



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

June 6, 2014

Office of Management and Budget  
Paperwork Reduction Project  
Attn: Desk Officer for the Administration for Children and Families

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to submit our comments regarding the proposed information collection 'Head Start Impact Study Participants Beyond 8<sup>th</sup> Grade' (Federal Register Volume 79, Number 93 (Wednesday, May 14, 2014) Page 27621).

The National Head Start Association is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that believes that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life if given the opportunity that Head Start offers to children and their families. NHSA is the national voice of more than a million children in Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the United States.

NHSA supports the immediate purpose of this collection, to gather contact information for children and families who participated in the Head Start Impact Study. As the Advisory Committee on Head Start Research and Evaluation has suggested, future research about the high school graduation and college experiences of participants in this study may inform us about the long-term impacts of Head Start. Such research also offers opportunities to examine the wide range of impacts of the Head Start program on children and families, including health, parent education and employment, and family stability. However, given the crossovers and no-shows that complicated the original control and experimental groups, we urge the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation to seriously consider the design of future studies and analyses and we look forward to the opportunity to comment on such studies during the design process.

Specific to this data collection, we suggest that when asking about the type of school and grade the child is enrolled in, questions be added about whether the child is in an honors or gifted track and whether the school is a magnet or charter school. We also feel it is important to comment on questions B-13 and B-14, which ask parents the likelihood their child will complete college and have a good job later in life, as well as the battery of questions about parent-child relationships. Given that the supporting documents state clearly and repeatedly that there are no research questions for this collection, these questions are irrelevant to the collection of contact information and their invasive nature may make future outreach to participants less successful.

It is our hope that you will pursue these research endeavors with the goals of the Head Start community in mind: to improve the early environment and educational opportunities of children in poverty. All research should offer Head Start programs ways to be ever more thoughtful and

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The National Head Start Association, an independent membership organization, advocates on behalf of the entire Head Start community and provides training and resources to Head programs nationwide.

effective in their work. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments; if you have any questions, you can reach me at [yvinci@nhsa.org](mailto:yvinci@nhsa.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yamin Visci".

Executive Director  
National Head Start Association

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