

NAVAJO HEAD START

February 2026 Newsletter

Assistant Superintendent's Message

NHS Earns Year 6 Approval and Advances CLASS Quality Efforts

Thank you for your continued dedication and teamwork. With support from Superintendent Edgewater and Chair James (HEHSC), NHS successfully completed the NHS/OHS Tribal Consultation on January 27, 2026, and was approved for Year 6 with no impact on funding.

The School Readiness Team will continue partnering with OHS Training and Technical Assistance to strengthen CLASS implementation across all preschool classrooms. A follow-up review is scheduled for October 2026. Maintaining strong emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support will remain essential for meeting quality thresholds.

NHS is also preparing to resubmit the Change in Scope Application to the Office of Head Start. Using five-year data trends, the goal is to establish a realistic enrollment target while maintaining current grant funding. This work will include updates to the Program's Plan of Operation, Organizational Chart, and service listings. We look forward to continued collaboration with Policy Council, the Navajo Nation Board of Education, and the 25th Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

On behalf of NHS Central Administration, Thank you for providing high-quality, culturally grounded services to our children and families.

Reminders

Navajo Head Start closure notice Monday, February 16, 2026 in observance of President's Day, all Navajo Head Start Centers will be closed.

NHS Contact Information

website: navajohs.com

Phone: (928) 357 - 6730

xoxo

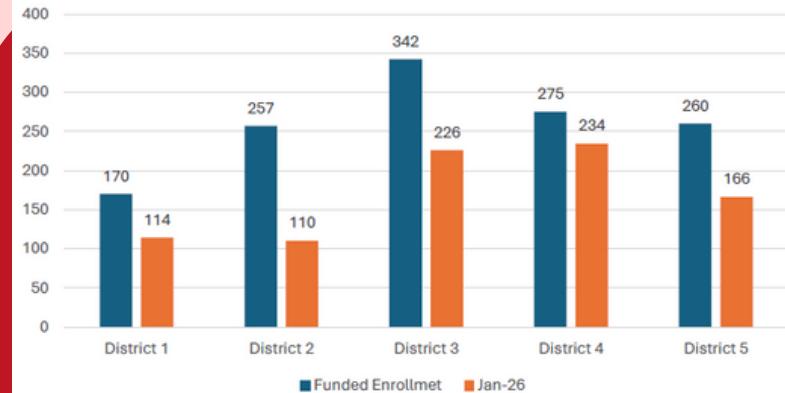
ERSEA

Report: February 2026

Greetings Navajo Head Start Staff. I hope this month brings you lots of love, support, and reassurance.

ERSEA has been working hard to enroll children and families to help increase our enrollment program wide. Recruitment efforts and strategic planning has been the priority goal to keep enrollment trends moving forward. The enrollment for the ending month of January 2026 was set at a grand total of 856 of 1350, with Early Head Start at 101 for enrollment slots filled and Head Start at 715 filled. During the month of January 2026, there was a total of 40 withdrawals that occurred in both programs. The withdrawals reasons range from a variety of family concerns and program concerns. The goal for ERSEA for the month of February is to decrease the number of withdrawals by at least 75%. ERSEA will not be able to reach that goal without the help of center staff. We appreciate your support, dedication, and hard work that you do daily to ensure Navajo Head Start is a prime example of a Navajo program providing quality services to all our children

Current Enrollment Per District



Enrollment February 2026 Recruitment Calendar:

These are the locations where the ERSEA team are going to conduct recruitment efforts for the month of February 2026. These locations are based off the communities who have Head Start and Early Head Starts sites that do not meet the enrollment threshold of 85% funded enrollment. We are approaching the end of our third quarter for the school year. Keep in mind that the 2 tier for under-enrollment notifications will be going out the month of March. The second (2) tier threshold does increase from 85% to 90%. ERSEA is seeing some enrollment movement within each district. Continue to recruit children and families. ERSEA appreciates all support from center staff during these times.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

EHS Virtual Parent Training

Early Head Start Virtual Parent Training session is scheduled for February 3, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The focus of this session is on Prenatal Dine Teachings, presented by our own Dine language and Culture Specialists. This training offers an opportunity for parents and community members to learn about traditional prenatal practices and cultural teachings related to pregnancy and early family life. Everyone is encouraged to participate and gain insights into Dine cultural heritage.

**NAVAJO
HEAD START
PRESENTS**

Early Head Start

Virtual Parent Training

Prenatal Dine Teachings

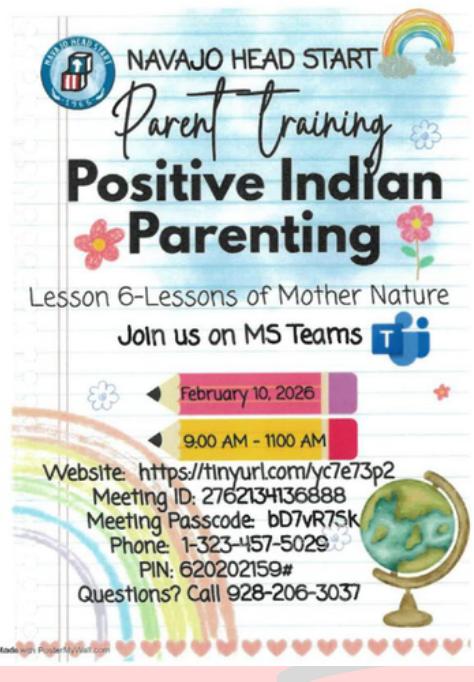
With Our Dine Language and Culture Specialists



February 3, 2026
9 am to 11 am

Join Us on TEAMS
Meeting ID: 276 213 413 688 8
Passcode: bD7vR7Sk
Dial in by phone
+1 323-457-5029,,620202159#
<https://tinyurl.com/yc7e73p2>

For more information email: falencialewis@nudode.org or call (928)357-6438 or (928)206-6061
PO Box 3479 Window Rock, AZ 86515
www.navajohs.com



Head Start Virtual Parent Training

Head Start virtual Parent Training is scheduled on February 10, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. This session will cover Lesson 6 from the Positive Indian Parenting curriculum, titled "Lesson of Mother Nature." This training aims to strengthen parenting skills through culturally relevant lessons that emphasize the importance of living skills and social skills by applying ideas to modern life, to help children grow strong within the world around them.

Both trainings will be held via the Microsoft Teams platform. The detailed log in information is provided on each flyer. These monthly virtual sessions are designed to meet the needs of the families served by Navajo Head Start, emphasizing the importance of family engagement as a core strength in fostering positive relationships within families and the community. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the ERSEA Specialist at 928-357-6438.

MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

Upcoming Child Find Dates

- Feb. 6: Kayenta Unified School District. For more information 928-679-2400/2408
- Feb. 23: Bloomfield School District. Call to make an appointment 505-634-3846
- Feb. 25: Chinle Unified School District. Call to make an appointment 628-674-9732/9729
- Feb. 25: Red Mesa Unified School District. For more information 928-656-4192
- Feb. 27: Ganado Unified School District. For more information 928-755-1028/1200
- Mar. 2 Pinon Unified School District. Call to make an appointment 928-725-2225/2131
- Mar. 6: Tuba City Unified School District. Call to make an appointment 928-283-1030
- Gallup-McKinley County Schools: Call to make an appointment 505-721-1800
- Cedar Unified School District: For more information 928-738-2335 ext. 106
- San Juan School District: For more information 435-678-1273/1222



Summary

As we move into the second semester of the school year, the Mental Health and Disabilities (MHD) team would like to remind staff of the 10% Enrollment Requirement. Head Start programs are expected to ensure that 10% of their actual enrollment includes children eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This requirement—established in 1972—helps ensure that children with disabilities, developmental delays, and their families have equitable access to Head Start services.

There is no limit on the number or percentage of children with disabilities in a program. Enrollment in Head Start programs supports early and timely intervention services that make a profound difference for children with disabilities and their families. Because of that, Head Start programs are required to ensure that a minimum of 10% of slots be occupied by children with disabilities. There is no limit to the number of children with disabilities who should be in a single classroom. Children with identified needs receive priority for enrollment and services.

Currently, NHS is at 6.8% of actual enrollment for children eligible for services under IDEA. As we move through the school year, our goal is to increase this percentage and work toward reaching the 10% requirement by year's end. Please reach out if you would like more information about accommodation or individualization for students with identified needs.

For more information on the 10% Enrollment Requirement, please visit the HeadStart.gov link:
[FAQs About the 10% Enrollment Requirement | HeadStart.gov](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/hs/minority-health-and-disabilities/10-enrollment-requirement)

Lena Yellowhair, MHD Specialist
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(928) 357-6432
(928) 206-3346 (text only)



Latoyah Todecheene, MHD Liaison
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(928) 551-3571



Trisa Begay, MHDL
trisabegay@nnnode.org



LOCAL PARENT COMMITTEE AND NHS PARENT POLICY COUNCIL



Contact Me

If you have any questions or would like assistance in establishing the Local Parent Committee.

- stephaniebenally@nndode.org
- (928) 357-6450



Established LPC's

This information is based on the centers who have submitted their member roster for the SY 2025-2026

- Newcomb
- Rock Point
- Upper
- Fruitland
- Crownpoint 1
- Crownpoint 2
- Nageezi
- Pinedale
- Thoreau
- Jeddito
- Nahata Dzil
- Sawmill
- Tohatchi
- Pinon 1
- Tsahale
- Whippoorwill
- Oljato



Reminder

Please submit all LPC documents monthly to Stephanie Benally, HS RPC

NHS Policy Council Members

Parent Representatives

District 1: Vacant
District 2: Vacant
District 3: Vacant
District 4: Elvira Litson
District 5: Vacant



Community Representatives:

District 1: Janice Filfred
District 2: Vacant
District 3: Linda M. Yazzie
District 4: Vacant
District 5: Vacant

Upcoming LPC Meetings

February 3: Shiprock
February 4: Crownpoint 1
February 5: Cameron, Newcomb, Nageezi and Gap
February 10: Tohatchi and Window Rock/ St. Michaels
February 11: Whippoorwill
February 12: Upper Fruitland, Pinedale, Nahata Dzil, and Pinon
February 17: Rock Point

