

Dr. Bernadine Futrell

Director of the Office of Head Start



Dear Head Start staff,

As a proud, lifelong member of our forever family, I believe in the mission of Head Start programs. What's more, I know from my own life experiences as a Head Start child that it works!

The impact Head Start programs have had on my life — as a child, as an assistant teacher in a Head Start classroom, as the national director of the Office of Head Start — has given me a love for education and unique experiences. It is with great expectation and some sadness I share with you that I will be leaving the Office of Head Start in June to serve in an expanded role in the Biden-Harris administration. Katie Hamm, the deputy assistant secretary for early childhood education and development at the Administration for Children and Families, will act as the director for the Office of Head Start until a new person is appointed.

It has been an honor to lead the Office of Head Start in advancing equity, investing in the workforce, supporting programs in responding to the pandemic, as well as reaching more children and families during these trying times. Every day, I am blown away by the heart work of Head Start staff that is impacting children and families. Across the nation, more children and families are connected to Head Start programs and services because of you. Together, the Head Start community has unified to navigate with strength, innovation, and resolve the ever-changing winds of the COVID-19 pandemic. I have enjoyed zooming in person and virtually into meetings, listening sessions, conferences, and classrooms to connect with our communities across the country. I am inspired by your unwavering dedication to the amazing work you do and grateful for all that we have accomplished together.

Thank you for all that you do. I will always remain a champion for our heart work!

In unity, truth, and love,

Dr. Bernadine Futrell

Director

Office of Head Start

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