



ALABAMA HEAD START State Collaboration Office

SEPTEMBER 2020

Head Start Alumnus Appointed Secretary



Dr. Barbara Cooper joins the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECE) with over 30 years of education experience. Dr. Cooper is earning a certificate in Early Education Leadership from Harvard University Graduate School of Education. She received a Ph.D. in Education Leadership and Innovation, and a Master of Science degree in Administration, Supervision, and Curriculum Development from the University of Colorado at Denver. Dr. Cooper attended Head Start as a 4 yr. old. Her goal as Secretary of ADECE is to help all of Alabama’s children achieve their greatest potential.

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Resources for Reopening

Early Childhood programs across the state will be offering a mixed delivery of instruction this Fall, in response to COVID-19, that will include on-site, virtual, and/or blended instruction. On-line resources that are available for early childhood parents and teachers are “Ready Rosie” and the Creative Curriculum Cloud. EHS and HS programs may request funding support for Creative Curriculum Cloud and Ready Rosie licenses from the Alabama Head Start Collaboration Office on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact Dr. Trellis Calloway at Trellis.Calloway@ece.alabama.gov



Alabama Head Start Response to COVID-19

Alabama Early Head Start and Head Start grantees have received a total of \$12,463.363 in federal funding from the Cares Act, administered through the Office of Head Start to help combat COVID-19. With this funding, some programs offered summer learning programs to 4-year-olds transitioning to Kindergarten. Head Start agencies that provided summer learning programs include: (1) Cheaha Regional – Ashland and Talladega (*shown below*), (2) Tuskegee/Macon Co. Head Starts, and (3) the Community Action Partnership of North Alabama – Ratchford (*shown below*).



What's New in AL Early Childhood Education

ADECE releases the **new** Alabama Standards for Early Learning and Development (ASELDS)

The ASELDS merge the previous DHR and DECE standards to create a single set of standards that describe what children, birth to age 5, can know, do and learn. They are intended for use by early childhood professionals who work in childcare, Head Start, First Class, special education, higher education, and home visiting. A final version of the ASELDS will be available for use in your early learning programs in September 2020. On-line professional development on the standards is coming soon. For more information about the ASELDS, please contact Jeannie Allen at jean.allen@ece.alabama.gov.

Transitioning Head Start Students to Kindergarten

In partnership with the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) and Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI), ADECE now offers a Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) to all entering kindergarten students in Fall 2020, called AlaKiDS: The Alabama Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills. This tool is compatible with Teaching Strategies GOLD and will be used to assess and help meet individual developmental learning needs of each Kindergartner. To ensure that Head Start students are prepared for Kindergarten and will perform well on the assessment, Head Start teachers are encouraged to continue incorporating TS Gold standards and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework into daily lesson plans. For more information about AlaKiDS, please contact Jeannie Allen at jean.allen@ece.alabama.gov.

Partnerships/Collaborations

Alabama Head Start Association - The Head Start Collaboration Office congratulates Ms. Samita Jeter and her 2019-2020 executive board for an outstanding year of service. Mr. Searcy Rushing (President Elect) and the 2020-2021 executive board will be installed during the Fall 2020.

Children's Policy Council – In July 2020, the Children's Policy Council (CPC) Division of ADECE donated a box of cardboard blocks and three balance beams to the St. Clair Co Head Start in Pell City, Alabama. The equipment will be used to measure and help develop children's fine and gross motor skills through play. In August, the CPC manager presented a virtual Play with Purpose Zoom training that included the: (a) importance of measuring a child's development, (b) role of teachers in developmental monitoring, and (c) administration of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) as a developmental screening tool.

Gov Ivey, Others Recommend Public Investments for Alabama Head Starts - The Alabama Grade Level Reading Campaign, a commission consisting of nearly 100 state education and child policy leaders, recently released a report outlining strategies to improve third-grade reading proficiency across the state. Governor Ivey chaired the effort, and new Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education Secretary Barbara Cooper served as its chief academic officer. Among the core recommendations made by the Campaign was a call to build the infrastructure needed across state agencies to support all children from birth to age eight, including aligning public investments into Early Head Start/Head Start.

Learn more about this effort as well as read the full report at <https://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2020/07/governor-ivey-announces-alabama-campaign-for-grade-level-reading-final-report-and-recommendations/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EHS/HS Expansion Grant Deadline

A funding opportunity announcement (HHS-2020-ACF-OHS-CH-1818) has been posted for agencies that wish to expand Head Start and/or Early Head Start Services. The application due date is September 21, 2020. For more information see: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/>.

The Alabama ECE Conference 2020 – will be available LIVE October 21 – December 21, 2020. The theme is "Connect 2020" and cost of on-line registration is \$100. Registration information is coming soon. To apply for conference scholarships, please contact Dr. Trellis Calloway at trellis.calloway@ece.alabama.gov.