LEAH BOLDEN

Farmingdale, ME
912-432-8230 | leah.r.bolden@gmail.com
linkedin.com/in/leah-bolden

SUMMARY

Community engagement and parent advocacy leader with local, regional, and national Head Start leadership experience. Supports volunteers and parent representatives through mentoring, training, public education, and collaborative problem-solving. Brings hands-on team supervision, event coordination, and customer service experience, with a focus on helping families participate in decisions that affect their communities.

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION | National

Region I Parent Representative, Board of Directors | Apr 2026–Present

- Represent New England families in national governance and committee work focused on parent engagement, government affairs, resource development, and member services.
- Lead Parents Unite activities and meet weekly with the leadership team to develop plans, coordinate trainings, and resolve concerns through mediation, problem-solving, and escalation.
- Co-host national virtual meetings with 100+ attendees and facilitate office hours helping parents understand proposed Head Start regulations and submit public comments.
- Mentor newer volunteers and parent representatives, develop training materials, and support volunteer recognition and engagement.
- Coordinated and completed three legislative visits in Washington, DC, with a Head Start center supervisor in October 2026.

NEW ENGLAND HEAD START ASSOCIATION | Regional

Maine State Parent Representative, Board of Directors | Dec 2025–Present

- Represent Maine families in regional governance and collaborate with parent leaders and early childhood professionals across New England.
- Developing a regional parent advocacy training for November 2026, including presentation materials and activities to help parents communicate with lawmakers.

SOUTHERN KENNEBEC CHILD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION | Maine

Board Parent Representative and Policy Council Secretary | Sep 2025–Present

- Bring family perspectives into decisions about Head Start services, recruitment, policies, and program operations.
- Review employment applications, participate in candidate interviews, and help approve hiring selections through Policy Council.
- Support meeting preparation, documentation, communication, and follow-through with families and program leadership.
- Established a Little Free Library at the Head Start center to expand access to books for children and families.

UNITED PARENT LEADERS ACTION NETWORK | National

Parent Leader and Committee Member | Apr 2026–Present

- Contribute to committees focused on early care and education, immigration, and authentic parent engagement; collaborate with parent leaders on family-centered policy priorities.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

TARGET | Augusta, ME

Fulfillment Expert | Nov 2023–Mar 2025

- Coordinated time-sensitive online order fulfillment and assigned work according to team members' strengths and order deadlines.
- Supported team scheduling and daily coverage; adjusted workload priorities and communicated across departments to resolve operational issues.
- Used inventory and order-management systems to track orders, maintain accurate records, and resolve discrepancies.

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE | Redstone Arsenal, AL

Customer Experience Associate | Oct 2018–Mar 2019

- Helped service members, military families, and retirees select electronics; explained products and policies, processed transactions, and resolved or escalated concerns.

BOJANGLES' RESTAURANTS, INC. | Wise, VA

Shift Manager | Jan 2017–Sep 2017

- Supervised teams of 4–8 employees, assigned tasks, handled call-outs, and adjusted staffing to maintain daily operations.
- Trained and coached staff, addressed customer concerns, and reinforced food-safety, sanitation, and cash-handling procedures.

SYKES ENTERPRISES | Wise, VA

Customer Service Representative | Feb 2016–Apr 2016

- Responded to customer inquiries, documented interactions, researched service issues, and followed resolution and escalation procedures.

EDUCATION

University of Maryland Global Campus

Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences | Expected May 2027

Anthropology focus

Undergraduate Certificate in Project Management | Expected December 2026

Undergraduate Certificate in Data Analytics | Expected December 2026

SKILLS

Volunteer Engagement • Parent and Family Engagement • Community Outreach • Training Development and Facilitation • Mentoring • Conflict Resolution • Public Speaking • Event and Meeting Coordination • Team Supervision • Stakeholder Communication • Nonprofit Governance

Technology: Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, Canva, Zoom, Facebook

CREDENTIALS AND AWARDS

Advocacy All Star Award | National Head Start Association | October 2026

Advocacy Micro-Credential | Maine State Parent Ambassadors | July 2026

Maine State Parent Ambassador Program, Cohort 10 | Completed July 2026