

# **Education Service Center, Region 20 Bexar County Head Start Program**

## **Community Assessment Abstract 2013 - 14**

The Education Service Center, Region 20 (ESC-20) Bexar County Head Start Program began in July 2013. The model is a partnership with five Independent school districts in Bexar County. The school districts served are Alamo Heights ISD, East Central ISD, Somerset ISD, Southside ISD and Southwest ISD.

The Head Start Program is funded for 480 children and families. With the partnership model, district Pre-Kindergarten children are mixed with the Head Start children increasing the number of children benefiting from the partnership. The total number of children impacted by the Head Start Program is approximately 800 spread across 40 classrooms. Each of the classrooms has a degreed, state certified teacher. The Bexar County Head Start program consists of 37 four-year-old classes and 3 three-year-old classes. The three-year-old classes are Somerset school district.

A partnership Head Start agency, Parent Child, Inc. (PCI) serves three-year-olds in Southwest ISD, East Central ISD and Southside ISD attendance areas. ESC-20 and PCI have an agreement to work collaboratively to transition the three-year-old children from PCI to the school district model when they are ready for the four-year-old school year. Children who do not qualify for the second year of service with ESC-20, would remain with PCI for their second year, thereby alleviating a gap in service between their three- and four-year-old school years.

The ethnic demographics of the children throughout the program are 89% Hispanic and 11% Non-Hispanic backgrounds. The dominant languages of the children program-wide are 32% Spanish and 68% English. All five of the school districts in partnership with the Bexar County Head Start program are considered by the State to be bilingual schools. Therefore, children who qualify for bilingual services are placed with a state certified teacher for dual instruction in English and Spanish. Staff members are available who speak Spanish in order to assist the children in their home language and communicate effectively with families.

Throughout the program 74% of the families have a working parent or working parents while only 26% of the families remain unemployed. 89% of the two-parent families have working parents while only 11% of the two-parent families remain unemployed. 60% of the single-parent families have a working parent while only 40% of the single-parent families remain unemployed.