

Polk County Schools Head Start 2023-2024 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 2 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.

2023-2024 Preschool Funding Sources	
Head Start	\$784,942
NC PreK	\$530,003
Title I	\$ 54,003
Tuition/Local	\$254,581
State Developmental Day	\$105,282
State	\$ 4,700
Federal	\$ 1,652
TOTAL	\$1,735,653

2023-2024 Head Start Expenditures	
Salaries/Benefits	\$722,012
Operational Expenses	\$ 46,108
Training/Tech Assist	\$ 16,822
TOTAL	\$784,942

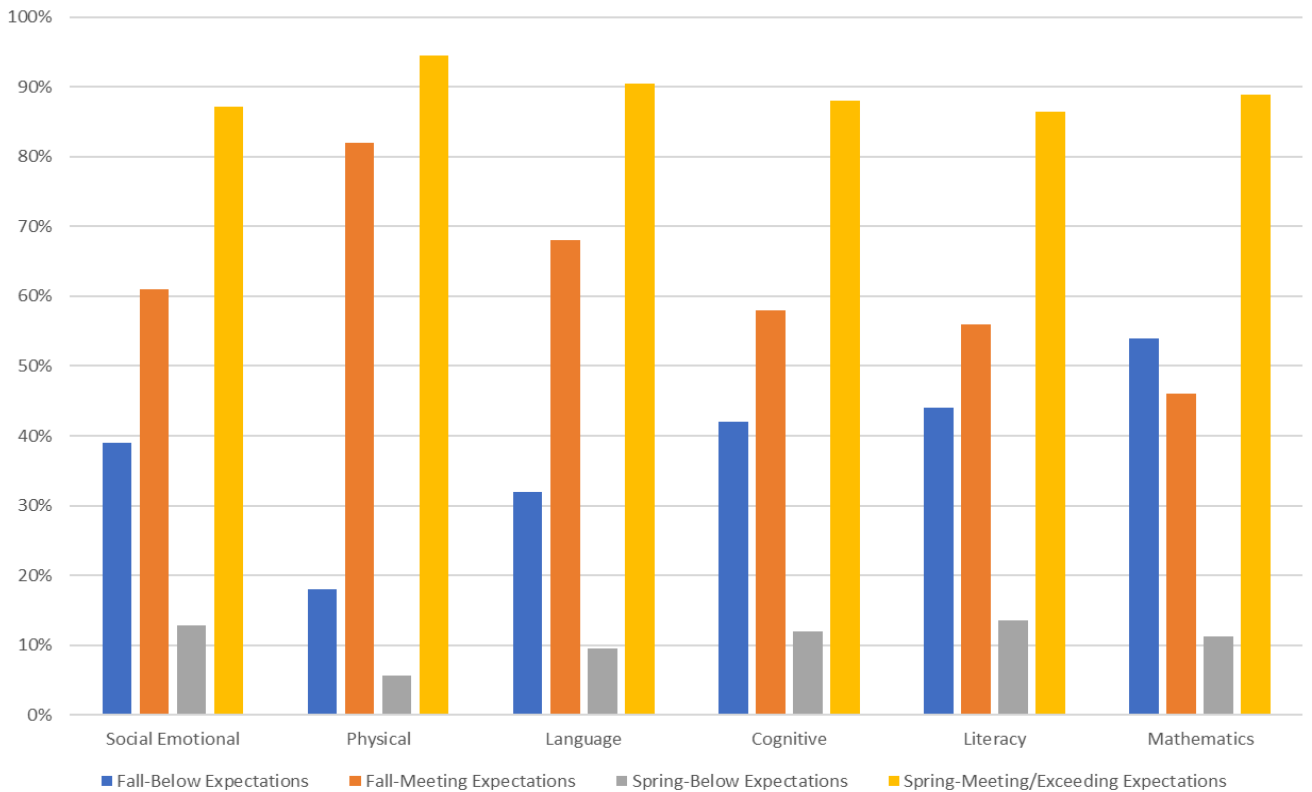
2024-2025 Head Start Budget	
Salaries/Benefits	\$740,562
Operational Expenses	\$ 49,728
Training/Tech Assist	\$ 12,827
TOTAL	\$ 803,117

Audit: An unqualified opinion was issued for 2023-2024 by Anderson, Smith, and Wike, PLLC, Certified Public Accountants. There were no federal findings or questioned costs.

Enrollment, Medical and Disabilities	
● Funded Enrollment	80
● Number of Children Served	87
● Average Monthly Enrollment	80
● Income Eligible	53
● Over Income Eligible	8
● Foster Children	6
● Homeless	5
● TANF/SSI	1
● Other Eligibility Criteria	14
Children with IEPs: 25 (29%)	

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

2023-2024 Child Assessment Data:
Annual Growth--Fall through Spring



School Readiness

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

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

School Health

At Year End # of Children

- With health insurance 83 (95%)
- Have a medical home 86 (99%)
- Up to date on well child exams 86 (99%)
- Up to date on immunizations 86 (99%)
- Received dental exam 73 (84%)

Transition

- *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