

**HEAD START**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2021-2022**



**PAVING OUR WAY  
TO A NEW NORMAL:  
STRIVING FOR  
EXCELLENCE**



**Head Start**



**Harris County  
Department of  
Education**





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# TRUSTEES AND POLICY COUNCIL



## HCDE Board of Trustees

Andrea Duhon, President  
Amy Hinojosa, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
David W. Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Richard Cantu, Member  
Erica Davis, Member  
Eric Dick, Member  
Danyahel Norris, Member

## Policy Council Representatives

Ursula Flores Williams | Barrett Station EHS / HS  
Emily Elizondo | Baytown EHS / HS  
Veronica Barrientos | Channelview  
Keeria Essett | Compton  
Liseeth Gallegos Sanchez | Dogan  
Rebecca Paulus Fields | Fifth Ward  
Alexis Moy | Fonwood  
Brittany Colman | Humble EHS / HS  
Olga Magallon | JD Walker  
Esther Stanford | La Porte EHS / HS  
Miriam P. Garcia | Pugh  
Sarah Garay | Sheffield  
Rachel Martinez | Tidwell EHS / HS  
Alaniece L 'Shel Lily | Let's Learn  
Tyana Armstead | Kool Kids  
Fatima Suarez | Purpose Kids  
Christina LaNaye Nash | John G. Jone  
Jalissa Compton | Successful Starters

## Policy Council Alternates

Amber Haynes | Barrett Station EHS / HS  
Marlene Olivo | Baytown EHS / HS  
Danielle Collins | Channelview  
Lender Rogers | Dogan  
Netra Jackson | Fifth Ward  
Alicia Garcia | Fonwood  
Chikarra Carr | Humble EHS / HS  
Are M. Branch | JD Walker  
Julissa Garcia | La Porte EHS / HS  
Erika Ramirez | Pugh  
Judith Reyes | Sheffield  
Bridney Williams | Tidwell EHS / HS  
Lynett Williams | Let's Learn  
Amber Bribiesca | Kool Kids  
Sandra Denise Bell | Purpose Kids  
Jashayla Anderson | John G. Jones  
Deveyonne Scott | Successful Starters

# 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 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 services centers and other governmental agencies statewide.

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 boundary extends north to Humble and Huffman. HCDE's eastern service delivery area includes Crosby, Baytown and LaPorte. To the south, the area east of I-45 includes Clear Creek, Pasadena and Deer Park. We operate 14 campuses which are strategically located to serve over 1,250 children. Within the Early Child Care Partnership, we serve 100 additional children at six community child care centers in our service area.



# LETTERS

## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Head Start Community,

On behalf of the Harris County Department of Education, I am pleased to present the 2021-2022 annual report for our Head Start program. This year's theme, "Paving Our Way to a New Normal: Striving for Success," reflects our dedication to providing high-quality early childhood education to the children and families we serve.

Head Start staff are the backbone of our program, and I am proud to say that we have some of the most talented and committed educators in the field. Their dedication to the well-being and success of our children is unparalleled, and their tireless efforts to create safe and nurturing learning environments for our students as we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic have been nothing short of heroic.

The value of early childhood education has never been more apparent. Our Head Start program continues to provide our children with the foundation they need to succeed in school and beyond, and we are honored to play a role in shaping the future leaders of our community.

We recognize that we cannot do this work alone. Our community partners are essential to our success, and we are grateful for their support in helping us provide the best possible education to our youngest learners. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our children and families, and we look forward to continuing our work with all of you in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of our Head Start program. We remain committed to providing high-quality early childhood education to the children and families of Harris County.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Colbert Jr." The signature is stylized and cursive.

**James Colbert Jr.**  
Superintendent, Harris County Department of Education

## Message from the Senior Director

I am pleased to present the Head Start 2021-22 Annual Report highlighting our program performance and activities. Although COVID-19 continued to linger, along with mask mandates and vaccination requirements, HCDE's Head Start Team worked hard to ensure our students and staff flourished as we returned to in-person services.

The pandemic continued to present challenges this year including impacting our ability to fully enroll the program. Prior to COVID, HCDE Head Start boasted full enrollment with a 20% viable wait list per campus. In addition, we experienced increased staff resignations and hiring challenges. To combat this, we held numerous job fairs to recruit throughout the community, but the change in the workforce and competing employment opportunities with higher wages affected the number of available qualified applicants.

Despite being challenged on several fronts, we kicked off many projects this year including the continued expansion of our Barrett Station Early Head Start campus as well as the Humble, Successful Starters Learning Academy II and Community Partners Early Childhood Development Centers. Additionally, the LaPorte Head Start campus received a face lift just in time to accommodate the new Early Head Start services.

A sincere Thank You to the Head Start staff, HCDE Board of Trustees and leadership, Policy Council, parents, and community partners. Their support and positive attitude were critical in advancing our family and education services during these unprecedented times. Additionally, we could not have accomplished all we did without the support of the Office of Head Start Region 6 program team.

Enjoy this review of the 2021-2022 year.

Striving for Excellence,



**Venetia L. Peacock**  
Senior Director of Head Start

## Message from the Policy Council Chairperson

Greetings,

During the 2021-2022 school year, I served as the Policy Council chairperson. As the chairperson for the council, I had several responsibilities. My responsibilities included but were not limited to running the policy council meetings, making decisions for voting during the policy council meetings, as well as, staying abreast of the issues that affected the Harris County Department of Education.

During my tenure as chairperson, we were still working under covid mandate rules. We met via internet (ZOOM). I found the HCDE personnel extremely helpful and supportive of myself and all council persons. We, as a team, strove to bring a sense of normalcy to our children and families during a time of great stress for many, and to promote a high standard of education and service to the children and families we served.

Although I was unable to return to the council as a community representative, I firmly believe this program to be a great asset to our community, and our educational system.

I am happy to have been a part of such a positive program.



**Esther L. Stanford**  
La Porte Head Start Chairman

# CAMPUS LOCATIONS



## HEAD START CAMPUSES

### HOUSTON

- 1. HCDE HEAD START OFFICES**  
6300 Irvington Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77022  
O:713-672-9343 F:713-672-9363
- 2. COMPTON CAMPUS**  
9720 Spaulding St.  
Houston, TX 77016  
O:713-635-4142 F:713-631-8598
- 3. COOLWOOD CAMPUS**  
767 Coolwood Dr.  
Houston, TX 77013  
O:713-451-9024 F:713-451-8356
- 4. DOGAN CAMPUS**  
4202 Liberty Rd.  
Houston, TX 77026  
O:713-672-0207 F:713-672-7838

- 5. FIFTH WARD CAMPUS**  
4014 Market St.  
Houston, TX 77020  
O:713-237-0264 F:713-225-5341

- 6. FONWOOD CAMPUS**  
9709 Mesa Dr.  
Houston, TX 77078  
O:713-556-3830

- 7. PUGH CAMPUS**  
1042 Henke St.  
Houston, TX 77020  
O:713-675-6222 F:713-675-6226

### GALENA PARK

- 8. SHEFFIELD CAMPUS**  
14300 Wallisville Rd.  
Houston, TX 77049  
O:713-450-3813 F:713-450-0829

### CROSBY

- 9. BARRETT STATION EHS & HS CAMPUS**  
808 ½ Magnolia Ave.  
Crosby, TX 77532  
O:713-696-3119 F:713-696-3110

### GOOSE CREEK

- 10. BAYTOWN EHS & HS CAMPUS**  
317 Massey Tompkins Rd.  
Baytown, TX 77521  
O:713-696-3120 F:713-696-3111

- 11. J.D. WALKER CAMPUS**  
7613A Wade Rd.  
Baytown, TX 77521  
O:713-696-3122 F:713-696-3113

### CHANNELVIEW

- 12. CHANNELVIEW CAMPUS**  
16102 Ridlon  
Channelview, TX 77530  
O:713-696-1852 F:281-452-4707

### HUMBLE

- 13. HUMBLE EHS & HS CAMPUS**  
130 Atascocita  
Humble, TX 77396  
O:713-696-3121 F:713-696-3112

### LA PORTE

- 14. LA PORTE EHS & HS CAMPUS**  
927 S. 1st St.  
La Porte, TX 77571  
O:713-696-3123 F:713-696-3114

### SHELDON

- 15. TIDWELL EHS & HS CAMPUS**  
8302 John Ralston Rd.  
Houston, TX 77044  
O:713-696-3124 F:281-459-4365

## EARLY HEAD START CHILDCARE PARTNERS

### CROSBY

- 16. JOHN G. JONES**  
12406 Crosby Lynchburg Rd.  
Crosby, TX 77532  
O:713-696-1582

### PASADENA

- 17. KOOL KIDS DAYCARE**  
602 Fairmont Parkway  
Pasadena, TX 77504  
O:713-696-2150

- 18. PASADENA LEARNING CENTER**  
1511 Allendale Rd.  
Pasadena, TX 77502  
O:713-696-2150

### CHANNELVIEW

- 19. PURPOSE KIDS**  
846 Ashland Blvd.  
Channelview, TX 77530  
O:713-696-2150

### HOUSTON

- 20. COMMUNITY PARTNERS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
3917 Collingsworth  
Houston, TX 77026  
O:713-696-2150

- 21. SUCCESSFUL STARTERS LEARNING ACADEMY II**  
10635 Homestead Rd. #B  
Houston, TX 77016  
O:713-696-2150

# RESPONSIBLE PARENTING AWARD

## “Making wishes for wheels come true”

**Two Head Start moms** now have the peace of mind of owning a reliable car since being awarded the 2021 Bates Collision Centers Responsible Parenting Award. Sheffield mom Destini Rhodes was presented with a 2013 Mazda3 and Pugh mom Alionuska Perez received a 2011 Equinox at two separate special events in December.

“This award is about somebody who is really determined to take care of their family,” said Leila

Bates, owner with her husband Lee of Bates Collision Centers in Baytown and Channelview.

Bates said despite their hardships, both women who are single moms, have been working hard to move their families forward by setting goals and working towards those goals. By taking away the burden of transportation, Bates said more opportunities will be available to both them.

Rhodes, 28, had been borrowing a car to transport her two youngest children, 4 year-old Jo’el, who has autism, and Sofia, 3, to school and get to and from



Alionuska Perez poses with her son, Jencarlos, in front of their new car.

work as a Head Start teaching assistant. Rhodes is studying for an associate's degree in early education. Despite the load, Rhodes has stayed involved in the education needs of all her children, including 12 year-old Serina.

"A reliable car would take a lot of stress out of my life, and I won't be so dependent on others," Rhodes stated.

Perez, who has a son Jencarlos, 3, and a 19 year-old daughter Adianet, has been using the train to get to and from work cleaning buildings. Jencarlos' father helps with childcare.

"A car would enable me to participate in more activities with Jencarlos and to take him to the park," she stated.

The cars came with all kinds of gifts from employees, vendors, family and friends, including oil change and 6 months of car insurance from AMI Insurance and Heritage Credit Union.

"I have to give credit to our team — they are the ones volunteering their time — all hands were on deck for this," Bates said of the 23-year tradition of giving reliable vehicles to deserving families in need.



Destini Rhodes and her kids, Jo'el and Sofia, bottom right, pose for a photo with Head Start and Bates Collision representatives.

# HOW WE LEARN

## Lessons through Songs, Stories, and Activities that Empower Children and Parents

Students enrolled in our Head Start and Early Head Start programs are exposed to a variety of learning opportunities using the Frog Street Infant, Toddler, and Prekindergarten curriculums. On our HISD collaboration campuses, students are exposed to learning opportunities via the SAVVAS Three Cheers for PreK curriculum. These comprehensive curriculums assist staff with empowering parents to be equal partners in their children’s education while boosting language and literacy skills through songs, stories, and other activities. Our curriculums serve as the content and plan for instruction that our staff provides to students during the school day. Our curriculums are research-based, and TexasTEA approved for their respected grade-levels and made up of instructional resources and methods needed to help students develop critical skills and knowledge.

The curriculums also enable teaching staff to enhance students’ abilities while building on concepts and skills. With all curriculums utilized in our program, students can learn at their own pace and are presented with opportunities to take part in individualized instruction, small groups, and whole group experiences. These activities result in students being actively engaged in purposeful and meaningful differentiated instruction.

This year we have also included the Skill-Streaming supplemental curriculum to increase student gains in social and emotional development. These skills help prepare students for daily interactions with peers and adults while working to increase their ability to self-regulate their emotions. When we reflect on the data, we can note our students’ knowledge and skills are flourishing with Frog Street and Three Cheers for PreK curriculums.

## Learning Outcomes for Head Start Students

### Child Assessment Elements for All Students:

- Observations
- Portfolio Collections

### Child Assessment Elements for Head Start Students:

- CLI Engage Circle Progress Monitoring Assessment

### Child Assessment Elements for Early Head Start Students:

- Frog Street Developmental Checklist

During the 2021-2022 school year, infant and toddler students were formally assessed during the beginning-of-year (BOY), middle-of-year (MOY) and end-of-year (EOY) assessment points using the Frog Street Developmental Checklist.

Our Head Start 3- and 4-year-old students were assessed using the CLI Engage Circle Progress Monitoring Assessment during the same time frames for BOY, MOY, and EOY.

In addition to these assessments, teaching staff conducted informal observations of students to document student progress in all domain areas. Teaching staff created concrete descriptions of what they observed and documented their observations on anecdotal notes.

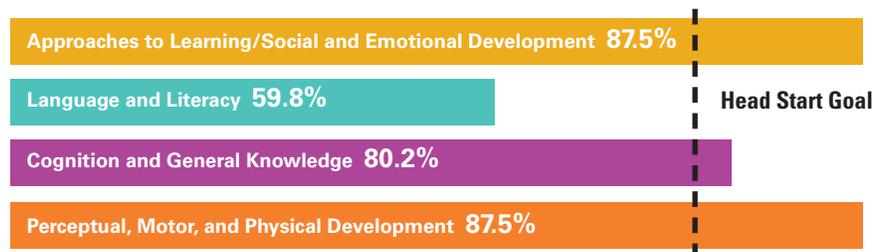
These notes, as well as samples of students work, were randomly collected throughout the school year to create the student’s individual portfolio.

# 75%

of students will reach “School Readiness Goals” as they transition from Head Start to Kindergarten.

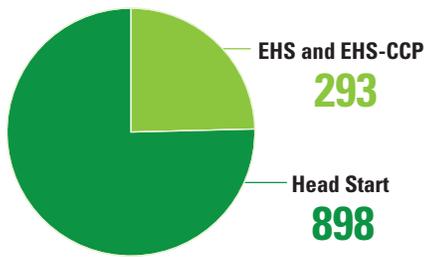
## ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES

### Mid-Year Assessment Results for Four-Year-Olds

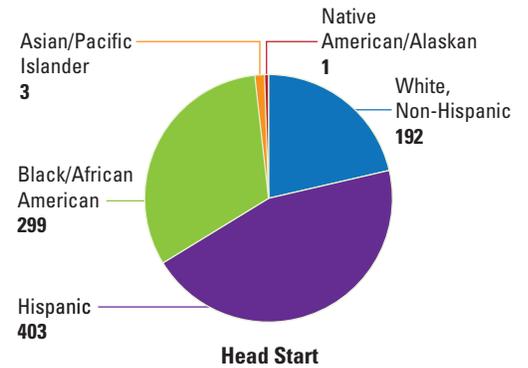
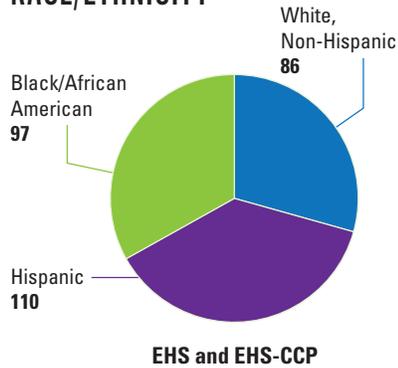


# 2021-2022 STATISTICS

## CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT

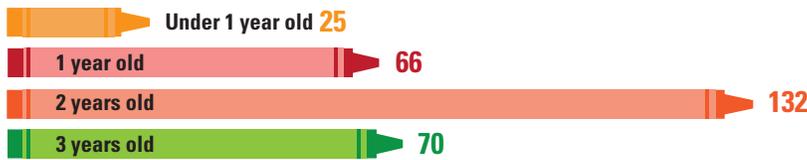


## RACE/ETHNICITY



## ENROLLMENT BY AGE

### EHS and EHS-CCP



### Head Start



## LANGUAGE

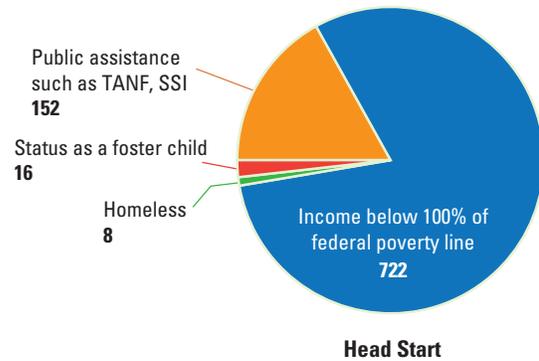
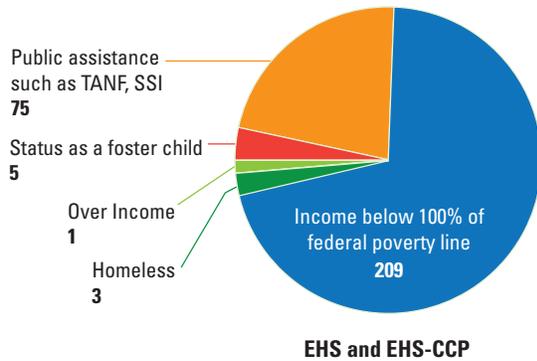
### EHS and EHS-CCP



### Head Start



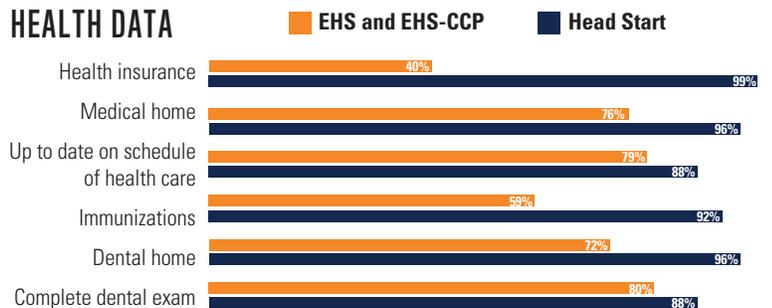
## INCOME ELIGIBILITY



## TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

	EHS and EHS-CCP	Head Start
Associate Degree	14	19
Bachelor's Degree	3	26
Master's Degree	1	2
Doctorate		
Child Development Associate (CDA)	17	36

## HEALTH DATA



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Head Start Continuation

**\$12,375,192**

Early Head Start Continuation

**\$4,792,502**

Head Start Quality Improvement and COLA

**\$336,365**

Early Head Start Quality Improvement and Cola

**\$122,976**

Humble Head Start Construction and Renovations

**\$1,829,348**

## FROM PRIVATE FUNDERS

American Heart Association

**\$2,500** for Head Start Gardens

Bank of Texas

**\$7,020** for SuperMENtors

Babies in Baytown

**\$1,000** for Early Head Start Event

KidsGardening/Scotts MiracleGro

**\$500** for Head Start Gardens - Tidwell

## OTHER PUBLIC SUPPORT

Houston Independent School District

**\$1,317,559**

La Porte Independent School District

**\$64,460**

## TOP COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

- Assistance League of Houston
- Balint Charities
- Bates Collision Centers
- Bank of Texas
- Children's Museum of Houston
- Hearts and Hands of Baytown
- Houston Children's Charities
- Legacy Community Health Services
- Workforce Solutions

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**42** SuperMENtors

**851** Head Start volunteers

# PARENT SPOTLIGHT

## An emotional, full-circle moment for a former J.D. Walker Head Start mom

In 2004, twenty-year-old Corina Guzman cried tears of joy when she was awarded HCDE Head Start and Bates Collision Centers' Annual Responsible Parenting Award, an honor that recognizes the sacrifices parents often make to provide for their children.



Corina Guzman

Eighteen years later, Guzman is still crying those same tears of joy.

At the time, Guzman was a single mother working to build a life for her son, Alfonso, who was enrolled at J.D. Walker Head Start campus in Baytown. She was working as a bartender and making ends meet as she saved up for a car after hers was totaled in an accident. JD Walker staff nominated her for the the Annual Responsible Parenting Award and Guzman became the second family to receive a rehabbed vehicle packed full of wrapped presents for their children just in time for the holidays.

Guzman said the car was life-changing. So much so that when she received an email at her current job at an oil and gas company in 2021 about partnering with Bates for the holiday program, she knew her life had come full circle.



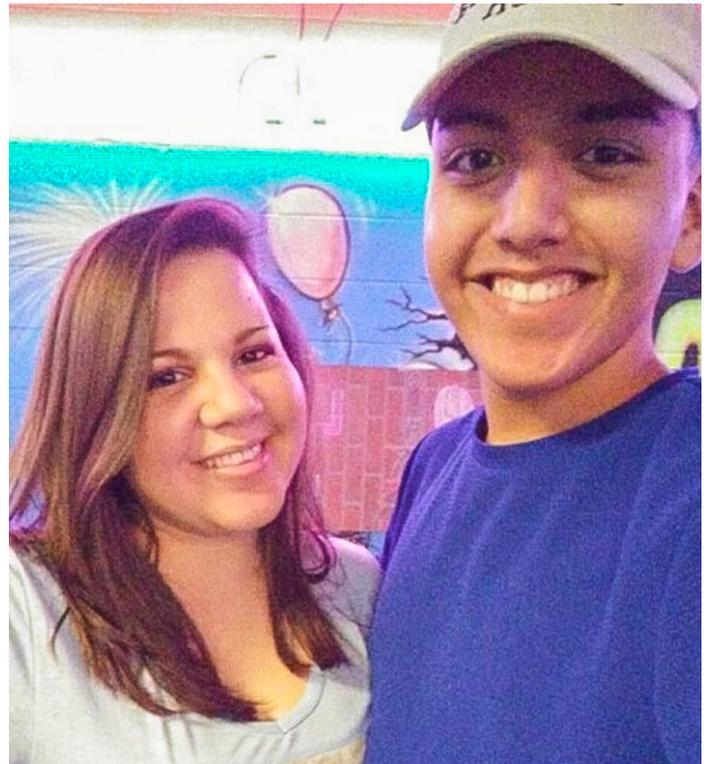
Corina Guzman behind the wheel of her new car, Dec. 2004

“What are the chances that my company would partner with Bates? I was one of those parents almost two decades ago, and now I work for a company that wants to help parents like me,” Guzman said. “I ran to her office, in tears, and told her my situation. She started crying, too.”

Guzman quietly attended the 2022 presentation at the Baytown Bates Collision Center, with her HR manager telling Bates Collision Center co-owner Leila Bates that Guzman was actually a prior recipient.

“That moment was priceless,” said Leila. “Corina’s story touched us in several ways. It filled our hearts to be able to hear first-hand how much our gift of transportation from 18 years ago had impacted her family’s life. It was especially touching for several of our employees who had worked on her car and are still employed with us and who continue donating their time to this program year after year.”

“They have no idea how much they impact the people they choose for this award, and in more ways than they’ll ever know,” said an emotional Guzman. “And as long as I’m at Sentinel, I will definitely make sure that we continue partnering with Head Start and Bates.”



Corina Guzman and her son, Alfonso, pose for a photo.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## XFL Arlington Renegades Running Back Remembers Time at Coolwood Head Start

The imagination of a child is boundless. For 23-year-old De'Montre Tuggle, his time as a student at Coolwood Head Start showed his imagination could take him places when he was drafted by the at XFL's Arlington Renegades last year.

Tuggle's former teacher, Patricia Kuskos, who was in her first year of teaching when Tuggle was a three-year-old in her class, remembers him as a quiet and kind student.

"I believe Head Start built his self-esteem because he was very reserved when he came. He left with a rich vocabulary, outgoing, engaged, and very curious," Kuskos said. "I think when you have a solid foundation and a trusting relationship, a good teacher can help you build social skills."

After graduating from Channelview High School as a two-time first-team all-district selection, Tuggle went on to the University of Central Arkansas, Kilgore College, Ohio University, and eventually, an invitation to the Chicago Bears minicamp.

"Being in all of these different places, like in Chicago around millionaires, and just being able to still be me, I definitely really feel like it started at Head Start," said Tuggle, who reunited with Kuskos, who still works in Head Start at HCDE, in December after 20 years.

Kuskos believes parental involvement is vital because it establishes engagement in a child's education for life. She noted that she often becomes a part of the family when parents volunteers and engage with the program.

"One of the things with Head Start is that we also want to provide opportunities for parents to grow, and parent involvement is a big component of what we do," said Kuskos. "I always tell [our families], once our paths have crossed, you have me for the rest of your life."

For Kuskos, sharing Tuggle's story is about dreaming big. Tuggle agrees and said education is the great equalizer, opening up opportunities for students and their future.

"America looks up to professional athletes, but it is just as important to get an academic scholarship as it is to get a sports scholarship," Kuskos said. "I think he got a little bit of both—and that's important."



De'Montre Tuggle, center, looks back on his time at Coolwood with his former Head Start teacher, Patricia Kuskos, right.



De'Montre Tuggle, right, with a classmate at Coolwood Head Start.



De'Montre Tuggle as a Chicago Bear.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## Wisdom and positivity: Cornerstones of Employee of the Month Janny Leiva

It's early on a Monday morning. Her feet move quickly, and she's already sweeping the entryway, wiping down windows and toys, rolling lunch carts into classrooms, and chatting with colleagues.

La Porte Head Start custodian Janny Leiva, Harris County Department of Education's November Employee of the Month, wastes no time. "The day is too short," she affirms.

**"SHE IS THE LA PORTE HEAD START GRANDMA... THE HEART AND SOUL OF THIS CENTER. I THINK SHE IS A RARE, RARE BREED."**

"It's amazing! It's like she's a robot!" exclaims La Porte Head Start Campus Manager Nadia Epps. "She is the La Porte Head Start grandma... the heart and soul of this center. I think she is a rare, rare breed."

Leiva, a breast cancer survivor and a political asylee from Nicaragua who emigrated to the US 33 years ago, moves through the world with the wisdom of experience and the optimism of faith. Her desire to make the world a better place propels her.

"God has given me many second chances. [When I was diagnosed] with cancer 10 years ago, they gave me six months to live," she said. "I am happy seeing other people happy. Happiness is not selfishly in oneself," affirms Leiva.

Leiva was hired at Head Start in January 2022. After Winter Storm Uri, the La Porte Head Start campus sustained flooding damage and Leiva was temporarily reassigned to the Baytown center.

"You have to help those in need, and I knew there was a greater need [at the Baytown Center]," says Leiva. "Because of COVID, they were short-staffed, so when I returned, I had to start from zero. You had to learn how to do a little bit of everything."

Epps attributes the positive culture on the campus largely to the love and care that Leiva puts into her work and bestows onto others. She said Leiva treats the staff like family.

"This is our center. This is our home. You have to make life easier for people, more comfortable so they can give 100%," Leiva said. "If they are happy, the children are happy...I try to create a positive environment so that the children and staff want to return the next day."



Janny Leiva poses for a photo with members of her parish.



Janny Leiva with her grandchildren.

# HCDE FINANCIAL REPORTS

MAJOR FUNDS					
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS					
	General	Head Start Program	Capital Projects Funds	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Local Sources	\$46,196,473	\$-	\$174,481	\$4,589,210	\$50,960,164
State Program Revenues	3,549,744	-	-	-	3,549,744
Federal Program Revenues	2,089,412	12,011,228	-	14,223,798	28,324,438
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>\$51,835,629</b>	<b>\$12,011,228</b>	<b>\$174,481</b>	<b>\$18,813,008</b>	<b>\$82,834,346</b>

PROPRIETARY FUNDS				
	Choice Partners	Workers Compensation	Facility Charges	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues - Local Sources	\$7,580,665	\$362,048	\$5,697,957	\$13,640,670

	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
LOCAL SOURCES			
Charges for Services	\$20,489,236	\$20,441,828	\$21,358,795
Property Taxes, Levied for General Purposes	25,368,044	25,086,237	23,707,501
Local Grants	4,589,937	5,634,872	4,761,166
Miscellaneous	512,947	1,185,515	951,905
<b>TOTAL LOCAL SOURCES:</b>	<b>50,960,164</b>	<b>52,348,452</b>	<b>50,779,367</b>
STATE SOURCES			
Grants-Restricted to Specific Program	529,800	529,800	548,616
TRS On-Behalf Payments	3,019,944	2,815,070	3,036,198
<b>TOTAL STATE SOURCES:</b>	<b>3,549,744</b>	<b>3,344,870</b>	<b>3,584,814</b>
FEDERAL SOURCES			
Grants-Restricted to Specific Program	28,324,438	26,327,759	24,919,991
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>\$82,834,346</b>	<b>\$82,021,081</b>	<b>\$79,284,172</b>

\*Governmental Funds include the General Fund, Special Revenues Funds, Capital Projects Fund and Debt Service Fund.

The revenues for FY 2021-2022 as compared to FY 2020-2021 increased by \$813,965 or 1% mainly due to increase in federal sources.

# ABOUT HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Harris County Department of Education** is an educational service provider in the heart of Houston, supporting all 25 local school districts and thousands of students and educators each year. HCDE is dedicated to supporting public education in the county and region through high quality services including special schools, school safety training, teacher certification programs and adult education. HCDE also supports hundreds of regional government and non-profit agencies through other operational services including a national purchasing cooperative that funnels millions of dollars back into support for public education each year.

HCDE has the smallest tax on a Harris County property tax bill, costing the average homeowner less than \$10 a year for its services. Through fees-for-service and local, state and federal grants, HCDE leverages its revenue to turn every \$1 of property taxes into \$5 of services.

**Special Schools:** HCDE runs four special schools supporting students with profound special needs as well as those facing addiction and adjudicated youth. HCDE contracts with more than 40 regional school districts for seats in these schools each year. HCDE recently opened two new Academic and Behavior School campuses specifically designed to support students with multiple disabilities including inclusive playgrounds for students in wheelchairs.

**School-Based Therapy:** HCDE provides more than 54% of all school-based therapy in Harris County. Through the work of more than 150 occupational, physical and music therapists, HCDE provides essential support to students with special needs in their classroom and 100% of all therapy in Houston ISD, CyFair ISD, Spring Branch ISD, Katy ISD and Spring ISD. HCDE has been providing school-based therapy in Harris County for more than 40 years.

**Afterschool Programs:** HCDE's Center for AfterSchool Enrichment (CASE for Kids) program is a regional broker of afterschool programming, providing curriculum, training, resources and funding to hundreds of local childcare providers and school districts. CASE seeks to strengthen, support and sustain out-of-school time activities, connecting the community with opportunities for youth. CASE partners with the Houston Urban Debate League to provide debate coaches to area high schools, with several CASE debate teams winning at the national level in the last few years. CASE also operates a regional robotics tournament, the All-Earth Ecobot Challenge, at which hundreds of students showcase their STEM skills and knowledge.

**Adult Education:** HCDE runs a robust Adult Education program offering free high school equivalency diploma, English as a Second Language and workforce training courses to members of the community. Students can participate in citizenship classes and gain useful work skills through qualified certificate programs such as front office assistant and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

**Center For Safe And Secure Schools:** HCDE is a leader in school safety throughout the state, providing both physical and emotional safety support for local school districts. CSSS was born in 1999 at the request of local

school superintendents in the wake of the Columbine tragedy. More than 20 years later, the Center continues to be a leader in school safety providing building safety audits, crisis preparedness training, reunification exercises, restorative circles for culture and climate building within schools and training on best practices for delivering quality trauma-informed instruction to students in need.

**Center For Educator Success:** In 2022, HCDE combined its Teaching and Learning Center and teacher alternative certification programs into the Center for Educator Success (CES). CES is dedicated to helping local school districts recruit and retain high quality teachers through certification coursework and test preparation as well as retention support throughout a teacher's first year on the job. CES contracts with local school districts to certify paraprofessionals and help those currently in certification programs achieve their goal of becoming a teacher in a Houston area school.

**Records Management:** HCDE's Records Management division stores both physical and digital records for local school districts and municipalities. Records Management provides safe and secure storage options through boxes in our local warehouse as well as in the digital realm through an online portal which allows clients immediate access to their electronic records.

**Choice Partners Purchasing Cooperative:** HCDE hosts a national purchasing cooperative dedicated to offering local government high quality, federally compliant contracts to save agencies more than \$100 million each year through streamlined procurement processes. Choice Partners is not only EDGAR and CFR-200 compliant, but also offers contracts with Amazon and Apple Inc., allowing governmental entities and non-profit organizations to use federal dollars for procurement of goods and services from these providers.





The Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) is dedicated to providing high-quality, cost-effective educational services to school districts, educators, government and non-profit organizations in Harris County.

Through schools for students with profound special needs, Head Start early childhood education, school-based therapy services and afterschool programs, HCDE supports all area school districts in meeting the needs of uniquely challenged learners while saving them millions of dollars each year through shared services. The Department is an innovative leader of literacy and workforce development programming for adult learners across the county. HCDE also provides various other educational support services including professional development for educators, school safety programs, educator certification, records management, and a national purchasing cooperative.

HCDE impacts an average of 150,000 students and educators each year. Using fees for service, grants, and the purchasing cooperative, HCDE turns one dollar of property taxes into five dollars of services.

HCDE is separate and distinct from other agencies of Harris County. The Department's primary service area covers 1,788 square miles but also provides support to school districts, education service centers and other governmental agencies across Texas and the nation.

6300 Irvington Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77022  
713-694-6300  
[www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org)

## CONTACT US



**HCDE Head Start**  
6300 Irvington Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77022  
713-672-9343  
[www.hcde-texas.org/headstart](http://www.hcde-texas.org/headstart)