

Head Start of Washington County, Inc.

Annual Report 2014-2015



Celebrating 50 years of Head Start
1965-2015

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Emily Hobby

Special Projects/Volunteer Coordinator

Melissa McElroy

Lead Home Base Teacher

Our Locations:



Administrative Office

325 West Memorial Blvd
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-733-0088



Martin Luther King Center

131 West North Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-797-5231



Elgin Station Center

40 Elgin Blvd
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-791-7333



Noland Center

1048 Noland Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-797-4602



Sargent Shriver Center

837 Spruce Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-733-4640

Overall Quality

Happy 50th Anniversary Head Start! 1965-2015

Fifty years as the pioneer of early childhood education and innovation!
Fifty years of transforming education and services to pregnant moms and children birth to five!

Fifty years of bipartisan support from President Nixon to President Obama and every President in between. Congress and communities all across the country, like Washington County, have supported and invested in Head Start, giving all of our young children the opportunity to succeed.

Research has shown that success starts even before birth. Over 90% of the 500 families enrolled in Head Start of Washington County have an income of less than \$23,550 for a family of four. Fifteen percent or more of our children have special needs. Head Start's original design and objective centered on the fact that in order to be able and ready to learn, children must be healthy and nourished. Children receive two-thirds of their daily nutritional



requirements at Head Start. Vision, dental and nutritional screenings and assessments occur at the centers throughout the year. All Head Start families receive a home visit from the teacher before the child enters the classroom and two more visits during the year. Head Start serves as the role model in establishing trusting relationships with parents. Parents are the first and primary teacher. Head Start of Washington County has become a recognized leader and innovator in quality early care and education.

Our Mission:

Head Start of Washington County, Inc. is dedicated to making a difference in our community through comprehensive child and family development services.

Our mission is to provide children with nurturing experiences, a strong foundation for developmental growth and opportunities to achieve school readiness.

We strive to empower families to take an active role in their child's development and to reach their full potential.

www.headstartwashco.org

Head Start Outcomes and Results

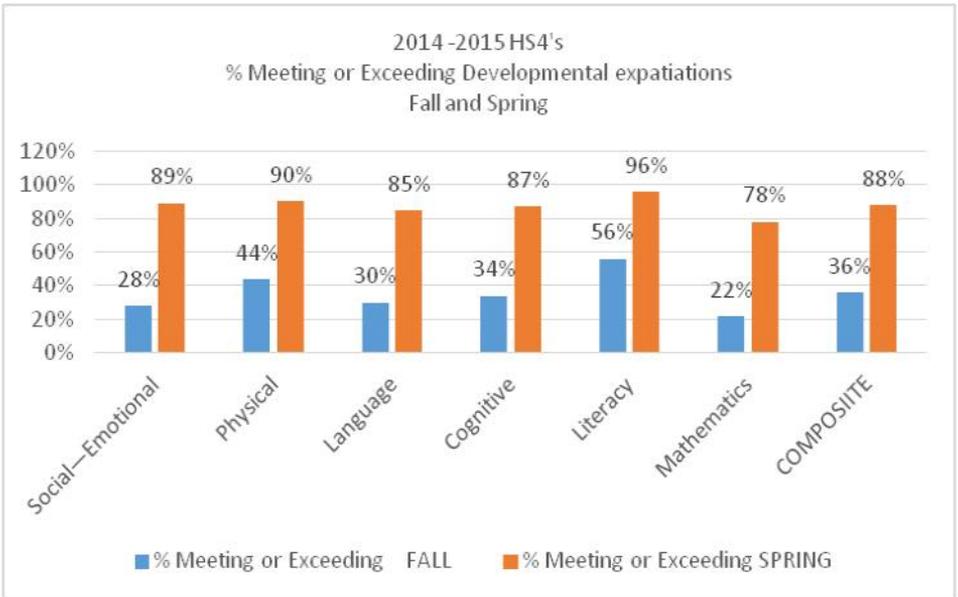
Head Start of Washington County maintains a commitment to preparing children and families for the more demanding Maryland Common Core Standards.

In order to evaluate our success in achieving these standards Head Start has adopted the Teaching Strategies Gold Online Assessment for the 2014-2015 program year. The GOLD assessment system is a proven authentic assessment that allows teachers to input and make preliminary evaluations of student progress continuously based on observations and classroom instruction. This program year teachers have completed approximately 13,500 authentic observations, for the 485 children enrolled. Each child's demonstrated abilities are assessed against a developmental continuum for 63 objectives across 6 areas of Development (Social Emotional, Motor, Language, Cognitive, Literacy and Math) and 4 skills areas (Development and Science, Technology, Social Studies and the Arts).



Baseline assessment indicators demonstrated that on average, only 40% of Head Start 3 and 4 year old students were performing within age expectations at the fall assessment period. Through diligent efforts of the education staff 88% of these students finished the year developing within age standards.

Head Start students that will transition to kindergarten in the fall of 2015 have made remarkable growth towards meeting age expectations across the 6 domain areas.



“Head Start promotes cultural diversity at an early age so that children can understand people are different.”

Parent of Head Start child

Medical and Dental Program Information

A strong emphasis is placed on each enrolled child's overall health and well being. The medical component of Head Start of Washington County ensures that the children enrolled in the program receive proper medical and dental treatment, are up to date on immunizations, find proper dental and medical homes and have health insurance.

In order to promote good health practices in the classrooms, all meals and snacks are approved by Registered Dietitians and meet the nutritional guidelines set by CACFP. Activities are utilized to teach the children the value of healthy eating and exercise. Children are given daily opportunities to use their large muscles, teaching them the value of staying active through exercise. The combination of proper screening and treatments, nutritional meals and snacks, and exercise keeps children healthy while also teaching them important ideas and concepts about their health that help them both at school and home.



Performance Indicator	HS	EHS
% of children with a medical home	99%	100%
% of children with health insurance at the end of the program year	100%	100%
% of children diagnosed as needing medical attention	47%	10%
% of children receiving medical treatment	90%	92%
% of children with up to date immunizations	98%	95%

Performance Indicator	HS
% of children with a dental home	90%
% of preschool children completing professional dental exams	97%
% of preschool children needing professional dental treatment	26%
% of preschool children receiving dental treatment	57%

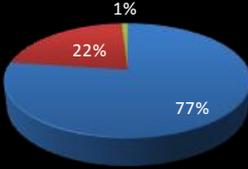
“I love the weekly activities that the home based teacher does and the socializations and the Head Start events that can get all of us involved with the kids.”

Parent of a child enrolled in the Home Based Program

Enrollment Information

2014-2015 Enrollment (550 Served)

■ H.S. Children Served ■ E.H.S. Children Served
■ Expectant Mothers

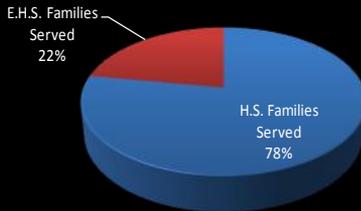


The 2014-2015 school year began with the restoration of all slots eliminated from previous sequestration cuts to both our Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Head Start slots were restored to 380 and Early Head Start slots to 105. HSWC provides services in four facilities located throughout Washington County. Elgin Station Center provides full day full year services to 34 Head Start children and 14 Early Head Start children. Noland Center provides Head Start services to 34 children. Martin Luther King Center provides services to 170 Head Start children and 44 Early Head Start children. The Sargent Shriver Center provides Head Start services to 136 children. In addition, we operate a Home Base program that currently serves 6 Head Start children and 47 Early Head Start children.

Head Start is mandated to enroll at least 10% of children who have a professionally diagnosed disability. During the 2014-2015 school year, 13% of HSWC's Head Start children and 16% of HSWC's Early Head Start children had diagnosed disabilities.

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Families served in 2014-2015



Average Monthly Enrollment	
September	100%
October	100%
November	100%
December	100%
January	100%
February	100%
March	100%
April	100%
May	100%



During the months of June, July and August we operate on a part year basis. We provided services to 105 EHS children and 74 HS children. Due to continued sequestration cuts we served 91 EHS children until May 2014 when an infant room was restored.

“I strongly feel that this is a solid program on all levels.”- Head Start Parent



The Need for Head Start Services in Washington County, Maryland

According to the 2010 Census Bureau data on the number of children under five years of age in poverty in Washington County, HSWC's Head Start program is funded to serve only 25% (485 out of 1,923) of the eligible children living in the county.

2014-2015 Family Engagement Activities:

August 2014– Open Houses– 118 families attended

September 2014-Parent Orientations– 250 attended

Dare To Be You– 8 families completed the program during the Fall Session and 6 families completed the Spring Session

October 2014– Family Fall Fest, Marty Snook Park– 251 children and adults attended

October-November 2014– Love & Logic Classes– 7 parents attended

November 2014– Male Involvement Night– 147 men and children attended

November 2014-Parent Café held– 8 adults attended

December 2014– Parent Café held– 6 adults attended

January 2015– Parent Café held– 11 adults attended

March 2015– Mental Health/Kindergarten Transition Parent Night– 62 adults and children attended

March 2015– Male Involvement Cardboard Challenge– 69 adults and children attended

April 2015– Mom & Me Event– 280 women and children attended



“Not only does Head Start of Washington County go the “extra mile” for the parents and children they serve, they reach out to connect with other community agencies building strong partnerships along the way.”

Potomac Case Management

Financial Snapshot

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are required to obtain at least a 25% match of local in-kind or cash contributions for all federal dollars received. In-kind contributions are predominately space and/or volunteer hours by Head Start parents and/or members of the local community. Head Start and Early Head Start are very labor intensive programs with the major operational costs being personnel and fringe benefits for over 120 full and part time positions.

Over 485 children and families are being served in Washington County. However, both Head Start and especially Early Head Start have a waiting list of hundreds of eligible children. Our latest center is named after R. Sargent Shriver and allows us the potential to combine offices with the Memorial Blvd. site to consolidate expenses and save money. In a long and complicated process the federal government subordinated the mortgage. Major renovations to open up other parts of the building and to bring it up to code can now proceed once if funding becomes available.

Head Start of Washington County, Inc.'s (HSWC, Inc.) administrative costs during this period were less than 11%, significantly lower than the 15% maximum permitted. The annual audit is conducted by an independent outside auditing firm selected from a competitive R F P bid process. We completed a Wage and Benefits Comparability Study (required every three years) to insure wages and benefits within our funding budget limitations reflect those of the surrounding areas. The IRS Form 990 is available for viewing at 325 W. Memorial Blvd., Hagerstown, Maryland, upon request or on our website www.headstartwashco.org.

