



Statement Against Racial Injustice

The Kansas Head Start Association stands with persons and communities of color at this extremely difficult time. The Head Start program was born out of another time of extreme racial strife in this country, the 1960s. The original Head Start program was created in the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1965 as a summer program to prepare children in poverty for kindergarten.

“We set out to make certain that poverty's children would not be forevermore poverty's captives. We called our program Project Head Start.” President Lyndon Johnson, Rose Garden speech announcing Head Start, May 18, 1965.

Head Start is rooted in the belief in the importance of civil rights and equity for all people in this country. Head Start serves children and families without regard to race, creed or ethnicity. However, it is impossible not to acknowledge the truth that institutional racism plays a significant role in where poverty resides.

KHSA works to support the advocacy voices of Head Start parents. Parent advocates reach out to other parents and equip them to raise their voices in support of equity, opportunity, and investment in the youngest members of our communities.

KHSA works to educate children and families in the importance of civic engagement including becoming a registered, active voter.

KHSA denounces racism, discrimination, and oppression. Our children are our future. We must build a road paved with voice, equality, and opportunity for all now – today.

June 2, 2020