

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 25-0426

Honoring Week of The Young Child and Recognizing the Denver Head Start Program

WHEREAS, 2025 marks the 60th Anniversary of the national Head Start program, a pioneering initiative that has provided early childhood education, health, nutrition, and family support services to millions of children and families across the country; and

WHEREAS, 2025 also marks the 30th anniversary of the City and County of Denver becoming a designated Head Start agency, demonstrating its long-standing commitment to fostering early learning and child development; and

WHEREAS, in the year ending June 30, 2024, Denver Great Kids Head Start served 1,459 children and families, providing comprehensive services that ensure school readiness and holistic development; and

WHEREAS, the Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children to recognize the importance of early childhood education and its critical role in shaping the future of our youngest learners; and

WHEREAS, Denver Great Kids Head Start has made significant strides in improving child outcomes, with 100% of children demonstrating growth throughout the school year and 90% meeting or exceeding age expectations in social-emotional development; and

WHEREAS, Denver Great Kids Head Start continues to support children's health and well-being, with 95% of children having health insurance, 97% having an ongoing source of healthcare, and 97% being up-to-date on immunizations, ensuring a strong foundation for lifelong well-being; and

WHEREAS, Denver Great Kids Head Start has successfully expanded its support for dual-language learners, increasing the percentage of enrolled children from 40% to 52% in the past year, ensuring equitable access to high-quality early education through specialized training and resources for educators; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated educators, caregivers, and staff of Denver Head Start work tirelessly to ensure that every child, regardless of economic background, has access to the resources they need to thrive and succeed in school and beyond.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council hereby honors the Week of the Young Child and expresses its deepest appreciation for the Denver Head Start program and its unwavering commitment to early childhood education, family support, and community enrichment.

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Al Martinez, Ph.D., Head Start Executive Director, and receiving on behalf of Dr. Martinez is Melissa Janiszewski, Deputy Director of the Office of Children's Affairs.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL DATE April 1, 2025

PRESIDENT

