



Semcac Head Start

Together we build bright futures.

THE FACTS

Why is Head Start Unique?

- * **Medical, Dental, Nutrition & additional comprehensive services are offered** for the wellbeing of the child & family; promoting healthy living for the whole family.
- * **Our priority is at-risk families.**
- * We offer **support for healthy parent-child relationships** including support for the parents & guardians to strengthen the family and achieve goals.
- * Family members can **volunteer. Parents are involved in program decisions.**



- * **Teachers have a full set of credentials related to child & family development.** They are well qualified and licensed.
- * Head Start provides children with **nutritious** snacks & meals.
- * Head Start plans **services based** on an annual **community needs** assessment to learn what the current and greatest needs are in the area.

The mission of the Head Start program states that we are committed to building bright futures by enriching young children, ages Birth—5 years old, and empowering their families. Comprehensive services and community opportunities support healthy families.

Semcac's Head Start Services

The program is based on proven research of what works for children & their families.



CENTER-BASED CLASSROOMS

Head Start classroom setting services are offered 4 days per week. Head Start for preschool age children, 3—5 years, operate September—May. Early Head Start has toddler rooms which operate year round.

Twenty classrooms are located in the 6 counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Steele & Winona.

All sites operated by our program are licensed with the Dept. of Human Services.

HOME-BASED EDUCATORS

Home-based educators travel, weekly, to the homes of enrolled pregnant women and homes with children ages Birth—3 years of age. Additionally, there is a socialization event at the Center nearest the family, every 2 weeks. Home—based services are offered all year in Fillmore, Houston, Mower and Winona counties.

Semcac Head Start Stats (average over 5 years)

61% of families were **single-parent.**

68% of enrolled **working families meet income eligibility** based on **100%** federal poverty guidelines (for example, a family of 4 earns \$24,300/ year).

77% of parents and guardians have a **high school diploma or less education.**

8 homeless or foster children are served each year.

16% of children served had **special needs.**

26% of children are **Hispanic/Latino origin.**



They help my family and the relationship with my child. -Head Start parent, 2016



4 Star, Parent Aware

Semcac Head Start is rated a **4 STAR HIGH QUALITY PROGRAM** by Parent Aware. Head Start partners with parents to support their role as the primary decision makers for their children. Children develop skills that prepare them to enter kindergarten with confidence.



Promoting Positive Results
Education. Empowerment. Enrichment.
Health. Nutrition. Safety. Support.

LOCATIONS

Classrooms

Dodge County

Kasson

Fillmore County

Preston

Houston County

Caledonia

LaCrescent-Hokah school

Mower County

Austin 2 sites

LeRoy-Ostrander school

Steele County

Owatonna

Winona County

St. Charles

Winona

Home-based

Fillmore County

Houston County

Mower County

Winona County

HEAD START ENCOURAGES PARENT INVOLVEMENT.

THE HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL CONSISTS OF HEAD START PARENTS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN MAKING DECISIONS TO BETTER THE PROGRAM.

Voice ideas. Share information. Give input in program design & policies. Be involved in hiring staff. Be an advocate. Serve as a link to the community.

Semcac is a Community Action nonprofit agency.

Semcac's Mission: *To assist people to achieve or maintain independence & self-reliance utilizing their own & community resources.*

Semcac is an equal opportunity employer.



Who is eligible to enroll in Head Start?

Eligibility criteria are based primarily on the family income and the child's age as well as whether a child has a disability. Indicators of a child and/or family at-risk, such as a single parent family, a parent with special needs, referrals from social services or public health, and living in a location that would prevent them from experiencing preschool, will be considered. Income eligibility is determined according to the Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines, released annually. **At least 10% of the total number of enrollment opportunities will be made available to children with disabilities.**

The environment is welcoming and the staff seemed to treat each student as if they were the only one. You can tell they actually care about the children. Head Start parent, 2016

For every \$1.00 invested in a Head Start program, taxpayers save \$18.00 per child.

(Due to reduced spending on remedial services, lower school dropout rates, fewer requiring state assistance.)

Enrollment applications for Head Start

866-808-0260

The application is also available for download on the Semcac website.

County	Phone
Dodge	507.634.4350
Fillmore	507.765.2761
Houston	507.725.3677
Mower	507.433.5889
Steele	507.451.7134
Winona	507.452.8396



Head Start is a program of the Federal government, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. Head Start helps low-income families break the cycle of poverty by promoting self-sufficiency and prepares low-income children to enter kindergarten, confidently, with the social, physical, emotional and cognitive skills and competencies necessary for success in school.

- MN Head Start Assoc., Inc.

Donations make a notable impact on this program. Transportation for Head Start students is a challenge. Budget cuts have eliminated all bus services. Please visit www.semccac.org and learn how you can help.