Introduction
This Facts on Kids in South Dakota will focus on Head Start, the nation’s leading investment in early childhood care and education. The monograph will explain Head Start’s beginnings nationally and in South Dakota, and the main goals of the program. It will also look at the families of participating children.

Brief History
Head Start began in 1965, as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty. The intent was to break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children (3 to school-age) from low-income families with a program to prepare them for school and to succeed in life. The program offered comprehensive health, nutrition, and education services. Over the past 50 years, more than 32 million children attended Head Start.

Head Start Association
The South Dakota Head Start Association was incorporated in 1989 to build awareness of Head Start and Head Start services in South Dakota. It is the link between local, regional, and national Head Start programs, which advocate for children (pre-birth to age 5) from low-income families.

Head Start State Collaboration
The South Dakota Head Start State Collaboration office was established in the Department of Education in 1990, to facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies and entities that carry out activities to benefit eligible children and their families, and pregnant women. It also assists in development of multi-agency and public/private partnerships between Head Start and the state in order to build early childhood systems.

There are 15 Head Start Programs in South Dakota
- 7 Tribal Government
- 8 Head Start

Total Cumulative Enrollment in South Dakota: 4,331 children
Beliefs and Goals of Head Start

School Readiness

Head Start’s purpose is to promote the school readiness of low-income children ages three to five. To ensure progress in cognitive, social, and emotional development, programs follow the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework as a guide to establish school readiness goals for children, monitor children’s progress, align curricula, and conduct program planning. The Framework is organized into 11 domains that together, represent the “whole-child”:

- Physical Development & Health
- Social and Emotional Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Language Development
- Literacy Knowledge & Skills
- Mathematics Knowledge & Skills
- Science Knowledge & Skills
- Creative Arts Expression
- Logic & Reasoning
- Social Studies Knowledge & Skills
- English Language Development (applies only to children who speak a language other than English at home).4

The South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines for preschoolers is aligned with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, as well as the S.D. Kindergarten Standards.5

Early Learning Framework

Parents are viewed as the primary educators and nurturers of their children. They are encouraged to be involved in all aspects of the program and their children’s lives. Head Start provides support through parenting classes.

**Federal or Other Assistance 2013-2014**

- **Families receiving TANF Benefits:** 12%
- **Families Receiving SSI Benefits:** 7%
- **Families Receiving WIC Benefits:** 50%
- **Families Receiving SNAP Benefits:** 65%

**Parent/Guardian Education Level 2013-2014**

- 22% are Less than a High School Graduate.
- 43% are a High School Graduate or GED.
- 27% have an Associate Degree, Vocational School Degree, or Some College.
- 8% have an Advanced or Baccalaureate Degree

**Number of Families 2013-2014**

- **Two Parent Families:** 1,882 (47%)
- **Single Parent Families:** 2,108 (53%)

**Total Number of Families:** 3,990
Facts on Kids in South Dakota

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