



BUILDING STRONGER FOUNDATIONS

Families • Employees • Community



ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016



AREA I
HEAD
START

BUILDING STRONGER FOUNDATIONS

Families • Employees • Community

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Board of Trustees and Policy Council

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Lisa Chapman | *La Porte*

Jessenia Turruniartes | *Pugh*

Vacant | *San Jacinto*

Alicia Eliason | *Sheffield*

Esmeralda Manzanares | *Tidwell*



Area I Head Start - WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

To improve school readiness for children, families and the community

Our Vision

To create a learning environment of excellence dedicated to positively impacting our children, families, employees, community partners and society

Our Values

Communication, Honesty, Teamwork, Respect and Integrity

Our History

Harris County Department of Education, or HCDE, is a separate and distinct entity from county agencies of Harris County, Texas. The Department's primary service area, geographically, covers 1,788 square miles. We offer services to 25 rural, suburban and urban school districts located either entirely or partially within Harris County; to neighboring school districts and governmental agencies in surrounding counties; and to schools, education service centers and other governmental agencies statewide.

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In January 1999, HCDE became a Head Start grantee. Our Head Start service area covers approximately 600 square miles of the northeast and southeast portions of Harris County. Our boundaries extend north to Humble and Huffman. The eastern boundary of HCDE service delivery includes Crosby, Baytown and LaPorte. To the south, the area east of I-45 includes Clear Creek, Pasadena and Deer Park. We operate 16 centers which are strategically located to serve over 1,250 children. Within the Early Child Care Partnership, we serve 60 additional children at seven community child care centers in our service area.



A Message from the Superintendent...



Dear Head Start Supporter:

At HCDE, we are proud to work every day with the 25 local school districts in Harris County to help students achieve.

Our cost-effective programs and services help school districts save money. We maximize tax dollars by administering successful local, state and federal grant funds, increasing services and value to school districts throughout the state's largest county.

HCDE remains committed to our core mission to create value, deliver opportunity and provide service to Harris County schools. During FY 2015-2016, HCDE served more than 1,500 students and their families through Head Start and Early Head Start programs. These programs ensure future success for our students, both academically and socially, and provide comprehensive health, education, nutrition and financial services to the families.

HCDE will continue to serve our community and support the needs of Head

Start students, while always honoring our commitment to financial transparency and fiscal responsibility. Remember, HCDE is one source for all learners. Thank you for your support of public education in Harris County!

Sincerely,

James Colbert, Jr.
County School Superintendent

"Our cost-effective programs and services help school districts save money." —James Colbert

From the Policy Council Chairperson...



Dear Friends,

As the Policy Council chairperson and father of five children who are enrolled in pre-K through high school, I am a busy guy. However, I believe it's important to be involved in my children's education. By volunteering

at Sheffield Head Start where my 5-year-old daughter Miosotis attends, I see how it benefits all the children at the center.

(As a side note, my older children don't escape my sense of duty. It's equally important to be involved in their schools. They get used to it when you start early.)

As the chairperson for the council and regular volunteer at Sheffield, I've seen personal growth and the power of parental involvement. At Head Start, children are nurtured. By being there and experiencing the culture, you see it's not just a daycare. The program has a real impact on both children and their families.

I hope that you get involved through your children's schools when you can. Like me, you'll see the power of the program firsthand!

Sincerely,

Lawrence Simmons
HCDE Policy Council Chairperson





From the Senior Director...



Greetings,

It is always a pleasure to reflect upon the school year and the 2015-16 school year is no different. Reflection is a powerful tool in learning and growing. Here at HCDE Head Start where we are always seeking excellence, we learn from reflecting upon our experiences.

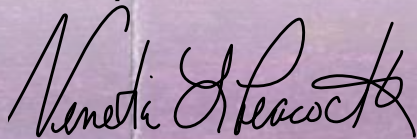
One such great, yet challenging, experience has been the Early Head Start Partnership grant that was awarded in March 2015. We were very excited about the addition of 40 Early Head Start (EHS) slots for children and the 60 slots in the inaugural EHS Child Care Partnership grant.

At HCDE, we love being trendsetters. Through hard work, collaboration and perseverance, we successfully launched our first Baytown Early Head Start Center and contracted with six community child care center partners to improve the quality of infant/toddler care in the community. Currently housed in two separate yet interdependent facilities, the two programs will be under one roof next year.

We understand the important role of quality facilities in supporting quality early childhood education. This school year we achieved a long range facilities goal of relocating the Humble Head Start center. Our Humble Head Start partnership with the Journey of Faith Church stabilizes Head Start services in Humble and supports an additional 20 Head Start slots at the facility. The partnership between Journey of Faith and HCDE Head Start strengthens services to the Humble community.

Together we make a world of difference in our program and for our community! It truly takes a village. Thank you to our parents, staff and community partners for continuously helping HCDE Head Start reach for excellence.

Sincerely,



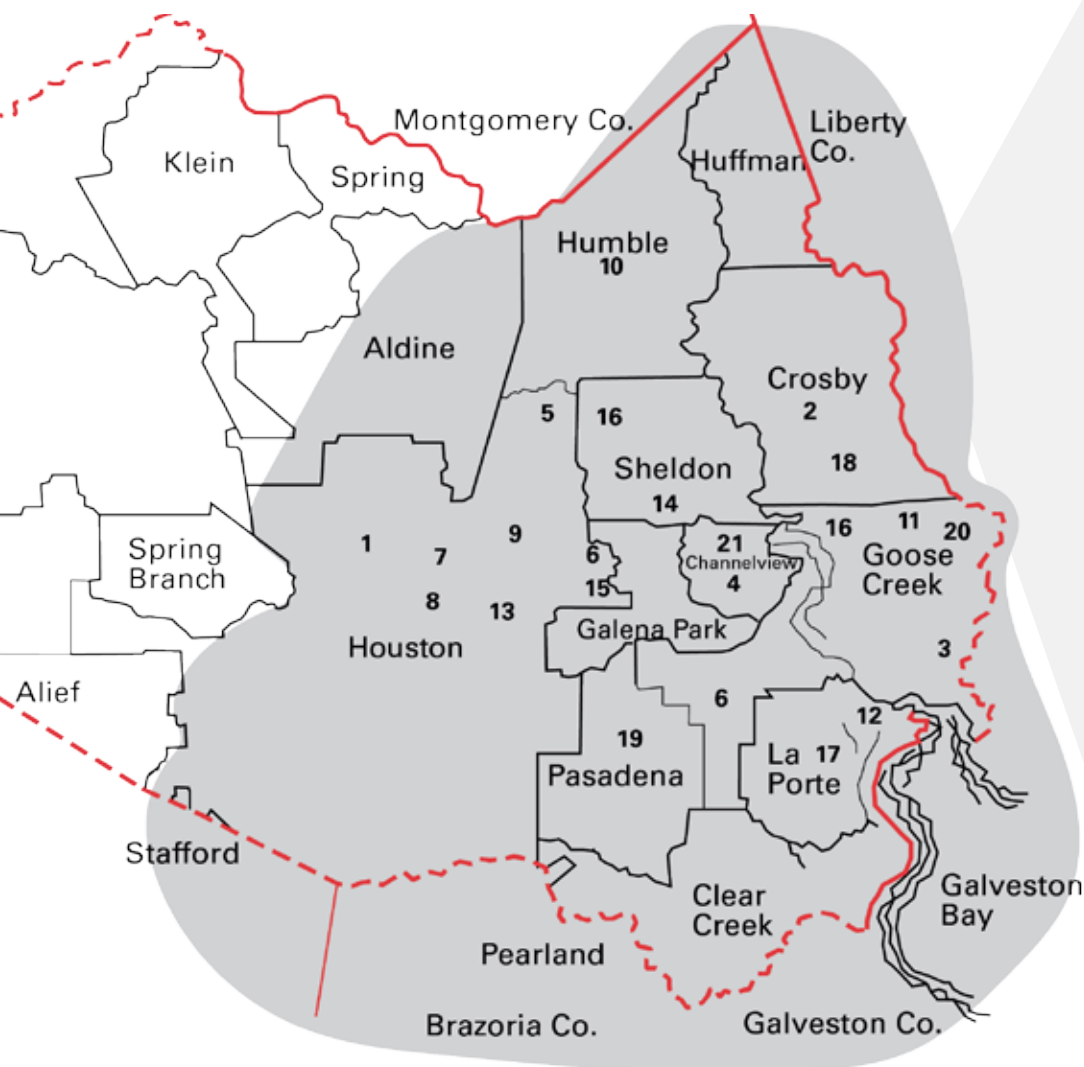
Venetia L. Peacock



Center Locations

Head Start Area I Locations

Main Head Start: **713-672-9343**



Head Start Centers

1. HCDE Head Start
Main Offices
2. Barrett Station
3. Baytown
4. Channelview
5. Compton
6. Coolwood
7. Dogan
8. Fifth Ward
9. Fonwood
10. Humble
11. JD Walker
12. La Porte
13. Pugh
14. San Jacinto
15. Sheffield
16. Tidwell

Early Head Start

Child Care

Partnerships

17. High Achievers
18. John G. Jones
19. Kool Kids Daycare
20. Let's Learn Christian
Learning Center
21. Purpose Kids

"We understand the important role of quality facilities in supporting quality early childhood education."
—Venetia L. Peacock



How We Learn

Lessons through Songs, Stories, Activities Empower Children and Parents

Our official birth to 5 curricula called Frog Street Infant, Frog Street Toddler, and Frog Street Pre-K empower parents as equal partners in their children's education. These comprehensive curricula boost language through songs, stories and other activities. Children learn at their own pace with Frog Street.

We have seen our children bloom and grow with the Frog Street Curriculum. Frog Street allows teaching staff to serve a range of abilities while building on concepts and skills. Emphasis is placed on social and emotional development. A robust vocabulary is supplied.



Learning Outcomes

Child Assessment Elements:

1. Frog Street Assessments
2. Observations
3. Portfolio Collection

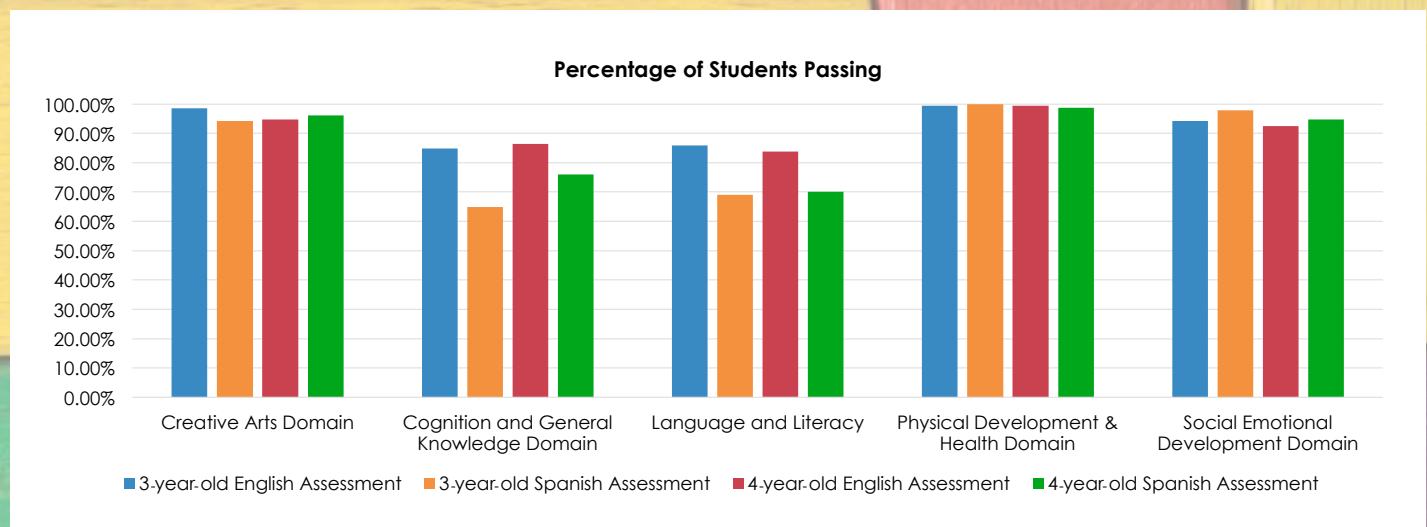
Overall Assessment of 2015-2016

Ongoing Assessment

Children are assessed at the beginning-of-year (**BOY**), middle-of-year (**MOY**), and end-of-year (**EOY**).

Here are some observations:

- End-of-year scores were greater than middle-of-year and beginning-of-year for all five domains of assessment.
- Scores for 4-year-old students were greater than 3-year-old students.
- In general, female performance was better than male performance.
- In general, English assessment results were better than Spanish assessment results, however results illustrate that our Spanish speaking students are increasing their English language acquisition.



Community Spotlight

Houston CPA Society: Giving Back to the Community through Head Start

Community partners are the bedrock of Head Start programs. Community engagement means building relationships with families by supporting their well-being.

Houston CPA Society Executive Director Jennifer Poff answered questions about why it's important for the organization she leads to team up with Harris County Department of Education as community partner.

Tell me about your organization, your members and your goals.

The Houston CPA Society is an 88-year-old organization, with 8,000 members in its 13-county area. Its mission is to educate, lead and inform. The society has been actively involved with Santa CPAs for 46 years. Santa CPAs provides books, healthy snacks and volunteers to ready and deliver goodie bags to thousands of Head

Start children in Harris County during the holidays. Members raise funds throughout the year through charitable events like the CPA Annual Golf Classic, along with individual donations. Our members believe that leading in the community is an important aspect of what we do, and we are proud to help provide these gifts to over 7,500 children in Harris County.

Why is it important for the CPA Society to be involved with benevolent projects like CPA Santa?

The Houston CPA Society believes in the importance of leading within the community and giving back. For over 45 years, the Society has contributed to this cause, helping children in Harris County receive a bag of Christmas goodies, and we continue to be proud of helping children in our local community.

You are new in your leadership post. Why did you decide to get involved with this effort?

As executive director of The Houston CPA Society, I believe it is important for me to help lead the charge in our community service endeavors, with Santa CPAs being one of our signature events. Plus, who doesn't get excited when you see a child get a gift and meet Santa during the Christmas holiday season?



**"The Houston CPA Society believes in the importance of leading within the community and giving back. For over 45 years, the Society has contributed to this cause, helping children in Harris County receive a bag of Christmas goodies, and we continue to be proud of helping children in our local community."
—Jennifer Poff**

Community Support

Community Support

Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
\$13,559



Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
ADVANCING RECOVERY AND WELLNESS IN TEXAS

Bank of Texas
\$5,000 (support for REAL SuperMENtors Read)

Lakeshore
\$1,200 (support for Healthy Minds Healthy Families project)

Legacy Health Centers
\$500 (support for Healthy Minds Healthy Families project)

United HealthCare
\$500 (support for school gardens)

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

Assistance League of Houston

Bates Collision Centers

Care Options for Kids

Harris County Public Health &
Environmental Services

Houston CPA Society

Young Learners School

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Total Number of Volunteers:

2,080



Alumni Success Story: Day'Zjah Pennywell

Day'Zjah Pennywell Discovers Love for Learning through Head Start

Growing up, Day'Zjah Pennywell was always sociable, but mother Tamika Ward noticed her daughter thrive after enrolling her in Head Start in 1999. Like many parents, Ward enrolled her daughter in the program so she could interact with other children her age and build an early foundation for education.

"I saw Head Start as a way for her to get ahead in learning," explained Ward. "I felt like the earlier she started, the better it would be for her when she got to public school."

Now a sophomore at Prairie View A&M on multiple athletic and academic scholarships, Pennywell continues to thrive in school, in part because of the early foundation she received in Head Start.

Head Start goes beyond providing children with academic and socialization skills they need before entering elementary school. Staff also work with families to provide financial, health, nutrition and parenting skills, which was valuable to Ward as a young mother.

After leaving Head Start in 2001, Pennywell entered the Gifted and Talented program at her district, was a straight "A" student and participated in various school-related clubs and athletic activities for years. Most importantly, she developed a love for learning at an early age.

Ward still remembers Pennywell happily singing nursery rhymes as a child and never missing an opportunity to talk about what she learned in Head Start.

"She could also recognize colors, shapes and numbers when we were out and spoke a little Spanish because her teachers would teach in English and Spanish," Ward remembers. "I thought that was amazing."

When Pennywell finished a piece of work at Head Start that she was particularly proud of, Ward always made a point to display it in their home. This gave the

whole family a chance to discuss the work together and was stimulating for Pennywell as a young learner. "It made me happy to see she was excited about learning," Ward said.

Pennywell carried that excitement for learning with her throughout her school career. She is currently majoring in criminal justice with a minor in nutrition, and she continues to utilize the foundational skills gained through Head Start.



**"She could also recognize colors, shapes and numbers when we were out and spoke a little Spanish because her teachers would teach in English and Spanish. I thought that was amazing."
—Tamika Ward**

Parent Success Story: Amanda Kastl

Head Start Grandparent Finds Support System at La Porte Center

HCDE's Head Start program goes beyond early education and provides families with the additional health, nutrition and financial support they need to thrive. As the grandparent and guardian to 4-year-old Rayne, Amanda Kastl is one of many whose life was changed through Head Start services.

Kastl gained custody of Rayne when she was only 5 months old. During that time, Kastl was also taking care of her sick father while her husband was undergoing chemotherapy. For much of that time, Kastl wasn't able to work and became isolated.

When Rayne turned 3, Kastl enrolled her at the La Porte Head Start Center, remembering her daughter attended the program many years ago.



"At that point, I was basically a recluse. The Head Start staff got me back on my feet and gave me the opportunity to get involved with the parent committee and Policy Council to give back where I could," said Kastl.

Through encouragement from the staff, Kastl became an active volunteer at the center and helped in classrooms, worked in the school's garden and secured donations from area businesses for family activities. She was also integral in creating a safer experience for La Porte students while at school.

After recognizing that the small, two-lane road in front of the center was unsafe for families to drop off and pick up students, she worked with city officials to install school zone and "No Parking" signs, and to convert the road into a one-way thoroughfare to decrease hazardous traffic.

After a year at the center, Kastl lost her mother, two brothers and niece. She was still involved at the center, so the La Porte staff became a support system and helped her through her most challenging times. They even guided her through the steps to get her Texas Realtor's license when she was struggling emotionally.

"I was maxed out emotionally," said Kastl, "but the family service providers at La Porte helped me set goals, stay on track and provided support when I needed it most."

Kastl now works as a realtor full-time, but still finds time to volunteer and show how grateful she is for the center that made it all possible.

"Head Start services literally saved our lives," Kastl explained. "When Rayne came here she gained socialization skills, she's learning to read, write and count, and she knows how to interact with others. I was also able to get involved in the community again."

Kastl added that although every family won't go through the same experiences she did, every family can benefit from the stability, nutrition, early education and caring support Head Start provides.

"I believe if you touch a child's life at an early age like this Head Start does, it will make a difference later on."

**"Head Start services literally saved our lives. When Rayne came here she gained socialization skills, she's learning to read, write and count, and she knows how to interact with others. I was also able to get involved in the community again."
—Amanda Kastl**

Staff Spotlight

HCDE Spotlight: Employee Ross-Daniel Collaborates with Community to Benefit Head Start Students

As a mother of four daughters, grandmother of two and manager of the Head Start Compton Center, Merevonna Ross-Daniel is no stranger to a busy schedule. Since the Compton Head Start program is housed in the Northeast Multi-Service Center in Houston, Ross-Daniel has the unique experience of collaborating with city employees and local seniors who attend programs at the community center, in addition to managing her 25 employees and 131 students.

**"I believe the more involvement, love, support and guidance a child receives, the more likely they are to be successful in life."
—Merevonna Ross-Daniel**

"I enjoy collaborating with the community center to ensure our families are getting a positive, engaging and effective learning environment for their students," says Ross-Daniel.

Some of the ways the community center gets involved with Head Start is through the garden program and field day. Local seniors at the community center read to Compton students and assist with their four on-site gardens. Since staff of Tidwell Park are located in the community center, the students participate in a field and game day with assistance from the recreation staff providing engagement and involvement from the community.

"I believe the more involvement, love, support and guidance a child receives, the more likely they are to be successful in life," says Ross-Daniel. "That's what we provide at Compton."

Ross-Daniel first found her calling for Head Start while taking classes at San Jacinto College North. Her Child

Development professor informed her of an upcoming Head Start Job Fair, and since 2001 she has been making a daily impact on children and families in the Head Start program.

Throughout her career, she has served as a teaching assistant, teacher, assistant center manager and center manager at multiple Head Start centers. She has been center manager at Compton since July 2015.

Even though Ross-Daniel isn't in the classroom full-time anymore, she loves being able to interact with the students on a daily basis. She considers herself blessed to see the development of students in the Head Start program and contribute to their growth. She recalls a young girl, 3, who began the 2015-16 school year unable to speak.

"When she first came to the program, she was not vocal and would only point to things in the classroom," Ross-Daniel recalls. "With the help of our Compton teachers, she is now saying words and interacting with other children and staff."

Collaborating with multiple organizations within the community center can be a tiresome job, but Ross-Daniel has a strong support system to lean on. As a mother and grandmother, she spends her downtime with family, doing activities they enjoy such as camping, shopping and participating in Girl Scouts.



Demographics 2015/16

HEAD START/EHS/EHS CCP STAFF	
Position	Number
Head Start Employees	286*
Preschool Teachers	67
Teacher Qualifications	
Associate Degree	37
Bachelor Degree	18
Graduate Degree	11
Assistant Teacher Qualifications	
Associate Degree	6
Bachelor Degree	3
Master Degree	1
CDA	66

*277 Head Start, 9 Early Head Start CCP

CHILD HEALTH OUTCOME RESULTS	
Medical Service	Percentage
Medical Home	92%
Dental Home	93%
Completed Dental Exam	92%
Immunization	98%

EARLY HEAD START/CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS DEMOGRAPHICS	
Ages of Children Served	Number
Less than 1 year old	37
1 year old	22
2 years old	11
Total Children	70
Language	
English	63
Spanish	7
Income Eligibility	
Income Below Federal Poverty Line	61
TANF/SSI/Public Assistance Recipient	0
Foster Child	5
Homeless	2
Over Income	2
Race	
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Asian	2
Black or African American	28
White	28
Biracial/Multi-racial	8
Other	1
Total	70

HEAD START DEMOGRAPHICS	
Ages of Children Served	Number
3 years old	666
4 years old	822
5 years old	1
Total Children	1,489
Language	
English	984
Spanish	495
Middle Eastern	1
East Asian	2
Unspecified	7
Income Eligibility	
Income Below Federal Poverty Line	1,329
TANF/SSI/Public Assistance Recipient	97
Foster Child	43
Homeless	1
Over Income	18
Ethnicity	
Hispanic	814
Non-Hispanic	674
Race	
American Indian or Alaska Native	3
Asian	9
Black or African American	583
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2
White	853
Biracial/Multi-racial	36
Other	2
Total	1,489

CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT	
Head Start	1489
Early Head Start	70

Reports

MAJOR FUNDS - SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS					
	GENERAL	HEADSTART PROGRAM	NON MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	CHOICE ENTERPRISE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
Local Sources	\$40,518,883	\$0	\$5,086,691	\$4,426,904	\$50,032,478
State Program Revenues	\$3,059,624	\$0	\$1,965,790	-	\$5,025,414
Federal Program Revenues	\$1,281,029	\$10,943,185	\$10,398,348	-	\$22,622,562
Total Revenues	\$44,859,536	\$10,943,185	\$17,450,829	\$4,426,904	\$77,680,454

REVENUE SOURCES		
LOCAL SOURCES	FY 2015-16	FY 2014-15
Charges for Services	\$19,213,400	\$22,543,051
Property Taxes, Levied for General Purposes	\$21,141,146	\$21,107,977
Local Grants	\$5,086,589	\$5,049,186
Miscellaneous	\$164,439	\$267,098
Total Local Sources:	\$45,605,574	\$48,967,312
STATE SOURCES		
Grants-Restricted to Specific Program	\$2,810,044	\$3,182,302
TRS On-Behalf Payments	\$2,215,370	\$2,099,190
Total State Sources:	\$5,025,414	\$5,281,492
FEDERAL SOURCES		
Grants-Restricted to Specific Program	\$22,622,562	\$25,028,005
Total Revenues:	\$73,253,550	\$79,276,809

Operation School Bell



About HCDE

HCDE Programs and Services

Harris County Department of Education is one source for all learners, serving students of all ages throughout Harris County. HCDE also provides operational support for school districts with a tax rate of one half of one penny – about \$10 a year for the average homeowner. The Department helps the 25 school districts in Harris County meet the needs of uniquely challenged learners, directly serving students on their campuses, as well as in HCDE's specialized school settings.

Adult Education: Offers classes in GED, ESL and workforce training to adults in the Houston/Harris County area through our highly-qualified teachers. Call 713-692-6216.

Business Services: The School Finance Council serves school district business managers and CFOs by providing training and pertinent information relative to school finance and business operations. Call 713-696-8249.

Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids (CASE for Kids): Leverages community resources and strengthens the capacity of the out-of-school time field. Services benefit kids and happen before and after school, on weekends and during the summer. Call 713-696-1331.

Center for Grants Development: Supports the 25 Harris County area school districts with grant resources and collaboration. Call 713-696-8293.

Center for Safe and Secure Schools: Partners with federal, state and local entities for increased safety-and-security strategies, standards and best practices in K-12 school environments. Call 713-696-3142.

Educator Certification and Professional Advancement: Trains and supports degreed professionals to become teachers or principals. We're a TEA accredited educator preparation program with an excellent support staff and test pass rate. Call 713-696-0775.

Head Start/Early Head Start Area I: Supports and prepares infants, toddlers and preschool children and their families with school readiness skills. Low-income families and families of children with special needs benefit from services administered locally by HCDE. Call 713-672-9343.

Records Management: Provides low-cost, high-tech solutions to store records for governmental entities. Develops records control schedules and provides training, consulting, electronic imaging, microfilming and commercial record center services. Call 713-649-9022.

Research and Evaluation: Provides quality, scientific-based evaluation services that meet the needs of HCDE, school districts and other community groups. Call 713-696-8291.

Schools for Special Populations: Our schools division features schools with low student-to-teacher ratios to meet the needs of area school districts. We provide several schools for placement of students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Our alternative education schools provide specialty programs for adjudicated youth or for students with disciplinary problems. Call 713-696-8218.

Teaching and Learning Center: Provides professional development and instructional support to administrators, teachers, support personnel, students, parents and the community. Call 713-696-8200.

School-Based Therapy Services: Area school districts benefit from occupational, physical and music therapy services supplied through our professionals. Services include assessment, intervention, consultation, training and direct service to children with disabilities and their families. Call 713-696-8232.

Building Stronger Foundations with Help from Community Partners

THANK YOU!



Bates Collision Centers "After 18 years of presenting more than 30 cars to Head Start families, it doesn't ever get old. Every year the families have a different set of needs, and it's great when we get to meet the families we've been working so hard for."

- Leila Bates, Bates Collision Centers



Bank of Texas

"I think there's value in professionals coming in and spending time with students in their environment. The SuperMENTors program is easy to commit to and is very rewarding. That's why I keep coming back."

- Chris Frey, Commercial Relationship Manager with Bank of Texas, Houston and Fifth Ward Head Start SuperMENTor



Assistance League of Houston

"The Operation School Bell® program promotes self-esteem and confidence resulting in a more successful education experience for children. My reward is getting to see and touch the lives of these little ones, to experience firsthand the smiles, hugs and gratitude from the children and their parents as they receive their new school clothing."

- Linda Reiger, Assistance League of Houston and Operation School Bell Steering Committee



AREA I HEAD START

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www.hcde-texas.org/headstart

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