



Pennsylvania Head Start life changing education birth through five.

Pennsylvania Head Start Association Monthly Update

March 2018

March Spotlight - Bradford-Tioga Head Start, Inc.

Bradford-Tioga Head Start, Inc. Executive Director, Jody Thomas, and Assistant Director, Wendy Swingle, recently read their favorite winter stories to children in the Troy 1 classroom of Bradford-Tioga Head Start, Inc.

One of the reasons they did this is that reading stories to children plays an important role in growth and development. Plus it is one of the easiest ways to boost school readiness. By reading, either to or with a child, they're building vocabulary, improving their ability to focus and establishing good language and literacy skills.

Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Swingle also know that books can open up a whole new world for children and adults! When someone puts on their slippers and cuddles up with their child and a favorite story, it also sends the message that you love and care about them.

When reading to young children, parents and caregivers should talk to them about the illustrations, letters, words, and sentences. They should ask questions to help improve the child's thinking skills. Bradford-Tioga Head Start, Inc. wants students to love reading, to appreciate books, and to develop early literacy skills. And with wonderful role models like Executive Director, Jody Thomas, and Assistant Director, Wendy Swingle, teachers and children in the Troy 1 classroom have a great Head Start!



**Would you like to see your program featured in next month's
Spotlight Program?**

PHSA is looking for submissions for future Program Spotlight features. Tell us about the AMAZING, but everyday things that are going on in your program by emailing michelle@paheadstart.org.

SUPPORT THE PRE-K FOR PA CAMPAIGN!



Work with PHSA to advocate for your program's state funded Head Start and PA Pre-k Counts by joining the Pre-K for PA Campaign!

Use PHSA's new **Communications Sign Up Form** to make sure that you get the information that you want from PHSA. This form also allows you to join the Pre-K for PA Campaign. Sign up at <https://docs.google.com/a/paheadstart.org/forms/de/1FAIpQLSdgoBmOwb9dUUrLFlc106td0TiGljwxMmcGIPkFLF36Mjn6-g/viewform!>

For additional ways to get involved in the Pre-K for PA Campaign, please contact PHSA's Outreach Manager, Michelle Smith, at 717-508-4681 or michelle@paheadstart.org.



PHSA Happenings

We need you to come to Harrisburg!

Upcoming Capitol Caravans

Through our work with the PreK for PA campaign, one of our objectives is encouraging Head Start advocates to come to Harrisburg and meet with their legislators. Programs choose a session date and we set up meetings with their legislators and/or staff to share Head Start success stories, educate them on the importance of Head Start in the communities they represent, encourage them to support Head Start, and/or thank them for their support in the past.

PHSA Liaisons are working hard to gather groups of interested parents and staff to make legislative visits at the PA Capitol. The House and Senate will be in session on the following dates

House and Senate	Senate Only	House Only
2/6/18-2/7/18	1/29/18-1/31/18	3/13/18-3/14/18
4/16/18-4/18/18	3/19/18-3/28/18	4/9/18-4/11/18
4/30/18-5/2/18	4/23/18-4/25/18	6/21/18
5/22/18-6/20/18	5/21/18	6/30/18
6/25/18-6/29-18		

Any programs interested in participating in a Capital Caravan please have your Liaison contact our Outreach Manager, Michelle Smith, at michelle@paheadstart.org for more information and she will begin setting up legislative visits. Also, please include names and addresses of all attendees because their office staff needs to make sure attendees are constituents of the legislator. If your program does not have a Liaison and you would like more information about the Liaison Program, Michelle can help you with that as well. Please contact her with any additional questions or to identify your program's Liaison.



Registration Now Open for Pre-Conference!

PHSA will be holding a pre-conference event on April 10, 2018 at the Seven Spring Mountain Resort, Seven Springs, PA.

Making Space for Everyone: Embracing Inclusion Safely

Join us for a full day of examining the Federal and State policies and guidance around inclusion, suspension and expulsion.

Participants will use this day to develop a system that empowers parents and staff to embrace and understand how your program is implementing the new inclusion, suspension and expulsion policies safely.

Goals

1. Participants will understand the Federal and State policies and guidance.
2. Participants will have a greater understanding of how to create a system of inclusion that is embraced by all staff and parents.
3. Participants will have an increased understanding of best practices currently being implemented in PA.
4. Participants will gain an understanding of good self care improves their ability to recognize implicit bias, as it relates to children and parents with challenging behaviors.

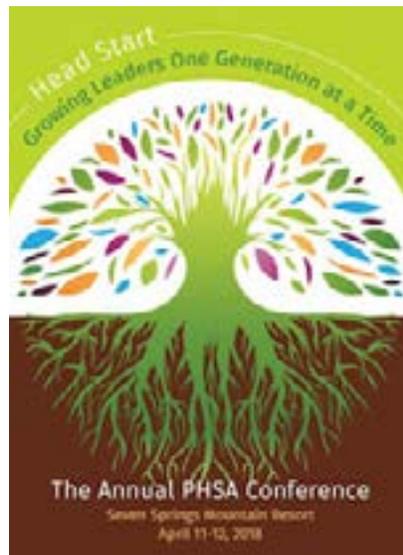
Registration is limited to 100 participants. Cost \$99
Registration will close March 31.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Questions? Please don't hesitate to contact Kayle at kayle@paheadstart.org.

Register Now for Annual Conference!

Regular registration for the Annual PHSA Conference ends March 20, 2018 so register now to avoid late fees!



This year's Keynote Speaker is former Head Start parent, Mr. Drayton Jackson. Drayton has spoken with White House officials during the Obama Administration about Head Start and homeless families in Washington State. He has fought for homeless students and childcare for students, is an advocate of equity and inclusion of professors at colleges, serves as a Board Member of the Washington State Association of Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), served on the Kitsap Sun Editorial and Kitsap Community Resources' boards. Drayton was Vice President of the Policy Council for Kitsap Community Resources Head Start and served as Olympic College 2015-16 Student Body President and currently serves on the Central Kitsap School District Financial Committee. Drayton is the Founder of the Family Day Foundation, an organization whose purpose is to take homeless families to events. Drayton is the father of six daughters and two sons and currently resides with this wife in Bremerton, Washington.

**READY SET
GROW**Linking Pennsylvania Farms
to Early Childhood Programs

Spotlight on Farm to ECE Practices!



Through their Cultivating Healthy Eating and Wellness (C.H.E.W.) initiative, the Maternity Care Coalition (MCC) started a food buying club that allows their families, staff, and community partners to purchase fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables at affordable, wholesale prices. They offer a variety of ways for the food to be purchased, including SNAP vouchers. MCC also offers nutritional education through cooking classes and demonstrations as well as recipe newsletters, along with physical fitness suggestions to complete the wellness aspect of the initiative. To read more about the C.H.E.W. initiative, go [here](#). To read more about their recent cooking demonstration, pictured above, go [here](#).

To report on Farm to ECE activities your programs are participating in, email Michelle Smith at michelle@paheadstart.org.

Still confused about what Farm to ECE is? Watch our [Ready Set Grow video](#) for more details!

PA Early Ed News Announcement

An inside look at Pennsylvania's early education system.

Wolf Administration Announces Proposed Funding in Support of Families and Children

On February 13, 2018, the PA Department of Human Services (DHS) announced initiatives included in Governor Wolf's 2018-19 budget proposal in support of Pennsylvania families and children. The budget items provide opportunities to expand access to services for self-sufficiency and sustainability. The proposed 2018-19 budget includes investments in high-quality early childhood education to support low-income families in Pennsylvania struggling to stay in the workforce due to the cost of child care.

Governor Wolf proposed a \$25 million state-fund investment, matched with \$5 million in federal funds to expand access to high-quality early childhood education services, allowing parents to work while their children are in safe, reliable child care.

The PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) Deputy Secretary, Suzann Morris, shared information about Governor Wolf's proposed 2018-19 budget. [Hear what she has to say](#) about the impact this proposed budget has for families and early learning programs throughout Pennsylvania.

For more information on Governor Wolf's 2018-19 proposed budget visit budget.pa.gov.

PA Pre-K Counts RFA Announced:

Action Required

Required Letter of Intent due **March 30**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is seeking applicants for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts. Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts provides children with the opportunity to experience a high-quality pre-kindergarten program. The program standards ensure a high return on the investment in the preparation of young children for school and will help to close the achievement gap. Early education through Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts can open the doors of opportunity for every child to do well in school, in the workforce, and in life.

The Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts grant program operates on a five-year cycle of continuation. FY 2017-18 represented the end of a five-year cycle, therefore; PDE is issuing this full, competitive rebid Request for Application (RFA) to evaluate equitable distribution of funding. All FY 2017-18 Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts grantees wishing to serve children in FY 2018-19 MUST submit an application as part of this competitive rebid process. In addition, applications from those seeking to become new Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts grantees will be reviewed.

[See the Announcement for additional details](#), including the pre-application recorded webinar and dates for the face-to-face bidder's conferences.



What's New On ECLKC:

Explore the content posted to or distributed by the [Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center](#) (ECLKC) last month. These resources and email announcements may be helpful for Head Start programs and other early childhood staff. Find tools and information related to your work with children and families including T/TA resources for early childhood development, EHS-CC partnerships, health, family and community engagement, and program management. Below are some upcoming events for March:

Upcoming Webinars for March:

[March 20: Live Chats with the Head Start Disabilities/Inclusion Network](#)

[March 20: New and Revised: Making It Work – Implementing Cultural Learning Experiences in AIAN Early Learning Settings](#)

[March 28: Successful, Supportive Relationships with State Early Childhood Systems](#)

[March 28: Exploring the Head Start Coaching Companion](#)

[March 29: Helping Families Prepare for Income Changes Throughout the Year](#)

An Invitation to Provide Feedback on Proposed Changes to the PIR

The Office of Head Start (OHS) invites public comment on several major proposed changes to the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR). These proposed changes will better align with the comprehensive revision of the Head Start Program Performance Standards, reduce reporting burden, and improve the data collection. Major changes include proposals to remove, add, and significantly update PIR questions. The changes are proposed to go into effect for the 2019–2020 PIR collection.

- A [Summary of Proposed Changes to the PIR](#) is posted in the PIR section of the ECLKC website.
- The Summary includes instructions for providing your comments to OHS.
- The comment period is open until April 6, 2018.



**REGISTER NOW FOR MAY 10th
PITTSBURGH MEETING!**

PA Head Start Healthy Smiles Task Force

**Healthy Smiles, Happy Children:
A Dentist for Every Child**

**A Collaborative Initiative of
The Region III Office of Head Start,
PA Head Start State Collaboration Office,
PA Head Start Association,
Key Partners and Stakeholders**

**Thursday, May 10th, 2018 (10am-3pm)
[Register on PHSA Website \(Events Calendar\)](#)**

**PaTTAN Pittsburgh
3190 William Pitt Way, Pittsburgh, PA. 15238
<https://goo.gl/maps/1mE7VcGHk6q>**

**Thursday, November 1st, 2018 (10am-3pm)
Community Services For Children - Training Institute
1520 Hanover Avenue, Allentown, PA. 18109
<https://goo.gl/maps/npFmzcZCodx>**



**"CAVITY FREE KIDS"
(3-HOUR WORKSHOP)
AT
PHSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SEVEN SPRINGS RESORT
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2018**



On Wednesday, April 11th - Session 1.05E

<http://paheadstart.org/2018-annual-conference/>

Presenters:

- Helen Hawkey, Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner/Executive Director PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH)
 - Amy Requa, State Oral Health Coordinator, PA Head Start Association

Those who are new to Cavity Free Kids as well as those who have taken the course in the past are invited to participate!

This 2-part extended session must be attended in its entirety to get the credit for CFK Training.

In this Cavity Free Kids (CFK) curriculum, oral health is presented as an ongoing part of preschool education and includes classroom activities and parent and education materials for use in parent meetings and during home visits. This revision of CFK includes a special curriculum for home visitors. CFK is specifically designed for use in Head Start programs to meet comprehensive Early Learning Standards. CFK will motivate all service providers and audiences that work with children to improve the oral health literacy of those around them and to understand the importance of oral health to overall health and wellness, and specifically to early childhood development.

**Questions? Contact Amy Requa, PHSA Oral Health Coordinator,
at amyrequa@paheadstart.org**

Funding for this training is provided with generous support from the:

DentaQuest
FOUNDATION

PLEASE RSVP!

Head Start/Early Head Start Health & Managed Care Organization (MCO) Partnership Regional Roundtables

Please join us for an opportunity to:

- Discuss opportunities for collaborations between HS/EHS Programs and MCOs;
- Identify specific resources and health services for children and families provided by the MCOs;
- Share best practices and successes from programs currently partnering with the MCOs;
- Develop strategies for “MCO Liaisons” to assist HS/EHS to meet health performance standards and improve services to children and families.

Lunch will be provided

Sponsored by the PA Head Start State Collaboration Office

RSVP to Amy Requa at amy.cnpn@gmail.com by the deadlines below:

Date	Location	Address	RSVP Deadline
March 28 (10-3)	Philadelphia	Temple University Administrative Building 2450 West Hunting Park Dr. Philadelphia, PA 19129	March 21st
May 9 (10-3)	Pittsburgh	PaTTAN 3190 William Pitt Way Pittsburgh, PA 15238	April 30th
May 15 (10-3)	Wilkes-Barre	Woodlands Resort 1073 Highway 315 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	May 7th
May 16 (10-3)	Harrisburg	PaTTAN 6340 Flank Drive Harrisburg, PA 17112	May 7th

Events to Watch

Date	Event	Location
April 10, 2018	2018 PHSA Pre-Conference Sessions	Seven Springs, PA
April 11-12, 2018	2018 PHSA Annual Conference	Seven Springs, PA
April 23-27, 2018	2018 NHSA Annual Conference	Anaheim, CA
April 25-27, 2018	2018 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference	Cincinnati, OH
May 10, 2018	PA Head Start Healthy Smiles Task Force	PaTTAN Pittsburgh, PA
October 15-17, 2018	2018 PA ECE Summit	State College, PA
November 1, 2018	PA Head Start Healthy Smiles Task Force	Allentown, PA



Join us for one of PHSA's Monthly Calls!

Call	Purpose	Date/Time
Monthly Update Calls 717-836-1406	Get updates on current Federal, State and PHSA specific issues.	1:00PM - 2:00PM the 3rd Wednesday of each month
PHSA Parent Call Toll Free Number 1-800-309-2350 327-1119#	Connects parents to PHSA Board and advocacy efforts.	9:30AM-10:30AM the 3rd Thursday of each month

