

Polk County Schools Head Start 2022-2023 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 Focus Area One Monitoring Review in November, 2021. The program was found to be in compliance with all requirements applicable to the Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulation, and policy requirements.

2022-2023 Preschool Funding Sources	
Head Start	\$722,584
NC PreK	\$496,496
Title I	\$ 75,465
Tuition/Local	\$188,556
State Developmental Day	\$ 69,391
State	\$ 0
Federal	\$ 7,011
TOTAL	\$1,559,503

2022-2023 Head Start Expenditures	
Salaries/Benefits	\$673,837
Operational Expenses	\$ 35,920
Training/Tech Assist	\$ 12,827
TOTAL	\$722,584

2023-2024 Head Start Budget	
Salaries/Benefits	\$699,134
Operational Expenses	\$ 40,629
Training/Tech Assist	\$ 12,827
TOTAL	\$ 722,584

Audit: An unqualified opinion was issued for 2022-2023 by Anderson, Smith, and Wike, PLLC, Certified Public Accountants. There were no federal findings or questioned costs.

Enrollment	
● Funded Enrollment	80
● Number of Children Served	86
● Average Monthly Enrollment	80
● Income Eligible	60
● Over Income Eligible	9
● Foster Children	6
● Homeless	2
● TANF/SSI	1
● Other Eligibility Criteria	8

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

School Readiness

- Creative Curriculum for Preschool, 7th Edition
- Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment
- NC Foundations for Early Learning & Development

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

School Health

- 100% of children with health insurance
- 100% of children have an ongoing source for healthcare
- 100% of children up to date on age appropriate immunizations

DENTAL

- 96% of children received service on Blue Ridge Dental Bus
- 34% needed dental treatment
- 63% received dental treatment
- 93% up to date on preventative dental care

DISABILITIES

- 27% of children had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Transition

Into the Program

- Universal Application
- Continuous application and enrollment acceptance
- Initial interaction with families and teachers before school and during the first week to build relationships and share general information
- Family visits to the class and observations are encouraged

Into Kindergarten

- Spring and end-of-year family conferences that focus on K transition
- Majority of children attend preschool at the site they will attend kindergarten, making for a seamless transition of progress and registration paperwork
- Children visit kindergarten classrooms, cafeteria, gym, and library near the end of the year
- Kindergarten teachers are invited to preschool end-of-year family conferences

2022-2023 Child Assessment Data:
Percentage of Children Meeting/Exceeding Expectations in Fall, Winter, Spring

