



... September 24, 2008 News Advisory ...

25th MILLIONTH HEAD START CHILD TO BE RECOGNIZED

Major Milestone to be Marked in Latest Sign of Success of Federal Cornerstone in Early Education

NEWS ADVISORY/// The National Head Start Association will announce on September 24, 2008 the 25 millionth child to go through the federal government's highly successful early education program since its founding in 1965. More than two dozen states from across the nation have identified honorary 25 million Head Start children and will be featured during national and grassroots news events on September 24, 2008.

Head Start has been described as "the most important social and educational investment in children, families, and communities that the United States has ever undertaken."

Head Start -- the nation's premier early childhood program serving more than 1 million children and their low-income families -- is a comprehensive school readiness program that helps to reduce the achievement gap in the classroom. Substantial research demonstrates that Head Start children experience increased achievement test scores and favorable long-term effects in terms of less grade repetition and special education, and higher school graduation rates. Head Start's parent Policy Councils and family support services empower low-income white, African American, Hispanic and other children and families to gain skills needed to move out of poverty and pursue the American dream.

If you are interested in talking to local your Head Start programs and parents, please contact Katy Warren, 253-373-9100, Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP.

A live, one-way audio feed of a related national news conference will be available for reporters outside of the greater Washington, D.C. at 10 a.m. ET/(1 p.m. PT) on Wednesday, September 24, 2008. Dial 1 (800) 860-2442 by 9:55 a.m. EDT/(12:55 p.m. PT) and ask for the "Head Start 25 millionth child" news event audio feed.

The Washington State Association of Head Start/ECEAP (WSA) is a statewide organization composed of representatives from Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant Head Start, Native American Head Start and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). The association has been in existence since the late 1960's, and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986. To find out more information about WSA go to our web site at www.wsaheadstarteceap.com

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