



Heading to Kindergarten



UPDATES & NEWS

January 24, 2024

The Department of Education has gone through the transition of becoming a new cabinet agency and is now, officially, the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). The Early Learning and School Readiness team (ELSR) has been moved over to the newly formed cabinet agency, the Department of Children and Youth (DCY). This includes the Head Start Collaboration office moving into the Community Outreach and Engagement division in the Department of Children and Youth. Anita Armstrong, who served as the Director of the Head Start Collaboration Office for over ten years, has left her position for a new chapter. We are excited for her! Katina Bays, who is the Deputy Director of Outreach and Engagement, is serving as the Interim Head Start Collaboration Director. As the search for a new Head Start Collaboration Office Director is underway, we wanted to communicate these changes to you as well as some updates on the Heading to Kindergarten Cohorts.

The *Heading to Kindergarten Cohort 3* concluded in December of 2023 with the following districts and their partners:

- **Bedford Schools / Bedford Heights Daycare**
- **Deer Park Community City Schools / Amity Preschool / Hamilton County Education Service Center**
- **Lebanon Schools / Warren County Community Services**
- **Niles City Schools / Trumbull County Community Action**
- **Wellington Exempted Village Schools / Lorain County Community Action**

What a great experience! The teams received resources and technical assistance to enhance collaboration and prepare children and families for kindergarten.

Given the many transitions, we will not have a Cohort 4 for the 2023 and 2024 school year. A determination regarding future cohorts and programming will be made later this year and communicated to all partners.

To stay current on information shared, please review the following options.

For all things Heading to Kindergarten:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Head-Start/Heading-to-Kindergarten>



For all things Head Start:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Head-Start>

Contact Information

HEAD START

By Phone at 614-752-1151 ELSR General Voice Mail Box

By Email at headstart@education.ohio.gov



[Sign up](#) to receive email updates

You can also reach out for questions to the Head Start Collaboration Office:

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