



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

January 7, 2015

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 8th Grade' (Federal Register Volume 79, Number 237 (Wednesday, December 10, 2014) Pages 73319-73320).

The National Head Start Association 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. NHTA is the national voice of more than a million children in Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the United States.

NHTA 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. We appreciate the consideration of earlier comments into the design of the collection tool and the careful selection of the questions most important to maintaining contact and family engagement in the study.

It is our hope that you will pursue all research endeavors with the goals of the Head Start community in mind: to improve the early environment and educational opportunities of children in poverty. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yasmine Viscini".

Executive Director
National Head Start Association

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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.