

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
OFFICE OF HEAD START,
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AND
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the framework for cooperation and partnership between the Office of Head Start (OHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) to identify practices and support collaborative relationships that ensure effective transition of children leaving Head Start and entering kindergarten. It is the shared interest of OHS and NAESP to support the readiness of Head Start children for their receiving elementary schools and the continued progress of those children in kindergarten and beyond.

II. PARTIES

ACF, within HHS, is responsible for federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities. ACF programs aim to achieve the following: families and individuals empowered to increase their own economic independence and productivity; strong, healthy, supportive communities that have a positive impact on the quality of life and the development of children; partnerships with individuals, front-line service providers, communities, American Indian tribes, Native communities, states, and Congress that enable solutions which transcend traditional agency boundaries; services planned, reformed, and integrated to improve needed access; and a strong commitment to working with people with developmental disabilities, refugees, and migrants to address their needs, strengths, and abilities.

The ACF's OHS manages a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. The Head Start program provides grants to local public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school. Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals.

As a national organization, NAESP operates through a network of affiliated associations in every state, the District of Columbia, Canada, and overseas.

NAESP believes that the progress and well-being of the individual child must be at the forefront of all elementary and middle-school planning and operations. Further, NAESP supports elementary and middle-level principals as the primary catalyst for creating a lasting foundation for learning, driving school and student performance, and shaping the long-term impact of school improvement efforts.

As the representative of principals that serves 33 million children in grades pre-kindergarten through 8, the Association seeks to:

- Serve as an advocate for children and youth by ensuring them access to an excellent education;
- Sustain and promote high professional standards and leadership among principals;
- Heighten public awareness of elementary and middle school education as the foundation for all future academic achievement;
- Serve as a national representative for elementary and middle-school education to Congress, the Executive Branch, state and federal agencies, the news media, researchers, educators, and other education and child advocacy groups;
- Serve as an advocate for the professional tenets and priorities of elementary and middle-school principals; and
- Ensure that education continues to be recognized as a matter of national priority.

III. LEGAL AUTHORITY

Sections 640 and 649 of the Head Start Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9835; 42 U.S.C. § 9844-

IV. STATEMENT OF WORK

ACF shall:

- Convene 13 teams of school district and Head Start leaders to demonstrate new collaboration and improved supports for children leaving Head Start and entering public school (Head Start- Public School Collaboration Demonstration Project)
- Coordinate *Bring Your Principal To Head Start Month*, October 2019
- Share national Head Start data from such sources at the annual Program Information Report (PIR) and information with NAESP
- Provide resources supporting connections and collaboration between local elementary schools and Head Start programs
- Provide guidance and promote local Head Start provision of kindergarten registration summits.
- Provide speaker from OHS at NAESP events upon request and as available

- Include NAESP and/or its representative in conversations and convening's related to the Pre-K-8 principal role and responsibilities as aligned with OHS conversations

NAESP shall:

- Participate in Public School-Head Start Collaboration Demonstration Project and provide publicity and non-monetary supports as possible
- Participate in and promote *National Bring Your Principal To Head Start Month* October 2019
- Disseminate and communicate applicable resources to membership as possible
- Provide speaker from NAESP at OHS events upon request and as available

V. EFFECT OF AGREEMENT

This does not confer any legal right or cause of action upon any private person or private entity.

This MOU does not restrict participating agencies or associations from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other entities.

VI. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This MOU may only be modified or amended in writing upon written request of either party and with the concurrence of the other party. This MOU will become effective on the date of the last signature herein and will remain in effect until December 30, 2020. This agreement does not cause or imply any transfer of funds or financial commitment between signatories.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

The ACF contact for this MOU is Deborah Bergeron or her designee. The NAESP contact is Gail Morgan or her designee. Each agency or association will designate successor points of contact in writing as necessary.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

All print, audio, video, digital or web-based materials produced specifically pursuant to this MOU, and any other joint projects or activities under this MOU shall be developed subject to the review and approval by both parties. All such materials must contain an appropriate acknowledgment of the parties' partnership and support, using language and logos mutually agreed upon by ACF and NAESP. The ACF, OHS and the NAESP will work collaboratively to develop appropriate acknowledgment for ACF and NAESP including text, logos, and the placement thereof.

ACF and NAESP shall submit in draft form for the other party's review and approval any materials and any national media, public statements, and promotional activities relating to the MOU prior to release.