

# Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report December 2023



## **Federal Updates:**

The HHS-ED Policy Statement on the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs builds upon a statement originally released in 2015 and includes a renewed commitment and urgency, as children with disabilities continue to face barriers accessing and fully participating in inclusive early childhood programs. The statement was updated consistent with a directive to both agencies in President Biden's [Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers](#).

## **ACF-PI-OHS-23-04 NPRM on Supporting the Head Start Workforce and Consistent Quality Programming**

A [collection of new materials](#) is available on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) to help you understand the NPRM and submit public comment.

- [NPRM in the Federal Register](#)
  - [How to Submit Public Comments to the Federal Register](#)
- [ACF-PI-OHS-23-04 NPRM on Supporting the Head Start Workforce and Consistent Quality Programming – Public Comment Period](#)
- On-demand Informational Webinar Series
  - [Supporting the Head Start Workforce and Consistent Quality Programming](#)
  - [More on How the NPRM Supports the Workforce](#)
- [“Redline” of Proposed Changes to the HSPPS](#)
- [Overview Fact Sheet](#)
- [Detailed Summaries of Proposed Changes](#)
- [Social Messages from Director Garvin](#)
- [Press Release](#)

## **State Updates:**

- Fall CLASS observations are complete.

## **NRCA Program Updates:**

- **Enrollment-** Please see the attached “Enrollment Dashboard.” We have not reached our full enrollment.
- **Personnel-** We have a few staff moving through the hiring process for the following positions: Margaret Beeks IA, Check IA, McHarg IA, Christiansburg CA, Christiansburg AT. We continue to advertise and interview for the following position openings. Floyd Head Start AT. When that Floyd LT vacancy is filled, we will have 2 remaining positions in Pulaski in the classroom that is yet to open. HR has been helping us adjust some of our positions to attract a wider pool of applicants. We changed 1 classroom in Cburg and the Floyd classroom to a co-teaching format. Tabbi has also been working with Indeed to increase traffic to our postings using a Brand Sponsored Add.
- **Finance Updates-** Please see the attached “Fiscal Dashboard.”
- Trina is working on a Smiles Check schedule to ensure dental care visits for our preschoolers.
- Leah continues her “Picasso Parents” engagement activities at our centers.
- Children in our blended classrooms will be able to take a bag of healthy snacks home over the break.
- Subaru of Christiansburg will be working with our classrooms in Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Radford First Baptist, Pearisburg and Rich Creek to provide new tennis shoes to our children as part of their “Operation Warm” program. The event is scheduled for February 22.

## **Document Submissions for your review:**

- **Period 1 TSG outcomes (program wide, 3-year-old, 4-year-old, Dual Language and children with IEPs)**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roni Fitch*, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services