



# Pasco County Head Start

## March 2013 Policy Council



Kurt Browning, Superintendent of Schools  
 Angela Porterfield, Acting Director of Early Childhood Programs  
<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/prek/>

### February Fast Facts

Head Start Enrollment	696
Head Start Average Attendance	91%
Early Head Start Enrollment	128
Early Head Start Average Attendance	86%
Expectant Mothers Served	2
Breakfasts Served	13,220
Lunches Served	13,483
Snacks Served	13,322

We requested approval for Grant Application this month! We will now start the process of writing our grant for the next program year!

### Community Assessment, Self-Assessment Action Plan, and Parent Survey

Every year, we complete a variety of assessments and surveys to help determine areas of need in our community and ways to strengthen our program. Based on our community assessment, we have identified several community needs including medical/dental accessibility, lack of public transportation, lack of access to safe parks/recreation areas, and lack of knowledge of community resources/support systems (shelters, food banks, counseling, clothing).

Based on our self-assessment, we will put a corrective action plan in place to strengthen the program in a number of areas. Some of the things we will be working on include: revising manuals to reflect compliance with Head Start Performance Standards and current procedures, teacher training in identified areas, forming a collaborative Dual Language Learners Task Force to help serve our bilingual children, collaborating with families to ensure children's nutritional needs are being met, and creating podcasts to share information with families and staff.

We had a strong response rate to our Parent and Family Satisfaction Survey this year with 593 surveys being returned! Based on our parent survey, we have many things to celebrate in our program. 98.7% of families are satisfied with the program's support staff, and 98.2% of families are satisfied with the program's educational staff. Over 96% of our families report that since enrolling in Head Start/Early Head Start program their child is excited about learning and likes to go to school!

### "Sequestration"?!?

Some of you are familiar with this term, and some of you might not have heard it before. Sequestration is a term that refers to budget cuts. We know that there has been much discussion about sequestration in the news in recent weeks. We are waiting for further information from the federal government and the Office of Head Start regarding sequestration before making recommendations for next year, and we will be sharing more information with you once it is received.

### Site Moves

Our district is closing two schools at the completion of this school year for renovations. We are very excited to announce that our Head Start classrooms at Quail Hollow Elementary School will be moving to Veterans Elementary School, and our classrooms at Shady Hills Elementary School will be moving to Mary Giella Elementary School. We will be moving our Early Head Start classrooms from Moore Mickens Education Center to Pasco Elementary School. We feel these moves will help us continue to best serve the needs of children and families in these areas.

Serving families so that all children can learn and grow in a healthy, nurturing environment.

We had two special guests at our Policy Council meeting this month, Emilio Colon, Senior Program Specialist from ACF Region IV Office of Head Start, and Cynthia Armstrong, District School Board of Pasco County Chairman.

