



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

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

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#### News from the National Level

##### Increased Funding for Head Start Announced

On May 4, 2017 Congress passed an \$85 million increase to Head Start and Early Head Start funding for Fiscal Year 2017. The bill will now go to the president for his signature.

The increase of \$85 million is allocated specifically to support the Head Start and Early Head Start workforce through a cost-of-living adjustment, including the Early Head Start expansion and Child Care partnerships.

Take a moment to **show your appreciation** by thanking your Members of Congress for doing what is right by standing up for the children and families of Head Start.

##### New Board Officers

During NHSA Annual Conference elections were held for their newly elected Board Officers. FHSA would like to congratulate these individuals for their dedication and volunteerism in making a difference at our national association.

- Chairman - Damon Carson, Region IX
- Vice Chairwoman - Linda Meredith, Region IX
- Treasurer - Jay Lerman, Region IX
- Secretary - Sabinia Vaughn, Region X



##### Teacher Appreciation Week

Teachers are a vital resource to our Head Start/Early Head Start programs. We couldn't let this opportunity pass us by without acknowledging the tireless work you do for all the children and families you serve. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 1- 5, 2017.

FHSA applauds and thanks each and everyone of you for helping these underserved children and families. By taking time to help them learn their ABC's, shapes, colors and to even count seems small but means so much. Nurturing your children making sure they feel safe and loved gives them encouragement to thrive. Developing relationships with their families by providing support when there is none. There are so many children and families that have benefited from the love and support you have provided through the Head Start/Early Head Start programs.

FHSA and the entire Head Start/Early Head Start community says thank you for your time, effort and dedication you provide each and everyday you step into your Head Start/Early Head Start program. We could not do it without your support.

#### Legislative Activities at the State Level

As we wrap up the final week of Florida's 2017 Legislative Session, there are a few items that have come to our attention that may be of interest to you.

**ELC Legislative Update:** The Florida House kept School Readiness, CCEP, VPK and the Performance Funding Program at the same funding level. The Senate kept SR, PFP & CCEP the same and increased funding for VPK by nearly \$17m. The proposed budget raises the VPK Base Student Allocation (BSA) from \$2,437 to \$2,529 per student, which is the highest level in the last seven years.

The House introduced some proviso language calling for OEL to present the legislature with a plan to reduce the total number of coalitions from 30 to 25. The motivation is to reduce duplication and find economies of scale. Lindsay Carson, CEO, Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. stated "it is very unlikely that Pinellas would be impacted by any proposed mergers. We are the 7th largest coalition in the state. I believe they will be focused on coalitions serving less than 2000-2500 children in SR annually (we serve over 6000 on average). Our surrounding coalitions serve larger numbers of children as well".

**The Early Learning Performance Funding Project** is funded in both House and Senate, however each had different proviso language. Modified proviso language regarding PFP has been agreed upon, adding the following sentence: "The funds will be administered by the Office of Early Learning in coordination with the Early Learning Coalitions to provide consistent standards and leverage community efforts to support a coordinated statewide system of quality."

##### State legislature considers getting rid of sales tax on diapers in Florida

...If you have a child, you know diapers are essential. Even older Americans use them. That's why there's a move in Tallahassee to make them tax-free in Florida, much like other tax-exempt products like Rogaine. If passed, this... (CBS 12)

##### Florida child welfare providers do more with less, but how much less?

...For the community-based care providers that perform the lion's share of child welfare services in Florida, the proposed 2017 budget is a disappointment. A press release that accompanied the Jan. 31 release of...(Saint Peters Blog)

##### Commentary: Invest in innovation and efficiency for Florida's foster kids

...The Children's Home Society of Florida and top minds at Microsoft and case managers created programs with the goal of improving outcomes for children in foster care. This is public-private partnership at its best: innovating to...(Orlando Sentinel)

#### What's Happening Around the State

##### A Visit to the Boynton Beach Head Start Center

On Wednesday April 19, 2017, Congressman Hastings arrived at the Palm Beach County Head Start/Early Head Start program and visited the Boynton Beach Center. He was greeted by Mr. Louis Finney, Jr.MPA, MPM- Executive Vice-President for Lutheran Services Florida and then greeted at the door by the Head Start children, parents and staff. [READ MORE.](#)

##### Santa Rosa County District Schools Head Start Program Celebrates STEAM

STEAM (science, technology, electronics, art, and math) is not just an acronym that suggests combining two or more disciplines. It is an approach to teaching in which students become innovators, solving real-world problems through design. On Thursday, April 6, the Santa Rosa County District Schools Head Start Program hosted a STEAM Fair Night. The activity was planned to assist students and families in gaining knowledge in the five academic disciplines as well as learn effective collaboration and critical thinking skills. [READ MORE.](#)

##### School Board Member Linda S. Lerner Visits Connie L. Marmaro Head Start Center

On April 12, 2017, Linda Lerner visited the Pinellas County Head Start/Early Head Start program. During her visit to the Connie L. Marmaro Center in St. Petersburg, School Board member Linda Lerner had the opportunity to tour the facilities and interact with children in multiple classrooms. [READ MORE.](#)

##### Congressman Crist Visits Connie L. Marmaro Head Start Center

On Monday, April 3, 2017, Congressman Charlie Crist visited the Pinellas Head Start/Early Head Start program and spent time at the Connie L. Marmaro center in St. Petersburg, Florida (serves more than 190 children) with the children and staff. [READ MORE.](#)

#### T.E.A.C.H. IS MORE REASONABLE THAN YOU MAY THINK!

Did you know turnover rates in Early Care and Education are between 30-40% nationally? In Florida, those that completed the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship program, realized a turnover rate at approximately 6%.

The question is ... why haven't you enrolled your staff?

What is the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship Program? The T.E.A.C.H. program provides scholarships for early childhood teachers and facility directors to work toward earning a Bachelor degree or Associate degree in early childhood education, a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, a Florida Staff Credential or a Director Credential. T.E.A.C.H. scholarships are also available for credential renewals. [Read More.](#)



**T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®**  
**FLORIDA**  
*A Project of The Children's Forum Inc.*

#### Calendar of Events

##### May

- [6 - Kidsfest at Cascades Park, Tallahassee, FL](#)
- [9 - FHSA Executive Committee Conferene Call](#)
- [9 - 13 - FACA 37th Annual Training Conference, Jacksonville, FL](#)
- [16 - FHSA Board of Directors Conference Call](#)
- [17 - Third Meeting of the Committee on Financing Early Care and Education with a Highly Qualified Workforce, Washington, D.C.](#)
- [18 - Head Start Advantage Annual Awards & Luncheon, St. Petersburg, FL](#)

##### June

- [1 - Region IV Committee Meetings, Charleston, SC](#)
- [2 - Region IV Board Meeting & Committee Meetings, Charleston, SC](#)
- [26 - Developing A Budget and Budget Narrative For Your Head Start/EHS Grant Application](#)
- [26 - 29 - Region IV Public Policy Luncheon & Leadership Summit, Atlanta, GA](#)
- [26 - 29 - Build Initiative 2017 QRIS National Learning Network, Dalls TX](#)

#### Information You Can Use

##### May 17 Public Session of the NAS Committee on Financing

An ad hoc committee under the auspices of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will study how to fund early care and education for children from birth to kindergarten entry that is accessible, affordable to families, and of high quality, including a well-qualified and adequately supported workforce consistent with the vision outlined in the report **Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8.**

##### BUILDing Supportive Communities with Libraries, Museums, and Early Childhood Systems

This toolkit is the result of a yearlong collaboration between the BUILD Initiative and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Working in five pilot states (Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Washington) that are members of BUILD's learning community, the project convened leaders from museums, libraries, and early childhood systems to learn together and discuss ways to collaborate.

##### LOCAL FLAVOR: From Head Start: Kid-friendly recipes that deliver nutrition

Many parents complain that they have difficulty getting their children to eat the food they prepare. Head Start, with sites in Billings, Laurel and Lockwood, has been successful in getting children to eat and enjoy food that is healthy for them for years.

#### Employment Opportunities

Job posting is a benefit for all Florida Head Start Association members. Members wishing to submit a job posting should do so by sending all applicable information (including the application closing date for the position being advertised) to [Info@FLHeadStart.org](mailto:Info@FLHeadStart.org).

##### Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.

##### Health Services Manager

##### Florida Association for Community Action

##### Executive Director (deadline: May 12, 2017)

##### National Black Child Development Institute

##### Policy Director (resumes accepted until position is filled)

#### CALL FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

All members in good standing with FHSA are invited to submit photos and/or fully written and edited articles on noteworthy news and events regarding the Florida Head Start community.

News items should be on topics of interest and value to our members and include:

- Title
- Author
- Text (including small photo -optional)

FHSA e-Newsletter will be sent on the 5th of the month to our FHSA community.

Please submit your articles in a Word document and photos in a JPEG format. Remit Newsletters materials to:

Wanda Minick  
FHSA Executive Director  
[\(850\) 694-6477](tel:(850)694-6477)  
Email: [Wanda@FIHeadStart.org](mailto:Wanda@FIHeadStart.org)

Deadline to submit articles is the 20th of each month. Articles received after due date, and those that are not time-sensitive, may be printed in a subsequent newsletter.

[Submit Article](#)

#### FHSA Gets Social

The Florida Head Start Association, (FHSA) is getting social. FHSA has established a **Twitter** handle [@FlaHeadStart](#) and a **Facebook** Page. Utilizing these social media platforms will help us communicate our message and build better relations with our members. We encourage you to like our Facebook Page and Follow us on Twitter. We love to share your stories so keep sending them to us.



#### CONTACT US

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