displaced families who have sought refuge in communities and to seek new ways to support children, parents and others affected by this disaster. The Head Start centers in the Gulf Coast region play a key role in partnering with local organizations, charities, government agencies, educational institutions and other nonprofit organizations.

- View the [Head Start Helps Families and Communities in Crisis: Hurricane Katrina](#) video.

Video: *2005 Reflections in Celebration of Head Start's 40th Anniversary*

[Download the video](#) [MP4, 282MB]

[Download the transcript](#) [PDF, 37KB]

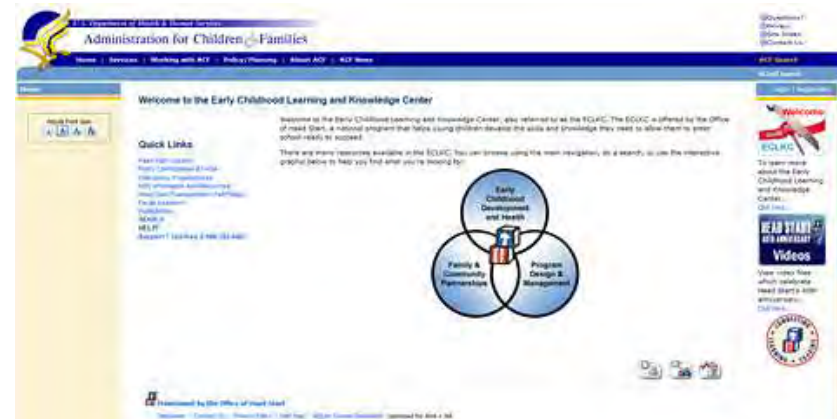
2006

Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC)

website: The Office of Head Start announces launch of the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC). The website offers an interactive, web-based resource providing relevant, timely information, knowledge and learning to Head Start programs and the early childhood community in an easy-to-use format. This website is a comprehensive resource for individuals involved in early childhood education, with format and content geared to the needs of the intended user. The site directly serves parents by providing information that supports parents' involvement in their children's lives. It also is designed to inform families about Head Start and Early Head Start, and shares with parents how they can support their child's experiences in the program.

- Available online at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc>.

Expansion of Services: A Funding Opportunity for approximately four million dollars will increase Early Head Start services in counties, Federally-recognized American Indian Reservations and Alaska Native villages, and for children of migrant farmworkers where Head Start services are not currently available.



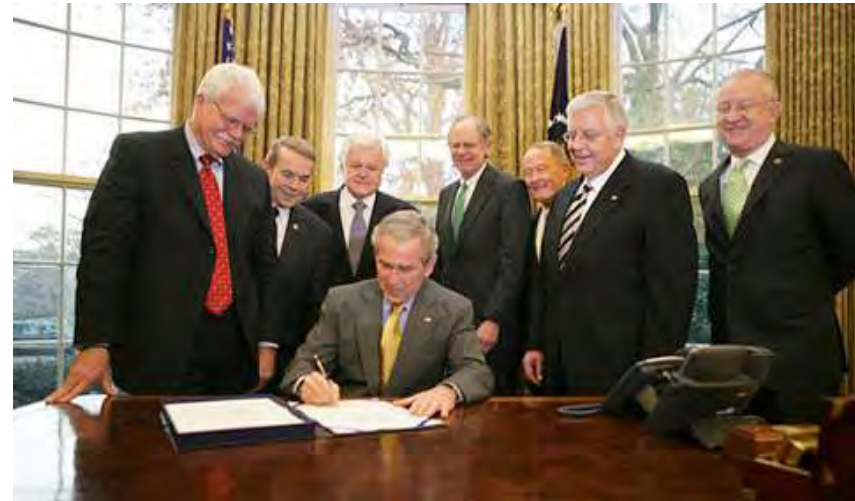
The early days of the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center

2007

The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act: The 110th Congress passes a reauthorization begun in the 108th Congress. The new law

- Makes quality improvements in all areas of the program including education staff qualifications, monitoring, and, collaboration.
- Increases accountability through strengthened monitoring and oversight.
- Changes to the funding and grants structure by revising the allocation formula and converting all grants to five year grants for which grantees may have to compete.
- Expands eligibility to allow grantees to fill up to 35 percent of their slots with children from families with income between 100 percent and 130 percent of the poverty line (in certain circumstances).
- Requires increasing qualifications and training requirements for Head Start staff.
- Clarifies the roles and responsibilities of a grantee's governing body and policy council.
- Terminates the National Reporting System.
- Promotes coordination among Head Start grantees and other state and local early childhood programs.

Healthy Marriage: Head Start awards 24 Healthy Marriage Initiative grants. Using these five-year grants, Head Start programs can partner with other organizations in their communities to offer low-income families a full range of practical skill-building sessions on communication, joint decision making, parenting, budgeting, and conflict resolution.



President George W. Bush signs into law H.R. 1429, the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, in the Oval Office Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007.

2008

Office of Head Start funds Head Start Higher Education Partnerships. These grants support staff in attaining required degrees by establishing partnerships with institutions of higher education.

Two childhood obesity prevention initiatives begin: *I Am Moving I Am Learning* and *Little Voices Healthy Choices*. These initiatives promote healthy lifestyles and physical activity.

- Learn more about [I Am Moving, I Am Learning](#).
- Explore the [Little Voices Healthy Choices](#) resources.

Video: *This I Am Moving, I Am Learning (IMIL) video summarizes the three program goals: increasing physical activity, improving the quality of movement, and encouraging healthy food choices.*

[Download the video](#) [MP4, 96.3MB]

[Download the transcript](#) [PDF, 18KB]

2009

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): \$2.1 billion in ARRA funds expands enrollment by more than 61,000 children and their families. This nearly doubles the number of infants and toddlers served by Early Head Start. Funding was also provided for quality improvements which led to significant gains in the professionalization of the Head Start workforce and investments in mentor coaching for teachers.

CLASS Observations Use of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS™) becomes widespread. CLASS gives a way to consistently observe, rate and give feedback on the effectiveness of teacher-child interaction. CLASS raises expectations for teacher practice and guided professional development, producing improved teacher practices. Our message has been that regular observation of teacher child interaction and instructional practices with resulting feedback and professional development is necessary for the operation of high quality programs.

- Learn more about [CLASS™ in Head Start programs](#).



Logo of Recovery.gov the official website on ARRA spending.

2010

National Centers on Training and Technical Assistance: Six training and technical assistance (T/TA) centers are funded to communicate best practices and provide content-rich, usable, and practical resources to Head Start grantees. These are the National center on Quality Teaching and Learning; the National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations; the National Center on Parent Family and Community Engagement; the National Center on Health; the National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness, and the Early Head Start National Resource Center.

- Learn more about the [current T/TA System](#).

Mentor and Coaching: Early Learning Mentor and Coach grants are awarded to 131 Head Start programs in 43 states to improve staff qualifications and training. Grantees use the funds to hire coaches to provide on-the-job guidance, training, mentoring and technical assistance to Head Start staff. This in turn promotes positive, sustained outcomes for children; and promotes career development in Head Start grantees.

- Find out more about the [Early Learning Mentor and Coach grants](#).



The Practice Based Coaching Cycle

2011

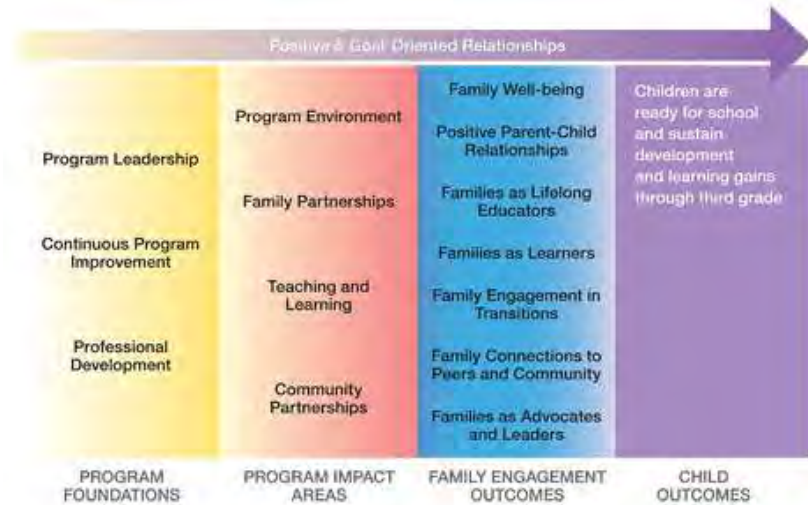
Designation Renewal System: Head Start Program Performance Standards are amended to add §1307. The Designation Renewal System (DRS) improves quality by holding programs accountable for their performance, and through competition, ensuring the best available early childhood services for our nation’s most vulnerable children and families. DRS requires that grantees not meeting certain quality benchmarks compete for renewed funding and converts all continuous Head Start grants to five year grants. By 2015, all grantees are converted to five year grants and have been through the DRS system.

- Learn about the [DRS System](#).

Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PFCE)

Framework: OHS releases a research-based, birth to 8 approach to promote family well-being and engagement in children’s learning and development. The framework outlines program-wide practices to support family wellbeing, relationships between parents and children, families as teachers and adult learners, families social connections, parent leadership and advocacy, and positioning families to make the best transition into kindergarten.

- Explore the [PFCE Framework](#).



The Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework

2012

Hurricane Sandy:

- Find out more about the ways the Administration for Children and Families has participated in [relief efforts](#).

Tribal Language: OHS releases a Tribal Language Report, which details the successes, progress, and challenges faced by tribal communities in various stages of preserving, revitalizing, or reclaiming their tribal language. Recommendations highlight the efforts of Head Start agencies required to support children's and families' cultural and linguistic diversity.

- Read the [Tribal Language Report](#).



Damage from Hurricane Sandy

2013

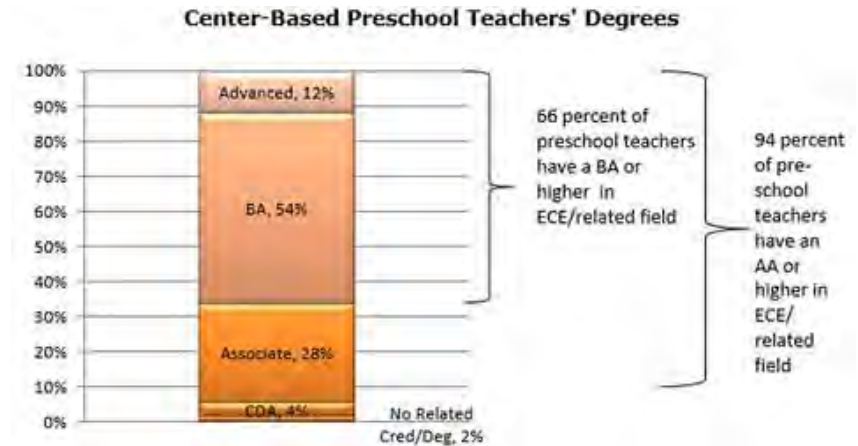
President's Early Learning Initiative: In the State of the Union address, the President proposes a series of new investments that will establish a continuum of high-quality early learning for a child—beginning at birth and continuing to age 5. This includes providing Preschool for All, funding Early Head Start-Child Care partnerships, and expanding home visiting programs.

- Watch a short video about the [president's plan](#).
- Learn more about the [president's preschool initiatives](#).

Sequestration: Due to a sequestration order, the Head Start program receives the biggest funding cut in Head Start history, and all grantees alter their programs to operate at reduced levels. The 5.27 percent funding cut represented a loss of about 57,000 children/slots. In 2014 Congress restores full funding to Head Start.

- Read the [HHS Secretary's blog about the impact of sequestration](#) on Head Start.

Professional Development: Sixty-six percent of all Head Start center-based preschool teachers have a Baccalaureate degree or higher in early childhood education, or in a related field with experience. The Head Start Act specifies that 50 percent of center-based preschool teachers nationwide should have these credentials by 2013. As of 2014, 71 percent of Head Start teachers have a BA or higher and nearly all (96 percent) have at least an AA.



Graph shows that in 2013, 94 percent of preschool teachers have an AA or higher in ECE or a related field. 66 percent of preschool teachers have a BA or higher in ECE or a related field. 4 percent have a CDA and 2 percent have no related credential or degree.

2014

Birth to Five FOAs: Through the Birth-to-Five funding opportunity announcement (FOA), applicants are encouraged to design a single, comprehensive proposal based on demonstrated community needs and their organizational capacity. Grants are awarded to the 14 agencies that were successful in applying to the Birth to Five pilot FOAs published in five communities: Baltimore, MD; Detroit, MI; Jersey City, NJ; Sunflower County, MS; and Washington, DC. The pilot is successful and is expanded to most FOAs for Head Start programs.

- Read the press release on the results of the [birth-the-five pilot](#).

Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership Grants:

Congress appropriates \$500 million dollars to launch the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grants. These grants capitalize on existing child care capacity and infrastructure to provide access to full day and full year high quality early care and education and continuous comprehensive services to low income infants and toddlers throughout the nation. Applicants for the EHS-CC Partnerships request nearly \$1 billion and reported tens of thousands of eligible infants and toddlers on waiting lists for high quality care and education. There are 275 new Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grants awarded in 2015.

- Read the press release about the [EHS-CC Partnership grants](#).

Video: [*President Obama delivers remarks at the White House Early Education Summit on Dec. 10, 2014.*](#)

2015

Full day and full year program proposal: President's budget proposes to support all Head Start programs to operate for a full school day and full school year. Strong evidence from research strongly points to the importance of full-day programs. Research on summer learning loss and attendance indicated that extending the program year also is critical for Head Start children.

- Read this blog posting to learning more about the [president's budget](#).

Aligned Monitoring System: Starting this year the Office of Head Start (OHS) assesses grantee compliance through a monitoring system that is aligned with a comprehensive five year continuous oversight plan. The new methodology requires 100 percent review of all centers, classrooms and outdoor play spaces within the grant period to better identify health and safety problems.

- Learn about the [Aligned Monitoring System](#).

50 years of Leading the Way: Head Start celebrates 50 years of providing comprehensive services to eligible children and families and leading the way in early childhood education.

Video: *From the summer of 1965 to the new programs we are rolling out in 2015, Head Start programs are rooted in their communities. Learn how partnerships at the federal, state, and local level support the success of a Head Start program.*

[Download the video](#) [MP4, 17MB]

[Download the transcript](#) [PDF, 183KB]