

, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of Head Start, originally established as Project Head Start which was one of the major achievements of the Great Society and one of the boldest initiatives launched by the nation in the War on Poverty; and

the aim of Project Head Start, launched in 1965 in the White House Rose Garden by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, was bold in scope and design; and

, Project Head Start was conceived as an 8-week summer program designed to provide preschool training not just to prepare 5- and 6-year-olds to enter regular school the following September, but also to give nearly half the preschool children living in poverty a head start on their future; and

Project Head Start was launched not as a mere demonstration project limited to a handful of counties, but as a program national in scope serving every city, suburb and rural area in the United States because President Johnson recognized that the bleak future waiting for children trapped in poverty was not a phenomenon concentrated in the inner-cities of the large urban cities of the North but could be found in every region in every State in the nation; and

in addition to providing pre-school training to prepare poor children to enter regular school and help put them on an even footing with their classmates as they enter school, Project Head Start sought to help o prepare (p)-4(re65 299.0p)-4()-3()-4(o)-2()6(p)-4(re)mS(reo)7()JT1D.f

in 1969, the administration of the program was vested in the newly created Office of Child Development in what was then the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the predecessor of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

in 1975, Head Start was established by Public Law 93 644; and

in subsequent years, Head Start programs would be expanded to serve children with disabilities, Native Americans and homeless children and to provide bilingual and bi-cultural migrant and seasonal programs; and

today Head Start programs serve nearly 1,000,000 poor children, including 136,120 children with disabilities and 15,632 pregnant women, and provide services to 771,840 families; and

, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools recognize 2015 as the 50th anniversary of the Head Start program.

by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on July 15, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: President Green, Vice President Song, members Chang, Di Salvo, Kamei, Rossi and Mah

NOES: -none-

ABSTAIN: -none-

ABSENT: -none-


Darcie Green, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education


Jon R. Gundry
County Superintendent of Schools