LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2020–21 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Scott Ziegler, Superintendent
Dr. Ashley Ellis, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction
Rae Mitchell, Director of Elementary Education
(Elaine Layman, Director of Elementary Education & Charter Schools as of July 2021)

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD AS OF JANUARY 2021

Brenda Sheridan, Chair – Sterling District
Atoosa Reaser, Vice-Chair – Algonkian District
Denise Corbo, At Large
Harris Mahedavi, Ashburn District
Ian Serotkin, Blue Ridge District
Leslee King (Andrew Hoyler as of 10/12/21), Broad Run District
John Beatty, Catoctin District
Jeff Morse, Dulles District
Beth Barts (Tom Marshall as of 12/14/21), Leesburg District
The Loudoun County Public Schools Head Start Program is proud to have completed 27 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. Through the challenges of the pandemic, the LCPS Head Start program continues to prioritize our mission and vision to support students and families. We work to partner with our families as we keep our youngest students at the center of our focus.

This 2020-2021 Annual Report provides an overview of our program and highlights achievements. For more information, please visit us at www.lcps.org/HeadStart.
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.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the purpose of the LCPS Head Start program to promote social competence and enhance school readiness of children from low-income families by focusing on their cognitive, social and emotional development

- in a learning environment that supports their growth in:
  - language and literacy
  - math and science
  - art and physical skills; and
- through the provision of:
  - health services
  - educational services
  - nutritional services
  - social services
  - and disabilities services.

The services provided are based on family needs and goals. The Head Start staff follow the guidelines in the Head Start Program Performance Standards and the Head Start Act to provide services.
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.

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.

Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) received its first grant from the Office of Head Start in 1994. After a year of start-up, the program provided services for 68 children and their families. With guidance from the Community Assessment and the availability of an expansion grant, the program expanded to serve 17 more children and families in 2001 for a total enrollment of 85 four-year old students. The following year, LCPS Head Start expanded again to include a classroom for 15 three-year-old students.
The LCPS Head Start program is currently funded to provide services for 100 children and their families. The program operates out of six classrooms located in the eastern, central, and western areas of the county. During the 2020-21 school year, four classrooms were located within high schools in collaboration with the LCPS Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) program for high school students interested in pursuing a career in Early Childhood Education or childcare. These programs offer unique benefits to the Head Start students as well as the high school students. The remaining two classrooms were located in an elementary school. It is the goal of this program to incorporate all of the Head Start classrooms into high schools as existing schools are renovated and new high schools are built in this rapidly growing county.

Four classrooms serve children who turn four years-old by the September 30th (public school guideline). Classes can serve up to 20 children, depending on the size of the room. One classroom in Eastern Loudoun exclusively serves children who turn three years-old by this date and can serve 15 children. One classroom in Western Loudoun serves students who are three or four years-old by September 30th.
The Loudoun County Head Start program is a division within the Loudoun County Public School (LCPS) system 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 October 27, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning on 10/27/2020, families that selected hybrid in-person instruction for LCPS Head Start had the opportunity to send their child to school for two days a week (Tuesday/Wednesday or Thursday/Friday) with a synchronous morning meeting and asynchronous activities provided for the other three school days. Families who selected 100% distance learning logged their students into a Google Meet five days a week for synchronous distance instruction. This process continued until 12/11/2020, at which time the LCPS Superintendent announced a return to 100% distance learning for all students due to community conditions (an increase in positive COVID cases to the highest risk factors). Beginning on 2/16/2021, families that selected hybrid in-person instruction for Semester Two had the opportunity to send their child to school for two days a week (Tuesday/Wednesday or Thursday/Friday) with a synchronous morning meeting and asynchronous activities provided for the other three school days. In-person instruction was expanded to 4 days a week on 4/20/21 for the remainder of the school year. A total of 30 families selected to remain in 100% distance learning for the remainder of the school year.

The goal of this Community Assessment is to identify the strengths, needs, and resources of Loudoun County, Virginia 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 2020-2021 Head Start eligibility criteria for a family of four.
The Virginia Department of Education reported an estimate of 747 four-year-old children who will be considered “at-risk” in Loudoun County (eligible for free or reduced lunch) for the 2021-2022 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 342 “at-risk” four-year-old children without federally or publicly funded preschool opportunities in Loudoun County during the 2021-2022 school year.

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. Historically, the Program maintains full enrollment, however, due to pandemic, it operated at 87% average monthly enrollment during 2020-21 school year.

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: 202
Over-Income, Under-Age Applicants: 71
Income-Eligible Waiting List: 9

Head Start Eligible Applicants enrolled in the STEP Program: 46
❖ 87% Average monthly enrollment
❖ 94% of eligible applicants enrolled (142 out of 151 Head Start eligible students enrolled in the Head Start and STEP program)
During the 2020-2021 School Year, 96 children from 91 families were served.

77 four-year-old students
19 three-year-old students

81 Newly enrolled children
15 Returning students who attended the program in 2019-20 as 3-year-olds.

During the 2020-21 school year, Loudoun County Public Schools offered two models of instruction. Families were able to select:

- 100% distance learning (DL)
- or the hybrid model which combined two days a week of in-person learning with three days a week of distance learning. In April of 2021 the hybrid instruction was extended to 4 days in person instruction.

During the 2nd Semester, there were 29 Students in DL classes and 67 students in Hybrid instruction.

### Type of Eligibility

- 61 Income Eligible based on 100% of Federal Poverty Line
- 24 Categorically Eligible (Homeless)
- 2 Categorically Eligible (Public Assistance such as TANF, SSI)
- 9 Over Income but within 200% of Federal Poverty Guideline

At a Single Point in Time Count in January 2021, there were 80 individuals who were homeless in Loudoun County, 31 of whom were children. This figure represents a 55% decrease from 2020. During the 2020-2021 school year, 1,875 students were identified as eligible for McKinney-Vento homeless services through Loudoun County Public Schools. Of these students, 32 were enrolled in one of the LCPS preschool programs. Head Start provided services for 24 of these students.

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 challenges. 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

- 58 Spanish
- 25 English – 11 of these acquiring/learning another language in addition to English
- 12 Middle Eastern/South Asian
- 1 East Asian

Total number of Dual Language Learners: 82

Race/Ethnicity of Children

- 78 White
- 10 Black or African American
- 4 Biracial/Multiracial
- 3 Asian
- 1 American Indian or Alaska Native

67% of enrolled students are of Hispanic ethnicity

### Race/Ethnicity

**96 Students**

- **White**: 64
- **Biracial/Multiracial**: 3
- **Black or African American**: 10
- **Asian**: 3
- **American Indian or Alaska Native**: 1
Of the 91 families, the highest level of education obtained by the child’s parent(s) / guardian(s):

- **15 Advanced Degree or Baccalaureate Degree**
- **5 Associate Degree, or Some College**
- **45 High School Graduate or GED**
- **26 Less than High School Graduate**

# of families with at least one parent/guardian employed, in job training, or in school
- 72 at enrollment
- 75 at the end of enrollment

# of families with neither/no parent/guardian employed, in job training, or is school (e.g. retired, or disabled)
- 19 at enrollment
- 16 at the end of enrollment
SERVICES

Meeting the Needs of the Whole Child

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH SERVICES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Insurance:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>85 or 89% of enrolled children had health insurance by the end of the school year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accessible Health Care – Medical Home:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>100% of enrolled children had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care at the end of the school year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical Services &amp; Screenings:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74 or 77% Number of all children who are up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care according to the relevant state's EPSDT schedule for well childcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% of the newly enrolled children received Speech/Language, Vision, Developmental, Hearing, Dental, Nutritional, Behavioral/Mental Health &amp; Physical Screenings:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 9 Students were referred and received treatment for vision concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dental Services:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 or 91% Number of children who received preventive care during the program year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 24 were diagnosed as needing treatment and 18 received treatment</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISABILITIES SERVICES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 Number of children enrolled in the program who had an Individualized Education Program (IEP), at any time during the program year, indicating they were determined eligible by the LEA to receive special education and related services under the IDEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 4 Speech or language impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 7 Non-categorical/developmental delay</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Head Start Family Services Professionals provided assistance to meet the basic needs of the 91 Head Start families. The most common areas of need identified during the 2020-21 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 percentages of families that received the following program service to promote family outcomes:

- Basic Needs (food, clothing, or shelter): 90%
- Parenting Education: 32%
- Mental Health Services: 16%
- English as a Second Language Training: 8%
- Health & Nutrition Education: 35%
- Housing Assistance (e.g. subsidies, utilities, repairs): 8%
- Asset Building Services (e.g. financial education, debt counseling): 13%
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 four four-year-old children were screened in the fall, winter and spring of 2020-21 School Year. Improvement in all areas of development were shown using data from the three time periods, fall, winter and spring.

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**HEAD START PALS SCORES**

64 FOUR YEAR OLD STUDENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Mid - Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name Writing</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Case Alphabet</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Case Alphabet</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter Sounds</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Sound Awareness</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhyme Awareness</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35</td>
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SCHOOL READINESS GOALS

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 2020-21. 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 Ending in 11/30/2021) provided $1,233,633 which included the following amounts:

- $14,745 Training and Technical Assistance
- $12,317 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) granted in June of 2021
- $47,194 CARES Fund, which carried over from last Program Year PY26
- $119,650 American Rescue Plan (ARP) granted in May of 2021 which can be spent through end of March of 2023 (PY 29)
- $30,097 Corona Virus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Fund (CERSA) granted in April of 2021 which can be spent through end of March of 2023

Local funds provided $744,462. The total operating budget available for the Fiscal Year 21 was $1,865,527 with 96.7% of the budget covering salaries and fringe benefits and 3.3% 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 FY21 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit of Federal Awards Programs can be found on Loudoun Government’s website

Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports | Loudoun County, VA - Official Website
Our Community

Family Engagement

The LCPS Head Start Program continued to engage parents/guardians in activities designed to help them become full partners in the education of their children.

In 2020-2021 LCPS Head Start had a variety of virtual family involvement activities, which were conducted virtually over Google or Zoom Meets, including:

❖ Enrollment Conferences
❖ Family Connection Classes covering topics about Family Budgeting, Kindergarten Transition and Summer Activities
❖ Head Start Orientations
❖ Home Visits
❖ Loudoun Literacy Council Family Literacy Night
❖ Monthly Policy Council Meetings
❖ Monthly Family Update Meetings
❖ Parent Committee Meetings
❖ Parent Nutrition Classes
❖ Parenting Classes
❖ Parent/Teacher Conferences
❖ Program Self-Assessment
❖ Resource Fairs in collaboration with community agencies

The LCPS Head Start program hosted three virtual Resource Fairs to help families directly connect with following local community agencies.

❖ Catholic Charities
❖ Tree of Life
❖ Loudoun Hunger Relief
❖ INMED
❖ Department of Family Services
❖ Inova Partnership for Healthier Communities
❖ HealthWorks

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

❖ Family Assessment: 9
❖ Family Goal Setting: 8
❖ Home Visits, Parent-Teacher Conferences, etc.): 8
❖ Parenting Education Workshops: 6
❖ Policy Council/Policy Committees: 1
Loudoun Literacy Council, one of LCPS Head Start’s longest partnerships, invited families to multiple fun Family Involvement virtual Workshops including music, stories and crafts.

Wolf Trap Artists Terry & Greg performing during the Loudoun Literacy Council’s Virtual Family Involvement Workshop “Growing Green” in celebration of Earth Day

Tanya Bosse, Director of Loudoun Literacy Council explaining the craft project “Earth” to the students related to the book “The Earth Gives More” during the virtual Earth Day presentation with Wolf Trap.
We continued to have strong partnerships with community agencies and individuals who supported the Head Start program, students and their families in Loudoun County.

Anthem HealthKeepers Plus
Apple Federal Union Credit
Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
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
Lions Club
Loudoun Cares
Science Instructional Supervisor
Loudoun County Health Department
Loudoun Hunger Relief
Loudoun Literacy Council
Loudoun Soccer
Mosaic Dental
Purcellville Pediatric Dentistry
Student Ambassadors at Cedar Lane Elementary School
SuperKids Pediatric Dentistry
Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts
Women Giving Back

Following community partners and individuals offered their support during Holidays

Ashburn Area Running Club
The Book Bags Book Club
The Bosse, McDougall and Ortmann Families
EPL Archives
Key Club at Tuscarora High School
Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building Staff, Assistive Technology Staff, ChildFind Staff
Loudoun Valley Church of the Nazarene Faith Group
Parent Liaison at Woodgrove & Dominion High Schools
Telos Corporation
True Honey Teas
Loudoun County Public Schools
Head Start Program

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