A MESSAGE FROM

CHARISSE ROSARIO
HEAD START SUPERVISOR

The Loudoun County Public Schools Head Start Program is proud to have completed 26 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 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.

As we closed the 2019-2020 school year in unprecedented times, we continued to keep our mission and vision to support students and families at the forefront. The LCPS Head Start program provided high-quality preschool services via a distance learning instructional model.

A focus on social-emotional learning, health and wellness, and parent engagement is an integral part of our instructional support. We work to partner with our families as we keep our youngest students at the center of our focus.

This 2019-2020 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
2019–20 SCHOOL YEAR

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

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AS OF JANUARY 2020

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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. Loudoun County Public Schools received its first grant from the Office of Head Start in 1994 to serve 68 children and their families. With guidance from the Community Assessment and the availability of expansion grants, the program has expanded twice and currently receives funding to provide services for 100 children and their families. Because of the strong support from the LCPS Transportation Department, eligible children in all locations throughout the county can participate in Head Start. This center-based, school-year program operates out of six classrooms: four within high schools in collaboration with the LCPS Family and Consumer Sciences program for high school students interested in pursuing a career in early childhood education, and two in elementary schools. Two classrooms in the areas of highest need serve children for 6.5 hours a day and the remaining four classrooms serve children for 4 hours a day.

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 Loudoun County Head Start program is a division within the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) and abides by all school district guidance and regulations. Following guidance from the Governor of Virginia, in addition to guidelines from the school district, the LCPS Head Start program experienced an extended school closure from March 12, 2020 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After a several weeks pause, all LCPS Head Start students were provided structured learning opportunities through mailed learning guides, online resources, teacher videos, and other learning tools provided by LCPS and the Head Start program.

Following guidance from the Office of Head Start, the annual Program Information Report (PIR), was not conducted for the 2019-2020 school year due to incomplete data. Data collected though the PIR process is integral to completing the Community Assessment. As such, the data used in the 2019-2020 Community Assessment will cover school years 2017-18 through 2018-19 and include data from 2019-20 whenever possible.

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 2019-2020 Head Start eligibility criteria for a family of four.

The Virginia Department of Education reported an estimate of 728 four-year-old children who will be considered “at-risk” in Loudoun County (eligible for free or reduced lunch) for the 2020-2021 school 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 320 four-year-old children during this time period. This would leave an estimated 323 “at-risk” four-year-old children without federally or publicly funded preschool opportunities in Loudoun County during the 2020-2021 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:

Based on the information presented in the *Community Assessment* and Self-Assessment relating to the strengths and needs of our community and the families served, the Recruitment Goals for the LCPS Head Start Program are as follows:

- To locate and recruit the neediest children by identifying community resources and collaborating with community partners,
- To maintain full enrollment of at least 100 students throughout the school year,
- To meet The Head Start Program Performance Standard requiring that at least 10% of enrolled children have a diagnosed disability,
- To maintain enrollment of 10% or fewer over-income students.
In addition to criteria set by the Head Start Program Performance Standards and the Head Start Act, the Policy Council uses information in the Community Assessment to determine other criteria for selecting students. The selection criteria risk factors are organized in a hierarchy to ensure that eligible children with the greatest need are given an opportunity for enrollment. The Policy Council reviews the selection criteria annually and amends it, if necessary, before the next recruitment cycle begins.

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. The program has met its enrollment capacity at all 6 sites throughout Loudoun County.
During the 2019-2020 School Year, 105 children from 102 families were served.

88 four-year-old students
17 three-year-old students

At a Single Point in Time Count in January 2020, there were 179 individuals who were homeless in Loudoun County, 31 of whom were children. This figure represents a 6% increase from 2019. During the 2019-2020 school year, 2,505 students were identified as eligible for McKinney-Vento homeless services through Loudoun County Public Schools. Of these students, 91 were enrolled in one of the LCPS preschool programs. Head Start provided services for 79 of these students.

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.
All 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 childcare. 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

- 62% Spanish
- 33% English
- 6% Middle Eastern/South Asian
- 2% East Asian
- 1% European/Slavic Languages
- 1% Pacific Island Languages

Race/Ethnicity of Children

- 86% White
- 9% Black or African American
- 5% Biracial/Multiracial
- 5% Asian

Race/Ethnicity
105 Students

- 74 Hispanic
- 12 Non-Hispanic
- 5 Asian
- 9 Black or African American
- 3 Biracial/Multiracial
- 12 White

73% of enrolled students are of Hispanic ethnicity
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Highest Level of Education

- 7 Advanced Degree or Baccalaureate Degree: 27%
- 15 Associate Degree, or Some College: 15%
- 50 High School Graduate or GED: 49%
- 28 Less than High School Graduate: 7%

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Employment

- One Employed: 66% (71 One-Parent Families), 65% (31 Two-Parent Families)
- Unemployed, Retired, or Disabled: 34%
- Both Employed: 0% (71 One-Parent Families), 35% (31 Two-Parent Families)

- Total One-Parent Families: 71
- Total Two-Parent Families: 31
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.

To be eligible to enroll in LCPS Head Start, children must live in Loudoun County, be four years old by September 30th (or three years old for the Sugarland class or in under-enrolled centers) and have a low family income, based on Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Head Start Applicants: 254  
Over-Income, Under-Age Applicants: 210  
Income-Eligible Waiting List: 54

Head Start Eligible Applicants enrolled in the STEP Program: 129

❖ 100% Average monthly enrollment  
❖ 81% of eligible applicants enrolled (234 out of 288 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:
82% of enrolled children had health insurance by the end of the school year

#### Medical Home:
86% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care at the end of the school year

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

#### Dental Services:
79% of enrolled children completed a professional dental examination during the school year
- 17 were diagnosed as needing treatment and all received treatment

### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

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

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

2 Children for whom the Mental Health Coordinator facilitated a referral for mental health services

### DISABILITIES SERVICES

11 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:
- 3 Speech or language impairment
- 8 Non-categorical/developmental delay
The Head Start Family Services Professionals provided assistance to meet the basic needs of the 102 Head Start families. The most common areas of need identified during the 2019-20 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)**

Eighty-two out of eighty-five four-year-old children were screened in the fall and winter of 2019-20 School Year. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and closure of schools in March 2020 we were unable to gather data for the end of the year. Using data from the first two time periods, (Fall and Winter) students were improving in all areas of development.
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 2019-20. Gains were achieved in all areas.

- Child expresses care and concern toward others
- Child demonstrates increasing control, strength, and coordination of small muscles
- Child uses increasingly complex language in conversation with others (EL goal also)
- Child identifies letters of the alphabet and produces correct sounds associated with letters
- Child knows number names and the count sequence
- Child analyzes results, draws conclusions, and communicates results.
The LCPS Head Start Program operates with public and local funds. The federal grant money (public funds) for PY 27 (Program Year) provided $1,112,256 which included the following amounts:

- $14,745 Training and Technical Assistance
- $18,718 in Cost of Living Adjustment granted to the program in June
- $55,000 in Quality Insurance Grant and increase of program hours
- $87,881 CARES Fund, which will carry over into PY28 as of 12/1/2020

Local funds provided $635,474. The total operating budget available for the Fiscal Year 20 was $1,592,055 with 95.1% of the budget covering salaries and fringe benefits and 4.9% covering the operating expenses.

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 FY20 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
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 2019-2020 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

Head Start Policy Council meets with representatives from across the district. A staff member addresses the Council members about options for using the Parent Activity Funds.
A total of 293 individuals provided volunteer services to the program. 69 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  
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 School  
Galilee United Methodist Church  
Good Shepherd Alliance, Inc.  
HealthWorks for Northern Virginia  
INOVA Partnership for Healthier Communities  
Key Club at Tuscarora High School  
Lions Club;  
Loudoun Cares  
Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building Staff, Assistive Technology Staff, ChildFind Staff  
Science Instructional Supervisor  
Loudoun County Health Department  
Loudoun Hunger Relief  
Loudoun Literacy Council  
Loudoun Pediatric Dentistry  
Loudoun Soccer  
Loudoun Valley Church of the Nazarene Faith Group  
Mosaic Dental  
Parent Liaison at WHS  
Purcellville Pediatric Dentistry  
Rev Your Bev  
St. Theresa Catholic Church  
Student Ambassadors at Cedar Lane Elementary School  
SuperKids Pediatric Dentistry  
Telos Corporation  
Walmart in Sterling  
Williams Tae Kwon Do  
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, continued the 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 hosted two Resource Fair events to help families directly connect with local community agencies. In the 2019-2020 school year, 19 local agencies participated.
The LCPS Head Start Program in partnership with The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS), continued a program of Schoolyard Nature Experiences for Early Learners in 2019-20

- 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.

Head Start & STEP teachers experience hands on learning through training with Audubon Naturalist Society, preparing authentic learning for our preschoolers
Falcon’s Landing Volunteer Reader in a Head Start Classroom

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

Learning Through the Arts Wolf Trap Artist Mr. kofi at the Loudoun Literacy Family Night
Cedar Lane 4th graders completed their PBL Project and supported our Head Start students by collecting hundreds of hats, mittens & scarves.

EPL Archives Leesburg Holiday Collection to benefit Head Start Families.

Walmart Leesburg Gloria Keech, Store Representative was awarded a certificate for their contributions to the students and families of the 2019-20 Head Start Program.
Loudoun County Public Schools
Head Start Program

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LCPS Head Start Program