



WCMCA Head Start Annual Report

2023-2024

West Central Head Start operates a publicly funded program that serves children birth to 5 and pregnant families in Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wadena counties.

WCMCA Head Start operated 10 full-day classrooms and 8 half-day classrooms providing services from August – May.

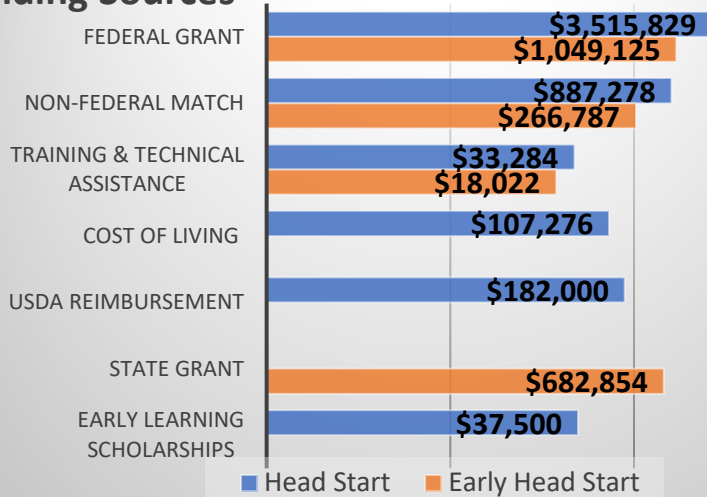
Home based services are offered year-round with 11 Home Visitors providing weekly home visits to each enrolled family as well as two parent socialization events a month.

Mission Statement

Head Start provides a supportive environment that encourages children, families, staff, and communities to thrive by identifying strengths and opportunities, and developing strong partnerships to meet needs.



Funding Sources



FUNDED ENROLLMENT:

270 Head Start

103 Early Head Start

57 Participants dropped from services and were replaced during the program year

15 Children were in foster care at any point during the program year

28 Children experienced homelessness during the program year

Budget	Budget	
	Head Start	Early Head Start
Personnel	\$2,190,948	\$587,339
Fringe Benefits	\$744,922	\$199,695
Supplies	\$100,000	\$43,700
Contractual	\$58,326	\$53,937
Other	\$421,633	\$164,454
Total	\$3,515,829	\$1,049,125



Meals Served at

Head Start Centers:

Total Operating Days – 2,329

Breakfast: 25,243

AM Snack: 766

Lunch: 23,088

PM Snack: 18,063

Locate us:

411 Industrial Park Blvd.,
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
218-685-4486
www.wcmca.org

WCMCA's most recent financial audit revealed no deficiencies or material weaknesses. Information about the agency's audit is available by contacting our office.

Average Daily Attendance for Head Start Classrooms		Average Monthly Enrollment 373 EHS & HS Funded 2 HS classes begin in Aug	Home Visits Completed
July	N/A	94/103 (EHS only)	195
August	92%	129/134	444
September	91%	383/401	268
October	89%	384/401	271
November	86%	383/401	454
December	85%	349/401	202
January	83%	373/373	269
February	80%	373/373	364
March	83%	373/373	365
April	83%	373/373	274
May	88%	371/373	494
June	N/A	102/103 (EHS only)	107

Health Services at End of Enrollment

- 🏠 98% of children have health insurance.
- 🏠 99% of children have a medical home.
- 🏠 96% of children have a dental home.
- 🏠 93% of HS children and 31% of EHS children are up to date on well child care.
- 🏠 90% of children are current on immunizations.
- 🏠 77% of HS children received a dental exam.
- 🏠 EHS served 10 expecting families.

389 Families were served

- 420 parents volunteered for a total of 18,737 hours.
- 99% of families received services such as housing assistance, ESL, emergency intervention, asset building, health or parent education, etc.
- 30 mental health referrals were made, and 21 children received services this year.



At year end 25% of children were on an IEP/IFSP and receiving services

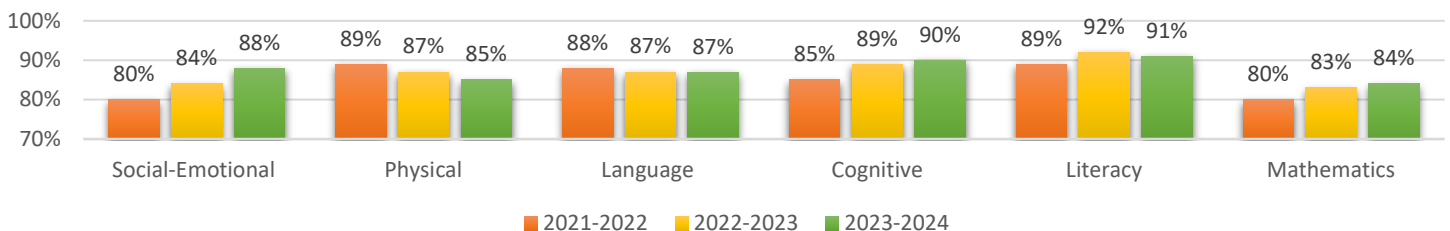
Parent Survey Comments:

- ♥ I see how much dedication the teachers and assistants put in for the children. You can tell they truly love and strive to do the best for their students.
- ♥ The whole experience was enjoyable and very beneficial to our family.
- ♥ Love dental day at the site!
- ♥ This program has allowed my child to get an early start in school and get familiar with how it works.
- ♥ I wish everyone could take part in Head Start in some way.
- ♥ I would recommend EHS to other families – what an awesome resource and program.
- ♥ We have enjoyed having such dedicated teachers who encourage and help our family grow to be happy, healthy, and growing. Thank you!
- ♥ I love Head Start and Early Head Start; they are both amazing!



School Readiness: WCMCA Head Start helps children succeed by linking Curriculum and Assessment, using observation-based assessment information to individualize children’s learning. According to The Annie E. Casey Foundation, “High-quality prekindergarten programs can improve school readiness, with the greatest gains accruing to the highest-risk children. Head Start and the expansion of state-funded programs since the 1990s have greatly increased access to preschool.”

4-Year-Olds, 3 Year Comparison



Overall Program Averages:

4-Year-Old Children in Head Start 2023/2024 – 87.6% Meeting/Exceeding TSG Widely Held Expectations

4-Year-Old Children in Head Start 2022/2023 – 87% Meeting/Exceeding TSG Widely Held Expectations

4-Year-Old Children in Head Start 2021/2022 – 85.2% Meeting/Exceeding TSG Widely Held Expectations

WCMCA Head Start's main objective is to align with parents and families to prepare their child for Kindergarten.

School Readiness: *"Children possessing the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning in life."* (Office of Head Start)

WCMCA Head Start School Readiness Goals follow a birth to age five approach and align with the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress, the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF) and the Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PFCE) Outcomes Framework.

Evidence-based curriculum and assessment are used to measure child outcomes and to plan for individualized instruction that supports the development of each child.

WCMCA Head Start's school readiness goals are organized into five Development Domains. Teaching Strategies GOLD Report Cards are shared with families three times per year (Fall, Winter and Spring).

Domains of School Readiness:

- Approaches to Learning
- Social-Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy
- Cognition
- Perceptual Motor and Physical Development



Research-Based Teaching Curriculums:

- Partners for a Healthy Baby (Prenatal to age 5): Focuses on strengthening the family by addressing the overall well-being of both the child and the family.
- Creative Curriculum (Birth to age 5): Supports teachers to create meaningful daily routines, environments and learning experiences for children.

Assessment and Screening Tools:

- Teaching Strategies GOLD
- Brigance Inventory of Early Childhood Development III
- Minneapolis Preschool Screening Instrument (MPSI)
- The Ages & Stages Developmental Questionnaire (ASQ-3)
- The Ages & Stages Questionnaires-Social Emotional (ASQ-SE)

Strategies to Support School Readiness

- 1. Head Start Classrooms:** Classes meet four days per week for either half-day or full day sessions. Families in these classrooms also receive four home visits during the program year. Families are given a calendar each month with scheduled center days and a newsletter which includes information about classroom activities and upcoming events.
- 2. Early Head Start Home-Based Programming:** Early Head Start serves children birth to three years of age and expectant families in full year programming. Families enrolled in this option receive weekly home visits. Parents are supported as their child's most influential and valuable teacher in promoting their child's development.
- 3. Early Head Start Socializations:** Opportunities are held 22 times per year. Participation in these events with other parents and children is an essential piece of the programming. Parents will interact with their child in a variety of activities, promoting their interests and supporting the development of new skills.
- 4. Parent Teacher Conferences:** Each family participates in two parent teacher conferences each year. Child's progress and accomplishments are discussed, and parents and teachers set goals for the child.
- 5. Family Partnerships:** Create partnerships with families to meet identified needs and goals.