



Celebrating a 30 Year Partnership 1987 - 2017

The 2017- 18 school year will mark the anniversary of a 30-year partnership in education between Head Start and Education Service Center Region 19.

In the summer of 1965, Project Head Start in El Paso would be the first in the nation and the largest in Texas serving more than 2,000 children in two school districts and one University - The El Paso and Ysleta ISD and UTEP. A newly established federal program, Project Bravo, also would facilitate Head Start services for the County.

Throughout the years, the early education program found itself under various grantee agencies. In 1986, the Head Start grant was up for grabs. At stake for the community were continued services for 1,550 three-and 4-year-old disadvantaged children.

1986 would become a pivotal year for the Education Service Center Region 19. That year, Education Service Center Region 19 Board of Directors and Executive Director John E. Uxer made a decision to apply for the position of grantee agency for the Head Start Program. Uxer believed that under the right leadership, combined with the administrative support of ESC Region 19, the Head Start program could answer a critical need for quality early education and family services in El Paso.

They assembled a team of grant writers whose vast experience in Early Childhood Education and Development and Bilingual Education would prove to be the right ingredients for success. In 1987, the program was awarded to the Education Service Center Region 19. Head Start found a new home under a new grantee. Education Service Center Region 19 and Head Start would become a natural fit.

As the grantee agency for the Head Start program, the longstanding relationship between two agencies with similar visions has resulted in a 30-year partnership that has strengthened the delivery of Head Start services for thousands of children and families throughout our community.

Today, with the same enthusiasm and passion that gave birth to a federal program more than fifty years ago, Education Service Center Region 19 Head Start, in keeping with its mission - strives to provide high-quality early childhood development and education services that enrich the lives of the most vulnerable members in our community and places them on the road toward lifelong learning and success.