



# Virginia Head Start Association

2014-15 Quarterly Report

Winter Edition

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of Virginia Head Start Association's new Quarterly Report! In lieu of one Annual Report to be published and distributed in paper form, we will be sending electronic reports each season with information you can easily forward to your Head Start affiliates: staff, board members, community partners, parents, etc. As we begin this new process, we welcome any suggestions or feedback.

Head Start continues to be the nation's premier provider of developmental and educational services to pregnant moms, babies, toddler, preschoolers, and their families, who struggle to meet the basic needs of life. Head Start promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services to enrolled children and families. The Virginia Head Start Association strives to provide professional development training and advocate for Head Start funding.

## White House Summit on Early Learning - December 2014

On Dec 10, 2014, President Obama spoke at the White House Summit on Early Childhood Education. He urged all of us to continue to make commitments in our children... and reminded all that this crosses party lines. The InvestinUs campaign will grow our economy and change our future. He pointed out that this administration is implementing 750 million dollars in new investments for early childhood (\$250 million in 18 states for Preschool Development Grants and \$500 million for Early Head Start / Child Care Partnerships. This expansion will help give us the energy to keep the momentum going to build our birth to 5 system in Virginia. These grants are exciting but still only a small start to reach the current need. We congratulate the following recipients:

For Preschool Development grants, the participating divisions in VPI Plus:

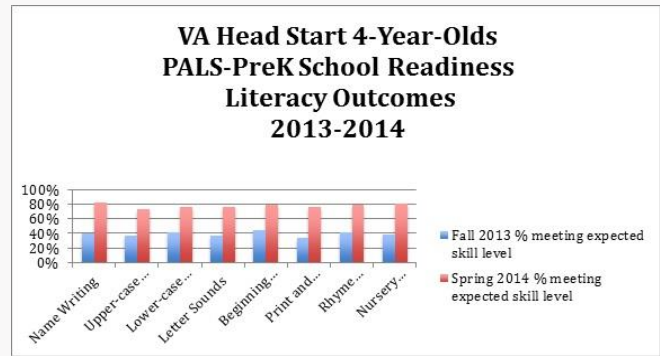
Brunswick County	Chesterfield County	Fairfax County
Giles County	Henrico County	Norfolk
Petersburg	Prince William County	Richmond
Sussex County	Winchester	

For preliminary grant awardees for EHS/CCP in VA:

Alexandria	The Campagna Center, Inc.
Culpeper	Culpeper Human Services
Fairfax	Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Oakton	Northern Virginia Family Services
Roanoke	Total Action Against Poverty in Roanoke Valley, Inc
Verona	Augusta County School Board
West Point	Parent-Child Development Corporation

## 2013-2014 Literacy Outcomes

Many Head Start programs utilize the PALS scoring system to reflect skills that are predictive of future reading success. Created at University of Virginia's Curry School of Education, PALS-PreK is a scientifically-based phonological awareness and literacy screening that measures preschoolers' developing knowledge of important literacy fundamentals and offers guidance to teachers for tailoring instruction to children's specific needs. The assessment indicates children's strengths and those areas that may require more direct attention. The assessment is designed to be administered to four-year-olds in the fall of PreK in order to guide instruction during the year. A second administration in the spring of PreK serves to evaluate progress. We are proud to report the literacy school readiness growth of our 4-year-olds in VA Head Start programs.



## 2013-14 Program Information Report (PIR)

The Office of Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) provides comprehensive data on the services, staff, children, and families served by Head Start and Early Head Start programs nationwide. All grantees and delegates are required to annually submit PIR for Head Start and Early Head Start programs by August 31st to reflect data from the previous program year.

The PIR is an important source of descriptive and service data for the Head Start community, their partners, Congress, and for the general public. PIR data is compiled for use at the federal, regional, state, and local levels.

We are pleased to provide the [2013-14 PIR](#) compiled data for Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia on our website. Grantees may find it beneficial to analyze their individual program data compared with the state-wide data.

## Upcoming 2015 VAHSA Conferences

March 24-26, 2015	*Annual Training Conference	Abingdon, VA
June 16-18, 2015	Directors Conference	Virginia Beach, VA
August 12-13, 2015	Infant-Toddler Conference	Staunton, VA
November 2015 (TBD)	Health-Family Conference	Charlottesville, VA

\*Registration for the 2015 Annual conference will be online in Mid-January. Go to our website for more information on registration and upcoming training events.

## Conference Scholarships

With the generous support of the Head Start State Collaboration Office, \$9,700 will be awarded in scholarships this program year for conference registrations, including:

- Bridges to Healthy Families Institute - Nov 2014
- Maxine McKinney Emerging Leaders Scholarship for Annual Conference - March 2015
- Shining Stars Conference - July 2015
- Infant-Toddler Institute - August 2015

## Nancy Elmore Scholarships

The Nancy Elmore Scholarship Fund was established by the Virginia Head Start Association's Board of Directors in June 2010 to honor the work for Region III Regional Program Manager Nancy Elmore upon her retirement.

The purpose of the scholarships is to assist a current Head Start staff and a current Head Start parent in pursuing college education. One \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to each category. A committee of the Board reviews applications each spring and selects the awardees based on a point system. Scholarships are announced in June at a joint meeting of the Board and Directors. Scholarships are paid directly to the higher education institute designated by the awardees.

Please check our website in late January 2015 for information about applying for McKinney and Elmore Scholarships.

## **Bridges out of Poverty Training presented by Terie Dreussi-Smith**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015 for VAHSA SE Region**

Day One Objectives, 8:30-3:30pm

5915 Nine Mile Road, Henrico, VA 23223

**Thursday, February 26, 2015 for VAHSA NW Region**

Day One Objectives, Time: TBD

1301 Carrier Drive Harrisonburg, VA 22807

**Friday, February 27, 2015 for VAHSA NE Region**

Day Two Objectives

Time and Address TBD

**VAHSA SW Region TBD**

### **2014-2015 Board of Directors**

We would like to thank our 2014-15 Board of Directors for their dedication and service to VAHSA.

Nancy Null	SE	President
Jane Gray	NW	Vice President
Christy Whitaker	SW	Treasurer
Shikee Franklin	SE	Director
Anne Taggart	NE	Director
Shelly McClintock	SW	Director
Dorothy Holmes	NW	Director
Tracy Bridgeforth	SE	Staff
Carol Breeding	SW	Staff
Duan Shankle	NE	Staff
Nijjia James	NE	Parent
Stephanie Gaignard	SE	Parent
Nichole Cooper	NW	Parent
Gail Summer	SW	Community
Becky Sitnik	NW	Community
Jacqueline Wake	SE	Community
Wyvonnie "Bonnie" Harsley	NE	Community
Rashanda Jenkins	NE	Health Advisory
Laurie Rothwell		T/TA System
Aleta Lawson		Collaboration Office
Dawn Ault		Executive Director
Julia Beglane		Executive Assistant

"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song." - Maya Angelou

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." - Nelson Mandela

We would like to feature your Success Story in our next quarterly newsletter. We know you have them! Please send your stories to: [director@headstartva.org](mailto:director@headstartva.org)

Head Start will continue to play a key role in the transformation of education in VA. We will bring our long record of success in working with at-risk young children and their families to our partnerships with those in education and family services. Together we can deliver on our promise that all our young children have the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for all you do to enrich the lives our of VA children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Ault". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dawn Ault  
Executive Director  
Virginia Head Start Association