

LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1

The Center  
Early Childhood Programs  
&  
Head Start

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2020-2021**

# The Center Early Childhood Programs & Head Start: 2020-2021 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-seven percent of the 39 families served in Head Start in Lake County have income at or below 130% of the federal poverty line, and 23% 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. Eighty-seven percent of the 10 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: FY2021

**Federal:**

Head Start \$659,071

**State:**

Colorado Preschool Program \$245,120

**Private:**

Temple Hoyne Buell \$38,000

A.V. Hunter Trust \$10,000

Head Start FY2021 Budget

<b>Head Start Personnel</b> , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$493,146
<b>Head Start Training &amp; Technical Assistance</b> , including teacher education & professional development	\$9,083
<b>Head Start Other Expenses</b> , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$25,519
<b>Early Head Start Personnel</b> , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$113,492
<b>Early Head Start Training &amp; Technical Assistance</b> , including teacher education & professional development	\$2,848
<b>Early Head Start Other Expenses</b> , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$14,983
<b>Total Grant Amount</b>	<u>\$659,071</u>

Proposed Head Start FY2022 Budget

<b>Head Start Personnel</b> , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$499,043
<b>Head Start Training &amp; Technical Assistance</b> , including teacher education & professional development	\$9,083
<b>Head Start Other Expenses</b> , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$25,950
<b>Early Head Start Personnel</b> , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$116,242
<b>Early Head Start Training &amp; Technical Assistance</b> , including teacher education & professional development	\$2,848
<b>Early Head Start Other Expenses</b> , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$13,800
Additional Head Start expenses related to COVID-19	\$15,650
Additional Head Start expenses from ARP	\$62,218

<b>Total Grant Amount</b>	<u>\$744,834</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 2020 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, 2020-2021: **43**
- Total number of children served in Early Head Start, 2020-2021: **12**
- Total number of families served in Head Start, 2020-2021: **39**
- Total number of families served in Early Head Start, 2020-2021: **10**
- Percentage of eligible families served in Head Start: **98%**
- Percentage of eligible families served in Early Head Start: **100%**
- Average monthly Head Start enrollment: **100%**
- Average monthly Early Head Start enrollment: **75%**
- Average monthly Head Start attendance: **67%**
- Total number of Early Head Start visits and check ins: **234**
- Percentage of Head Start children receiving medical exams: **100%**
- Percentage of Early Head Start children receiving medical exams: **91%**
- Percentage of Head Start children receiving dental exams: **93%**
- Percentage of Head Start children receiving dental exams: **70%**

### COVID-19 related program adjustments

In preparation for reopening in the fall, The Center worked with Lake County Public Health and Lake County School District to form policies and procedures aimed at reopening as safely as possible to protect children, families, and staff. Our partnerships have never been more valuable to us than during this time. We opened classrooms with only ten children per room instead of sixteen in order to have space for social distancing. We scheduled extra staff and adjusted schedules in order to keep classrooms cohorted and minimize the need for quarantines after exposures. We purchased extra supplies such as masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant cleaning supplies. We designed and implemented health screening procedures for

all people entering the building and limited visitors to the greatest extent possible, including having child check in at the front door. Most meetings were conducted virtually, instead of in person, and large gatherings were not held. When quarantines were necessary, supplies and activities were sent home with children and teachers conducted classes online via Google Meets. Check-ins with families were done by phone, email, and text and referrals made as necessary. Dinners and meals for Fridays were sent home with every child, every day at no cost to the families. We added the Creative Curriculum Cloud component to our established Creative Curriculum practices 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.

Due to COVID related restrictions, most in-person meetings, including home visits and parent-teacher conferences were conducted virtually via Google Meets. Large group gatherings could not be held this year. We will be happy 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.

This year, the Explore Your Community project did operate, practice packs were sent home as usual and augmented during times of extended virtual learning, and meetings were held virtually. We were unable to hold Family Fun Nights, but were able to have an outdoor graduation ceremony, one room at a time.

### Kindergarten Transition

The Director of Early Childhood Programs works closely with Kindergarten leadership to ensure 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.

In consideration of safety and the construction to a new school building, these transition activities had to be adjusted. Videos of kindergarten teachers reading stories and elementary school staff introducing themselves were provided 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**

The Center's school readiness goals were reviewed and revised in November 2020. Child outcomes data from the 2019-2020 program year were used. The goals were revised with the participation of the Instructional Leadership Team and Policy Council and with advice from Region VIII.

*By the end of the school year, 80% of children will meet or exceed on the following Domains:*

#### **Approaches to Learning:**

Children will demonstrate an increased attentiveness and persistence when completing a task activity.

#### **Social and Emotional Development:**

Children will demonstrate engaging in and maintaining positive relationships and interactions with adults.

#### **Language and Literacy:**

##### **Language and Communication:**

Children will understand and respond to increasingly complex vocabulary, questions and stories from others.

##### **Literacy:**

Children will demonstrate an awareness that words are made up of smaller segments of sound and able to identify half the letters of the alphabet and associated sounds.

##### **Cognition:**

##### **Mathematics Development:**

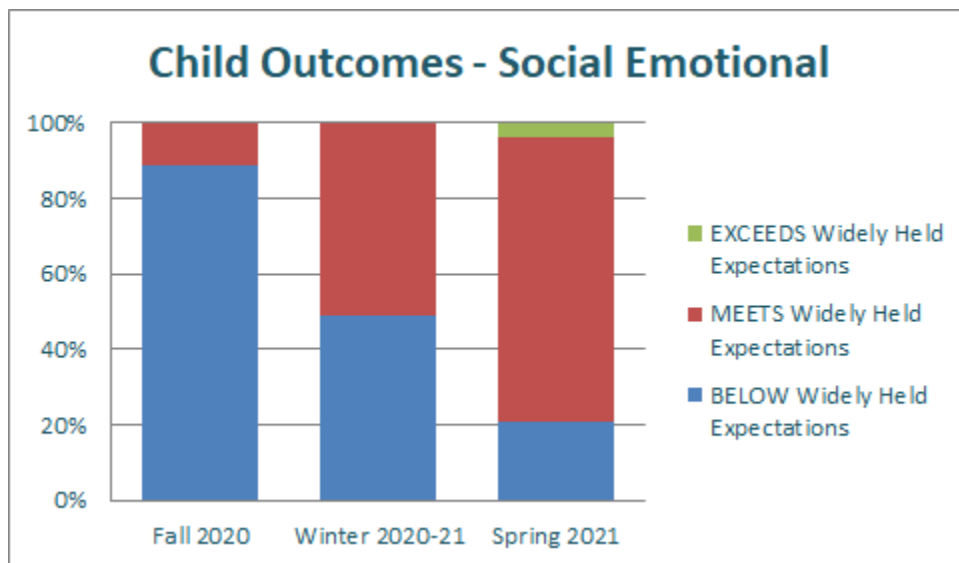
Children will demonstrate understanding of spatial relationships.

##### **Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development:**

Children will demonstrate increased control, strength, and coordination of large muscles.

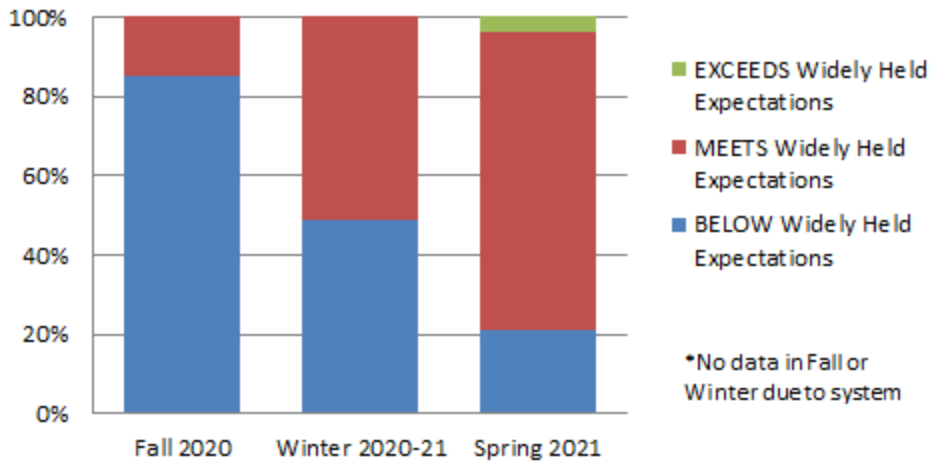
## Head Start Child Growth & Development: 2020-2021

The following charts show the percentage of preschool children from the beginning of the 2020-2021 program year through the spring 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.

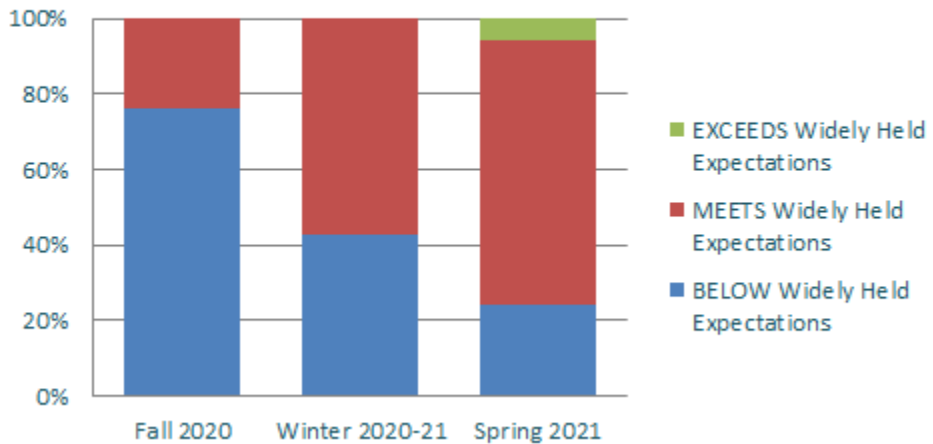




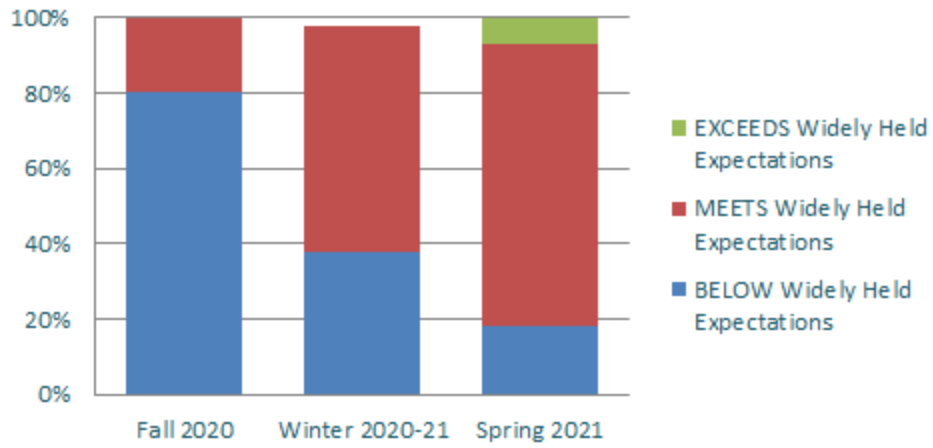
### Child Outcomes - Physical



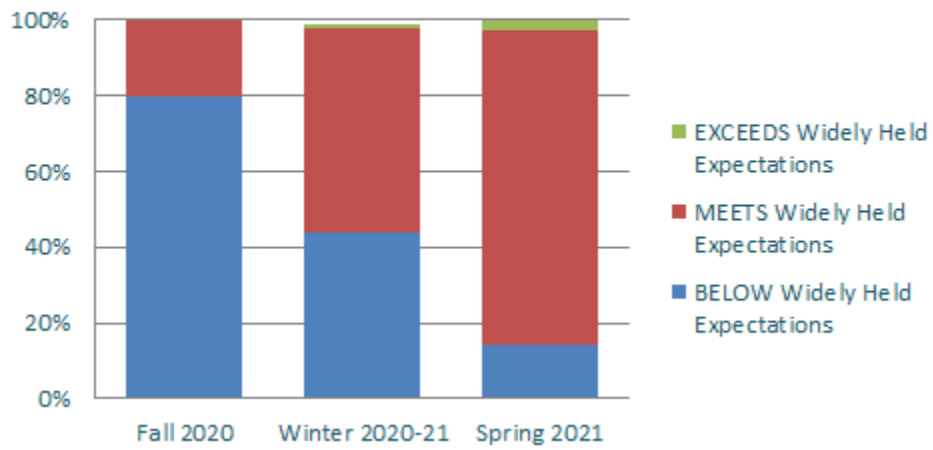
### Child Outcomes - Language

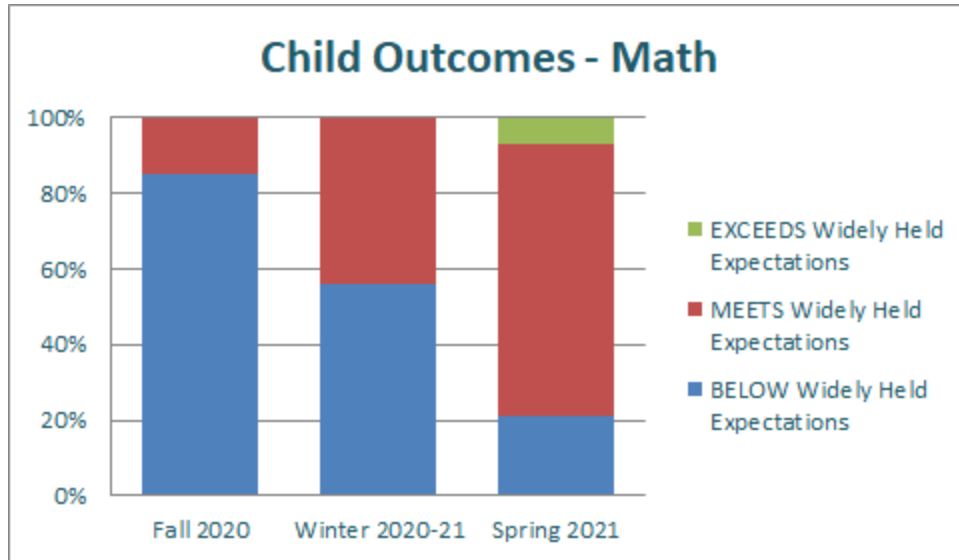


### Child Outcomes - Cognitive



### Child Outcomes - Literacy





### Program Reviews and Monitoring

In accordance with Head Start Performance Standards and state licensing requirements, different aspects of our program are regularly reviewed and monitored.

Our program received a Focus Area 1 (FA1) review from the Office of Head Start during the week of May 10, 2021. Focus Area One (FA1) is an opportunity to discuss our program design, management, and governance structure. The program's approaches to staffing structure, program design, education, health services, family services, fiscal infrastructure, and program governance are included in the discussions.

This review found that our program does have the structures in place to meet Performance Standards. No deficiencies were identified.