

# Partner with Your Local Head Start!

Better school outcomes. School budget benefits.



## HEAD START'S "GRADUATES" ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE:

Head Start  
services  
\$ pay off!

1. Stronger early learning skills



2. Engaged parents



3. Better school attendance



4. Higher graduation rates



## 5 WAYS HEAD START PROMOTES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



**Helps children & families thrive.** Serves more than 1 million income-eligible children, birth to 5, their families, and pregnant women annually.



**Employs degreed teachers who use research-based curricula and assessments.** Children make progress in health, language/literacy, math, science, and social and emotional development. Support provided for dual language learners.



**Supports learning at home and encourages healthy habits.** Family goal-setting includes parent-child reading, regular bedtimes and positive parenting.



**Coordinates comprehensive services for low-income families.** Families receive individualized help with housing, employment, nutrition and more.



**Serves children with special needs.** Facilitates early identification and intervention services.

## 4 WAYS TO LEVERAGE HEAD START IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### SHARED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Are children "school ready" when they enter your classrooms? Shared training for early childhood and public school teachers builds lasting connections and better alignment between Head Start programs and kindergarten.

### COORDINATED ENROLLMENT



It's faster and easier to enroll children when Head Start, Pre-K and schools use the same enrollment form. A universal enrollment form helps staff in any educational setting understand each family's unique circumstances.

### DATA SHARING



What data does your school system need from Head Start to better drive decision making? Data sharing gives us a window into what we can do better, together.

### COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES



Schools can build on Head Start's comprehensive services for children and families, including education, physical and mental health, nutrition, parent engagement, and connections to community resources.

### 3 MODELS OF LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WORKING WITH HEAD START



**DATA SHARING** between the AVANCE-Houston Head Start grantee and the Houston Independent School District (HISD) allowed the two agencies to track the progress of former Head Start children as they advanced through elementary school. AVANCE provided HISD with a list of Head Start participants and HISD created a unique identifier for each child. HISD then tracked reading and math scores for AVANCE children through 8th grade. HISD analyzed the data and provided reports back to AVANCE. AVANCE used this information to identify successes, challenges, and areas for program improvement.



**SHARED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.** Combining resources for shared training creates efficiency and connections across programs. In New York State, staff in child-serving settings can train together on the Pyramid Model of early childhood social and emotional development. Staff from 55 programs have participated, including center-based and family childcare, state and community-based prekindergarten, and Head Start. Training is funded through Child Care and Development Block Grants, the State Education Department, Federal grants (Head Start, Preschool Development Grants), and foundations.



**EXTEND COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES.** Several elementary schools in the East Hartford (Conn.) Public School District offer some comprehensive services to families. At Silver Lane Elementary, a family-school liaison engages parents with curriculum nights, back-to-school rallies, bi-annual family forums with school leaders, home visits, and other activities to boost student attendance and community connections. Silver Lane's family resource center hosts playgroups, parenting workshops, and one-on-one visits with a Parent Educator, and the school-based health center provides children with medical, behavioral, and dental health services.

Is there a **Head Start** in your community?

**FIND OUT HERE**

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator>

### 20,000 HEAD START LOCATIONS

