

Polk County Schools Head Start 2025-2026 Annual Report

The Polk County Board of Education Head Start is a federally funded early childhood program that provides comprehensive services for families in Polk County, North Carolina. Head Start is one funding source for Polk County Board of Education to serve children ages 3-5 through a full school day, center-based program.

All teachers meet North Carolina Department of Public Instruction standards as a highly qualified licensed preschool teacher.

Eighty Head Start children are served in classrooms at each of the four elementary schools and maintain a five-star license with the NC Division of Early Education and Child Development.

Results of the Most Recent Review by the Office Head Start

The Administration of Children and Families (ACF) conducted a comprehensive Monitoring Review in December, 2023. The program was found to be in compliance with all requirements applicable to the Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulation, and policy requirements.

2025-2026 Preschool Funding Sources

Head Start	\$803,117
NC PreK	\$479,359
Title I	\$22,849
Tuition/Local	\$388,257
State Developmental Day	\$77,755
State	\$2,734
Federal	\$600
TOTAL	\$1,774,671

2025-2026 Head Start Expenditures

Salaries/Benefits	\$756,307
Operational Expenses	\$33,983
Training/Tech Assist	\$12, 827
TOTAL	\$803,117

2026-2027 Head Start Budget

Salaries/Benefits	\$737,061
Operational Expenses	\$ 58,247
Training/Tech Assist	\$ 12,827
TOTAL	\$ 808,135

An unqualified opinion was issued for 2024-2025 by Anderson, Smith, and Wike, PLLC, Certified Public Accountants. There were no federal findings or questioned costs.

Enrollment, Medical and Disabilities 2025-2026 School Year

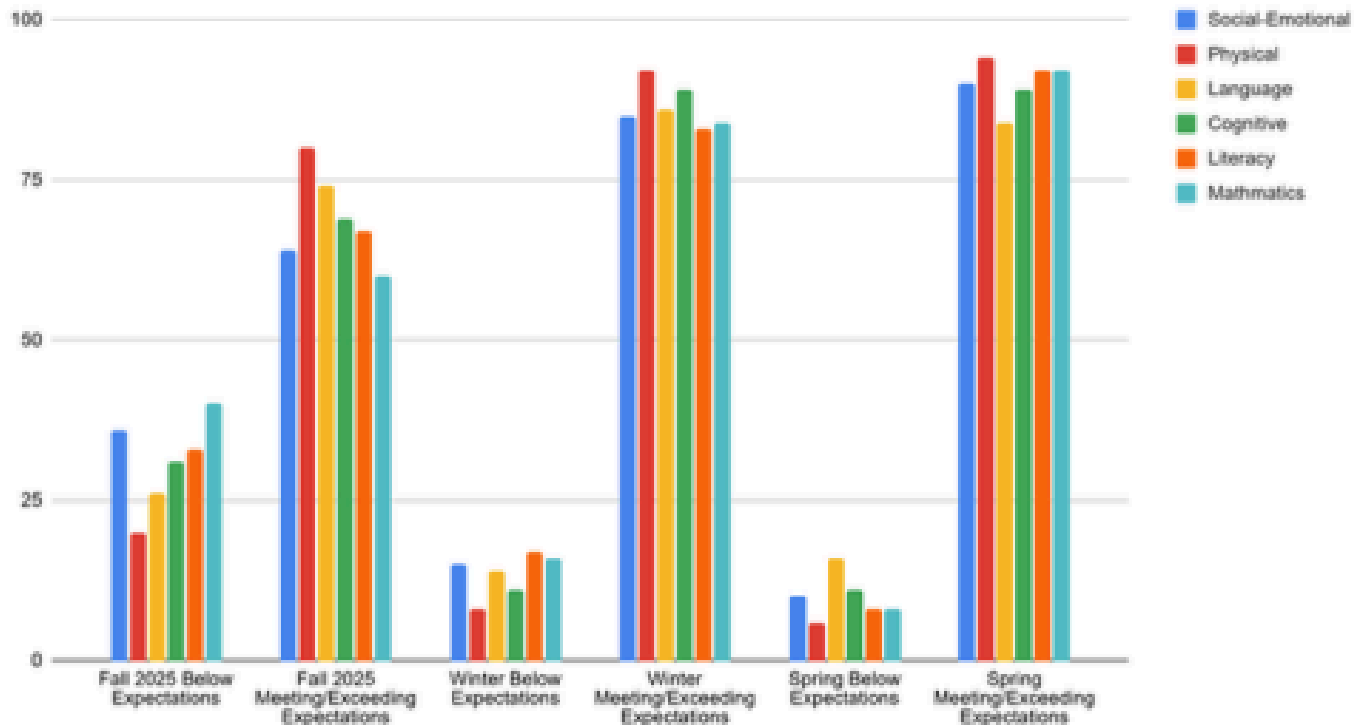
● Funded Enrollment	80
● Number of Children Served	88
● Average Monthly Enrollment	80
● Income Eligible	49
● Over Income Eligible	8
● Foster Children	2
● Homeless	5
● TANF/SSI	1
● Other Eligibility (SNAP)	23

Children with IEPs: 24

Family Engagement/Parent Involvement

- Daily communication with teachers at drop off and pick up, as well as text messages, phone calls, and emails
- Weekly communication through newsletters, Ready Rosie playlists and written notes
- Monthly newsletters to families regarding classroom happenings
- Parent-teacher conferences four times per year and as requested
- Schoolwide family engagement activities including: back to school open house, festivals, book fairs, literacy and STEAM nights
- Classroom family engagement activities including: take home and return activities, school projects, and classroom fun nights
- Resources and referral information from outside agencies and contacts given directly to families based on interests, needs, and individual situations

Polk County Schools' Preschool Program Percentage of Children Below or Meeting/Exceeding Expectations by Developmental Domain for Fall Winter & Spring 2025-2026 School Year



School Readiness

- Creative Curriculum for Preschool, 7th Edition
- DIAL-R Screening Tool for all new children and those without IEPs
- Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment
- North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning & Development
- Heggerty Phonemic & Phonological Awareness (Early Pre-K & Pre-K)

All of the above are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework

School Health

2025-2026

At Year End—Number (and Percentage) of Children:

With health insurance 88 (100%)

- Have a medical home 88 (100%)
- Up to date on well child exams 87 (99%)
- Up to date on immunizations 85 (97%)
- Received dental exam 86 (98%)

Transitions

- *Into program*
 - Year-round application & enrollment process
 - Teachers plan an initial interaction with families before school or during the first week to start the relationship building process and share general information
 - Family visits to & observation of classrooms
- *Into Kindergarten*
 - Spring & end-of-year parent conferences
 - As a public school program, seamless transition from PreK to K, especially with regards to paperwork/registration
 - Children visit K classrooms, cafeteria, gym, library, etc. at end of school year
 - Families given opportunity to visit K classroom prior to beginning of the year