



# HEAD START of Greater Dallas, Inc.

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **DALLAS PRESCHOOL PROGRAM TO RECEIVE PROGRAM OF ACHIEVEMENT/EXCELLENCE AWARD**

DALLAS -- Head Start of Greater Dallas, Inc. (HSGD), one of only a few programs across the nation, has been designated as a Program of Achievement/Excellence. The award will be presented on April 23, 2008 in Nashville, Tennessee during the National Head Start Association's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference. External Affairs Director Robert Massonneau will be accepting the award on behalf of the agency.

The Dallas nonprofit helps more than 4,000 children each year get their *head start* in life. Carefully developed curricula, well-trained teachers, small teacher to student ratio, an exceptionally rich educational environment and a strong research and evaluation program ensure that children who attend HSGD leave the program with the foundation of skills and knowledge they need to be successful in school and life.

"At Head Start of Greater Dallas, we are proud of our many achievements we have been privileged to share with other early childhood programs across the nation. We strive to improve programs so that our families get what they need," said Wanda J. Smith, CEO.

Recent achievements include being the first in the nation to open an early childhood center on a college campus. The purpose of its newest center, Brookhaven Head Start, is to provide a family-oriented program that encourages parents to obtain an education while their children go to school.

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All HSGD centers utilize the Language Enrichment Activities Program, LEAP, a pioneering program developed by Southern Methodist University for the Margaret Cone Head Start Center that incorporates a language rich, early reading curriculum. Today, the program is found in hundreds of early childhood classrooms in Texas and many other states.

In addition, HGSD is the first in the nation to pilot and implement a math and science curriculum in addition to regular curricula for preschoolers.

Head Start of Greater Dallas is a non-profit organization in Dallas that provides children with the foundation of skills and knowledge they need to be successful in school and life and fosters self-reliant families and communities. The agency currently serves 4,259 children at 37 full-day centers located throughout low-income communities in Dallas County. ([www.hsgd.org](http://www.hsgd.org))

The National Head Start Association is a private not-for-profit membership organization dedicated exclusively to meeting the needs of Head Start children and their families. It represents more than 1 million children, 200,000 staff and 2,600 Head Start programs in the United States. NHSA launched the Quality Initiative in 1995 to highlight the quality practices of Head Start programs. NHSA believes that the Quality Initiative is an important vehicle for recognizing achievements. ([www.nhsa.org](http://www.nhsa.org))

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