



**Florida Head Start Association**  
*Excellence. Advocacy. Leadership.*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Florida Head Start Association**  
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### **Federal Courts Temporarily Block Immigration Status Rule for Head Start Families**

TALLAHASSEE, FL — In a major development for Head Start programs, two federal courts have issued Temporary Restraining Orders (TROs) halting the administration's recent attempt to require Head Start programs to verify the immigration status of enrolled children and families.

These rulings come in response to two separate legal challenges:

- One case, led by Attorneys General from 21 states and the District of Columbia, granted relief to programs within those jurisdictions.
- The second case, brought forward by four state Head Start associations and two parent groups, extended protection to all Head Start programs nationwide.

“These decisions reflect the seriousness of the harm this policy could cause to hundreds of thousands of children and families,” said Wanda Minick, Executive Director of the Florida Head Start Association. “Head Start has never required proof of immigration status, and we believe strongly that it should remain that way.”

The Florida Head Start Association joins the National Head Start Association (NHSA) in opposing this rule and urges all programs to maintain current eligibility and enrollment practices. Programs should not make any changes to policies or procedures until further guidance is provided by the courts and the administration.

While these TROs are temporary and not final rulings, they represent a critical pause in a policy that threatens to undermine access to early childhood education for vulnerable families. Head Start is a proven investment in the future — our leaders should be expanding access, not restricting it.

FHSA has submitted formal opposition to the administration and continues to monitor legal developments closely. NHSA has developed [talking points](#) should you be contacted by the media. If you need any assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at [Wanda@FLHeadStart.org](mailto:Wanda@FLHeadStart.org).

We will continue to keep Florida's Head Start community informed as this situation evolves.

In Partnership,

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