

Polk County Schools Head Start 2024-2025 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.

2024-2025 Preschool Funding Sources

Head Start	\$803,117
NC PreK	\$454,909
Title I	\$ 32,123
Tuition/Local	387,413
State Developmental Day	\$67,505
State	\$ 335
Federal	\$ 300
TOTAL	\$1,745,702

2024-2025 Head Start Expenditures

Salaries/Benefits	\$757,851
Operational Expenses	\$ 29,343
Training/Tech Assist	\$ 15,923
TOTAL	\$803,117

2025-2026 Head Start Budget

Salaries/Benefits	\$736,145
Operational Expenses	\$ 54,145
Training/Tech Assist	\$ 12,827
TOTAL	\$ 803,117

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 2024-2025 School Year

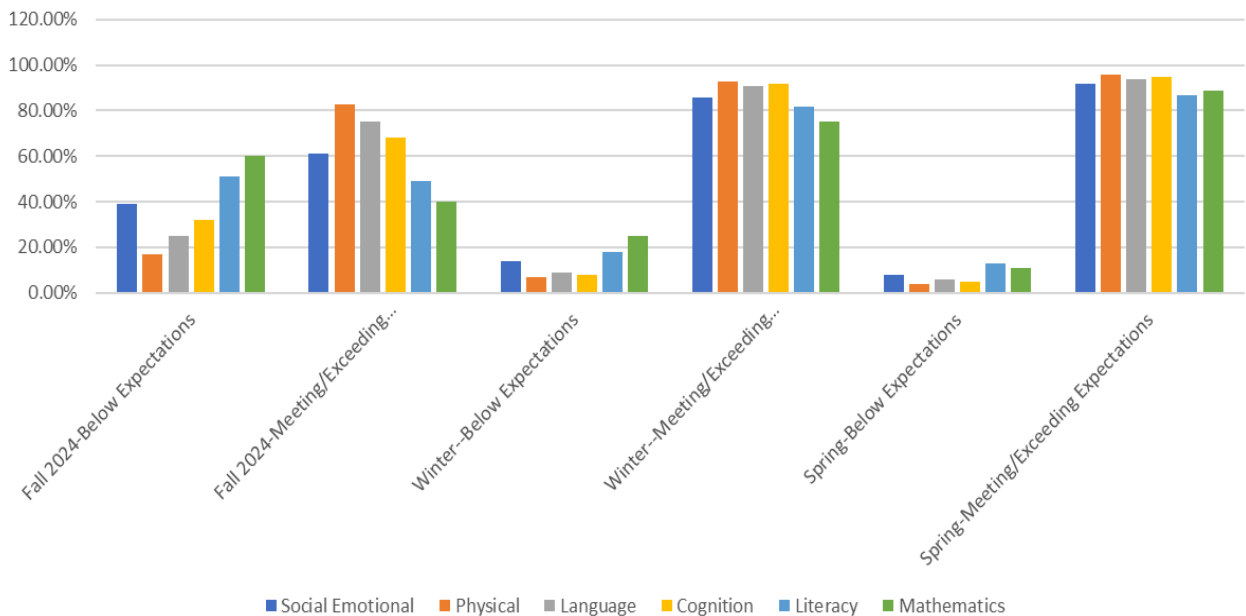
● Funded Enrollment	80
● Number of Children Served	84
● Average Monthly Enrollment	80
● Income Eligible	56
● Over Income Eligible	8
● Foster Children	5
● Homeless	1
● TANF/SSI	3
● Other Eligibility Criteria	11

Children with IEPs: 27 (32%)

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
2024-2025 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

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

School Health

2024-2025

At Year End—Number (and Percentage) 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%)