

## About Head Start

- ✓ A **comprehensive, early childhood development program** serving infants/toddlers, preschoolers and pregnant women
- ✓ **Eligibility for enrollment** includes age (birth to 5 including pregnant women), family income (below poverty guidelines, 100%-130% of poverty guidelines, over-income slots available), children with disabilities, homelessness, foster care, families receiving public assistance (this is not all inclusive)
- ✓ **No fee for enrolling**—this federally-funded program is free to all eligible
- ✓ School Bus **transportation** is provided in most areas of the northern panhandle; staff provide transportation to program activities & health related appointments once enrolled in the program
- ✓ **Community Partnerships** are vital to the success of the program
- ✓ **Prepares children for kindergarten** and engages the whole family in the process—**parents are welcome into the classroom!**
- ✓ Nearly half-century in operation! The nation's **premier early childhood program**

## Mission and Vision

Our **MISSION** : Our mission is to provide a high-quality, family-focused program uniquely designed to prepare children for learning and life.

Our **VISION** “Building foundations for life-long growth and development.”

## CONTACT Us in Your Community!

### HANCOCK COUNTY

Newell Center  
304.387.1650  
✓ ages 3-4  
Pipinos Center  
304.797.0281  
✓ ages birth to 5 and pregnant women

### BROOKE COUNTY

Wellsburg Center  
304.737.1338/4818  
✓ ages birth to 5 and pregnant women  
Beech Bottom Center  
304.394.5362  
✓ ages 3-4

### OHIO COUNTY

North Park Center  
304.232.4590  
✓ ages 3-4  
Orchard Park Center  
304.233.3290  
✓ ages birth to 5 and pregnant women & partnership with the Y.W.C.A. Family Violence Prevention Program  
Ritchie Center  
304.233.2103  
✓ ages 3-4

### MARSHALL COUNTY

Center McMechen Center  
304.230.1182  
✓ ages 3-4  
Creative Learning Center  
304.843.1093  
✓ ages 1-4  
McNinch Center  
304.843.1966  
✓ ages 3-4

### MARSHALL COUNTY

**(cont'd)**  
Washington Lands Center  
304.845.5558  
✓ ages 3-4  
Cameron Center  
304.686.2376  
✓ ages 3-4  
Marshall Cty Early Head Start (EHS) 304.233.1724 and  
✓ ages birth to 3 and pregnant women  
Northern Regional Jail Program  
304.233.1724  
✓ ages birth to 3 and pregnant women

### WETZEL COUNTY

Wetzel Cty Center for Children and Families  
304.447.1560  
✓ ages birth to 5 and pregnant women  
Martyn Early Learning Center  
304.889.3509  
✓ ages birth to 5 and pregnant women

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

1 Orchard Road, Suite 1  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
Phone 304.233.3290  
Fax: 304.233.3719  
Toll Free: 1.877.732.3307  
[www.npheadstart.org](http://www.npheadstart.org)  
[info@npheadstart.org](mailto:info@npheadstart.org)

# Northern Panhandle Head Start Inc.

**GIVE YOUR CHILD THE  
GIFT OF HEAD START!**

Offering Quality, Early Childhood  
Development & Family Services in  
Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall and  
Wetzel Counties in West Virginia





# Five Reasons to Choose Head Start!

## School Readiness

The Head Start approach to School Readiness applies to all children, birth to age five. The purpose of the School Readiness Outcomes is that children gain the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. Our goal is to ensure that children will have experiences in **social and emotional development, cognition and general knowledge, language and literacy, physical health and development, and approaches to learning through a developmentally appropriate curriculum.** Our program actively participates in the West Virginia Universal Pre-K System with classrooms designed in partnership with each county school system.

## Family & Community Engagement



Developing **effective partnerships and goal-directed relationships with families** is a critical part of supporting family well-being and children's school readiness. Research shows that children have **better** outcomes when parents have adequate resources, live in safe environments that support learning and development, and provide active and intentional learning experiences. Many family involvement activities are organized throughout the year to **encourage parents to participate** in family-fun, learning and program decision making.



## Standards of Care

**Qualified, early childhood professionals** provide the best learning experience possible while children are in the care of the program. These professionals are trained in such disciplines as early childhood, health care, business, special education, finance, human development, and social work. The facilities are **licensed** to operate under the WV Dept of Health & Human Resources Child Care Licensing Regulations and are monitored on a regular basis to ensure the **health and safety** of all children, staff, and families. Staff receive training to meet all local, state and federal requirements. The foundation of all Head Start programs is the Head Start Act and the Head Start Performance Standards. **Program oversight** is provided by a local Board of Directors as well as a Parent Policy Council.

## Child & Family Well-Being

**Mental Health**—While your child is in Head Start, he or she will be learning how to **understand and manage** feelings, how to make a friend and be a friend, and how to solve problems with other children. Daily classroom activities are designed to develop these skills.

NPHS is strongly supported by HealthyCHILD (consultants, University of Pittsburgh) which provides services for one-on-one modeling and instruction in the classroom and home settings to referring children to outside professional resources. **Parents are encouraged to be involved in activities that foster positive parent-child relationships.**

**Disabilities**—NPHS believes in the **inclusion** of students with disabilities. Children with disabilities make up at least 10% of those enrolled. Our goal is **to meet the needs of you and**

**your child.** There are times during our relationship that we may need to seek the advice of other early childhood specialists to help us in our **assessment** of your child and interpretation of assessment results. NPHS will make a referral to the county school system or West Virginia Birth to Three to provide evaluation when a concern is established.

## Health & Nutrition

The **cornerstone of the Head Start program,** healthy children are more ready to learn. It is important to establish a **medical and dental home** for your child at an early age. Our staff work with you to ensure your child is up to date with the child immunization schedule, receives age-appropriate medical and dental examinations, and obtains/schedules necessary follow-up treatment. **Health screenings** like height, weight, hearing and vision are conducted to identify concerns and all parents receive information on outcomes of the screenings. We provide up to **2/3 of your child's daily nutritional needs** depending on the number of hours spent on site daily. We participate in the "Leap of Taste" State Child Nutrition Standards, a mandate that upholds healthy choice options for all children and stresses that physical activity goes hand-in-hand with overall child well-being.



**" USDA and Northern Panhandle Head Start Inc. are equal opportunity providers and employers."**