

early childhood centers



montrose county
school district

Head Start Annual Report



head start

What is Head Start?

Head Start is a federally funded program that promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families through local programs. Head Start programs support the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development of children from ages 3-5. In addition to education services, programs provide children and their families with health, nutrition, social, and other services. The program works to maintain the highest standards of quality in the delivery of strength-based, comprehensive, early intervention, and education services.

Head Start in Montrose County

Montrose County RE-1J School District's Head Start Program has been a part of the Montrose and Olathe community since 1991 serving children and families that live within the school district boundaries. MCSD Head Start utilizes evidence-based approaches to serving children and families of low-income in a compassionate and partnering manner. Children receive services that promote child development across all domains. Families participate in a wide variety of family support and strengthening activities. From parent education and leadership, to family developmental activities, to support each family's specific goals for their child and their family, Head Start services are responsive to each child and family's ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage.

about us

ECC administers its programming at three sites: one on the campus of Montrose County School District, one on the campus of Johnson Elementary School, and one on the campus of Olathe Elementary School – eleven miles north of Montrose. The majority of ECC children attend eight hours a day, four days a week and follow the Montrose County School District calendar.

mission

In partnership with our families and our communities, the children of Montrose County School District RE-1J Early Childhood Centers will acquire a positive foundation for lifelong learning.



from the director

Penny Harris
ECC Director 2014-2024



Greetings from the Desk of the Director,

I write this letter with sincere gratitude! Each year we summarize our efforts as a Head Start program to provide preschool education to the children and services to the families. Taking the time to read the Head Start Annual Report takes time and effort and communicates your continued support of our preschool program!

The Montrose County School District (MCSD) Early Childhood Center's (ECC) 2022-2023 school year was abundant with changes in staff members, including teachers, paraprofessionals, and support staff. The preschool program added three new management members to the team. Jamie Simo joined the preschool in a new position titled Early Intervention Manager. Kimberly Hert also completed her first year as the program's Education Coordinator. Amy Blaine was hired after the start of the school year as the Administrative Assistant and trained on the fiscal operations of the preschool.

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) worked to roll-out the Universal Preschool Program so that every 4-year-old child—the year before entering kindergarten—would receive a minimum of 15 hours a week of preschool. The work included an application system that was separate from MCSD ECC, a communication system that was separate from MCSD ECC, rules that provided some expectations of preschool programs, and a new payment system. The roll-out of the Universal Preschool Program proved to be difficult in that MCSD ECC staff were not responsible, nor aware, of communication sent from CDEC. ECC staff members worked hard to support the families and enroll children.

MCSD ECC also participated in a Head Start Focus Area 2 federal review. The review resulted in two Areas of Noncompliance violations. One was in the process of identifying a hire date for a new employee prior to the required criminal background checks being received by the program. The second Area of Noncompliance was in the results of the lead testing in water and the procedure in which we will follow for compliance for regular lead testing in water. MCSD ECC was given the summer and fall months to be in compliance with the federal regulation.

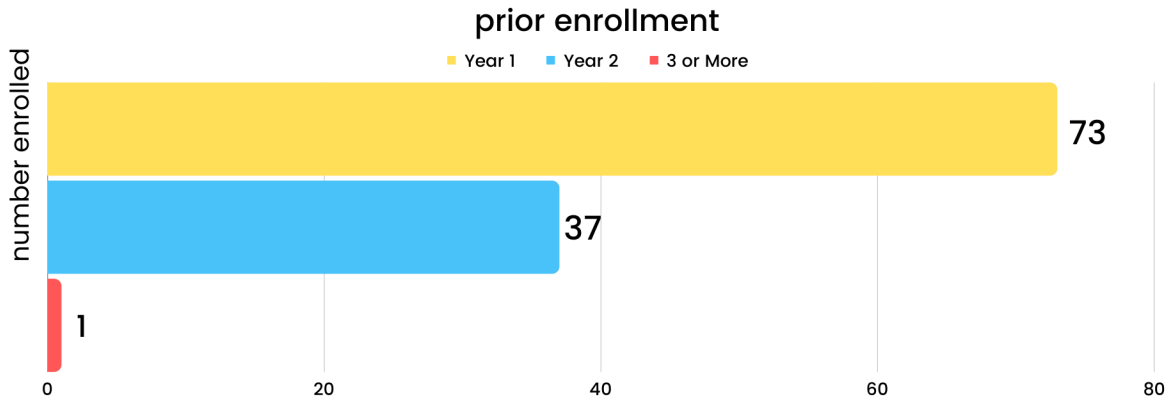
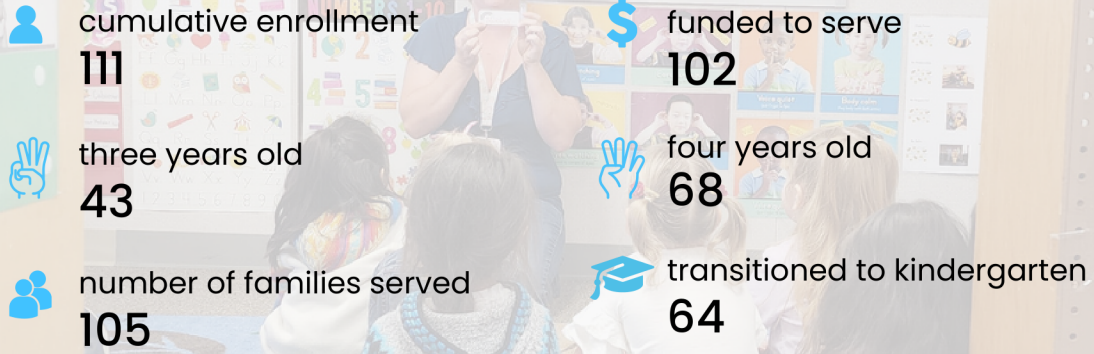
The 2022-2023 school year was the 4th year of the 5-year Head Start continuation grant. ECC leadership will complete a strategic planning exercise to identify the long-term, and short-term goals for the next five years. These goals will be outlined in the non-competitive baseline continuation grant which is due January 1, 2024.

The 2023-2024 school year will also be a planning year for the preschool program as I will be resigning as the MCSD ECC Director at the end of the school year. The school district will work with the Region 8 Head Start Regional Office program specialist, ECC leadership team members, and staff to fill the vacancy left by the current director's resignation.

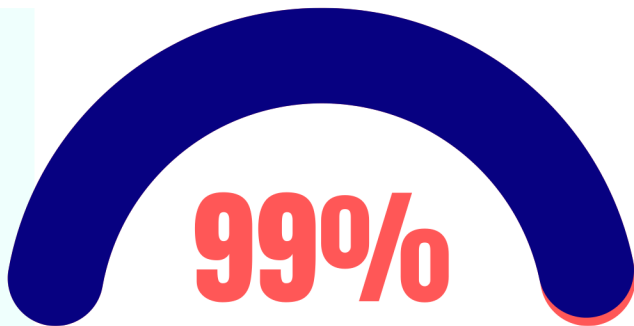
It has been an honor to serve in the leadership role of the preschool since June 2014. The work of the educators and support personnel is vitally important to the development of preschool students' brains and their success as students in later years. I will always be an early childhood education advocate!

Penny Harris, MA, LPC
Montrose County School District RE-1J Early Childhood Centers Director

enrollment



average monthly enrollment



August 2022-May 2023 = ~10 months

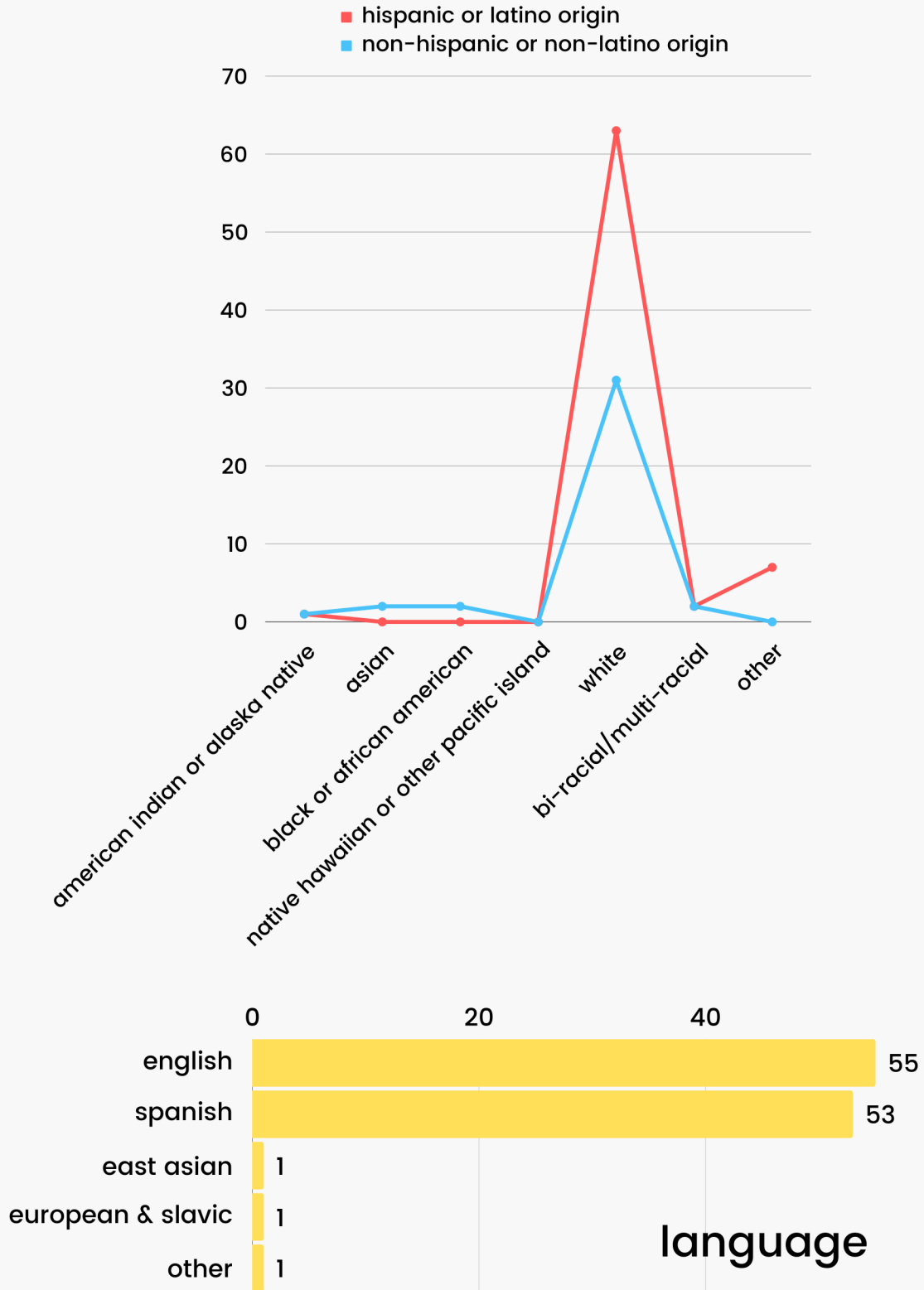
percentage of eligible children served at one time



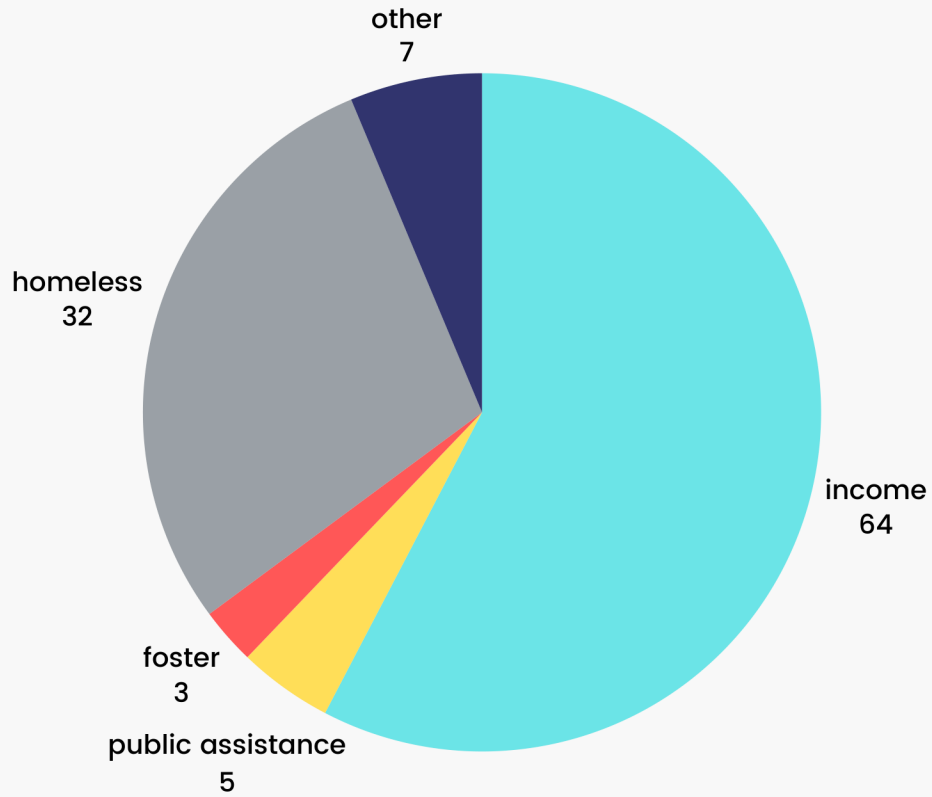
Estimated number of Head Start-eligible children in our service area = 395*

*2023 MCSD ECC Community Assessment

demographics



eligibility



Federal eligibility regulations require that the majority of families we serve fall below the federal poverty guidelines to ensure that all families have access to high-quality educational services regardless of their income.



five-year goals

2019-2024

- 🎯 To strengthen Active Supervision systems for the MCSD RE-1J Early Childhood Centers
- 🎯 Address training needs by providing professional development to MCSD RE-1J Early Childhood Centers staff members and educational opportunities to parents that promote the development of kindergarten-readiness skills in children
- 🎯 Improve the communication systems of MCSD RE-1J Early Childhood Centers
- 🎯 To acquire quality and sustainable facilities

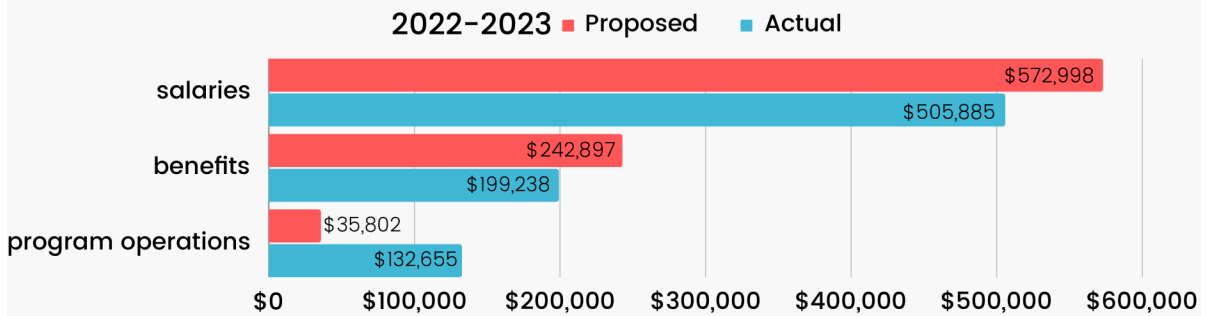


- ☑️ **annual objectives**
each year, the ECC Leadership Team come together to develop that year's goal objectives
- ☑️ **carry-over**
some goal objectives carry-over into the new year
- ☑️ **next five years**
it is time to form a committee to develop the next five-year program strategic goals

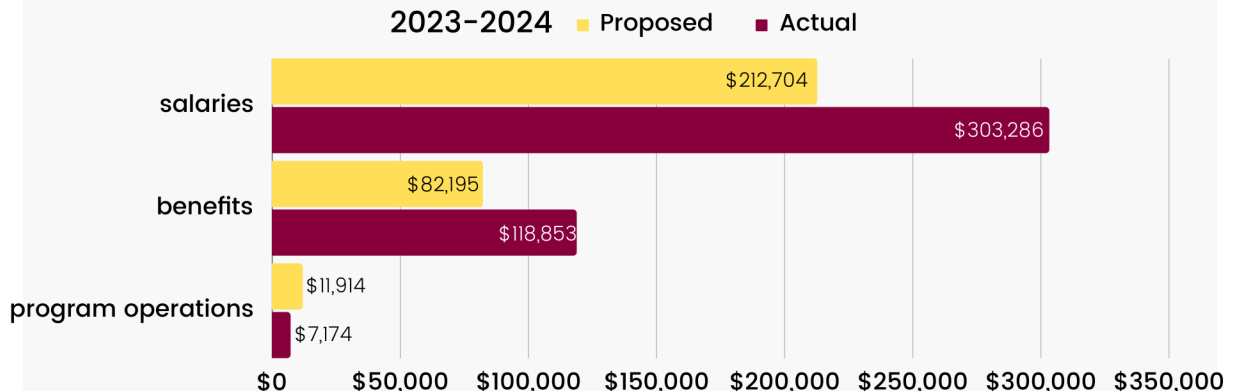
financials

MCSD RE-1J ECC provides services to 102 preschool-age children, during the school district calendar year which begins in August of one year and ends in May of the following year. The fiscal year for MCSD RE-1J is July 1 through June 30. The Early Childhood Centers are funded by two Head Start grants during the school district calendar year due to the budget period of each award (April 1 through March 31).

MCSD RE-1J ECC federal award from Head Start for budget period 04/01/22 through 03/31/23 totaled \$1,135,596. Head Start Program Operations accounted for \$1,086,429 of the total award and \$14,396 was allotted for Head Start Training and Technical Assistance; \$34,771 COLA and Quality Improvement increase. Non-Federal Share (cash and in-kind) funds totaled \$275,207.



MCSD RE-1J ECC federal award from Head Start for budget period 04/01/23 through 03/31/24 totaled \$1,227,251. Head Start Program Operations accounted for \$1,121,200 of the total award and \$14,396 was allotted for Head Start Training and Technical Assistance; \$91,655 COLA increase. Non-Federal Share (cash and in-kind) funds totaled \$283,899.



audit

🔍 **Montrose County School District No. RE-1J**
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Year ended June 30, 2022

🔍 **SECTION II – FINDINGS UNDER GENERALLY ACCEPTED**
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Our audit did not disclose any matters required to be reported in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

🔍 **SECTION III – FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS –**
MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Our audit did not disclose any matters required to be reported in accordance with 2CFR 200.516(a).



family and community engagement

parent involvement

Parents continue to be a vital part of our Head Start program. Parent and family engagement is about building relationships with families that support family well-being and gives parents/guardians opportunities to stay involved with the education of their child and support the development of kindergarten-readiness skills.

events

- Back to Preschool Orientation
- Budget/Grant Committee
- Classroom Volunteer x 1 a day
- Colorado Preschool Program District Advisory Council (CPP-DAC)
- Discovery Wonderland Carnival
- End of the Year BBQ
- End of the Year Drive-in Movie Night
- Health Advisory Committee
- Home Visits x 2 (in classrooms)
- Meet & Greet
- Parent/Teacher Conferences (PTC) x 2
- Policy Council (PC)

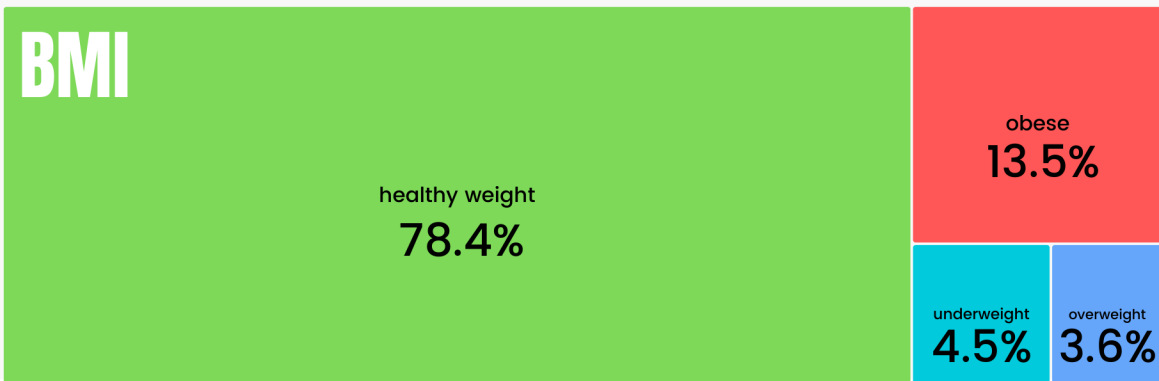
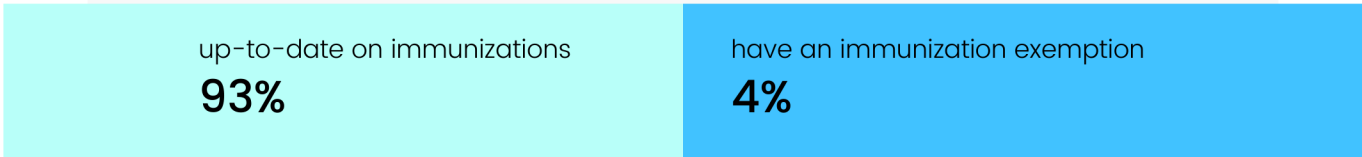
community partnerships

- Angel Tree (Christmas gifts provided to the neediest children in each class, via the Cobble Creek Community)
- Tom Goodrich Warm Hearts Memorial Project (brand new winter coats for needy students)
- Grocery Store Gift Card Donations from the Cobble Creek Community
- Operation Home Front Toy-Drive Shopping
- Canyon Creek Chiropractic (brand new hats & gloves for needy students)
- Kids Aid Backpack Program (non-perishable food bags prepared for needy ECC families)

policy council

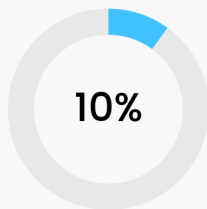
- Mike Thomas (President)
- Estra Garcia (Vice President)
- Laíssa Lopes Bowers (Treasurer)
- Faith Steele (Secretary)
- Kaitlynn Boyd
- Denisse Fiero
- Susan McCracken
- Raylen Navarro
- *Wade Ploussard (non-voting member)
- Amalia Thomas

child health



disabilities

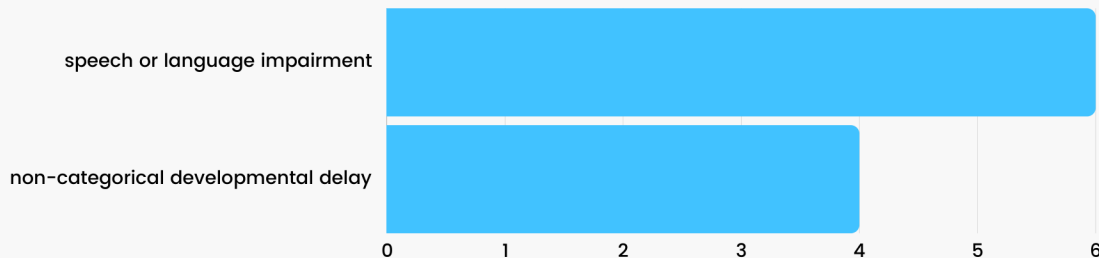
Our program's disability services are provided by our local LEA which is the Montrose County School District RE-1J. Our families are referred to Child Find—through the school district—if there is a concern when a child is in preschool. Once a referral is made, a child may undergo an evaluation process and then could be placed on an IEP (Individualized Education Program).



head start students on an IEP

our program reported 10 head start students were on an IEP (individualized education program) at any point in the 22-23 school year

diagnosed primary disability



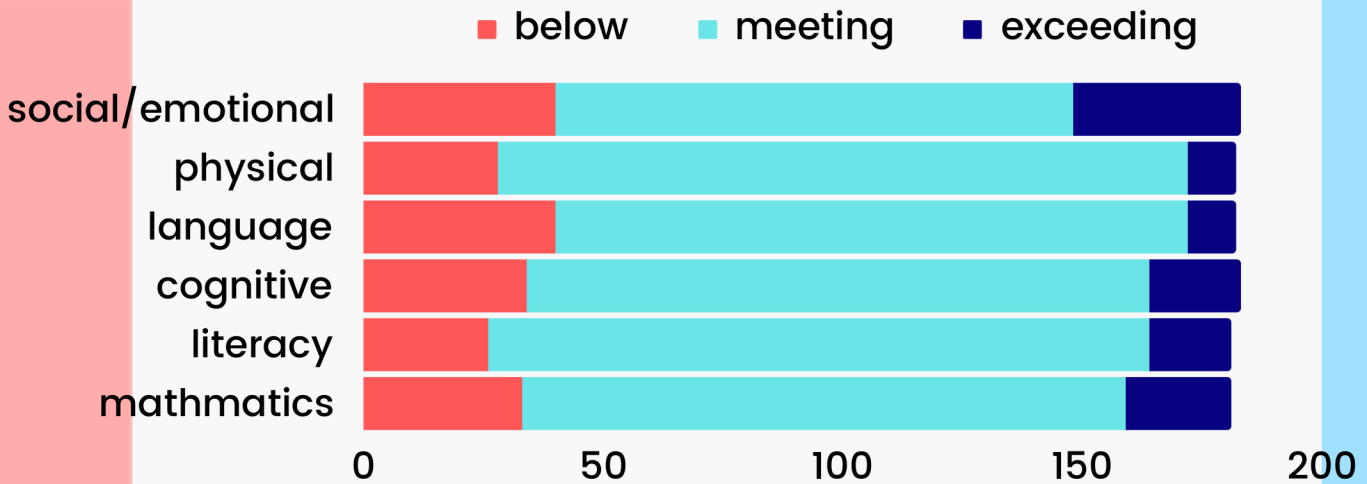
kindergarten prep

Head Start focuses on the areas of the “Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework” (ELOF) which includes the following domains:

- approaches to learning
- language and literacy (including communication)
- cognition (including math and science)
- social/emotional
- perceptual, motor, and physical development

Our program uses ELOF and Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) Child Outcomes Assessment data to develop goals

TSG spring 2023 results



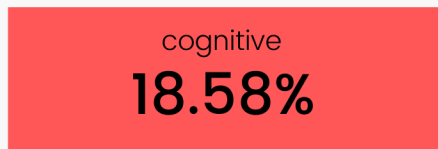
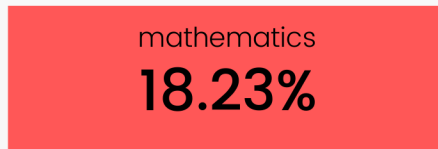
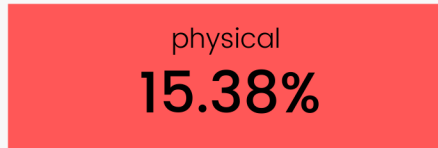
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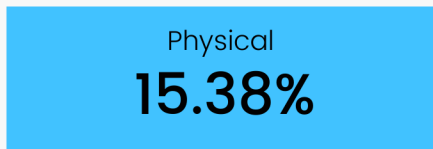
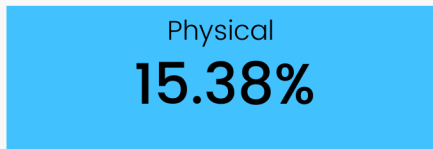
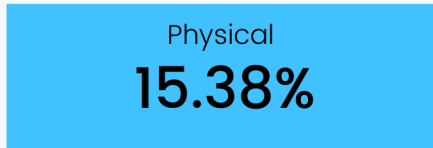
- approaches to learning
- language and literacy (including communication)
- cognition (including math and science)
- social/emotional
- perceptual, motor, and physical development

Our program uses the Framework and Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) Child Outcomes Assessment data to develop goals

TSG spring 2023 results



TSG highest domains in spring 2023



our grantee

montrose county school district RE-1J

governing body

- Stephen Bush
- Sarah Fishering (president)
- Eric Kelley
- Alice Murphy
- Jacob Suppes
- Erik Westesen
- Tom West

our staff

in the 22-23 school year, ECC employed a total of 58 staff members

Thank you to all those who support ECC!

Our communities continue to grow and our program continues to evolve, but one thing remains the same — we have been here for over 30 years and plan on being here many more. The support of our families, staff, the school district, and communities of Olathe and Montrose keep us strong.



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website

mcsd.org