

The Kids on Campus Initiative



The National Head Start Association (NHSA) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) are collaborating to address the child care and early learning needs of student parents, particularly those in or near poverty. Kids on Campus aims to bring Head Start programs onto community college campuses, providing free, high-quality early education and child care for qualifying student parents.

This five-year project seeks to improve student outcomes by addressing the complex challenges faced by student parents and their families.

The Benefits of Head Start-Community College Partnerships

Children and Families	Head Start	Community Colleges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Access to on-campus, free for families, high-quality, early learning opportunities ✓ Benefit from personalized support services tailored to the needs of parents, children, and family members ✓ Explore flexible full- or part-time job opportunities ✓ Witness higher education in action, inspiring future academic endeavors for children and all family members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase Head Start enrollment and improve attendance rates ✓ Fulfill “in-kind” and “non-federal share” contribution requirements effectively ✓ Leverage college departments and resources to reduce program costs, maximizing efficiency ✓ Develop diverse workforce and training pathways to meet community needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Foster persistence and completion among students with young children, promoting educational success ✓ Address students’ basic needs to ensure a conducive learning environment ✓ Access to high-quality early learning programs and practicum sites for enriched learning experiences ✓ Recruit prospective student parents and their families, fostering a diverse and inclusive campus community

Project Processes for Head Start and Community Colleges



Partnerships Just Make Sense



Head Start programs offer valuable support to qualifying student parents by providing free, high-quality early education.



22% of U.S. undergraduates are parents. Of those parents:

- **42%** attend community college
- **Over 50%** are parents of color
- **70%** are mothers



Of the more than 1,000 community and technical colleges, approximately **130** currently have Head Start centers on campus



Over half (53%) of student parents are raising young children (zero to five years), and **nearly half** of those children are eligible for Head Start.



The median distance between a campus and its nearest Head Start is only **1.5 miles**



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