

Head Start Family Letter



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Hello everyone,

Some of you might have seen or heard that this week there has been additional news that directly impacts Head Start. We are still learning more but this is what we know: The Office of Head Start (OHS) has 12 Regional Offices across the USA. Federal employees work in these offices to provide federal oversight and administrative support to all the programs in each of their respective regions. Our Regional Office is Region 10 located in Seattle (most often, we refer to them as RX - with the roman numeral). This Regional Office provides oversight for all the Head Start grantees located in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (except for programs which are tribal or migrant or seasonal). This week federal employees at 5 of the 12 Regional Offices received a notice that their jobs were no longer in place. These Regions are: 1 (Maine and all those states up in that corner), 2 (New York, New Jersey, etc), 5 (Great lakes and Midwest states), 9 (California, AZ, NM, Hawaii) and our very own Region 10.

At this point - there are A LOT of questions - and not very many answers. For example:

- If there were an emergency today of some sort at SOHS... we would deal with it as we normally would with our policies and procedures, our first responders, our local authorities, etc. However, our next call would be to our federal staff... who are not currently employed. Who should we report to?
- We have a federal grant that is supposed to come sometime in April, I have confidence it will not be delayed, but there is always a chance. Here are some other very important things that we DO know
- Our commitment to children and families at SOHS has not changed.
- Our very important mission work has not changed.
- We know that every single employee of SOHS will be paid this week and in the weeks to come.
- We will keep doing our jobs with excellence. Supporting children and families – preparing meals, cleaning our facilities, doing all the paperwork that is necessary, and making sure our children and our families have the full support of our community.

Our state senators have issued a letter advocating for continued support of the Head Start program (see link below)

Use this link for more information: <https://nhsa.org/take-action/>

I have 100% confidence in every single one of you. As we learn more about this development, we will absolutely pass further information along.

Katherine Clayton

Executive Director, Southern Oregon Head Star