

**Executive Speech prepared for Dr. Adrian Yam, Senior Director of Head Start and Early Head Start at BakerRipley**

- Welcome to the 2024-2025 School year!
- I am delighted to be here today and to see each one of you.
- Today, I want to celebrate you, answer any questions you might have, and get us started on our most successful school year yet.
- Today marks not just the start of a new school year but the continuation of our journey in shaping the future.
- We are embarking on this year's journey with a renewed understanding of our mission to bring equity and socioeconomic growth to the region. It all starts here, in Head Start. It's even in our name.
- I invite you to be a strong believer that our mission of transforming communities is achievable through the extensive work carried out every single day in our Head Start classrooms and centers. It's made possible because of all of you—those who are committed to our mission.
- Every day we deliver high-functioning programming to our students and ensure the families we support receive the best service possible. Together, we ensure all our policies are followed, we set high standards for child health and safety, and we expect high accountability in all areas, for everyone.
- Each child that walks through our doors carries a spark of potential. It is our privilege and responsibility to fan that spark into a flame of learning, curiosity, and growth. This year let's commit to being the mentors who inspire, the guides who support, and the educators who care.
- Remember, we are not only teachers, family development workers, home visitors, managers, and specialists ... the list goes on... We are the architects of tomorrow. Every lesson we teach, every story we share, and every challenge we help overcome lays a brick in the foundation of our students' and families' futures.
- There's a very real possibility that we won't be there when the young children we are serving today achieve great successes years from now:
  - When a child enters the Gifted and Talented program at an elementary school
  - When a family realizes they have a voice on what matters to them
  - When a father realizes the importance of attending a high school meeting
  - When a family business—which started off as a dream while in Head Start—is finally made into a reality.
- Rest assured that all those brighter tomorrows are now possible because of *you*. And you have been making this possible year. after. year.
- Let's reflect on just the past year. ... I want to celebrate our program in numbers. This reflects the importance of coordinated activities at every level:

**(Read ONLY the HIGHLIGHTED Slide data)**

**1. Total cumulative enrollment - 3,112 children/pregnant women**

- Harris – 2,468
- Fort Bend – 644

**2. • Total # of families that received services – 2,852**

- Harris – 2,280
- Fort Bend – 572

**3. • # of Volunteers – 218**

- Harris – 178
- Fort Bend – 40
- Total combined hours: 138,841.25

**4. • Fatherhood – 132**

- Harris – 99
- Fort Bend – 28

**5. • # of children who received services due to disability – 276**

- Harris – 232
- Fort Bend – 44

**6. % of the progress toward school readiness**

- a. Harris
  - i. Social emotional 96%
  - ii. Language 90%
  - iii. Cognitive 95%
  - iv. Literacy 91%
  - v. Math 91 %
- b. Fort Bend
  - i. Social emotional 92%
  - ii. Language 88%
  - iii. Cognitive 92%
  - iv. Literacy 91%
  - v. Math 94

**7. the number of children screened.**

- Brigance
  - Harris: 1445
  - Fort Bend: 252
- BSSQ
  - Harris: 1428
  - Fort Bend: 455
- ASQ:SE
  - Harris: 1492
  - Fort Bend: 294

**8. • Number of Children with Health Insurance - 2658**

- Harris – 2117
- Fort Bend – 541

**9. • Home visitors had 103 families and completed 4,649 home visits.**

- **22 total socializations total hours 6,974**

**10. • Total cumulative # of staff - 543**

- Harris – 390
- Fort Bend – 153

**11. Total number of meals served 347,484**

- Total number of snacks served 212,103
- Develop and manage 154 Special diets for children with medical or cultural/religious dietary restrictions.

**12. Number of Children with Health Insurance – 2,658**

- a. **Hearing and Vision Screenings Cumulative 3,422**
- b. **Lead Screenings 450 screened** roughly to meet HSPPS 90 Day Requirement

- Remember that numbers are a form of advocacy
- This year may bring its challenges, but together, we are a force to be reckoned with. Let's embrace innovation, celebrate diversity, and foster an environment where every child feels valued and understood.
- Today, I want to do a special recognition of all teacher aides, substitutes, and floating substitutes. You have undoubtedly raised to the highest level of responsibility and accountability in our program, taking the lead in many classrooms. We want to acknowledge your dedication, commitment, and perseverance. Thank you!
- (Closing statement)

**(CEO's introduction)**

- Now, here to explain in detail the role Head Start will play in BakerRipley's path forward, please join me in welcoming Claudia Aguirre, President and CEO of BakerRipley.