

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.
- * We offer a **two-generational approach** to our services including support for the parents & guardians to strengthen the family and achieve goals.
- * We offer **support for strong parent-child relationships**.
- * Family members can **volunteer. Parents are involved in program decisions.**
- * **Teachers and Educators** have a **full set of credentials** related to child & family development.
- * Our services are offered through research-based curriculum.
- * Head Start plans **services based** on an annual **community needs** assessment to learn what the current and greatest needs are in the area.
- * **Our priority is at-risk families.**



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 guided by over 1700 federal performance standards, based on proven research of what works for children & their families. We have services for ages birth-to-five years. Children with special needs are met with individualized care.



Classrooms

Classroom setting services, referred to as Center-Based services, are offered 4 days per week. Head Start for preschool age children (3 - 5 years) operates September - May/June. Early Head Start toddler classrooms (Austin and Winona only) operate year-round. We have part-day and full-day centers, depending upon the site.

Home-based

Home-based educators travel, on a weekly basis, to the homes of enrolled pregnant women and homes with children ages birth - 3 years. Additionally, every 2 weeks there is a socialization event at the Center nearest the family.

Semcac Head Start Stats (average over 5 years)

55% of families were **single-parent**, mostly women.

65% of enrolled **working families meet income eligibility** based on **100%** federal poverty guidelines (for example, a family of 4 earns \$25,750/ year).

52% of parents and guardians have a **high school diploma or less education**.

9 homeless or foster children are served each year.

18% of children served had **special needs**.

24% of children are dual language learners.



Parent
Aware

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.

It's very good for children to prepare them for kindergarten!!!

-Head Start parent comment, 2017 survey



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



Semcac Head Start

Together we build bright futures.

www.semcac.org

LOCATIONS

Center-based

Dodge County

Kasson

Fillmore County

Preston

Houston County

Caledonia

LaCrescent-Hokah school

Mower County

Austin

LeRoy-Ostrander school

Steele County

Owatonna

Winona County

St. Charles

Winona

Home-based

Fillmore County

Houston County

Mower County

Winona County

Semcac is a Community Action nonprofit agency.

Semcac's Mission: *Empower and advocate for people to enhance their self-sufficiency by maximizing community resources.*

Semcac is an equal opportunity employer.



Enrollment applications for Head Start

866-808-0260

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

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.**

Head Start is a second home for kids. Families feel comfort knowing their kids are safe.

Head Start parent comments, 2019 survey

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



HEAD START ENCOURAGES PARENT ENGAGEMENT.

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.



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.semcac.org and learn how you can help.