



For Immediate Release: July 10, 2019
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**RCS Notice of Award:
Rockingham County Schools Early Learning Head Start Program**

Rockingham County, NC - Rockingham County Schools and its Board of Education are pleased to announce that it has received the Notice of Award for the Head Start program from the Office of Head Start in Washington, D.C. for Rockingham County.

"We are extremely pleased to have the opportunity to oversee the daily operations and educational programming of the county's Head Start program. We know that children who have early learning experiences are better prepared academically and socially/emotionally to enter our kindergarten classrooms," says Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Superintendent. The Rockingham County School Board determined last September to apply for the grant and district level staff submitted the grant application in early February, 2019. Mrs. Paula Rakestraw, Vice Chair of the Board of Education, noted that the process seemed to move slowly but that she trusted that it would lead to a good outcome for students and their families. In late June, the school district received word that it would be notified in July as to whether the school district would be granted Head Start oversight. On July 5, 2019 the Notice of Award was provided to Dr. Shotwell from the Office of Head Start. Dr. Shotwell spoke to Representative Mark Walker on July 9 and thanked him for his support in this endeavor.

The school district is currently working to ensure a smooth transition for the families and staff of Head Start. Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services, recognized the hard work of all involved to ensure that the Head Start program continues to support the currently enrolled students, their families and the community. The school district is looking forward to supporting and leading the Head Start Program in the 2019-20 school year.

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