



NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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(8/1/25) Southern 7 Reminds Families to Enroll Now for Fall Head Start Classes (Includes Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs)

Southern 7 Head Start/Early Head Start reminds families that open enrollment continues for fall classes throughout the region. Children birth to age 5 who live in Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, or Union Counties in Illinois may qualify for enrollment. The Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) Program in Union County is also enrolling children under age 6 for those who qualify. Classes begin mid-August.

Head Start is a no cost, comprehensive child development program, funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and serves families with young children age birth to five. Services include the areas of education, school readiness, social service, health and family involvement. The program provides full-day classes and has dual enrollment with Pre-K.

The MSHS Program provides childcare and a comprehensive program of health, parent involvement, and social services for preschool children of low-income, agricultural workers. Eligibility is determined by the type of work you do and the age of your child or children.

Through these Head Start programs, children learn Kindergarten readiness skills, receive health, dental, and developmental screenings, participate in educational activities and socialization skills, and receive healthy meals and snacks.

Families with children in Head Start have access to mental health services, parent engagement and training tools, and services to children of all needs and abilities. They are also able to volunteer in the program.

To enroll in Head Start, you will need the following:

- Child's Certified Birth Certificate
- Current physical and shot records
- Proof of family income (one month of pay stubs or 2023 W2's, taxes, TANF, SNAP or SSI)
- Professional documentation to receive additional selection criteria points for admission if your child has a suspected disability

For more information contact Sharity Gaddis, Southern 7 Head Start Enrollment Specialist at 618-634-2297, ex. 971127 or download the Southern 7 app. To apply for MSHS, contact the Parent Coordinator at Head Start at 618-697-9505. Habla Español. MSHS operates under a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services and is a program facilitated through Southern 7 Health Department and Head Start.

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