

LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1

The Center
Early Childhood Programs
&
Head Start

**ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020**

The Center Early Childhood Programs & Head Start: 2019-2020 Annual Report

Mission

Our mission is to serve and respect children and families by providing research-based early childhood services that promote the development of knowledge, life skills and self-esteem.

About The Center

The Center operates six integrated preschool classrooms with children from all programs and backgrounds represented. All children learn respect for self and others and are prepared with skills and resources for success in both school and life. The Center believes that families are a child's first and most important teacher and makes developing relationships with families a priority.

HEAD START is the largest and best-known federal early childhood program. Head Start provides comprehensive education, physical and mental health, nutritional, and family development services with an emphasis on prevention and early intervention for eligible children ages three to five years. Eighty-nine percent of the 42 families served in Head Start in Lake County have income at or below 130% of the federal poverty line, and 27.5% were identified with special needs. Head Start helps children enter Kindergarten ready for success in school, while also building strong relationships between families and schools.

COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM serves 75 three and four-year-old children and their families with identified academic and other risk factors. Children and families receive many of the same services that are provided for Head Start families, including health and developmental screenings, family supports, and opportunities for parent involvement.

TUITION-BASED PRESCHOOL serves children three and four year olds and their families on a sliding scale fee schedule. Families receive the same services as children enrolled in the Colorado Preschool Program.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ages three and four receive their services at The Center in an inclusive preschool setting.

EARLY HEAD START is a Federal initiative providing child development and parent support services to low-income pregnant women and families with children birth to 3 years old. EHS home-based services offer home visits and group socialization activities for parents and their children. Ninety-two percent of the 13 families served in Head Start in Lake County have income at or below 130% of the federal poverty line, and 16.6% were identified with special needs.

Major Funding Received by The Center: FY2019

Federal:

Head Start \$612,068

State:

Colorado Preschool Program \$330,750

Private:

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Head Start FY2019 Budget

Head Start Personnel , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$463,918
Head Start Training & Technical Assistance , including teacher education & professional development	\$9,083
Head Start Other Expenses , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$20,289
Early Head Start Personnel , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$103,490
Early Head Start Training & Technical Assistance , including teacher education & professional development	\$2,848
Early Head Start Other Expenses , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$12,440
Total Grant Amount	<u>\$612,068</u>

Proposed Head Start FY2020 Budget

Head Start Personnel , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$493,146
Head Start Training & Technical Assistance , including teacher education & professional development	\$9,083
Head Start Other Expenses , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$25,519
Early Head Start Personnel , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$113,492
Early Head Start Training & Technical Assistance , including teacher education & professional development	\$2,848
Early Head Start Other Expenses , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$14,983
Additional Head Start expenses related to COVID-19	\$45,698
Supplemental award for transportation safety	\$238.109
Total Grant Amount	<u>\$942,878</u>

The Center operates through a braided funding model that allows services to be offered through a wide spectrum. This year was the second year of our Creative Curriculum implementation and the first full year of our Early Head Start home visiting program.

Our financial records as of June 2019 were audited as part of the wider standard audit of all local, state, grand and federal funds at Lake County School District. Suggestions made by the auditors are being included in discussions around continuing improvement and enhanced transparency. A copy of this audit can be obtained upon request.

Head Start Facts

Total number of children served in Head Start, 2019-2020: **44**
Total number of children served in Early Head Start, 2019-2020: **15**
Total number of families served in Head Start, 2019-2020: **42**
Total number of families served in Early Head Start, 2019-2020: **13**
Percentage of eligible families served in Head Start: **87.5%**
Percentage of eligible families served in Early Head Start: **100%**
Average monthly Head Start enrollment: **100%**
Average monthly Early Head Start enrollment: **83%**
Average monthly Head Start attendance: **81.9%**
Total number of Early Head Start visits and check ins: **336**
Percentage of Head Start children receiving medical exams: **91%**
Percentage of Early Head Start children receiving medical exams: **64%**
Percentage of Head Start children receiving dental exams: **67%**
Percentage of Head Start children receiving dental exams: **33%**

COVID-19 related closure

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, The Center was forced to close by mandate from the governor's office. We said goodbye to children and families for Spring Break, not knowing that would be the end to in person instruction and activities for the rest of the school year.

In response to the sudden and unexpected closure, we created activity packs and delivered them to families' homes three times in April and May. The packs contained school supplies, suggestions for activities, and information on community resources for families. The activity and resource information was also posted on our website. Classroom teachers held class meetings via Zoom, and staff contacted families to check in, show support, and assess needs. Services were provided to children with special needs via an online platform to the greatest extent possible. Spanish speaking families received communication in their home language. Lake County School District provided home delivery of meals to all children in Lake County five

days per week throughout the regular school year and continuing on through the summer, and many Center staff helped with this project.

In preparation for reopening in the fall and understanding that the pandemic could affect program practices for quite some time, we decided to add the Creative Curriculum Cloud component to our established Creative Curriculum practices. This component is designed to provide distance and virtual learning in the same intentional way that Creative Curriculum does in the classroom. We also researched and obtained the Ready Rosie program to enhance and expand family involvement in their child's learning.

Opportunities for Family Engagement

The Center provides many opportunities for parent and family involvement, including:

- Family Fun Nights: At least 5 events throughout the year offering educational activities for parents and children to do together. Parents have the opportunity to assist with planning these events via the Parent Activity Committee.
- Parenting classes: Offered in partnership with Full Circle of Lake County
- Home Visits: Offered twice a year
- Parent/teacher conferences: Offered twice a year
- Policy Council: Part of our shared governance approach, parents can serve on the Policy Council and influence program policies and goals, and budget development.
- Program committees: Including health services, family and community partnerships, and education.
- Take home practice packs: Allowing parents to participate in the curriculum directly with their child. Emphasize activities for learning, not worksheets.
- Special events: Catered to parents' needs and interests.
- Explore Your Community: "Passports" offering families free activities at community locales
- Interpretation Services: There are bilingual staff members available for our many Spanish speaking families to participate in events and activities.

The early closure in the spring meant not all activities could be completed. We hope to be able to offer group activities to families again as soon as public health guidelines permit.

Parent Engagement Highlights

Opportunities for Family Engagement are programmed to meet the needs of families with diverse work schedules and transportation needs. In-school celebrations include a costume party, Thanksgiving Lunch, Winter Holiday party, Valentine's Day party, and end-of-the-year celebrations. These festive events are always very well attended.

Families are also invited to accompany classrooms on field trips throughout the year and have visited local parks and the post office. Practice Packs describe activities that families can do

together at home to further their educational goals for their child. Supplies are offered for families who request them. These include making a family tree, cooking projects, and easy ways to encourage early literacy.

Committee meetings are scheduled with the input of families who express interest in serving on those committees. Family Fun Nights (Parent Committee Meetings) are held in the evenings, so parents who work during the day may attend. Some of these are at the school and some are at community locales, including the public library and the climbing wall at a local community college. Family Fun Nights offer parent education opportunities, information updates from Policy Council, connections to community resources, and fun activities for families.

Coffee Talks are held throughout the year to provide a forum to discuss topics chosen by families and general parenting supports.

Explore Your Community passports offer families a chance to explore a new activity, such as ice skating or ceramics painting, on their own schedule, within a particular date range.

Kindergarten Transition

The Director of Early Childhood Programs works closely with Kindergarten leadership to insure that skills taught in preschool help prepare children for school. In addition, several transition activities and events are offered each spring, including an Open House and Kindergarten Classroom Experience, to prepare children and parents alike for Kindergarten.

All children at The Center entering Kindergarten receive a take-home bag of activities that will encourage reading and pre-Kindergarten skills during the summer. Parents also receive information on how to enroll their child in kindergarten and how to help prepare their child for public school.

Historically, data has shown that children who enter Kindergarten having attended The Center are well-prepared both academically and from a social-emotional perspective.

With the shutdown of the spring of 2019, these transition activities had to be adjusted. Videos of kindergarten teachers reading stories and elementary school staff giving tours of the building were posted to the website for families to watch with their children. Appropriate socially distance orientation activities will also take place in the fall to help families transition to their new school.

The Center School Readiness Goals

In 2019-2020, we continued the established School Readiness Goals for all children in our preschool program. We monitor our progress on these goals through child observations collected on a daily basis by our preschool teachers and entered into Teaching Strategies GOLD, our online assessment system.

Physical Development: All children will improve gross and fine motor skills. All children shall have an opportunity to increase knowledge of physical and health practices.

Literacy: All children will gain knowledge of literacy through a love of books, letter and sound recognition, emergent writing skills, and environmental print in their home language.

Math: All children will show an increased knowledge and understanding (in their home language) of how numbers, shapes, and patterns are useful problem solving tools for everyday life activities.

Social and Emotional Development: All children will have a better understanding of, and will demonstrate, positive social interactions with others, as well as developing self-regulation skills and increasing self-awareness and self-efficacy. All children will show an increased awareness of their own emotional and behavioral health needs.

Social Studies: Children will have a better understanding of themselves through an increased sense of, and knowledge about, their community, the natural environment and local history, while supporting their cultural backgrounds.

Approaches to Learning: All children will show an increase in their initiative and curiosity toward learning, they will improve their attentiveness and persistence when completing tasks, and will make gains in cooperation and positive interactions with peers.

Language Development: All children will improve their expressive and receptive language skills in addition to demonstrating competency in their home language; English Language Learners will increase engagement and increase understanding in English literacy activities.

Arts: All children will have increased experiences of expressing their own ideas through creating sounds with voice and instruments, creating objects using a variety of media and materials, portraying events, characters, and stories through symbolic play, and being aware of how their bodies move.

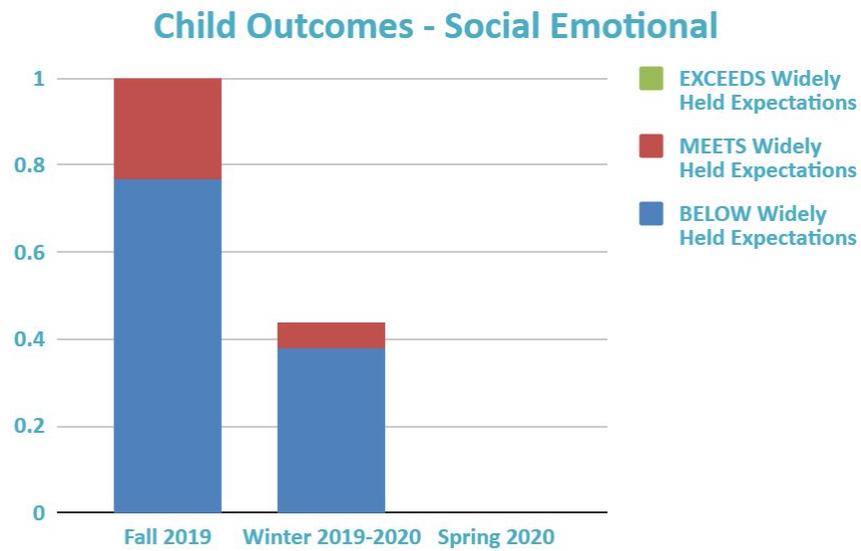
Logic and Reasoning: All children will show an increased ability to recognize, understand, and analyze situations, to remember and retell information, to seek solutions to problems to use symbols and objects to represent other things and to be aware of their own thought processes.

Science: Children will increase their understanding of the scientific process through asking questions, making predictions, explanations, and drawing conclusions as related to their natural and physical world.

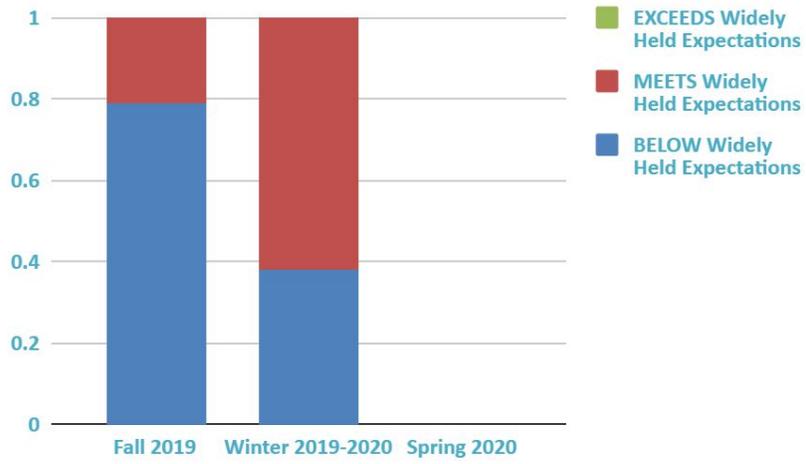
Head Start Child Growth & Development: 2019-2020

The following charts show the percentage of preschool children from the beginning of the 2019-2020 program year through the winter checkpoint. It shows the percentage of children who are below, meet, or exceed widely held expectations in each area of development at the time of the checkpoint. According to Teaching Strategies Inc., widely held expectations (WHE) in early

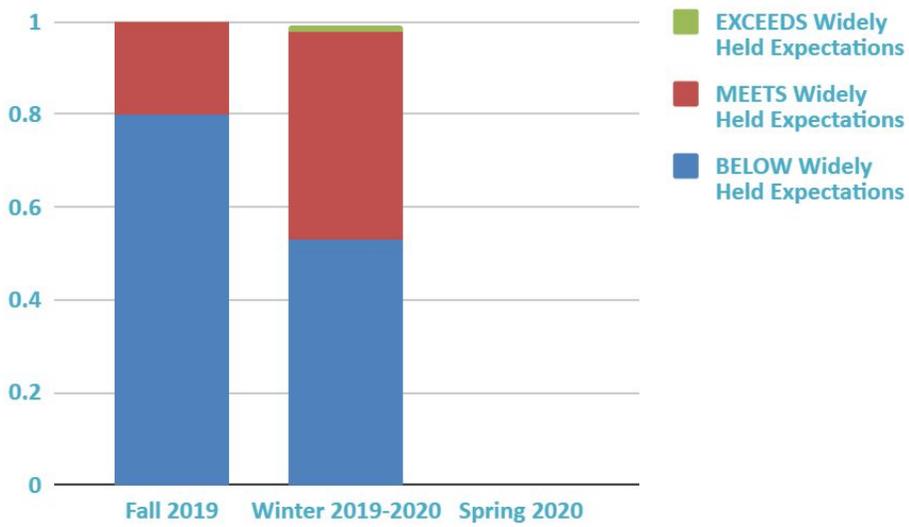
childhood have been determined by researchers which allow teachers to see what skills children demonstrate according to their age. The end of the year target is to have 15% or less of our children within the below WHE in each area of development. Due to COVID-19 related early closure of the program, the spring checkpoint could not be completed. Considering the amount of growth children showed by the time of the second checkpoint, and the processes in place at The Center for identifying additional supports for children, we are confident that the spring data, if available, would show even further progress.



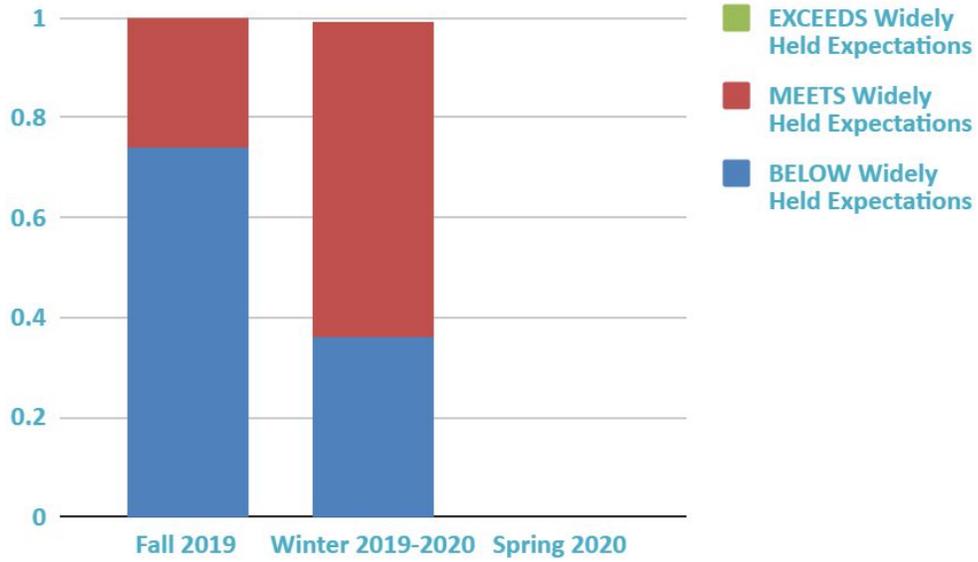
Child Outcomes - Physical



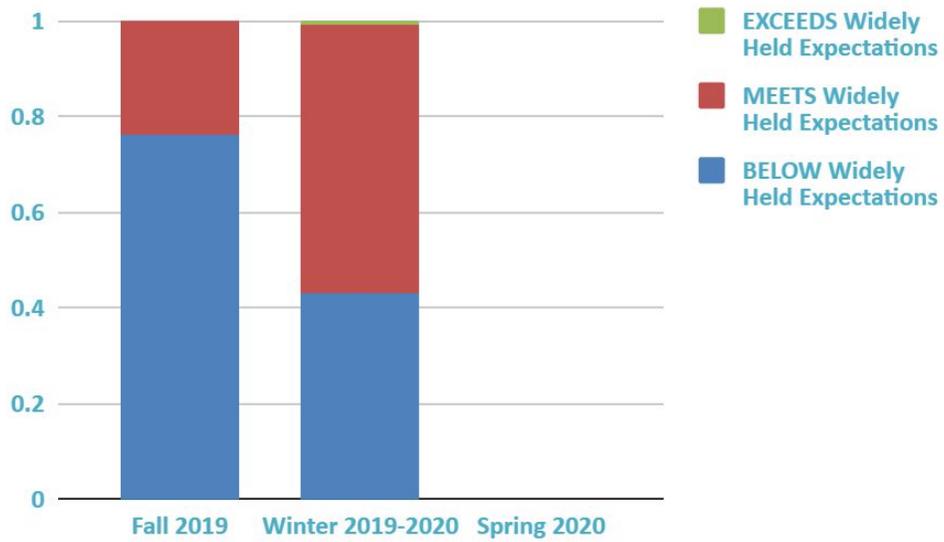
Child Outcomes - Language



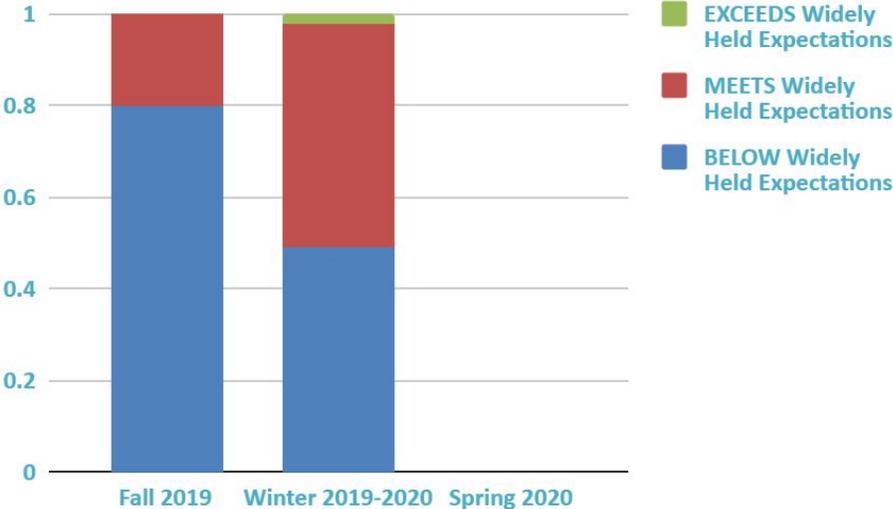
Child Outcomes - Cognitive



Child Outcomes - Literacy



Child Outcomes - Math



Program Reviews and Monitoring

In accordance with Head Start Performance Standards, different aspects of our program are regularly reviewed and monitored. The last federal monitoring were conducted in the spring of 2018.

CLASS

On March 27 & 28, 2018, observations were conducted by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in our classrooms using the Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System called CLASS. The CLASS tool looks at three domains and ten dimensions of teacher-child interactions and measures those observed actions on a seven-point scale. The results reported below are used to measure the effectiveness of professional development and identify success and opportunities for growth.

A copy of this report is available on our website at <http://www.lakecountyschools.net/thecenter/>.

DOMAIN	Score	DOMAIN	Score	DOMAIN	Score
Emotional Support	6.5417	Classroom Organization	6.4722	Instructional Support	2.5833

DIMENSIONS					
Positive Climate	6.58	Behavior Management	6.58	Concept Development	1.92
Negative Climate	1	Productivity	6.5	Quality of Feedback	2.75
Teacher Sensitivity	6.42	Instructional Learning Formats	6.33	Language Modeling	3.08
Regard for Student Perspectives	6.17				

In a few of the areas measured, The Center scores placed our program in the highest 10% of programs evaluated that year. We are very proud to have been recognized in this way.

Focus Area Two

From March 27 to 29, 2018, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area Two Monitoring Review of our Head Start program. The review looked at our performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Based on the information gathered during the review, our Head Start program was found to have met the requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulation, and policy requirements.

A copy of this report can be viewed on our website at <http://www.lakecountyschools.net/thecenter/>.

The Center now has staff members who are trained to do CLASS observations. These observations were not able to be completed in the last, abruptly shortened program year, but are scheduled to take place this year.

In addition, all preschool classrooms are scheduled to be rated with the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) this year. The results of these ratings will identify areas in which we are meeting our goals and areas where further improvement efforts will be focused.