

LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1

The Center
Early Childhood Programs
&
Head Start

ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022

The Center Early Childhood Programs & Head Start: 2021-2022 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: FY2022

Federal:

Head Start \$666,996

State:

Colorado Preschool Program \$265,242

Private:

Temple Hoyne Buell \$38,000

A.V. Hunter Trust \$10,000

Head Start FY2022 Budget

Head Start Personnel , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$499,043
Head Start Training & Technical Assistance , including teacher education & professional development	\$9,083
Head Start Other Expenses , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$25,950
Early Head Start Personnel , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$116,242
Early Head Start Training & Technical Assistance , including teacher education & professional development	\$2,848
Early Head Start Other Expenses , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$13,800
Additional Head Start expenses related to COVID-19	\$15,650
Additional Head Start expenses from ARP	\$62,218
Total Grant Amount	<u>\$744,834</u>

Proposed Head Start FY2023 Budget

Head Start Personnel , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$512,076
Head Start Training & Technical Assistance , including teacher education & professional development	\$9,083
Head Start Other Expenses , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$31,745
Early Head Start Personnel , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$122,180
Early Head Start Training & Technical Assistance , including teacher education & professional development	\$2,848
Early Head Start Other Expenses , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$13,969
Total Grant Amount	<u>\$691,901</u>

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

Our financial records as of June 2021 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, 2021-2022: **45**
Total number of children served in Early Head Start, 2021-2022: **15**
Total number of families served in Head Start, 2021-2022: **39**
Total number of families served in Early Head Start, 2021-2022: **13**
Percentage of eligible families served in Head Start: 100%
Percentage of eligible families served in Early Head Start: 100%
Average monthly Head Start enrollment: 93%
Average monthly Early Head Start enrollment: 42%
Average monthly Head Start attendance: 83.2%
Total number of Early Head Start visits and check ins: **210**
Percentage of Head Start children receiving medical exams: **100%**
Percentage of Early Head Start children receiving medical exams: **53%**
Percentage of Head Start children receiving dental exams: **82%**
Percentage of Head Start children receiving dental exams: **53%**

COVID-19 related program adjustments

The Center worked with Lake County Public Health and Lake County School District to form policies and procedures aimed at keeping children, families, and staff as safe as possible. Our partnerships have never been more valuable to us than during this time. We purchased extra supplies such as masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant cleaning supplies. We designed and implemented policies and procedures for necessary quarantines and program schedule changes. As conditions permitted, we had a gradual return to in person events and rebuilding our relationships with families and the community.

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 and opportunities to connect with and enjoy community resources. 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.
- Interpretation Services: There are bilingual staff members available for our many Spanish speaking families to participate in events and activities.

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.

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

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.

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 in this process. 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:

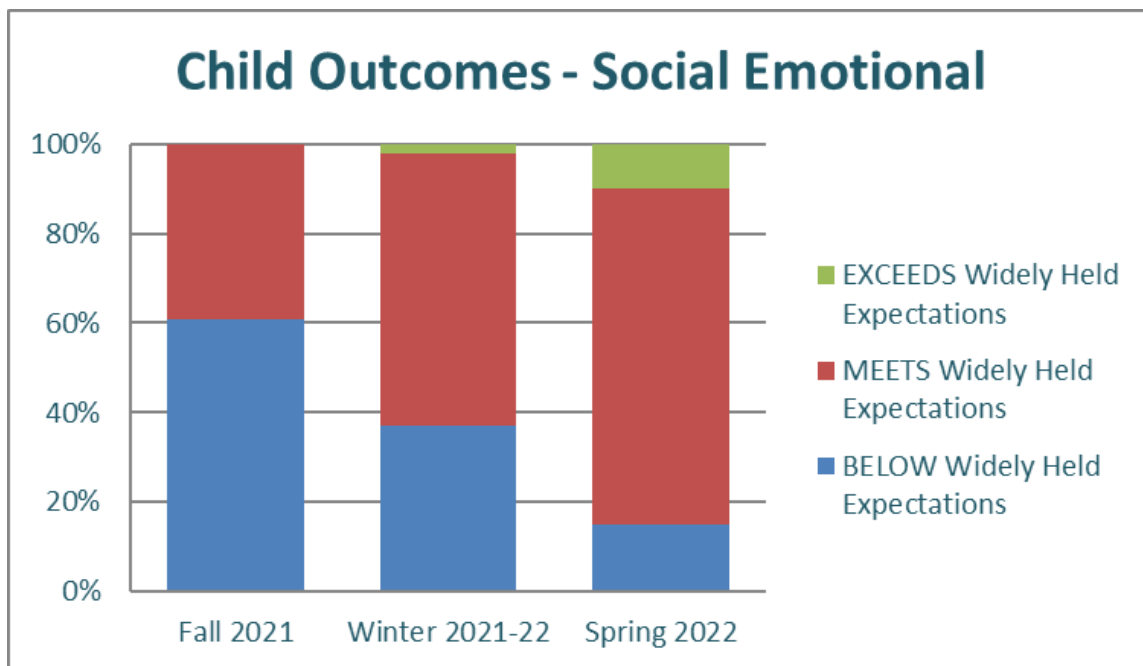
Children will demonstrate understanding of spatial relationships.

Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development:

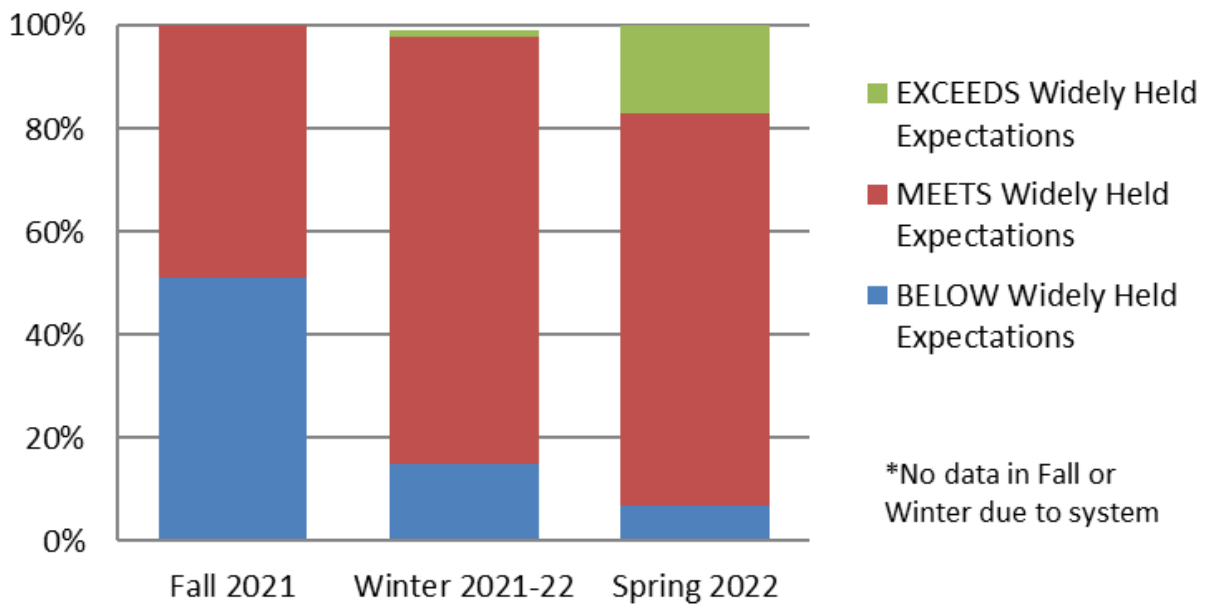
Children will demonstrate increased control, strength, and coordination of large muscles.

Head Start Child Growth & Development: 2021-2022

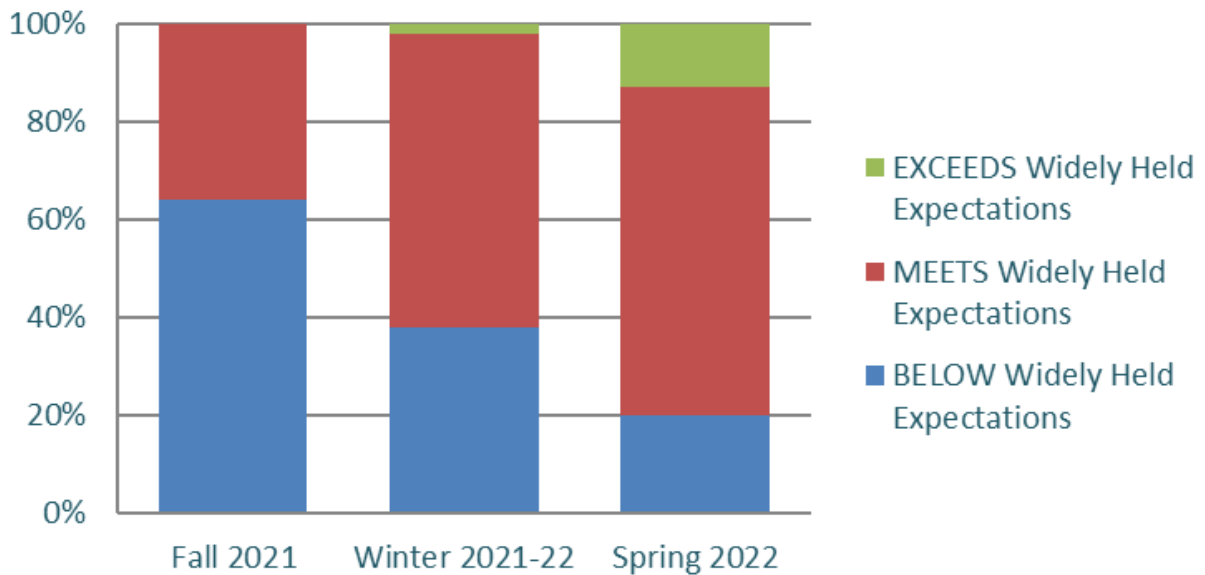
The following charts show the percentage of preschool children from the beginning of the 2021-2022 program year through the spring checkpoint. It shows the percentage of children who are below, meet, or exceed widely held expectations in each area of development at the time of the checkpoint. According 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.



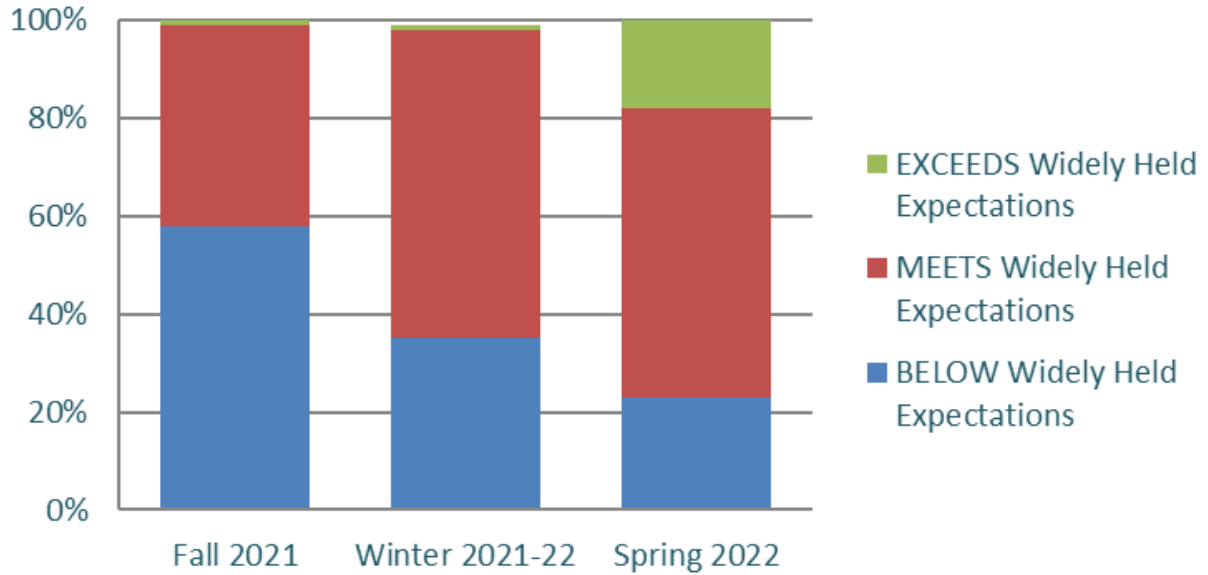
Child Outcomes - Physical



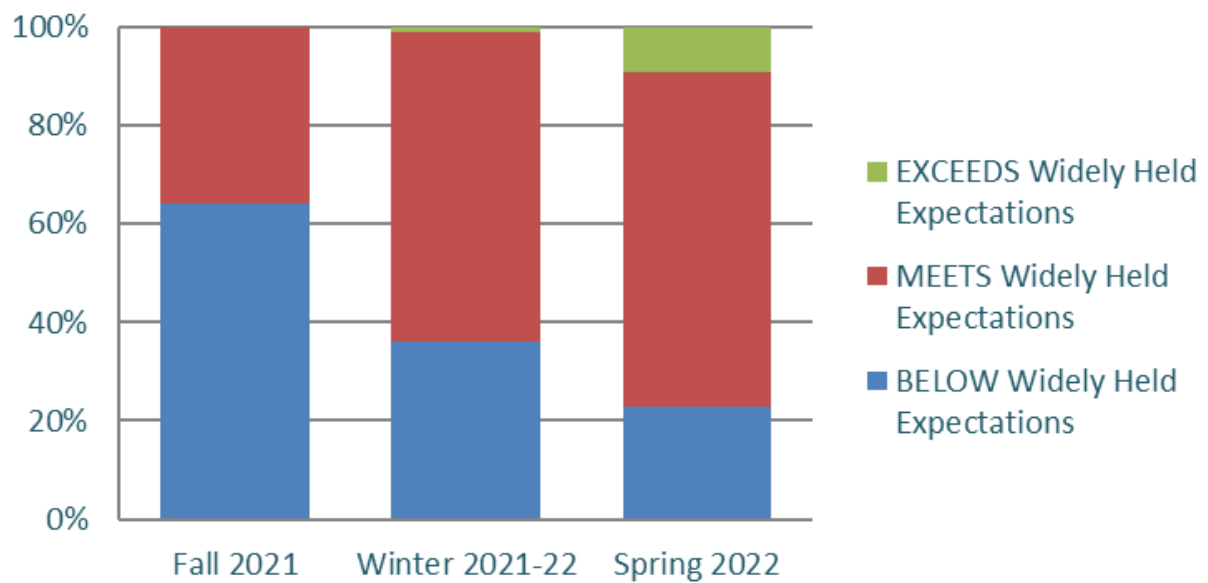
Child Outcomes - Language

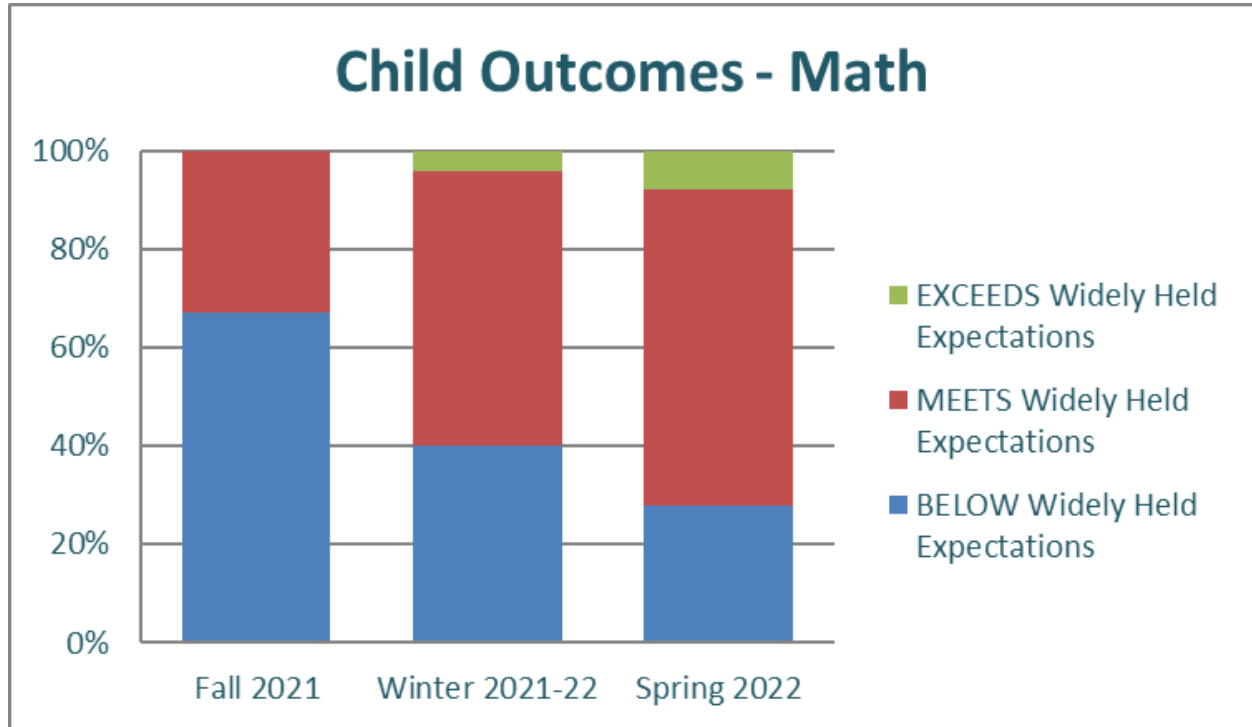


Child Outcomes - Cognitive



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.