Loudoun County Public Schools
Head Start Program
Annual Report
2018-2019
A MESSAGE FROM

CHARISSE ROSARIO
HEAD START SUPERVISOR

Loudoun County Public Schools Head Start Program began in 1994. We are proud of our 25 years of service to children and families. The Head Start Policy Council and Loudoun County Public Schools continue to provide us with guidance, a strong financial system and the support of an exemplary group of people within the school community. We are fortunate to have dedicated, talented and passionate members of our Head Start staff, who implement the program and its array of services with consistent, measurable success. This 2018-2019 Annual Report provides an overview of our program and highlights achievements. For more information, please visit us at www.lcps.org/HeadStart.

LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2018–19 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Eric Williams, Superintendent
Dr. Ashley Ellis, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Dr. W. Michael Martin, Director of Elementary Education

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
AS OF JANUARY 2019

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Created in 1965, Head Start is the most successful, longest-running national school readiness program in the United States. We serve low-income preschool children and give support to their families.

LCPS Head Start is a comprehensive program that promotes school readiness and provides social, emotional, health and educational services for three and four-year-old children who meet income eligibility criteria. In 2018-2019, services were provided for four hours a day, four days a week. During the day, children receive breakfast and lunch and participate in both structured and unstructured activities. This program has a funded enrollment of 100 students.

The program enhances children’s cognitive, social, and emotional development in a learning environment that supports their growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, social and emotional functioning, creative arts, physical skills, and approaches to learning. This goal is achieved through providing comprehensive health, educational, nutritional, social, and other services to children and their families in a school, community and home partnership.

VISION STATEMENT

In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration with Head Start families, Head Start staff, Loudoun County Public Schools, and community partners, we encourage children and families and each other to be:

Healthy, socially well-adjusted, happy, self-confident, curious, creative, self-sufficient and independent individuals, who are optimistic about life’s possibilities.
The LCPS Head Start Program conducts an annual community wide strategic planning and needs assessment. The goal of the Community Assessment is to identify the needs and resources of Loudoun County, and those of Head Start eligible families and children living in this community. The results from this assessment are used to determine program goals, possible expansion, and to make informed decisions about program plans and service delivery.

This assessment was conducted by LCPS Head Start staff in collaboration with the LCPS Head Start Policy Council, Head Start Parent Committees and community representatives from various public and private groups that provide services for children and families in Loudoun County.

Loudoun County has the highest median household income in the nation. This figure is more than double the national average, and more than five times the 2018-2019 Head Start eligibility criteria for a family of four.

During the 2018-2019 school year, 2,462 students were identified as eligible for McKinney-Vento homeless services through Loudoun County Public Schools. Ninety-two of these students were enrolled in one of the LCPS preschool programs. Head Start provided services for 47 of these students.

The Virginia Department of Education reported an estimate of 655 four-year-old children who will be considered “at-risk” in Loudoun County (eligible for free or reduced lunch) for the 2019-2020 school year.

Each year, LCPS Head Start serves approximately 85 four-year-old children and STEP, a local preschool program that operates with both local funding and state Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) funding, serves approximately 300 four-year-old children. This would leave an estimated 270 “at-risk” four-year-old children without federally or publicly funded preschool opportunities in Loudoun County during the 2019-2020 school year.

Using the data reported in the Community Assessment, the following issues emerged as the most common needs of Head Start eligible children and their families during the past three years:

- Basic needs (food, clothing, shelter)
- Parenting skills training
- Solutions to language barriers
- Health education/health care assistance
- Financial literacy/Asset Building Services
- Mental Health Assistance
- Job Assistance/Training
- Adult Education/ Low School Achievement
Family needs identified:

- Emergency/crisis intervention addressing immediate need for food, clothing or shelter: 81.7% (2018-19), 97.1% Average Past 3 Years
- Parenting education: 53.3% (2018-19), 66.0% Average Past 3 Years
- English as a Second Language Training: 38.5% (2018-19), 35.9% Average Past 3 Years
- Health education: 8.7% (2018-19), 31.6% Average Past 3 Years
- Financial Literacy/Asset building services: 26.0% (2018-19), 14.6% Average Past 3 Years
- Mental health services: 21.4% (2018-19), 25.2% Average Past 3 Years
- Housing assistance: 15.9% (2018-19), 18.4% Average Past 3 Years
- Adult education such as GED: 14.9% (2018-19), 9.7% Average Past 3 Years
- Job training: 14.9% (2018-19), 10.7% Average Past 3 Years
- Domestic violence services: 10.8% (2018-19), 7.8% Average Past 3 Years
- Child abuse and neglect services: 8.3% (2018-19), 4.9% Average Past 3 Years
- Child support assistance: 1.9% (2018-19), 2.9% Average Past 3 Years
- Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals: 1.3% (2018-19), 1.9% Average Past 3 Years
During the 2018-2019 School Year, 107 children from 103 families were served.

83% four-year-old students
17% three-year-old students

56% of enrolled children lived in a single-parent family.

82% Newly enrolled children
18% Returning students who attended the program in 2017-18 as 3-year-olds.

Type of Eligibility

47% Income Eligible Based on 100% of Federal Poverty Line
44% Categorically Eligible (Homeless)
3% Categorically Eligible (Public Assistance such as TANF, SSI)
2% Status as a Foster Child
4% Over Income but within 200% of Federal Poverty Guideline

At a “Single Point in Time Count” in January 2019, there were 169 individuals who were homeless in Loudoun County, 24 of whom were children. This figure represents a 21% increase from 2018.1 During the 2018-2019 school year, 2,462 students were identified as eligible for McKinney-Vento homeless services through Loudoun County Public Schools. Of these students, 92 were enrolled in one of the LCPS preschool programs.2 Head Start provided services for 47 of these students.

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1 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments: Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington (www.mwcog.org/documents)
2 Becky Hicks, LCPS McKinney Vento Specialist
During the enrollment process, each family is asked to share information about factors that impact family functioning and may lead to social, physical or psychological impairment. With these factors defined for each individual and family, the Head Start Family Service Professionals can provide referrals to help families make positive changes. The following chart shows the family risk factors identified for the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Head Start child or siblings.

All of the factors listed above contribute to the overall aspect of family poverty. A history of low school achievement often leads to unemployment or underemployment, while being a single parent often limits ability to work or go to school due to the need for child care. Once these risk factors are determined, the Head Start Family Service Professionals offer referrals to organizations in the community that may be able to provide services to alleviate any risk factors.
**Primary Language in Child’s Home**

- 54% Spanish
- 33% English
- 12% Middle Eastern/South Asian
- 1% East Asian

**Race/Ethnicity of Children**

- 73% White
- 10% Black or African American
- 10% Biracial/Multiracial
- 7% Asian

60% of all 107 students are of Hispanic ethnicity
### Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Highest Level of Education

- 13% Advanced Degree or Baccalaureate Degree
- 11% Associate Degree, Vocational School, or Some College
- 43% High School Graduate or GED
- 33% Less than High School Graduate

### Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Employment

- 57% One Employed
- 43% Unemployed, Retired, or Disabled
- 20% Both Employed

- 58 One-Parent Families
- 45 Two-Parent Families
The number of children potentially eligible for Head Start services continues to grow annually. The program operates at full enrollment with an active waiting list of children ready to fill vacancies at all six sites.

**Head Start Applicants:** 267  
**Over-Income, Under-Age Applicants:** 234  
**Income-Eligible Waiting List:** 43

Head Start Eligible Applicants enrolled in the STEP Program: 46

- **Dominion HS**  
- **Rock Ridge HS**  
- **Sterling ES**  
- **Sugarland ES**  
- **Tuscarora HS**  
- **Woodgrove HS**

- **100%** Average monthly enrollment  
- **78%** of eligible applicants enrolled (153 out of 196 Head Start eligible students enrolled in the Head Start and STEP program)
The Head Start Mental Health Coordinator and the Health and Nutrition Coordinator work collaboratively to connect parents with resources in the community. They continue to build partnerships with local agencies that can provide assistance to those with a chronic illness. Head Start staff assist families with making health appointments, providing transportation to appointments and attending appointments with families if necessary.

### Health Services

**Health Insurance:**
88% of enrolled children had health insurance by the end of the school year

**Medical Home:**
97% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care at the end of the school year

**Medical Services:**
100% of enrolled children were up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care, according to the relevant state’s EPSDT schedule for well child care at the end of the school year

100% of the newly enrolled children received Speech/Language, Vision, Developmental, Hearing, Dental, Nutritional, Behavioral/Mental Health & Physical Screenings:
- 10 Students were referred and received treatment for vision concerns
- 3 Students were referred and received treatment for asthma

**Dental Services:**
99% of enrolled children received preventive care during the school year
- 36 were diagnosed as needing treatment
- 19 received treatment

### Mental Health Services

26 Children for whom the Mental Health Coordinator consulted with program staff about their behavior/mental health

20 Children for whom the Mental Health Coordinator consulted with the parent(s) about their child’s behavior/mental health

9 Children for whom the Mental Health Coordinator provided an individual mental health Assessment

10 Children for whom the Mental Health Coordinator facilitated a referral for mental health services
Children enrolled in the program were determined to require special education and related services. They were found eligible for services based on the following disability categories:

- 5 Speech or language impairment
- 1 Autism
- 6 Non-categorical/developmental delay

The Head Start Family Services Professionals provided assistance to meet the basic needs of the 103 Head Start families. The most common areas of need identified during the 2018-19 school year were: Basic needs (food, clothing, household items), parenting education, English Language classes, mental health support, housing assistance, financial education, job assistance, adult education and health education.
The Loudoun County Public Schools Head Start Program uses the Child Observation Record (COR) and the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS™) as the child assessment system. LCPS Head Start uses the information gathered through this child assessment system along with information gathered at Home Visits and Parent/Teacher Conferences to individualize instruction. Parents are informed of their child’s progress using results from these assessment tools as a guide.

**PALS™ (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening)**

Sixty-nine of eighty-nine four-year-old children were screened in the fall, winter and spring of 2018-19 School Year. Gains were achieved in all areas of phonological skills.

**69 Students Completed all Three Screenings 2018-19**
The LCPS Head Start program staff establish annual school readiness goals to monitor all students’ status and progress across the domains of language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical well-being and motor development, and social and emotional development that will improve their readiness for kindergarten. Each school readiness goal is aligned with a specific area of the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF), the kindergarten Standards of Learning for Virginia, and the Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning. Head Start Education Staff worked toward achieving the following School Readiness goals set for 2018-19. Gains were achieved in all areas.
The LCPS Head Start Program operates with public and local funds. The federal grant money (public funds) for PY 26 (Program Year) provided $893,638 which included the following supplemental amounts:

- $15,556 as Cost of Living Adjustment granted to the program in June
- $18,585 as increase of program hours cost granted in March

Local funds provided $628,196. The total operating budget available for the Fiscal Year 19 was $1,562,720 with 94.7% of the budget covering salaries and fringe benefits and 5.3% covering the operating expenses.

![Total Operating Actuals Fiscal Year 19](image)

The County of Loudoun’s Division of Finance ensures that the county’s financial management and accounting systems are maintained appropriately and that county agencies and the public receive information in a timely and effective manner. The office manages internal auditing and compliance, capital financing and debt management, financial accounting, financial and budgetary reporting, internal control, payroll, and accounts payable.

The FY18 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit of Federal Awards Programs can be found on Loudoun Government’s website (www.Loudoun.gov) > Government > Departments & Offices > Finance and Procurement > Finance Division
Family Engagement

The LCPS Head Start Program engages parents/guardians in activities designed to help them become full partners in the education of their children. LCPS Head Start staff follow the philosophy that parents are a child’s first and most important teachers. Families are encouraged from the initial Enrollment Conference to share their knowledge about their child. This relationship building process starts with families from the moment of initial eligibility and is ongoing through regular follow-up with the Family Partnership Agreement, parent engagement activities, classroom volunteering, Home Visits, and Parent/Teacher Conferences. In 2018-2019 LCPS Head Start had a variety of family involvement activities including:

- American Education Week Campaign to Read to Your Children
- Classroom Field Trips
- Enrollment Conferences
- Family Connection Classes covering topics about Parenting, Healthy Eating, Family Budgeting, Kindergarten Transition and Summer Activities
- Head Start Orientations
- Home Visits
- Loudoun Literacy Council Family Literacy Night
- Monthly Policy Council Meetings
- Parent Committee Meetings
- Parent Nutrition Classes
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Program Self-Assessment
- Resource Fair and Donation Day in collaboration with community agencies

Number of fathers/father figures who were engaged in the following activities:

- Family Assessment: 21
- Family Goal Setting: 18
- Involvement in Home Visits, Conferences, etc.: 46
- Parenting Education Workshops: 28
- Policy Council/Policy Committees: 9
A total of 373 individuals provided volunteer services to the program. 123 of these volunteers were current or former Head Start Parents. We continued to have strong partnerships with community agencies who supported the Head Start program, students and their families in Loudoun County.

Anthem HealthKeepers Plus
Apple Federal Union Credit
Ashburn Area Running Club
Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
Blue Ridge Speech and Hearing
The Book Bags Book Club
The Bosse, McDougall and Ortmann Families
EPL Archives; Falcons Landing Retirement Community
Family & Consumer Sciences Teachers and Students of Dominion, Rock Ridge, Tuscarora and Woodgrove High Schools
Good Shepherd Alliance, Inc.
HealthWorks for Northern Virginia
INTotal Health
Key Club at Tuscarora High School
Lions Club; Link Inc
Loudoun Abused Women’s Shelter
Loudoun Cares
Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building Staff,
Assistive Technology Staff, ChildFind Staff
Science Instructional Supervisor
Loudoun County Fire and Rescue
Loudoun County Health Department
Loudoun County Mental Health (LCMH)
Loudoun Literacy Council
Loudoun Pediatric Dentistry
Loudoun Valley Church of the Nazarene Faith Group
Nando’s PERi-PERi
National Counseling Group, Inc.
Parent Liaison at WHS
Red Knights Motorcycle Club
Rev Your Bev
St. Theresa Catholic Church
Student Ambassadors at Cedar Lane Elementary School
Telos Corporation
Walmart in Sterling
Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts
Women Giving Back
The LCPS Head Start program, in collaboration with the Loudoun County Health Department, promoted a water initiative in all classrooms by teaching children the importance of drinking water by purchasing reusable water bottles for the teachers and students and promoting “Water Time” throughout the school day. The initiative began as a partnership with the Health Educator from the Loudoun County Health Department and a goal of increasing the amount of water the children consume during the day in an effort to reduce the high obesity rates. This collaborative water initiative has received statewide recognition in the Virginia “Rev Your Bev” program, the Virginia Head Start Association and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

The LCPS Head Start program hosts a Resource Fair every year to help families directly connect with local community agencies. In the 2018-2019 school year, 22 local agencies participated.
Tuscarora High School EL (English Learner) students read with the Head Start students once a week as part of their Book Buddies Program.
LCPS Head Start Program in partnership with The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS), continued a program of Schoolyard Nature Experiences for Early Learners in 2018-19

- to improve students’ observation and classification skills and to increase students’ science content knowledge of aquatic life cycles and food webs

- to promote student connections to nature, build their science vocabulary and develop science process skills

- to foster student cognitive development using the schoolyard as a science learning laboratory.
Four of the Head Start classrooms are located within high schools. The collaboration with the LCPS Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) program for students who are interested in pursuing a career in early childhood education or child care offers unique benefits to them as well as the Head Start students.
The local fire station visited a Head Start classroom. They brought their fire truck and equipment. They talked about fire safety and what to do in a fire!

Falcon’s Landing Volunteer Readers, Ms. McCarty and Mr. Leo reading to the Sterling Head Start Students

Loudoun Literacy Council’s Family Literacy Program Director, Tanya Bosse reads to the students

Learning through the Arts Wolf Trap Artist visits the Tuscarora Classroom