

**PRESCHOOL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF  
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**  
662 S. Tippecanoe Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92415-0630  
**HEAD START/STATE PRESCHOOL  
FACT SHEET**  
(909) 383-2000  
January 28, 2010



## OVERVIEW/ HISTORY

The United States Government began the Head Start program in 1965 to help overcome the problems that are frequently experienced by children within low-income families. The County of San Bernardino's Preschool Services Department (PSD) has operated the Federal Head Start and State Preschool programs since 1965 in the county, providing comprehensive child development and family services. Research shows that during their school years and beyond, children who attend quality preschool are less likely to be placed in special education or held back a grade, exhibit more positive classroom behaviors and perform better on standardized math and reading tests, are more likely to graduate from high school and continue their education, earn more money and are less likely to go on welfare, and, are less likely to become involved in crime.

## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY'S HEAD START/STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

PSD serves over 4,800 Head Start and State Preschool children ages 3–4 and their families at 41 locations countywide. PSD has 3 contract partners (Colton Joint Unified School District, Needles Unified School District, and High Desert New Beginnings), 1 contract (Baker Valley Unified School District) and 1 delegate agency (Easter Seals Southern California, Inc.) PSD incorporates educational, health, nutritional, and psychological services in order to help children become ready to enter and succeed in school and life in general. This includes children living in poverty, foster children, those in homeless shelters and those with special needs.

## FUNDING SOURCE

PSD's preschool programs are funded through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, the State Department of Education and the State's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The Federal Government requires that the local agency raise 20% of the total federal grant through donations of volunteer time, services, materials and money. **Funding:** Federal: \$36,992,025, State: \$4,161,894 and CACFP \$2,051,083.

## SERVICES TO FAMILIES

PSD offers the following support services: Health (medical & dental), Nutrition, Mental/Psychological, Literacy (adult & child), Volunteer Opportunities, Disabilities Services, Education, Parent Involvement; Transition to Kindergarten, Family & Community Partnerships and Social Services.

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED FY 2007 NATIONWIDE (Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start)

908,412 Head Start  
12.2 percent were children with disabilities  
1,384,000 Volunteers  
More than 25 million children served since it began in 1965

## AGE OF CHILDREN

Children 3 to 4 years old

## SCHOOL YEAR

Program year - July to June (Traditional/Track).  
Part Day – 3 ½ hour/day - 9 months (varies)  
Full Day – 8 hours/day - year round  
Home Based: One 90-minute home visit per week

## ADULTS IN CLASSROOM\*

Teacher (Early Childhood Credential or Permit)  
Teacher Aides (with ECE units and/or Training)  
Parent/Community Volunteers  
\*One adult for every 8 children.

## PSD EMPLOYEES

PSD has 748 employees, with most providing direct services to children and families at the 41 sites throughout geographically vast San Bernardino County.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

Family Learning Centers enable families of enrolled children to access available community resources to meet their needs and Welfare Reform requirements with a focus on learning marketable skills in order to obtain meaningful employment. In addition, training and college credit classes are set up and offered to parents and staff, including on-the-job training. A range of workshops and classes are offered regularly as follows:

- Family Literacy
- Parenting Classes
- ESL (English as a second language)
- GED
- Training for Community Volunteers

- Apprenticeship Training Opportunities

## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

PSD welcomes the enrollment of children with disabilities. We understand the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to make reasonable accommodations for such children and implement such accommodations. We provide screening, evaluation, remediation and/or referral services to children with multiple special needs.

## PARENTS IN THE PROGRAM

Parents are a valuable asset to the program and are encouraged to be active participants in their child's learning by volunteering in the program. Parents can be members of the center's class committees, join the Parent Advisory Committees, or be elected to represent the center as a member of the Head Start Policy Council. Membership in the Policy Council is limited to 3 years. Also, a member of the Policy Council may be elected to the Shared Governance Board, which is comprised of a member of the County Board of Supervisors and County Department Managers.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a treasure to the program. PSD recruits, trains, and assigns volunteers to perform a variety of duties. Volunteers are required to meet certain specifications before placement in a classroom environment.

## PARTNERSHIPS

PSD welcomes partnerships with all child care and family-related agencies and businesses which are interested in promoting educational achievement, social competence, health and well-being among our community's children and families.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about PSD's Head Start and State Preschool programs, you may visit our website: <http://hss.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/psd/> or call (909) 383-2000 Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the nearest Head Start/State Preschool Center.

*The Preschool Services Department does not discriminate when determining which children will be served. The program does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, color, or mental or physical disability, in determining which children are served.*



Shared/Forms/Head Start Fact Sheet 1-2010