



Head-Start

Early Head Start

Hello Friends,

The 2023-2024 school year has already ended for some and for some the end is near. This year we had our federal CLASS review and our Focus Area 2 review. A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in each review. Each staff person and parent showcased just how wonderful our program is. As everyone knows, we anticipate changes in the next school year. As we near these changes, my hope is that we embrace change and make the most of the wonderful wellness opportunities that our Agency has provided us.

Here are a few updates:

- The DCEA Board approved the 2.5% cost-of-living increase for 2024/2025. The increase should be effective July 1st or when you return.
- We will begin the 2024-2025 school year without Wearwood, Seymour, and Mentor Head Start. We anticipate serving 765 Head Start children and 72 Early Head Start children next year.
- We hope to be in the new Blount County facility next school year. This facility will become the home to 4 preschool classrooms. We are coming out of the Fairview, Lanier, Townsend, and Union Grove Head Start classrooms.
- We must get the required amount of attendance days and hours next year. Please pay close attention to the Head Start calendar when it is published on the website. There are changes in the dates that children will attend.
- Beginning July 1st, our Agency will implement shortened hours on Friday. Children will attend 4 hours on Fridays. If you do not know what your new work hours are, please speak with your area coordinator.
- All jobs will be posted on our website and indeed.com over the summer. Please check periodically for open positions. These positions will run for 3 days before interviews or transfers can take place.
- CPR & First Aid will be scheduled in July after all staff have returned to work. You will be notified if you are on the list to complete your certification when you return.

When you return, do not forget to check your classrooms for Health & Safety issues or concerns so we can correct them before children return. If you have concerns, complete a work order request or talk with your area coordinator or component manager.

Enjoy your summer and see you next year!

Sincerely,
Emily

DCEA Head Start/Early Head Start
STAFF RETURN TO WORK
2024-2025 School Year

June 24-June 28	Early Head Start classroom staff training & EHS FA home visits
July 4	Holiday
July 8	Family Advocates and Bilingual Assistants return to work- training (Location TBD, watch our website and/or Facebook page for details)
July 8 -15	Early Head Start trainings and home visits (see calendar)
July 15	Head Start Teachers and TAs return to work – meet with ACs
July 16	Early Head Start preplacement/parent orientation
July 17-18	Early Head Start staggered attendance
July 15 - 31	Head Start Teacher and TA trainings and home visits (see calendar)
July 19	All Early Head Start children attend 4 hour day
July 22	Early Head Start begins regular attendance
July 22	All Remaining Staff return to work – component trainings (Location TBD, watch our website and/or Facebook page for details)
July 22 - 31	Head Start Staff trainings/home visits/work in centers (see calendar)
July 26, 30, 31	First Aid/CPR training for Head Start and Early Head Start
August 1 or 2	Head Start preplacement/parent orientation
August 5 - 8	Head Start staggered attendance
August 9	All Head Start children attend 4 hour day
August 12	All children begin regular schedule

This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change based on guidance OHS and/or local, state, or federal departments. We will post any changes and/or updates on our website and on our program Facebook page. If you have any questions, please contact your area coordinator, component manager, or the program director.