

SPOTLIGHT

Letters to the editor for Sunday, May 31

May 31, 2026



Aaliyah Adedibu paints a picture in her 3-year-old class at CAP Tulsa Skelly Early Childhood Education Center in November 2025.

Mike Simons, Tulsa World Archive

Tulsa's stronger because Head Start works

As Head Start marks its 61st birthday, Tulsa has every reason to celebrate the lasting difference this program makes for children, families and our community.

Since 1965, Head Start has helped more than 40 million children and families nationwide, building stronger futures and healthier communities. That impact is deeply local.

At CAP Tulsa, we operate nine preschools serving more than 1,600 children year-round. During the past 25 years, we have served more than 33,000 children, helping prepare them for long-term success in school and life.

Our classrooms support the whole child, building language, literacy, math, social-emotional growth, confidence and motor skills. Families also gain a trusted partner in their child's development.

Head Start offers more than early learning. Children receive vision, dental, medical and mental health screenings and referrals, early intervention support and nutritious meals daily.

Through our two-generation approach, Family Services Advocates connect families to parenting education, ESL classes, community resources and essential services because when families are supported, children thrive.

For many parents, Head Start makes work possible by providing a safe, nurturing place where children can learn and grow.

In a city where many families still struggle to find affordable, high-quality child care, Head Start remains essential to opportunity, stability and hope.

Continuing to invest in early childhood education and family supports is one of the smartest decisions we can make for our workforce, economy and future.

Head Start works. Tulsa's children — and our entire community — are stronger because of it.

Karen Tilkin, Tulsa