

State(s) of Head Start Media Coverage Clips

National

After 50 Years, Head Start Struggles With Uneven Quality

NPR, Morning Edition

Claudio Sanchez

December 14, 2016

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/12/14/505432233/after-50-years-head-start-struggles-with-uneven-quality>

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For more than 50 years, Head Start has provided free early childhood education and other services to low-income families. But new national research, out Wednesday, shows great variation from state to state in how well the program works.

- Highest and lowest quality rankings
- Teacher pay and difficulty maintaining staff
- Inconsistencies in eligible students served across the states
- National Head Start Association reaction from spokesperson Sally Aman – unfair comparison, does nothing to address funding

Head Start is underfunded and unequal, according to a new study

Washington Post

Joe Heim

December 14, 2016

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/head-start-is-underfunded-and-unequal-according-to-a-new-study/2016/12/14/54b01b24-c095-11e6-897f-918837dae0ae_story.html?utm_term=.99b1c41587cd

*picked up by [The Spokesman-Review](#)

Head Start, the federal program that provides education, nutrition and health services to low-income children and their families, is not adequately funded and is administered so differently from state to state that children do not benefit equally, according to a new report from the National Institute for Early Education Research.

- Who Head Start serves and where it operates best
- New administration and Tom Price
- Bipartisan commission of policymakers, researchers and educators to look at how Head Start

Is Head Start Working for Low-Income Latino Kids? Depends on the State

NBC Latino

Suzanne Gamboa

December 14, 2016

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/head-start-working-low-income-kids-depends-states-n695476>

Quality preschool can greatly benefit low-income children and families, yet the three states with the greatest numbers of Latino residents fell below national averages on enrollment and other measures in a state-by-state report of Head Start programs.

- Underserved children who qualify especially in California, Texas, and Florida
- Lack of funding

State(s) of Head Start

POLITICO Education

Caitlin Emma

December 14, 2016

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-education/2016/12/kings-tenure-coming-to-an-end-remembering-sandy-hook-trumps-pick-for-state-has-supported-common-core-state-s-of-head-start-217868>

'STATE(S) OF HEAD START' Enrollment in Head Start, the federal pre-K program for low-income children, varies wildly by state, a new report from the National Institute for Early Education Research finds. Just five states enrolled more than 30 percent of low-income 3- and 4-year-olds, while 11 states enrolled fewer than 15 percent. "Head Start has never been funded adequately and the mission has grown," said W. Steven Barnett, director of NIEER. Combined funding per child for Head Start and Early Head Start has remained relatively stagnant between 2007 and 2015 when adjusting for inflation, the report notes. But Barnett said he's seeing improvements in instructional quality. For example, nearly three quarters of Head Start teachers had a Bachelor of Arts degree or higher in early childhood education during the 2014-15 year, compared to just 44 percent in 2007. And new Head Start performance standards, unveiled earlier this year, could lead to greater improvements, he said. Read the report.

Head Start's state-to-state gaps noted in most comprehensive report card yet

Christian Science Monitor

Ellen Powell

December 14, 2016

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Education/2016/1214/Head-Start-s-state-to-state-gaps-held-up-in-most-comprehensive-report-card-yet>

*also picked up by [Yahoo News](#)

Head Start just received its first nationwide report card – and improving consistent quality is at the top of the agenda. In the most comprehensive study of the program yet, "State(s) of Head Start," released Wednesday, researchers from the National Institute for Early Education Research, at Rutgers University, looked at data on Head Start programs from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and US territories.

- How Head Start can serve all children in poverty
- Interview with Sonya Hill, manager of Head Start in Orange County, FL

- Interview with James Heckman, a Nobel laureate in economics and professor at the University of Chicago

Head Start: One Program, Dramatic Differences Among States, Study Finds

Education Week

Christina Samuels

December 14, 2016

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2016/12/head_start_one_program_dramatic_differences_among_states_study_finds.html

From an Inside-the-Beltway perspective, Head Start looks like a uniform program: Money flows from the federal government (to the tune of \$8.9 billion in fiscal 2016) and all providers follow a single set of standards in providing early-education and health services to disadvantaged children.

But dig beneath the surface, researchers say, and you find substantial variation from state to state in terms of program quality, percentage of eligible children enrolled, and teacher salaries.

Report: Wide variety across states in Head Start quality, funding, access

Education Dive

Tara Garcia Mathewson

December 14, 2016

<http://www.educationdive.com/news/report-wide-variety-across-states-in-head-start-quality-funding-access/432352/>

"The State(s) of Head Start" report includes profiles for every state, six U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, along with profiles of the American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs. While NIEER found consistently high indications that Head Starts nationwide provide emotionally supportive environments and have good overall classroom organization, only Vermont and Kentucky scored above a research-based threshold for effective instructional support and 18 states scored well below that threshold.

- Widespread differences in Head Start programs across states in terms of funding, classroom hours, teacher qualifications and compensation, observed quality, and enrollment
- Many of these differences can be attributed, in part, to limited funding, estimating it would take \$14 billion more in federal funding to serve all eligible three- and four-year-olds in the regular Head Start program — and even more to fully fund Early Head Start to reach its entire eligible population.

\$20B Needed to Provide High-Quality Head Start, Fix State-to-State Inequities, Report Finds

The 74 Million

Carolyn Phenicie

December 14, 2016

<https://www.the74million.org/article/20b-needed-to-provide-high-quality-head-start-fix-state-to-state-inequities-report-finds>

Inadequate funding of the federal Head Start preschool program has resulted in dramatic differences in the number of children served and the quality of the programs in each state, according to a new study.

- Interview with Allison Freidman-Krauss
- Lack in enrollment of eligible children
- Variances in program quality, teacher education levels, average salaries, program duration and amount spent per child.
- Research from economist James Heckman that found quality early-childhood programs from birth to age 5 deliver a 13 percent return on investment

A Real Head Start

U.S. News

Sara Mead

December 15, 2016

<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/knowledge-bank/articles/2016-12-15/head-start-is-getting-better-and-can-help-other-preschool-programs>

Poor children who attend Head Start get much better learning experiences today than they did a decade ago, according to a recent study. That's great news for Head Start kids. Moreover, the lessons from Head Start's improvement might also help us boost quality in other preschool and child care programs.

- Need to bring all Head Start grantees to the level of quality found in the strongest programs and to reduce disparities in access
- Data that shows improvements in the quality of teaching and learning experiences in Head Start classrooms from 2006 to 2014. On one measure of the quality of teaching, the percentage of Head Start programs meeting "good" or "excellent" standards of quality quadrupled, while the percentage of programs demonstrating inadequate levels of quality fell from over 10 percent to virtually none.
- This study doesn't actually look at whether Head Start children are learning more today than they did in 2006 and even if average classroom quality has improved, there is still variation in quality across programs
- Encourage state and local leaders to take action to improve quality in state and local early childhood programs by prioritizing quality in early childhood programs and expanding access in underserved communities

Answer Sheet: The real problem with Head Start — and why it needs a fresh start

Washington Post

Valerie Strauss

December 19, 2016

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/12/19/the-real-problem-with-head-start-and-why-it-needs-a-fresh-start/?utm_term=.a732660f2e51

A new study on Head Start finds the federal program falls far short of its goal of providing high-quality services to all young children who need them and that there are “fundamental and difficult to understand disparities across states” in access, funding and quality even though it is a federal program with uniform national standards and goals.

- Disparities in access
- Blog by Steve Barnett on Head Start

What Does Head Start Look Like in Your State?

New America

Abbie Lieberman and David Loewenberg

December 28, 2016

<https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/what-does-head-start-look-your-state/>

Because Head Start has a unique federal to local structure— the grants go directly from the federal government to local providers— it is rarely analyzed at the state level. But as state early education programs (mainly four-year-old pre-K programs) have grown in recent years, it's important to understand how program access and quality differ across states. What role does Head Start, the nation's largest early education program, play in state early education systems? And alternatively, what role, if any, do states play in their Head Start programs? NIEER's report helps answer these questions.

- Access varies significantly by state, ranging from 16 percent to 97 percent of three- and four-year-olds served
- Most states performed poorly on CLASS's Instructional Support domain which measures classroom instruction related to children's cognitive development
- Low pay of early educators makes it difficult to attract and retain teachers to the field-- especially as states call for higher qualifications. Even with BA's, EHS teachers in 21 states earned less than \$30,000 on average.
- Under the new Head Start Performance Standards, all programs will be required to serve children for a minimum of 1,020 hours per year
- Interview with Steve Barnett

More Than 600 Head Start Programs to Lengthen Hours Under New Funding

Education Week

Christina Samuels

January 3, 2017

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2017/01/more_than_600_head_start_programs_to_lengthen_hours_under_new_congressional_funding.html

The Office of Head Start announced Tuesday that it will distribute \$290 million to 665 Head Start and Early Head Start programs around the country that they can use to expand their full school day and year offerings. Congress appropriated the supplemental funding in a fiscal 2016 budget bill for the federal preschool program for children from low-income families, and the money is now part of Head Start's base funding, subject to congressional approval... A recent analysis of Head Start programs by the National Institute for Early Education Research found wide disparities in the program year for many Head Start grantees. For example, almost all Head Start children in the District of Columbia and in Georgia were served in full-day programs that last an entire school year. In Idaho and Wyoming, only 1 percent of children were in full-day, full-year programs.

- Funding approved in supplemental 2016 budget bill, part of Head Start base funding subject to congressional approval
- Funding targeted to programs with fewer than 40 percent of slots operating on a full-day, full-year program

- Working in critical learning skills, play, lunch, nap and other important elements is difficult in just 3 ½ hours
- HS new standards require nearly all programs to offer full-day, full-year by 2021--but US Secy of HHS has discretion to place that portion of standards on hold pending funding

Programs have options for use of funds: adding days to the end of the school year to shorten a summer gap, adding hours of operation to the school day, additional staff or facility upgrades for programs running double sessions.

Education Expert Predicts Potential Decline in Pre-K Enrollment Under Trump Administration

Education World

Nicole Gorman

January 4, 2017

http://www.educationworld.com/a_news/education-expert-predicts-potential-decline-prek-enrollment-under-trump-administration

NPR Ed's Claudio Sanchez knows education, and for that reason he--to a strikingly accurate degree--uses the start of the new year to make predictions on what to expect from education in the next 12 months. Last year, for example, Sanchez predicted the nuances of the Every Student Succeeds Act, the increase of focus on charter school effectiveness and the diminished uproar/rebranding of the Common Core. Given his accuracy, the fact that one of Sanchez's predictions for this year is that early education will suffer under a "leaner federal education budget" is a cause for concern.

- Donald Trump's plan to reduce federal education funding
- Drop in pre-k enrollment in 2017
- Low teacher pay in Head Start

Regional by State

Arizona

Only a Small Fraction of Arizona Children from Low-Income Families Are Enrolled in Head Start Program

Phoenix New Times

Griselda Nevarez

December 15, 2016

<http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/only-a-small-fraction-of-arizona-children-from-low-income-families-are-enrolled-in-head-start-program-8909461>

The vast majority of Arizona's eligible children are not enrolled in the federally funded Head Start program, which offers early education primarily to children from low-income families. Only about 7 percent of children in Arizona under the age of 5 who come from low-income families were enrolled in Head Start during the 2014-2015 school year, according to a new report from the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University. That's below the national average of 10 percent.

- Thousands of eligible Arizona children aren't benefitting from Head Start

- In Arizona, the quality of instruction at the agencies that provide Head Start services fell below a research-based threshold for effective learning and Head Start teachers in Arizona earned substantially less than teachers in the state's public schools
- Positives were that 90 percent of Arizona children who enrolled attended Head Start for at least 1,020 hours per year, surpassing the national average of 42 percent and the amount of federal funding that Arizona received per child in Head Start and Early Head Start exceeded the national average when adjusted for the cost of living

Arizona Head Start Program Gets Good And Bad Grades On National Report

KJZZ, Maricopa County Public Radio, AZ

Carrie Jung

December 16, 2016

<http://kjzz.org/content/409630/arizona-head-start-program-gets-good-and-bad-grades-national-report>

Arkansas

Study: Arkansas Head Start Teacher Pay and Education Below National Average

KUAR, NPR Arkansas

Chris Hickey

December 14, 2016

<http://ualpublicradio.org/post/study-arkansas-head-start-teacher-pay-and-education-below-national-average#stream/0>

A state-by-state study of Head Start programs shows Arkansas keeping up with national averages in per-child funding levels and hours of classroom time, but the state lags in pay and education levels for teachers. The National Institute for Early Education Research released the findings Wednesday.

- Arkansas should find more ways to partner with the federal Head Start program
- Arkansas is not greatly disadvantaged in percentage of eligible population that can be enrolled
- In the state, per-pupil funding for Early Head Start, which serves infants and toddlers, exceeded the national average. But per-pupil funding was below the average for older children

California

Head Start is poorly funded and California's programs fall below national standards, new report finds

KPCC, NPR Southern California

Deepa Fernandes

December 14, 2017

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2016/12/14/67192/head-start-is-poorly-funded-and-california-s-progr/>

Head Start, the federally funded early childhood education and social service program, is poorly funded, and quality and access is uneven across the states, according to a new sweeping analysis from the National Institute for Early Education Research. The picture is particularly bleak in California. The report finds program quality falls below standard benchmarks, teacher pay is one of the lowest nationwide when compared to teachers with similar qualifications in elementary schools, and only a fraction of needy children are actually served.

- California receives the most funding to provide Head Start but the amount of money distributed to Head Start providers has not changed in decades
- California, the report finds, spends less per child than what is spent on average by other states
- The state does fairly well in the area of teacher ethnicity matching that of students – two thirds of both teachers and students are Latino
- Interview with Michael Lopez, an early childhood principal at the think tank Abt Associates
- In California, the other options that weren't included in the NIEER report would include subsidized child care, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) child care, and Title 1 funded pre-k
- Solution is more collaboration between the various early childhood providers that serve low-income children
- Christopher Maricle, executive director of the California Head Start Association, said programs could increase quality if funding levels increased

District of Columbia

Afternoon Report

News Channel 8, Washington, DC

December 14, 2016

<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=7005&DateTime=12/14/2016%2012:43:21%20PM&playclip=true>

Florida

Most Florida kids fail to get Head Start, report finds

Orlando Sentinel

Leslie Postal

December 14, 2016

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/features/education/os-head-start-florida-enrollment-quality-20161213-story.html>

Most of Florida's eligible preschoolers are not enrolled in Head Start, the federally funded child care program created decades ago as part of a "war on poverty," because there is no money for additional classrooms, according to a new national report released Wednesday. The Sunshine State enrolls 16 percent of its 4-year-olds who live in poverty in Head Start and 12 percent of its eligible 3-year-olds, said the report by the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University.

- Thousands of eligible children are not enrolled in Head Start and the centers don't provide the high-quality classroom instruction the children need to be ready for kindergarten
- Many programs seem to make tradeoffs because of limited funding. They might cut hours or teacher training to serve more kids, for example, or limit enrollment to offer higher-quality classes.
- Florida does well providing its Head Start students a full school-day program and in making sure Head Start teachers have bachelor's degrees

Column: Early education a worthy investment

Orlando Sentinel

Beth Kassab
December 14, 2016

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-head-start-funding-beth-kassab-20161215-column.html>

When Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings was asked this week about the increase in killings connected to teen suspects and victims, he made an important observation:

"Most of the individuals who are involved in the violent crime we're talking about, they're not going to school," Demings said. "They have been suspended or expelled. They're hanging out on the streets and getting involved in all types of criminal behavior."

There is a simple correlation here. No school leads to no hope.

- Not enough money for all the classrooms that are needed
- In Orange County, more than 200 children are on the waiting list for a seat in a classroom and thousands more living in poverty who could be served if there were more room.
- Interview with Sonya Hill, manager of Orange County's Head Start programs
- Metro Orlando is the largest region in the state that doesn't have a piece of its property-tax pie set aside for children.

New research finds state-by-state gaps in Head Start programs

Sarasota Herald Tribune

Yadira Lopez

December 18, 2016

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/news/20161218/new-research-finds-state-by-state-gaps-in-head-start-programs>

Florida's Head Start program lagged behind the national average on several key measures, including the number of children enrolled, teacher qualifications and quality of instruction, according to a new study. The federally-funded program, established in 1965, is designed to help low-income children prepare for kindergarten. It was conceived as a powerful weapon to help break the cycle of poverty by offering nutritional, health and counseling services to kids and families.

- Florida receives slightly above the national average in funding and children enrolled in the program get more instructional time than in many other states
- Interview with Philip Tavill, CEO of Children First, the only Head Start provider in Sarasota
- Pay gap problem

Florida Head Start Misses Majority of Children

Florida Townhall

Erin Clark

December 14, 2016

<http://townhall.com/watchdog/florida/2016/12/14/florida-head-start-misses-majority-children-n10190>

A new report by the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University shows that the majority of Florida preschoolers eligible for Head Start are not enrolled. The fifty-year-old Head Start program provides early education and development programs for preschool children living in poverty. In 2014-2015, Florida enrolled only 16 percent of eligible 4-year-olds and 12 percent of eligible 3-year-olds into a Head Start program.

Sonya Hill, director of Head Start for Orange County, told the Orlando Sentinel that Orange County's program has served approximately 1,500 children yearly for the last decade. Quality assessment scores put Orange County's program above the national average, but many needy children are left out. "We would need more funding to serve more children," Hill said. In Orange County alone, there are 214 children on waiting lists, and an additional 8,300 who could qualify for the program if they had space.

Georgia

How does Georgia Head Start compare to other states?

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Christopher Quinn

December 14, 2016

<http://www.myajc.com/news/education/how-does-georgia-head-start-compare-other-states/wwr6FHcJ5ACRG8JXqIvv7N/>

Georgia's Head Start programs, aimed at preparing poor preschool children for education, lags the national averages in quality of instruction, but does better than average at providing emotional support, according to a national study.

- Georgia exceeds the national averages and is also in the top ten in state funding of preschool programs

Report: Ga.'s Head Start Program Could Improve With More Funding

WABE, NPR Atlanta, GA

Martha Dalton

December 20, 2016

<http://news.wabe.org/post/report-gas-head-start-program-could-improve-more-funding>

Georgia's Head Start program does a good job, but could be even better with more money, according to a report from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). Head Start is a federally-funded child development program for low-income families.

- Georgia's program provides strong social and emotional support to kids, but falls short in other areas
- Georgia's congressional delegation should lobby for more funding

Guam

OUR VIEW: Head Start program in need of more funding

Pacific Daily News

December 14, 2016

<http://www.guampdn.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/12/14/our-view-head-start-program-need-more-funding/95413834/>

The federal government must increase funding to the Head Start program so children from low-income families, including those on Guam, get early education services to help them succeed in school.

- In Guam, more than 500 children, ages 3 to 5, are enrolled in the Head Start program, only about 10 percent of the island's low-income children in that age group
- Next school year, children in Guam's Head Start program will get an additional two hours of instruction a day, funded by a federal grant, according to Catherine M. Schroeder, director of the program.

Hawaii

Report Compares Hawaii Head Start Programs to National Averages

Hawai'i Free Press

December 23, 2016

<http://www.hawaiifreepress.com/ArticlesMain/tabid/56/ID/18747/Report-Compares-Hawaii-Head-Start-Programs-to-National-Averages.aspx>

This media outlet published our press release, as written.

Idaho

Idaho Head Start behind

Coeur d'Alene Press

Bethany Blitz

December 20, 2016

http://cdapress.com/news/local_news/article_ae1f0c39-3964-51e6-b7f9-fc7934ca30aa.html

Many Idaho children from low-income families are not benefiting from a federal program specifically made to help them, a recent study found. The study, conducted by the National Institute for Early Education Research, a unit of the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers, examines how effective Head Start and Early Head Start are in each of the 50 states.

- Head Start provided services to less than 2 percent of low-income Idaho children under 3 years old. It served 5.8 percent of Idaho's 3-year-olds — less than any other state in the nation — and 14.53 percent of 4-year-olds — the fifth lowest in the nation
- Interview with Beth Ann Fuller, program director at North Idaho College Head Start
- NIC Head Start serves 293 children in North Idaho, but the wait list has at least twice as many names on it
- Bill Foxcroft, director of the Idaho Head Start Association said the study's numbers probably reflect the small pool of education professionals in Idaho

Indiana

Study: Head Start underfunded, unequal

The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

Washington Post

December 16, 2016

<http://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/Study--Head-Start-underfunded--unequal-16833133>

Head Start, the federal program that provides education, nutrition and health services to low-income children and their families, is not adequately funded and is administered so differently from state to state that children do not benefit equally, according to a new report from the National Institute for Early Education Research.

- Report calls for a near tripling of the program's budget and points to wide gaps in Head Start programs related to quality of instruction, amount of instruction, access to programs and levels of funding
- Additional investments are necessary to ensure that every eligible child has an equal opportunity to attend a high-quality, effective Head Start program

Iowa

Report: Inadequate Head Start funding hindering early education program

The Cedar Rapids Gazette

Molly Duffy

December 14, 2016

<http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/education/k-12-education/report-inadequate-head-start-funding-hindering-early-education-program-20161214>

Sitting cross-legged on a green mat, Makhi Bousman, 4, pulled small blue, green, red and yellow toy trains and buses out of a plastic tub on Wednesday. He placed them in neat groups by color — practicing sorting, counting and creating patterns — while his Head Start teacher, Kara Bentley, asked him questions about whether the vehicles traveled along roads or tracks. Makhi is one of more than 7,600 3- and 4-year-old Iowa children who receive early education through Head Start, a federal program that also provides nutrition and health services to low-income children and their families.

- Iowa's programs were ranked as "significantly below" classroom quality thresholds
- Interview with Christi Regan, early childhood programs manager for the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program

Editorial: A government program that really works is being starved

The Des Moines Register

Editorial Board

December 26, 2016

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/12/26/editorial-government-program-really-works-being-starved/95792556/>

When it comes to government programs that have clearly demonstrated their worth and proven to be a wise investment of tax dollars, Head Start tops the list. Created by the federal government in 1965, Head Start helps children overcome the scholastic disadvantages that accompany poverty and family instability. It is a federally funded, but locally administered, child development program that provides early education and support services to families that are struggling financially.

- In Iowa, Head Start enrolled 7,622 children during the 2014-2015 school year, only 9 percent of the state's low-income children who are under the age of 5, and it's slightly lower than the national average of only 10 percent

- Iowa's Head Start teachers holding at least a bachelor's degree is above the national average

Kansas

Report shows anti-poverty program Head Start is 'ineffective' in Kansas and Missouri

KSHB, NBC Kansas City, KS

Sarah Plake

December 14, 2016

<http://www.kshb.com/news/education/report-shows-anti-poverty-program-head-start-is-ineffective>

A new report says the anti-poverty program Head Start is not serving kids equally in all states.

The National Institute for Early Education and Research conducted the study for the 2014-2015 year. It says disparities in federal funding, teacher pay and turnaround, and quality makes Head Start ineffective in many states.

- In both Kansas and Missouri, teachers make less than the national average, and significantly less than public school teachers and majority of their students come from single-parent families on government assistance.

Head Start Report Spots Program Inequalities

McPherson Sentinel

Cheyenne Derksen Schroeder

December 30, 2016

<http://www.mcphersonsentinel.com/news/20161230/head-start-report-spots-program-inequalities>

New research on the Head Start programs shows dramatic inconsistencies between programs nationwide, particularly because of funding.

The study from the National Institute for Early Education Research is the first to study quality, access, services and funding state by state in Head Start's 50-year history.

Kentucky and Vermont were highly ranked. Kansas landed in the center of the pack on nearly every research item, and 18 states ranked very poorly: Arizona, Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

- Kansas came in second to last with \$8,426 in federal funds per Early Head Start student and lagged behind in teacher salaries in Head Start programs.
- Interview with Angie McDonald, director of teaching and instruction for USD 418
- Teachers are becoming hard to find in Kansas, earning less than \$30,000 a year on average

Kentucky

Ky Head Start Earns Second Highest National Quality Ranking

WEKU, NPR Eastern Kentucky University, KY

John Hingsbergen

December 21, 2016

<http://weku.fm/post/ky-head-start-earns-second-highest-national-quality-ranking>

When it comes to quality, Kentucky's Head Start programs have received a very high ranking. A Head Start administrator says a commitment to intense training is a major key to success. Since 1965, Head Start has been offering free early childhood education and other services to low income families.

- Interview with Kentucky Head Start Association Director Allyson Shelton
- Programs are forced to raise quality which means investing more money into their programs and staff, which means that they have waiting lists for children that are deserving of being in those classrooms that are not

Kentucky Head Start Earns High Ranking in Quality

WKMS, NPR Murray State University, KY

Stu Johnson

December 21, 2016

<http://wkms.org/post/kentucky-head-start-earns-high-ranking-quality>

The director of the Kentucky Head Start Association credits focused staff training for the state's achievement of high marks for quality instruction.

- Kentucky ranked second nationally for the quality of its 32 programs
- More funding is still needed because there continue to be waiting lists for Head Start programs

Report applauds Head Start quality

Messenger-Inquirer

December 27, 2016

http://www.messenger-inquirer.com/news/local/report-applauds-head-start-quality/article_5aa28186-29ad-58d7-89cd-2f3aa8a9b67d.html

Louisiana

Head Start in Louisiana falling behind in funding, new report says

Greater Baton Rouge Business Report

Daily Report Staff

December 14, 2016

<https://www.businessreport.com/article/head-start-louisiana-falling-behind-funding-new-report-says>

The Head Start program in Louisiana is inadequately funded, with teachers earning substantially less than public schools instructors and per-pupil spending falling below the national average, the National Institute for Early Education Research says in a new report.

- Disparities were found in classroom hours, funding, teacher qualifications, compensation, observed quality and enrollment
- Quality of instructional support for the program in Louisiana was found to be below the research-based threshold

Head Start budget needs to triple, report says

NOLA.com

Washington Post
December 15, 2016

http://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2016/12/head_start_underfunded.html

Head Start, the federal program that provides education, nutrition and health services to low-income children and their families, is not adequately funded and is administered so differently from state to state that children do not benefit equally, according to a new report from the National Institute for Early Education Research.

- The percentage of poor kids that Head Start serves nationally could be as low as a quarter, meaning that 75 percent of the children in poverty are not getting Head Start
- In Louisiana, about 13 percent of the state's low-income young children attended Head Start, exceeding the national average. Generally, the centers offered subpar instruction, and the teachers had lower academic credentials than the national norm.

Marianas Islands

Report: Inadequate Head Start Funding Forces Trade-Offs for Children, Families in NMI

Marianas Variety

December 15, 2016

<http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/91449-report-inadequate-head-start-funding-forces-trade-offs-for-children-families-in-nmi>

This media outlet published our press release, as written.

Maryland

Report: Head Start funding falls short in Maryland

Herald-Mail Media

January 9, 2017

http://www.heraldmillmedia.com/news/education/report-head-start-funding-falls-short-in-maryland/article_ba738198-d5f4-11e6-b326-9f730d26cbcd.html

Funding for Head Start programs in Maryland fell below national averages during the 2014-15 program year, despite the state's above-average number of teachers with bachelor's degrees or higher, according to a report released last month.

The State(s) of Head Start report, conducted by the National Institute for Early Education Research, or NIEER, concludes that the federal program varies dramatically from state to state in terms of funding, classroom hours, quality and percentage of low-income children served....

The report helps define funding needs in each state to help support education of young children in poor and low-income families, officials said.

Paul Pittman, executive director of Head Start of Washington County, said the local agency typically maintains a waiting list of about 150 for its EHS program and another 75 to 100 for HS.

Asked about the future of Head Start and its impact on the local agency, Pittman said there's some uncertainty when it comes to President-elect Donald Trump, who hasn't taken an apparent position on the program.

"It'll be interesting to see who he appoints and how Congress" approaches Head Start in the coming years, Pittman said. "Some of our biggest expansions have been during Republican administrations, but you never know what's going to happen."

Michigan

National study finds Head Start underfunded, unequal from state to state

Holland Sentinel

Erin Dietzer

December 16, 2016

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/20161216/national-study-finds-head-start-underfunded-unequal-from-state-to-state>

Head Start, the 50-year-old program that provides free early childhood education and other services to low-income families, is underfunded and unequal from state to state, according to a new study from the National Institute for Early Education Research.

The report, released Wednesday, Dec. 14, examined Head Start and Early Head Start data from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and six territories for 2014-15, as well as historical data from 2007-15. The report also includes data from the America Indian and Alaska Native program and the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program.

It found that access to Head Start programs, funding per child, teacher education, quality of teaching and duration of services all vary widely by state, despite the fact that the program is funded from the federal level, from the Health and Human Services Department. The report said that "inadequate overall public investment" is the reason behind the disparity.

- Report recommends increasing funding to \$20 billion to "properly serve about half of low-income children in the country."
- For Michigan, the report recommends a bump from the current funding of a little over \$216 million to about \$548 million.
- Includes Michigan stats, specifically enrollment, classroom quality and teacher salary
- Quotes Steve Barnett calling for independent bipartisan study commission to develop an action plan supporting quality education for all young children and their families, particularly the most vulnerable, in every state and territory.

Mississippi

Good Morning Mississippi

WLOX, ABC Biloxi, MS

December 14, 2016

<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=5140&DateTime=12/14/2016%205:08:16%20AM&playlist=true>

The National Institute for Early Education Research will release a report on the state of head start. the report gives a snapshot of this anti-poverty program as well as state-by-state breakdowns and rankings on accessibility, funding, teacher qualifications and other quality markers.

Mississippi Edition

NPR Mississippi

Sid Scott

December 15, 2016

<http://www.mpbonline.org/blogs/mississippiedition/mississippi-edition-thursday-december-15th/>

Head Start has been helping underprivileged families in Mississippi since 1965. The social program's effectiveness in 2016 varies greatly from state to state. That's according to a new report by the National Institute for Early Education Research. The States of Head Start report took a look at Head Start across the country and found quality, enrollment, teacher pay and many other factors were all over the map. Nearly 5 minute interview with Steve Barnett:

- Although HS is national program almost unrecognizable from state to state
- HS been vastly underfunded, so local programs have nothing but bad choices; local program decisions about how to use inadequate federal funding contribute to wide variations among states.
- Even MS which ranks relatively high for enrollment of low-income children, serves less than half of children who are eligible
- Looking ahead, one can hope new administration and Congress will take bold steps, reduce waste, fraud and abuse to fund priorities
- State and local will need to step up and work together to tackle this better than federal government on its own.
- HS teachers paid poverty level income, would quality for program if have a couple of kids

Missouri

41 Action News Today

KSHB-KC, NBC Kansas City, MO

December 14, 2016

<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=2115&DateTime=12/14/2016%206:07:07%20AM&playlist=true>

Brief TV voice-over report focused on MO and KS numbers, noting most HS students need this help and report calls for more federal funding

New Mexico

State must do better for its children

Las Cruces Sun-News

Editorial

December 30, 2016

* Editorial picked up by Ruidoso News on January 5, 2017

<http://www.lcsun-news.com/story/opinion/editorial/2016/12/30/state-must-better-children/96021540/>

There has never been much debate at the New Mexico Legislature as to the benefits of a high-quality early childhood education program. The evidence is simply too overwhelmingly against those who would argue that there is no value to stimulating a child's interest in learning well before they get to the start of elementary schools.

But despite that, there has long been a fierce debate when it comes to funding early childhood programs.

A report last week by Rutgers University's National Institute of Early Education Research ranking Head Start programs in New Mexico as the worst in the nation should add new urgency to that ongoing debate.

- Editorial put HS in context of other early childhood programs and concerns, citing NM ranking 49th overall in the latest child wellbeing survey by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, including last place in education
- Notes problem is "trying to do this on the cheap" and refers to disparity in teacher pay for HS and public school
- Editorial agrees better coordination needed between HS and state, local programs, per NIEER recommendation
- Urges state to prioritize, saying "a state that fails to care for and prepare its youngest members for success is not one with a bright and hopeful future."

Research Finds Inadequate Head Start Funding Forces Trade-Offs for New Mexico Children, Families

KRWG, Southern New Mexico/Far West Texas Public Media

December 14, 2016

<http://krwg.org/post/research-finds-inadequate-head-start-funding-forces-trade-offs-new-mexico-children-families>

This media outlet simply published our press release, under the byline National Institute for Early Education Research, including links to the full report, and our website.

NM Head Start ranks worst in the nation

The Albuquerque Journal

Kim Burgess

December 22, 2016

<https://www.abqjournal.com/914696/new-mexico-head-start-ranks-worst-in-the-nation.html>

In another set of disappointing education statistics, New Mexico's Head Start program ranked worst in the nation for instructional quality and workforce preparation, according to a recent report.

The State(s) of Head Start study, produced by Rutgers University's National Institute of Early Education Research, placed the Land of Enchantment at the bottom on conceptual, in-depth teaching, which was measured through classroom observations during the 2014-2015 school year.

- Interviewed Steve Barnett, noting benefits of HS programs but only if instruction is rigorous.--"it can't just be babysitting."

- Included chart of teachers with BA degree or higher
- Focused on NM stats, in context with other states also struggling on quality and wages for teachers
- Comments from University of NM Center for Education Policy Research agreed poor pay is a critical problem and president of NM Head Start Assoc about teacher shortage and pay issue

Report finds state behind on Head Start, points to poor quality

Santa Fe New Mexican

Robert Nott

December 22, 2016

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/education/report-finds-state-behind-on-head-start-points-to-poor/article_8b5a97ae-1406-5b6b-8aa2-891994606a64.html

*picked up by [The Taos News](#)

A new report on the \$8 billion federal Head Start program, which has provided free preschool services for the nation's poorest children for more than 50 years in an effort to close achievement gaps, has found that programs in New Mexico rank below national averages for most key measures and raises questions about the quality of education Head Start students are receiving in the state.

- Interviewed Steve Barnett, notes many states struggling with limited HS resources; NM has a "big problem with quality."
- Problems for NM include outdated HS funding formula, high teacher turnover, low pay
- Explores low preschool teacher pay as a problem facing HS as well as other NM preK programs
- Includes recommendations for bipartisan study commission and notes triage by local programs facing choices such as serving more children but paying teachers less or providing fewer program hours

Editorial: Head Start ranking shows more money isn't the fix

The Albuquerque Journal

Editorial Board

December 29, 2016

<https://www.abqjournal.com/917281/head-start-ranking-shows-more-money-isnt-the-fix.html>

It is a cautionary tale, from a respected outside institution, as to the folly of simply throwing money at early childhood education without accountability measures. Those who would advocate for another raid on the Land Grant Permanent Fund in the name of helping New Mexico's youngest children should take heed.

- Despite increased state spending for K-12, just 27 percent of students are reading at grade level and 20 percent at grade level in math, down from roughly 50 percent in 2013.
- Argues that K-3 Plus program extending school year for poorest students found academic gains flatten out over time
- Concludes "unless and until advocates for spending more on early childhood education can fight data with data--that is, offer a proven program to address New Mexico's abysmal standing in everything from Head Start to student proficiency-- they should focus on channeling the hundreds of million in existing funding to programs that actually work."

Utah

Report: Despite low funding, Utah's Head Start programs meet quality thresholds

Deseret News

December 29, 2016

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865670155/Report-Despite-low-funding-Utahs-Head-Start-programs-meet-quality-thresholds.html>

Utah's Head Start programs are of higher-than average quality despite lower-than-average funding, according to a recent report examining the federally funded preschool program.

The state-by-state report from the National Institute for Early Education Research found "fundamental and difficult to understand" disparities across states and called on lawmakers to provide more funding to enroll more children in the program.

According to the report, Utah ranked among the bottom 10 when it came to funding but in the top 10 in instructional quality, emotional support and classroom management.

- Notes report found "fundamental and difficult to understand" disparities across states and called for more funding to enroll more children in the program
- Utah in bottom 10 for funding, top 10 in classroom scores
- Includes charts on federal funding per child and classroom quality scores
- Highlights wage gap between teachers in HS and public schools
- Interviewed CEO of Salt Lake Head Start program, notes child to teacher ratios, teacher retention challenges, "we're like a farm camp for the school district"
- Refers to past studies on long-term benefits, and Rep. Tom Price taking over HHS

Virginia

Report Highlights Gaps Between Head Start Programs

Public News Service, Richmond VA

Dan Heyman/Cynthia Howard

December 22, 2016

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-12-22/childrens-issues/report-highlights-gaps-between-head-start-programs/a55560-1>

Access to quality Head Start programs varies widely, according to new research. Children's advocates say Virginia can help close educational disparities by equalizing that.

The "State(s) of Head Start" report found the early education programs vary greatly from one community to another. Emily Griffey, policy director with Voices for Virginia's Children, said they found the same pattern in all kinds of early childhood education in the state. She said nearly two-thirds of higher-income Virginia children attend preschool, compared with less than half of their lower-income peers.

"One of the most important things about the achievement gap is that it actually starts before children enter school," Griffey said. "Opportunities to attend preschool through Head Start can help close that."

- Focuses on situation in Va, interviewed policy director of Voices for Virginia's Children, noted benefits of HS and achievement gap even before Kindergarten
- Highlights recommendation that states works to close gaps in funding, hours, enrollment, teacher pay and quality.
- Advocate suggests leveraging federal money to enhance other support for early childhood education

West Virginia

Report: Most WV Head Start teachers have degrees

Charleston Gazette-Mail

Ryan Quinn

December 31, 2016

<http://www.wvgazette.com/news-education/20161231/report-most-wv-head-start-teachers-have-degrees>

West Virginia was the only state where more than 90 percent of Head Start teachers in the 2014-2015 school year had at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field, according to a report released in December.

The Mountain State was second in the nation for the percentage of 4-year-olds from low-income families enrolled in Head Start, according to the report.

- Focuses on WV stats, including highlights for HS teacher degrees and 4-year-old enrollment, uses precise language re CLASS instructional support score
- Interviewed Allison Friedman-Krauss
- Referenced inadequate resources prompting variations among states
- Explained how HS collaborates with WV universal preschool programs, resulting in high BA attainment for HS teachers
- Included charts from the report on teacher education but mention HS teacher pay in last paragraph

Report: Head Start lacks funding it should have

WDTV, West Virginia

Renata Di Gregorio

December 14, 2016

<http://www.wdtv.com/content/news/Report-Head-Start-406616705.html>

*picked up by WVFX, Clarksburg, WV

New research says our state's child development program Head Start needs to nearly double the amount of money it had last year for its programs to be the quality they should be. 5 News spoke with two women whose lives were changed by the services for their children and family to learn what this means to them.

- Interviews Head Start teacher, regrets no Early Head Start anymore
- Focuses on HS teachers earning much less than public school teachers

- Explains needed health, nutrition and education services -- how HS works with families to empower parents

Wisconsin

Study finds Head Start program is underfunded, unequal among states

WKOW, ABC Madison, WI

Dani Maxwell

December 14, 2016

<http://www.wkow.com/story/34047750/study-finds-head-start-program-is-underfunded-unequal-among-states>

A new study has found Head Start is underfunded and varies dramatically from state to state in regards to quality and the percentage of low-income children it helps. According to NPR, Wisconsin is one of the 18 states that ranked "very poorly."

- Quotes Steve Barnett urging local, state and federal policymakers to work with Head Start providers and the broader early childhood education community, including researchers, to address issues raised in this report."
- Cites Wisconsin stats
- Includes link to full report and Wisconsin profile