



# Interoffice Memo

**DATE:** March 25, 2026

**PHONE:** (909) 383-2024

**FROM:** Arlene Molina,  
Director of Preschool  
Services

**TO:** Julie Diaz  
Preschool Services

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PRESCHOOL SERVICES POLICY COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND THE 2026 NATIONAL HEAD START CONFERENCE AND EXPO</b>
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**Attendee Names** Catalina Aguilar and Vitalina Varelas  
Alternate: Eva Soto and Diana Banderas

**Cost Center:** 5911022220

**Dates(s) of Travel:** May 4, 2026 – May 7, 2026

**Purpose of Travel:** Attend the 2026 National Head Start Conference and Expo in Minneapolis, MN.

**Expenses:**

Conference Registration \$845	2	EA	\$1,690
Public Policy Luncheon \$85	2	EA	\$170
Day Child Care \$40 per day X 4 days (5/4, 5/5, 5/6, 5/7)	2	EA	\$320
Night Child Care \$20 per night X 3 nights (5/4, 5/5, 5/6)	2	EA	\$120
Mileage: Traveler 1 (Roundtrip to/from conference 86 miles x 0.725 cents) Mileage: Traveler 2 (Roundtrip to/from conference 47 miles x 0.720 cents)	2	EA	\$98
Lodging \$209 X 3 nights plus \$94.22 taxes and fees	2	EA	\$1,443
Airfare Roundtrip \$400.40	2	EA	\$801
Airline luggage fees \$60 Roundtrip	2	EA	\$120
Airport Parking \$20 per day X 4 days (5/4, 5/5, 5/6, 5/7)	2	EA	\$160
Breakfast \$23 X 3 days (5/5, 5/6, 5/7)	2	EA	\$138
Lunch \$26 X 3 days (5/4, 5/6, 5/7)	2	EA	\$156
Dinner \$38 X 4 days (5/4, 5/5, 5/6, 5/7)	2	EA	\$304
Taxi (Roundtrip to/from airport and hotel \$86	2	EA	\$172

Subtotal	\$5,692
Contingencies	\$854
Grand Total	\$6,546

**Contact Name:** Julie Diaz  
**Phone:** 909-383-2024  
**Justification:**

At the 2026 National Head Start Association (NHSA) National Conference and Expo, attendees will participate in sessions focused on Head Start’s vital mission, highlighting the latest developments, innovations, and challenges in early childhood education. Participants will have access to over 130 engaging sessions and a wide range of resources designed to support the delivery of comprehensive services. The conference also features one of the largest collections of exhibitors offering products and services for Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Policy Council Representatives will have the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and resources, which they will share with fellow parents at their assigned school sites and with other Policy Council members.



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# National Head Start Conference and Expo

**May 4, 2026 - May 7, 2026 | Minneapolis, Minnesota**

**As the largest national conference devoted to all things Head Start, the annual National Head Start Conference brings the Head Start community together for a week of sharing knowledge, networking with peers, and celebrating achievements.**

**NHSA's annual National Head Start Conference and Expo will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. With more than 130 interesting, compelling, and challenging sessions, you will also find:**

- Plenty of special events, celebrations, and entertainment

- Networking opportunities with hundreds of Head Start colleagues from across the country
- The largest collection of exhibitors offering products and services (and even free

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## Registration Rates

*\*Special rates are reserved for NHSA member organizations, including Head Start and Early Head Start programs with active membership. [Sign up to save.](#)*



**SUPER EARLY BIRD RATE:**

**\$605**

Available November 30 – January 23



**EARLY BIRD RATE:**

**\$725**

Available January 24 – March 13



**NHSA MEMBER RATE\*:**

**\$845**

Available March 13 – May 2



**ON-SITE MEMBER RATE\*:**

**\$965**

Available May 3 – May 6



**NON-MEMBER RATE:**

**\$1015**

Available to non-members

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Interested in presenting at our conferences?

JOIN INTEREST LIST



Schedule at a Glance\*

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**Monday, May 4**

**7:30 am – 7:00 pm**

Registration Desk Open

**5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and Reception

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## **Tuesday, May 5**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

General Opening Session

**11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Lunch on Your Own

**11:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Exhibit Hall Open

**11:30 am – 12:45 pm**

 Public Policy Luncheon

**1:00 pm – 2:15 pm**

Breakout Sessions

**2:45 pm – 4:00 pm**

Breakout Sessions

## **Wednesday, May 6**

**8:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Exhibit Hall Open

**9:00 am – 10:30 am**

Breakout Sessions

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

## Breakout Sessions

**12:00 pm – 1:45 pm**

Lunch on Your Own

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 Data & Research Luncheon

**1:45 pm – 2:45 pm**

Breakout Sessions

**3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

Breakout Sessions

## **Thursday, May 7**

**9:00 am – 10:30 am**

Breakout Sessions

**10:45 am – 12:00 pm**

General Closing Session

\*Times are subject to change.

 Ticketed event with an additional fee and advance registration required

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## Open to All Caregivers

After careful consideration, we proudly chose “Parents Unite” because of the powerful impact of the word “Parents.” We want to be clear: this movement is for ALL the amazing caregivers of Head Start children. Whether you’re a foster parent, grandparent, older sibling, or guardian, etc. your voice is essential. We welcome you. You are Parents Unite!

## Why is this such an important event?

The Head Start community is driven like none other to provide opportunities for success in the lives of our nation’s systemically underserved children and families. It’s important that our community comes together every year to refresh our commitment to Head Start’s vital mission and discuss the latest developments, innovations, and

obstacles in early childhood. Only by stepping away from our day-to-day work can we look at the big picture and help propel Head Start to even greater heights.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### General

**Where is the 2026 National Head Start Conference being held?** +

**How can I register?** +

**When should I arrive for the conference and depart?** +

**How do I get a discount?** +

**How do I book my hotel room?** +

**Can I pick up my colleague's conference badge?** +

### Policies and Resources

**What is the cancellation and refund policy?** +

**What is your photo and video policy?**



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## **Exhibiting and Sponsorship**

**How can I learn more about opportunities?**



**How can I apply to be an exhibitor?**



# Sign Up for Our Newsletter

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**NEWSLETTER SIGNUP**

