

## Head Start in South Dakota

### Introduction

This *Facts on KIDS in South Dakota* will focus on Head Start, the nation's leading investment in early childhood care and education. The monograph will explain Head Start's beginnings nationally and in South Dakota, and the main goals of the program. It will also look at the families of participating children.

### Brief History

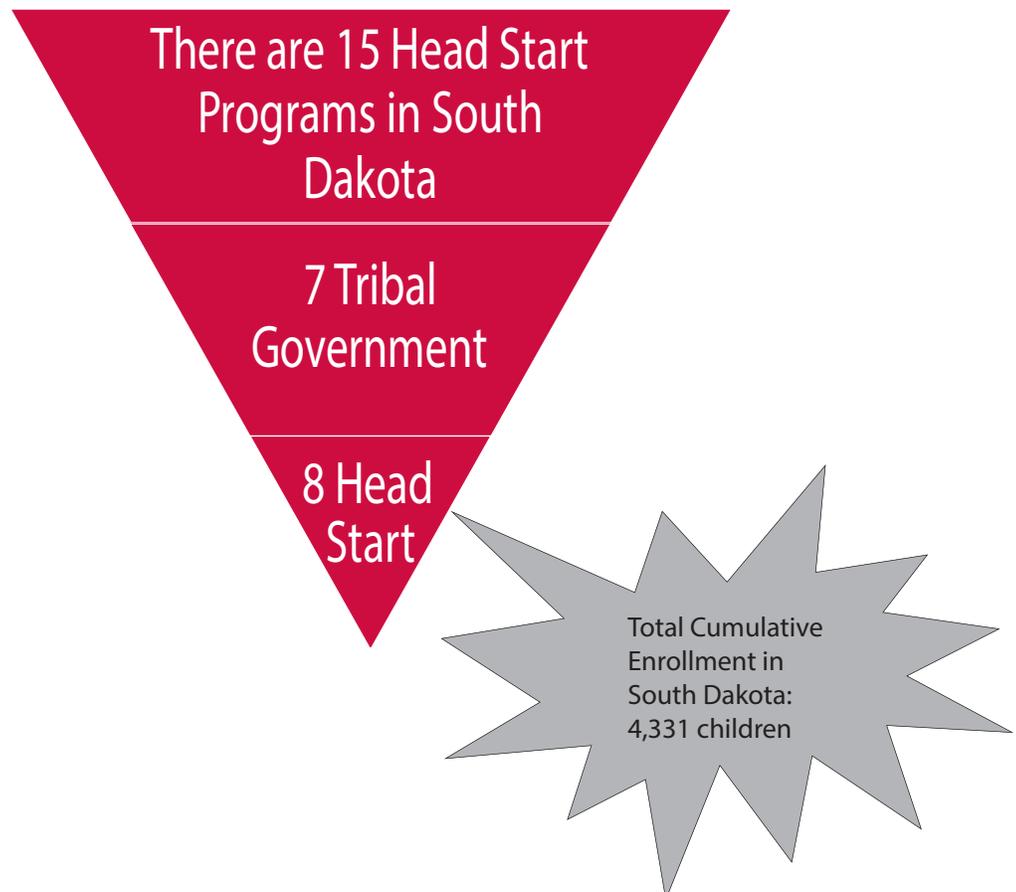
Head Start began in 1965, as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. The intent was to break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children (3 to school-age) from low-income families with a program to prepare them for school and to succeed in life. The program offered comprehensive health, nutrition, and education services. Over the past 50 years, more than 32 million children attended Head Start.<sup>3</sup>

### Head Start Association

The South Dakota Head Start Association was incorporated in 1989 to build awareness of Head Start and Head Start services in South Dakota. It is the link between local, regional, and national Head Start programs, which advocate for children (pre-birth to age 5) from low-income families.<sup>1</sup>

### Head Start State Collaboration

The South Dakota Head Start State Collaboration office was established in the Department of Education in 1990, to facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies and entities that carry out activities to benefit eligible children and their families, and pregnant women. It also assists in development of multi-agency and public/private partnerships between Head start and the state in order to build early childhood systems.<sup>2</sup>



# Beliefs and Goals of Head Start

## School Readiness

Head Start's purpose is to promote the school readiness of low-income children ages three to five. To ensure progress in cognitive, social, and emotional development, programs follow the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework as a guide to establish school readiness goals for children, monitor children's progress, align curricula, and conduct program planning. The Framework is organized into 11 domains that together, represent the "whole-child":

- Physical Development & Health
- Social and Emotional Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Language Development
- Literacy Knowledge & Skills
- Mathematics Knowledge & Skills
- Science Knowledge & Skills
- Creative Arts Expression
- Logic & Reasoning
- Social Studies Knowledge & Skills
- English Language Development (applies only to children who speak a language other than English at home).<sup>4</sup>

The South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines for preschoolers is aligned with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, as well as the S.D. Kindergarten Standards.<sup>5</sup>

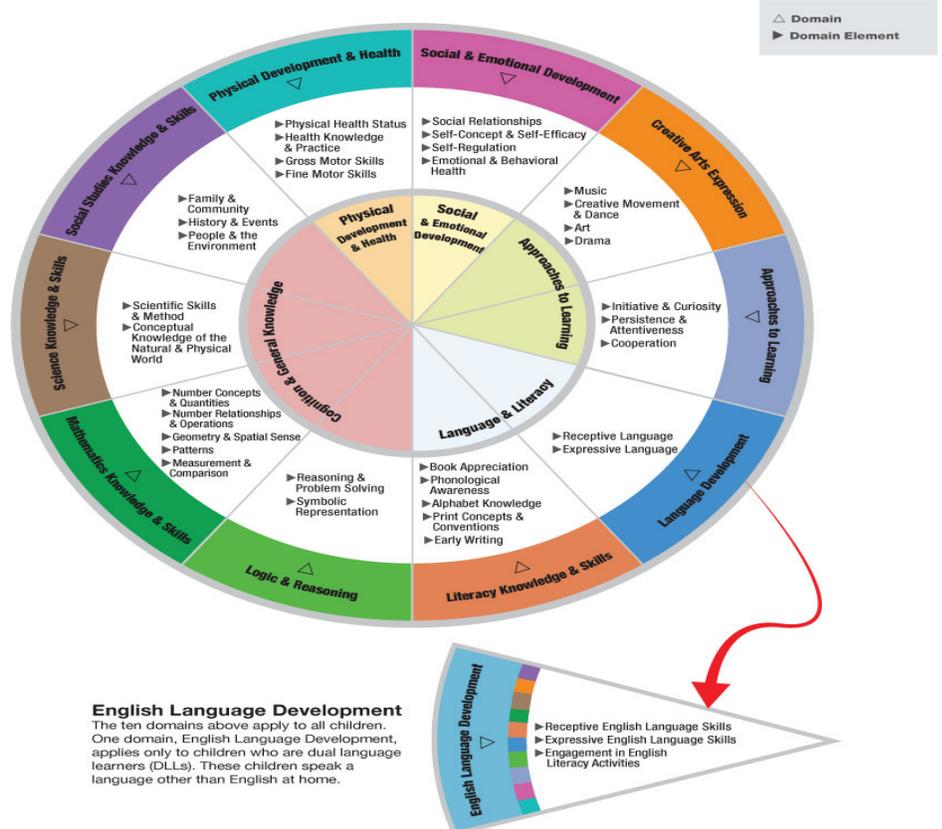
### Head Start Program Options

An option of the Head Start Program is the Center Based Head Start, where children meet in a central location to participate in developmentally appropriate activities in a classroom setting for 3.5-6 hours, three to five days a week. Typically, a classroom would have no more than 20 children, with at least two staff, and an occasional volunteer/aid. Indoor and outdoor play and an introduction to early literacy and math skills are included in the program.

A second option is Home Based Head Start, which provides services to families through a Home Visitor who visits the child's home weekly to help parents provide the activities, experiences, and services in the center-based program. Home visits are supplemented with socialization opportunities for children and parents.

The combination option includes attendance by the children at a center for two or three days a week, with an additional weekly or bimonthly home visit.

## Early Learning Framework



Source: <http://www.giarts.org/article/head-start-child-development-and-early-learning-framework>

# Head Start by the Numbers in South Dakota

## Federal or Other Assistance 2013-2014

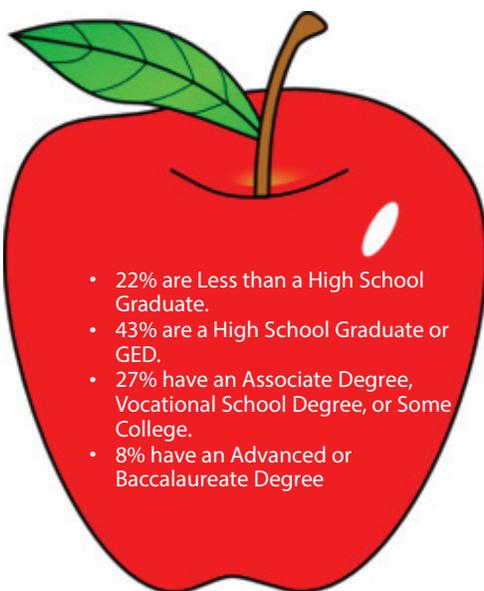
Families receiving TANF Benefits: 12%

Families Receiving SSI Benefits: 7%

Families Receiving WIC Benefits: 50%

Families Receiving SNAP Benefits: 65%

Parents are viewed as the primary educators and nurturers of their children. They are encouraged to be involved in all aspects of the program and their children's lives. Head Start provides support through parenting classes.



## Parent/Guardian Education Level 2013-2014

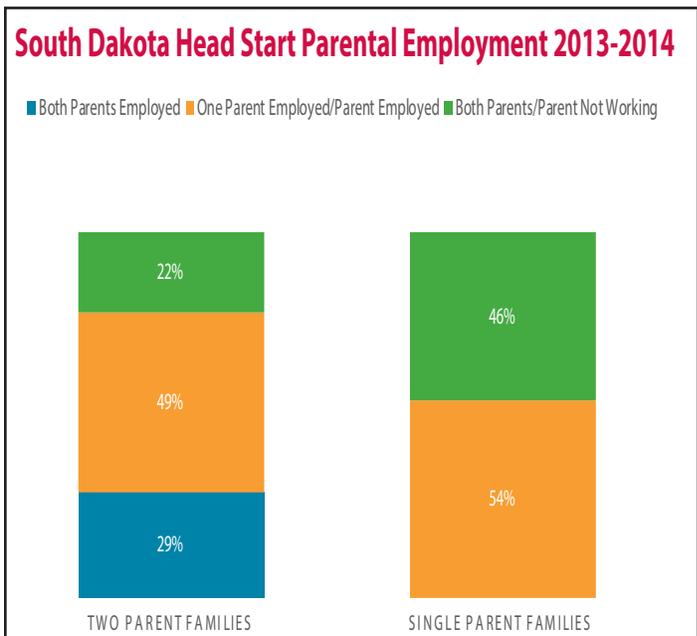
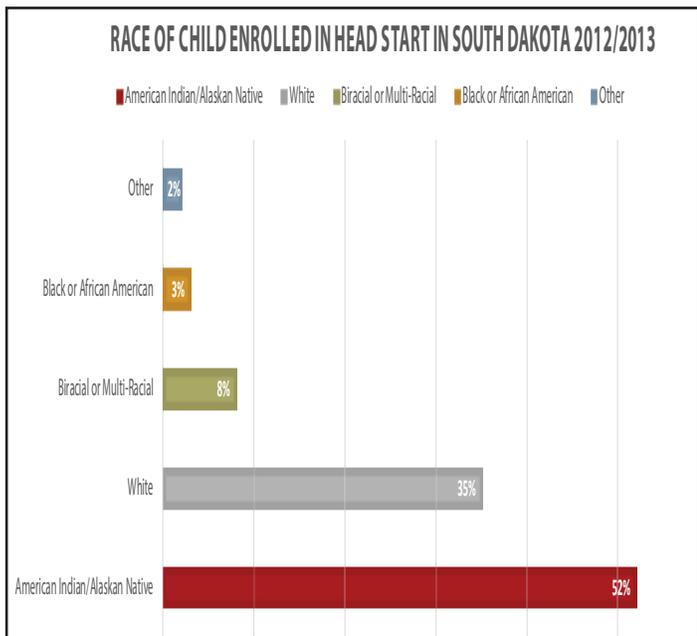
- 22% are Less than a High School Graduate.
- 43% are a High School Graduate or GED.
- 27% have an Associate Degree, Vocational School Degree, or Some College.
- 8% have an Advanced or Baccalaureate Degree

## Number of Families 2013-2014

Two Parent Families: 1,882 (47%)

Single Parent Families: 2,108 (53%)

Total Number of Families: 3,990





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1 (n.d.). Retrieved June 2, 2015, from [http://doe.sd.gov/oess/documents/HEADSTART\\_StateCollaborationOffice.pdf](http://doe.sd.gov/oess/documents/HEADSTART_StateCollaborationOffice.pdf)

2 (n.d.). Retrieved June 2, 2015, from [http://doe.sd.gov/oess/documents/HEADSTART\\_StateCollaborationOffice.pdf](http://doe.sd.gov/oess/documents/HEADSTART_StateCollaborationOffice.pdf)

3 History of Head Start. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2015.

4 Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. (n.d.). Retrieved July 20, 2015.

5 Head Start Collaboration Office. (n.d.). Retrieved July 20, 2015.

Facts on KIDS in South Dakota is published by South Dakota KIDS COUNT, Beacom School of Business, University of South Dakota. The South Dakota KIDS COUNT Project ([www.sdkidscount.org](http://www.sdkidscount.org)) is a national and state-by-state effort, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for children and families. Additional funding for the state project comes from the South Dakota Departments of: Education & Human Services.

**Thank you to:**

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