

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHANGES IN THE HEAD START PROGRAM

(B. Haxton, OHSAI. Rev. 2007)

- 1965** Program began as a summer program through local public schools.
Funding was \$96,400,000, enrollment was 561,000.
Lyndon Johnson, President
- 1966** Based on success of the summer program, Head Start was funded as a primarily part day, 9 month program, largely through existing community action programs. Responsibility for the program was under the federal Office of Economic Opportunity. Design began with four basic component requirements as outlined in program "guidance". No legislated "standards" were in place.
Funding was \$198,900,000, enrollment was 733,000
Lyndon Johnson, President
- 1969** Head Start moved from OEO to the newly established Office of Child Development, under the then Department of Health, Education and Welfare.
Funding was \$333,900,000, enrollment was 663,600
Richard Nixon, President
- 1970** The role of Policy groups were defined, and 70.2 was created and written into law.
Funding was \$325,700,000, enrollment was 477,400.
Richard Nixon, President
- 1972** Head Start mandated to serve children with disabilities. The required "at least 10%" of it's national enrollment would be set aside for these children.
Funding was \$376,300,000, enrollment was 379,000
Richard Nixon, President
- RAPs established. T/TA system for services to children with disabilities.
- 1973** First CDA program established. CDA's in every classroom proposed for 1976.
Funding was \$400,700,000, enrollment was 379,000.
Richard Nixon, President
- The National Head Start Association was established.
- 1974** First Performance Standards were published and the review process was begun. Reviews were not done every three years, although the standards identified that as the ideal process.
Funding was \$403,900,000, enrollment was 352,800.
Richard Nixon, President

- 1977** First expansion opportunities for Head Start programs, expansion occurred in the 1978 fiscal year.
Funding was \$475,000,000, enrollment was 333,000.
Jimmy Carter, President
- 1978** First actual expansion took place.
Funding was \$625,000,000, enrollment was 391,400.
Jimmy Carter, President
- 1984** Second expansion increase
Funding was \$1,075,059,000, Enrollment was 452,082
Ronald Reagan, President
- 1986** Considerable federal pressure put on programs to limit service to children to one year, thus serving larger numbers of children for the same funding.
Funding was \$1,040,315,000, enrollment was 446,423.
Ronald Reagan, President
- 1990** Largest single increase was approved for Head Start in it's history. President and Congress promised "full funding" for the program. Funding was approved for the 1991 fiscal year.
1990 funding was \$1,052,000,000 enrollment was 540,930.
George Bush, President
- Head Start Expansion and Quality Improvement Act passed.
- Head Start/State Collaboration Projects begun. First wave funded, Ohio among first 12 states to receive funding.
- 1991** Funding for expansion distributed
Funding was \$1,951,800,000 enrollment was 583,471
George Bush, President
- 1993** Federal legislation passed allowing Head Start programs to purchase buildings, and pay interest with federal dollars
Funding was \$2,776,286,000, enrollment was 713,903
Bill Clinton, President
- President's Commission on Head Start established

1994

Head Start Reauthorization. Significant, major changes in the direction of Head Start included in the language of the bill, based on the findings of the President's Commission.

- Program Quality the Major Focus
- Services for children birth to three
- Revision of the Performance Standards
- Increased focus on collaboration, particularly with child care
- Early Head Start grants would be complete with ANY qualified provider, opening the door to Head Start "ownership", and creating a broader competitive field for Head Start

Federal funding was \$3,325,728,000, enrollment was 740,493

Bill Clinton, President

1995

First Early Head Start programs were funded.

CDA requirement - a CDA in every classroom - to be in place in 1996

Select committees for Head Start Performance Standards meet in DC

Head Start/Child Care partnership initiative underway

Required on-site peer reviews every three years enforced

Required shut-down of programs if deficiencies are not corrected within one year

Welfare Reform - beginning of the movement which brought significant changes to Head Start enrollment potential

Funding at \$3,534,128, 000 enrollment at 750,696

Bill Clinton, President

1996

Head Start Revised Performance Standards completed.

CDA requirement FINALLY anchored. One CDA teacher required in every classroom

Federal Funding was \$3,569,329,000, enrollment was 752,077

Bill Clinton, President

1997

Revised Head Start Performance Standards enforced

The following presented major adjustment needs/changes in agency systems from the previous standards:

- High quality program operation to be enforced
- Major changes in component structure
- Major changes in the Policy Group functions
- Increased responsibilities for the Board of Directors
- Staff must be QUALIFIED to do their work- must have appropriate skills, knowledge and experience for job
- Collaboration requirements escalated
- CDA Requirements anchored
- Major change in the on-site assessment tool and process

Reauthorization- Resulted in the most massive changes yet for the Head Start program:

- Purpose of Head Start changed from the development of social competence to the promotion of school readiness, creating a major culture change for Head Start
- For profit organizations may compete for Head Start grants
- Includes major focus on child and family literacy goals, creating a major literacy focus for Head Start classrooms
- Establishes expectations for competitive salaries for teachers and other staff
- Expands funding to Early Head Start
- Adds additional education performance standards
- Changes and adds-to the performance review process
- Requires outcomes assessment processes for children (Performance Measures)
- Shortens the deficiency correction time from one year to 90 days for some problem areas
- Adds significant work requirements in the social services area
- Requires transition activities
- Requires enhancement of HS/CC partnership agreements
- Requires Associate Degrees for at least one teacher in each Head Start classroom
- Requires additional professional requirements for classroom teachers
- Requires an enhanced Human Resource system for programs
- Requires focus on full day-full year services for families
- Creates major shifts and new requirements in management systems
- *Funding was \$4,347,433; enrollment was 822,316 Bill Clinton, President*

1999

Reauthorization requirements put into law, and enforcement begun

- Priority focus on education practices and outcome measures
- Priority focus on supporting career/professional development planning, and teacher education
- Priority focus on improving management systems
- Priority focus on supporting appropriate funding and functioning of Early Head Start programs
- Priority focus on Head Start partnerships and full day services
- *Funding was \$4,660,000,000; enrollment was 826,016 Bill Clinton, President*

2000

President requests biggest increase in Head Start funding ever - \$1 billion, Congress approved \$933 million. Still the largest increase ever.

Programs are enveloped in managing the change processes and resulting culture changes within their Head Start program operations and the escalated time frame for completion of teacher degrees

Futurists are looking at the changes which will occur, depending on the presidential candidate elected.

- *Funding was \$5,267,000,000; enrollment was 857,664 Bill Clinton President*

2001

Major focus on classroom literacy standards by the Bush administration

Continued focus on high quality program operations

New Head Start Commissioner, from a small program in Texas. Not from within the Bureau structure or with government service as a background

PRISM anchored as the on-site evaluation tool, after two years of revisions

Continued and increased focus on Head Start research, looking for "proof" of the value of the program - higher levels of accountability

Federal Funding at \$6,199,812,000. Enrollment at 905,235

George W. Bush, President

2002

Federal initiative for classroom literacy and pre-reading skills the major national focus - mandated national training institutes planned for the coming year -

STEP (Summer Teacher Education Program) training in the summer of 2002

STEP follow-up November, 2002

New Director's and others Training, January 003

Health Institute, April 2003

STEP Distance Training, June 2003

Fiscal Training Institute July/August 2003

STEP IV, V, VI, VII planned for continuation in 2003

T/TA focus to be solely on the federal mandates for the coming fiscal year (October 02- September 03). Regional priorities not being considered

All carry-over funds, previously controlled by the Regions, will now be controlled by the D.C. Bureau. Funds will be sent back to Washington and re-distributed

All new and replacement grants will now be "paneled" and determined by the Washington Bureau where previously done by the Regions

Continued dialogue about moving Head Start from HHS to the U.S. Dept. of Education

- Funding at \$6,537,640,000; enrollment at 912,345, G.W. Bush, President

Federal Budget includes a \$139m increase for Head Start

President's "Strengthening Head Start" plan introduced, proposing both a move to the U.S. Dept. of Education, and a state by state grant of the federal funding

T/TA system of 38 years dismantled

National Reporting System introduced on warp speed track, staff trained in the program on a national agenda training schedule, and first assessments were completed in the fall of 2003.

National uproar by hundreds of ECE professionals against the NRS and the design of this assessment program. Calls for in-depth evaluation of the program are defended vigorously by the administration

Head Start NOT reauthorized on schedule, and program goes into "Continuing Resolution" funding

- Funding at \$6,667,533; enrollment at 919,427 G.W. Bush, President

2004

House passes contentious Head Start reauthorization bill by one vote at 1:30 a.m. First time in the history of Head Start that such discord was present in Reauthorization efforts.

Senate bill leaves committee with many parts unacceptable to the Head Start community. Bill not to floor by mid-April, 2004. Rumors of hold up until after the 2004 election

GAO begins investigation of the NRS

Congress does not act on Head Start Reauthorization, so program goes into the 2nd year of continuing resolution on funding

Bureau unveils the Head Start Management Initiative - an effort to ensure program compliance with the regulations especially full enrollment, fiscal accountability and program quality.

Senate Bill doesn't make it out of the Senate, Reauthorization 2004 does not happen

Flat funding continues, with a less than 1% cola provided

T/TA network not functioning to the satisfaction of most programs across the country

Considerable numbers of negative news articles hit papers across the country. Effort masterfully crafted by the House Education and Workforce committee.

Funding at \$6,666,783,000 Enrollment 909,608 G.W Bush, President

2005

Reauthorization process begins again. House passes HR 2123 in late summer. HR 2123 includes sweeping changes for Head Start management and governance processes

Head Start wage and salary administration process is questioned by Congress, and salary caps for Executive Directors, Head Start Directors and other key staff are imposed on Head Start programs

GAO releases report on the Head Start bureau, which is unflattering, and points out failures in Head Start program oversight. Congressman Boehner's committee requested the study

Senate bill 1107 passes out of committee

President's budget flat funds Head Start and includes funding for some sort of "state demonstration projects"

Bureau seriously changes and tightens PRISM process and programs are experiencing very negative on-site reviews. Limited advance notice is being provided to programs (30 days) prior to the on-site visit

Bureau changes a wide range of processes formerly in place, and does most decision making in Washington, DC rather than in the Regional Offices

T/TA process is evaluated by the Bureau, there is still a high rate of dissatisfaction with the T/TA system

Funding at \$6,842,348,000 Enrollment at 905,851 G.W. Bush, President

2006

Senate does not bring S 1107 to the floor

Head Start budget is cut by 1%. First time the budget has ever been CUT

Prism changes again, effective for the beginning of FY 2007 (November)

Head Start Bureau undergoes major reorganization. Is now the OFFICE OF HEAD START - an elevation in relationship to the Office of HHS

A new Director of the Office of Head Start is named. Channel Wilkins.

Assistant Director is named - Frank Fuentes

Changes to the T/TA system were put in place, little to no training occurs as a part of the contracted system.

Both House and Senate majorities shift to the Democrats in the November election

2006 (continued)

Head Start Reauthorization did NOT occur in 2006, making the House and Senate bills obsolete, and they were redrafted in 2007 for reauthorization efforts

Funding at \$6,785,771,000 Enrollment at 906,993 G.W. Bush, President

2007

Funding remains flat

HR 1429 was developed by the renamed House Committee on Education and Labor
It was passed by a solid majority of votes in April, 2007

Senate Bill 556 was passed in June. Both bills are now in committee (9/07)

Head Start reviews have been much more user friendly in the 2007 program year

A group of Senators in a bi-partisan effort petitioned the Senate Committee on Appropriations for a minimum \$750m increase in Head Start funding for fy 2008
However the White House budget provides flat funding again for Head Start.
As of 10/07 there is no finalization of the Reauthorization Bill. Promises continue that it will be passed in 2007.

Funding at \$6,888,571,000 Enrollment at 909,201 G.W. Bush, President