NTCAC HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT

Serving Cameron, Elk, McKean, & Potter Counties

2026

Anthony Moscato
Board President

David Greene
Executive Director

Debra Sidelinger
Head Start Director

Northern Tier Community Action Head Start Center and Home-Based Locations

Cameron County

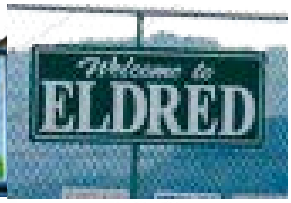
Emporium Head Start: (814) 486-4000 x2054
Head Start Main Office: (814) 486-1161 x219

Elk County

Johnsonburg: (814) 965-5627
Ridgway: (814) 772-4030
St. Marys & Elk/Cameron Home-Based: (814) 781-7776

McKean County

Bradford 1: (814) 368-4809
Bradford 2: (814) 363-9265
Eldred: (814) 225-2200
Kane 1: (814) 837-8068
Kane 2: (814) 837-9392
Port Allegany : (814) 642-2807



Potter County

Coudersport: (814) 274-7017

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History & Facts

In 1965, the federal government created a panel of child development experts to design a program to help communities overcome the barriers of young children living in poverty. The findings of the panel report became the blueprint for Project Head Start.

Project Head Start was launched as an 8-week summer program by the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1965. It was designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs. Recruiting children aged three-to-school entry age, Head Start was enthusiastically received by education, child development specialists, community leaders, and parents across the nation.

In 1969, Head Start was transferred from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Office of Child Development in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and has now become a program within the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services. A well established, though still an innovative program, Head Start has had a strong impact on communities and early childhood programs across the country.

Head Start programs are operated by over 1500 community-based organizations, including school districts, universities, community health centers, tribal governments, Alaska Native Corporation, city and county governments, Community Action Agencies, and other profit and nonprofit organizations.

"Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero."

– Fred Rogers

MISSION

Mission Statement

Northern Tier Community Action Head Start Corporation is committed to providing quality services that promote learning, growth, development, and the enhancement of self-worth and dignity for the children and families that we serve.

VISION

Vision Statement

Northern Tier Community Action Corporation Agency's vision is to promote the growth of a supportive, nurturing environment for children, parents, families, and community members where all program participants have options and opportunities for optimum growth, development, and learning.

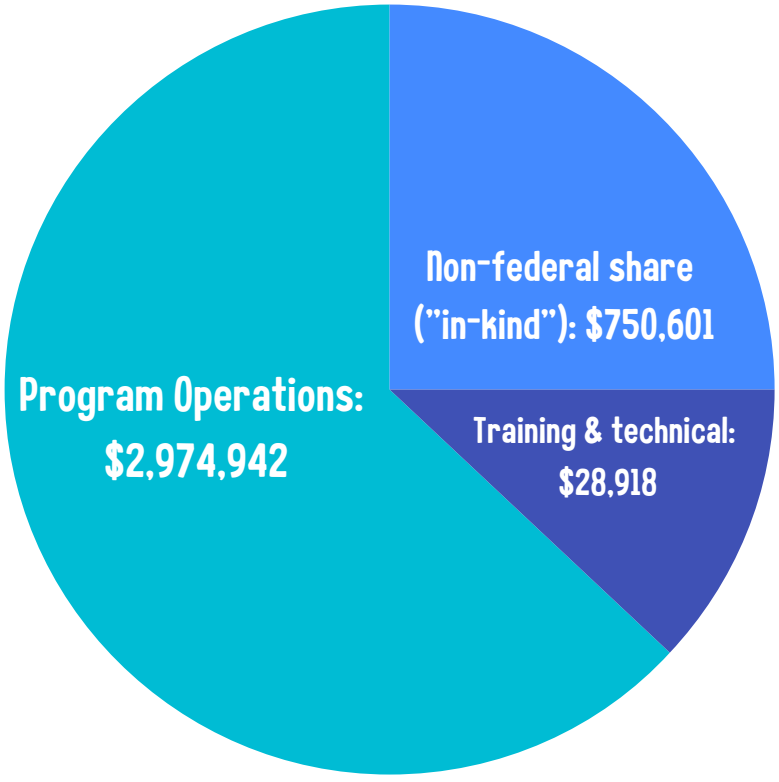
VALUES

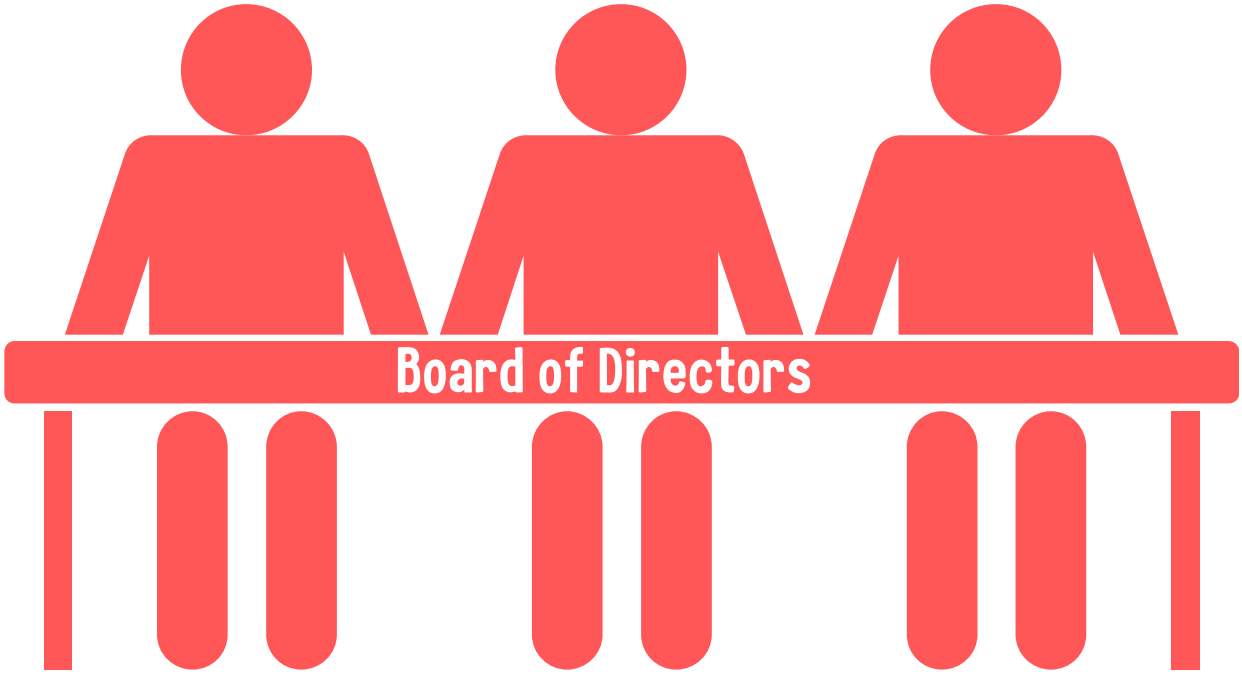
NTCAC Core Values

1. Respect
2. Advocacy
3. Collaboration
4. Promotion of self-worth

Executive Director: David Greene
Head Start Director: Debra Sidelinger
Family, Community, & Disabilities Manager: Meghan Allen
Education Managers: Tricia Juran & Rochelle Stewart
Health & Nutrition Manager: Bonnie Halquist
Administrative Assistant: Mary Goss
Human Resources/Fiscal Manager: Shelia Guisto
Fiscal Bookkeeper: Tracy Metcalf
Information Technology: Wendy Luckenbill

Funding breakdown





Board President: Mr. Anthony Moscato
Board Vice President: Mr. George E. Hults
Board Treasurer: Mr. Sean Gabler
Board Secretary: Mr. Michael Nasto

Cameron

Ms. Karen Allison
Mr. Richard Balizet
Ms. Rose Bloom
Mr. Kim Lathrop
Ms. Melissa Martin
Mr. James Moate
Dr. Andrew Spore

Elk

Ms. Fritz Lecker
Ms. Kathy McClelland
Mr. Larry Schatz

McKean

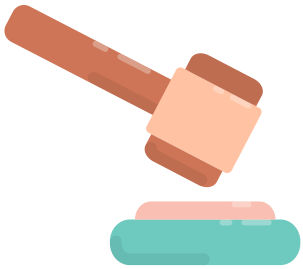
Ms. Carol Duffy
Ms. Mary Graffius

Potter

Mr. Thomas Patterson
Mr. Terry Simkins
Mr. Thomas R. Tyler

"The service you do for others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."
– Muhammad Ali

Head Start
Policy Council



Chairperson: Raven Volos
Vice Chairperson: Linda Dyne
Secretary/Treasurer: Ally Ogden
Board Representative: Mary Graffius

Representatives

Aaron Dickerson
Matthew Hallowell
Meaghan Johnson
Adrianna Meighan
Isabella Richardson

Alternates

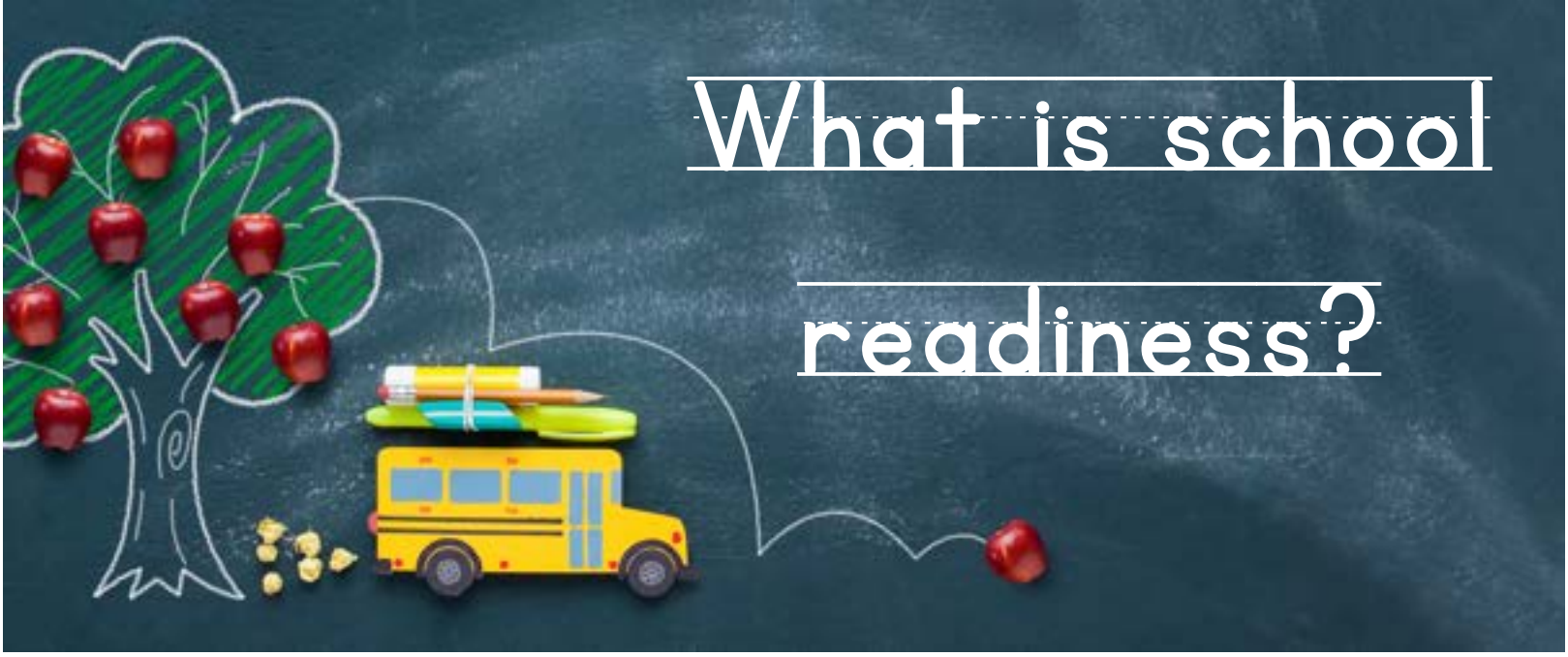
Lacee Deibler

Community Representatives

Cara Rugh
Molly Stahli
Phaedra Steele

Audit & Monitoring

Northern Tier Community Action Corporation's most recent financial audit revealed no deficiency or material weaknesses. Information about the agency's audit is publicly available and may be viewed at www.ntcac.org.

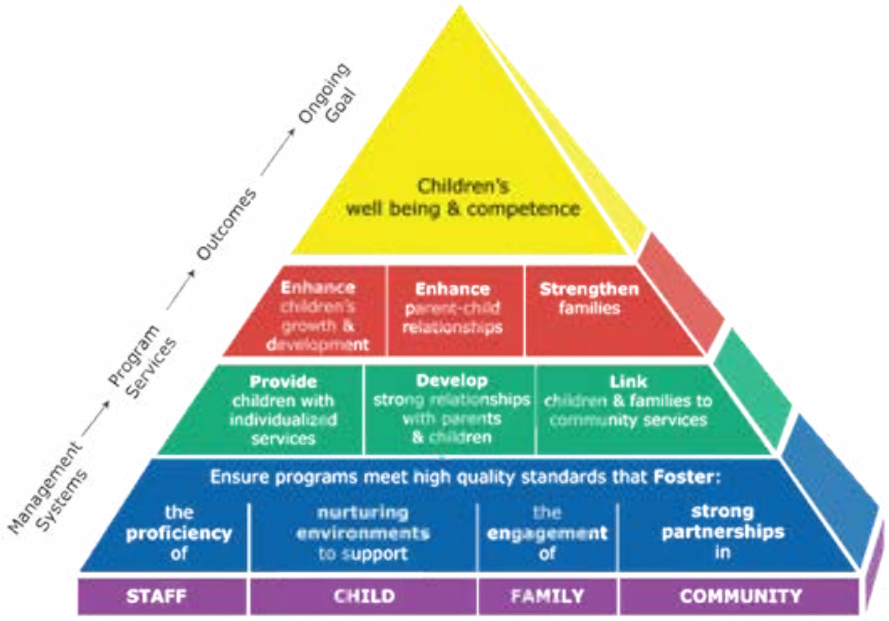


What is school readiness?

The Office of Head Start (OHS) defines school readiness as children being ready for school, families ready to support their children's learning, and schools ready for the children who enter their doors. Children's school readiness is measured by the skills set out in the five domains of the **Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework**:

- Language and literacy
- Cognition and general knowledge
- Approaches to learning
- Physical development
- Social and emotional development

Families are engaged in their children's learning and development and poised to support the lifelong success of their child. Head Start recognizes that parents are their children's primary teachers and advocates. As Head Start programs, parents, and schools work together to promote school readiness and engage families as their children make the transition to kindergarten, schools become ready for children.

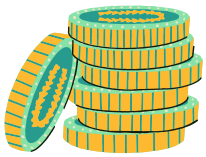


welcome to kindergarten

What do we mean when we say "transition to kindergarten?" The word “transition” refers to the process of change. Transitioning to kindergarten is one of the most significant changes a child will experience in their life. This is a time that can be very stressful for a young child. They are leaving either the home environment or the familiar environment of their preschool classroom to enter a new place.

What opportunities will my child and family have that will help them to transition to kindergarten? Families in Head Start will have the opportunity to participate in transition activities throughout the year. They can be an advocate for their child by participating on the Transition Advisory Board alongside Head Start staff and school district personnel. They also attend a transition meeting with the school district to ask questions and share information about their child. Children will also be invited to participate in a kindergarten visit where they will get to meet kindergarten teachers and other adults in the building that they will often see!

How will my child benefit from effective transitions? Your child will gain increased self-confidence, improved relations with other children and adults, increased motivation, and an openness to new experiences.



2025-2026 Budget

Budget Category	Budget
Salaries	$1,678,588.00
FICA	$128,410.00
Unemployment Comp	$47,490.00
Workman's Comp	$39,110.00
Pension	$83,689.00
Health & Welfare	$472,428.00
Travel (Out of Area)	$350.00
Supplies	---
Classroom	$26,672.00
Office	$3,600.00
Health	$2,640.00
Spec. Needs	$400.00
Contractual Services	---
Transportation	$45,000.00
Food	$48,093.00
Mental Health Consultant	$6,000.00
Registered Dietician	$960.00
Health Consultant	$6,000.00
Computer Consultant/Maint	$5,800.00
Snow Removal	$3,100.00
ChildPlus/Results Audit	$12,600.00
Membshps/TeachingStrat	$10,791.00
Telephone/Internet	$36,000.00
Office/Utilities Warehouse	$15,900.00
Center Utilities	$144,800.00
Insurance	$16,611.00
Medical Screening	$100.00
Dental Screening	$100.00
Local Travel	$32,750.00
Vehicle Lease/Maint	$6,000.00
Parent Services	$3,050.00
Payroll Processing	$18,000.00
Legal Services	$2,000.00
Audit	$10,000.00
Advertising	$6,000.00
Copies	$6,022.00
Printing	$3,500.00
Postage	$5,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	$9,330.00
Bldg Maintenance	$23,560.00

Total: $2,974,942.00

Teacher Education	$4,000.00
Assist Teacher Education	$4,050.00
CDA Credential	$1,575.00
FSW Credential	$4,500.00
Consultant Training	$2,000.00
Training Activities	$12,793.00

Total: $28,918.00

Staff Spotlight

15th YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Tracy Metcalf
Fiscal bookkeeper

25th YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Kathy Wojcik
Kane 2 Assistant Teacher

15th YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Debra Sidelinger
Head Start Director

45th YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Cindy Duffee
Johnsonburg Assistant Teacher

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Anita Long
Child Development Associate
Kane Head Start

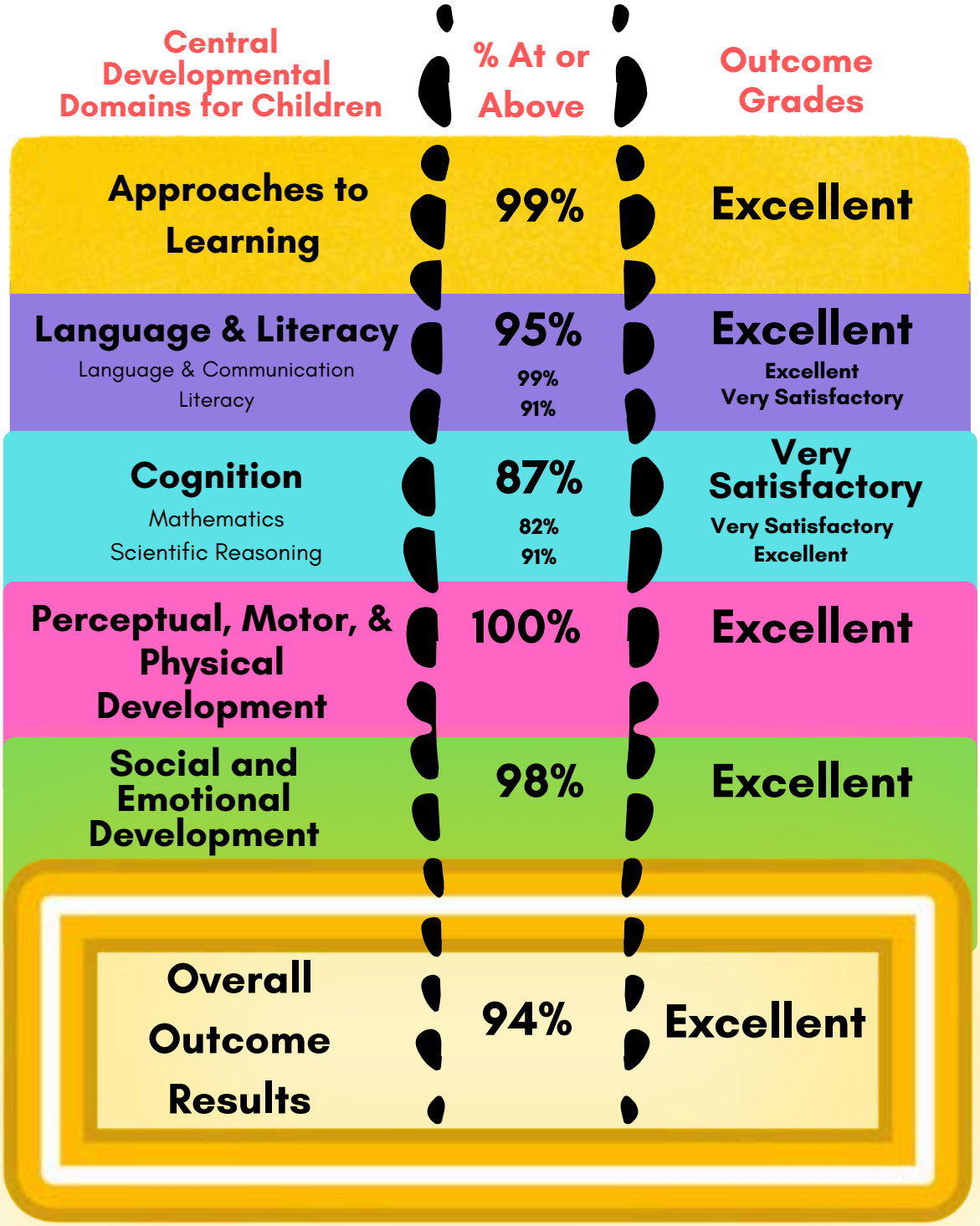
Calee Phelps
Family Development Credential
Coudersport Head Start

Alexandria Schauer
Family Development Credential
Emporium Head Start

Danielle Fargo
B.A. in Early Childhood Education
Bradford 1 Head Start

Katrina Vanocker
M.A. in Psychology
Port Allegany Head Start

Outcome Results for the Head Start Learning Outcomes Framework



The overall outcome results audit finding and grade for the **86 children who transitioned** from Head Start to kindergarten were **94% at or above** achievement of age-appropriate skills and outcome goals for an **Excellent** audit grade. ***Northern Tier Community Action Head Start has been rated "Excellent" for the past 11 years.***

class

Classroom Assessment Scoring System

During the 2025-2026 program year, observations were conducted in each Head Start classroom using the CLASS tool. The CLASS tool looks at three domains and ten dimensions of teacher-child interactions and measures those observed interactions on a seven-point scale.

Dimension	Score
Emotional Support	6.208
Positive Climate	5.88
Negative Climate	1.04
Teacher Sensitivity	6.50
Regard for Student Perspectives	5.50
Classroom Organization	6.3472
Behavior Management	6.29
Productivity	6.50
Instructional Learning Formats	6.25
Instructional Support	2.6806
Concept Development	2.25
Quality of Feedback	2.17
Language Modeling	3.63

Program Goals

Program goal #1: NTCAC Head Start will foster systems and services that empower families to be proactive in their child's success in school and beyond.

Program goal #2: NTCAC Head Start will prepare children academically and socially in order to succeed in the school setting.

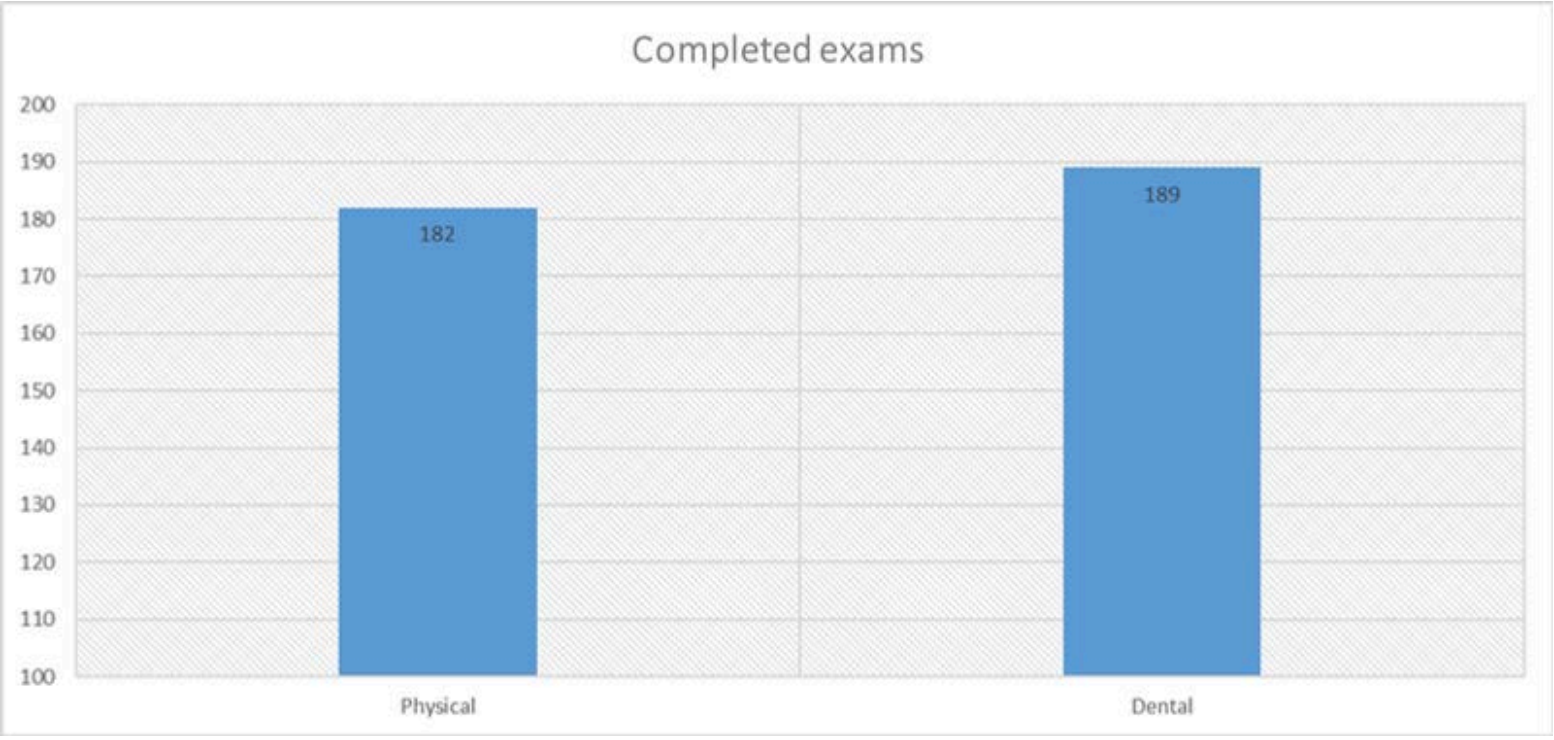
Program goal #3: NTCAC Head Start's program will work collaboratively with families to support their child's growth and development.

Program goal #4: NTCAC Head Start will foster an infrastructure that promotes all aspects of the preschool organization.

Healthy Children Learn Better!

Head Start is a holistic program that also includes health education. With educational opportunities provided to both parents and children on the importance of physical and dental health, we strive to improve the overall health of all our students. Per Head Start regulations, every child enrolled in Head Start is required to obtain a physical and dental exam within 90 days of enrollment. If a child does not have a medical or dental home, our staff help connect them to resources. We are also pleased to provide a mobile dentist in our centers thanks to partnerships with area dentists.

At Head Start, we work to remove any barriers to a healthier lifestyle.



194 students matriculated from NTCAC Head Start during the 2025-2026 program year. Of those children, **182 received physical exams**, and **189 received dental exams**. This represents **94%** and **97%** of our student population respectively.

As your child's first and most influential teacher, parents have an important role in Head Start. Parents are always welcome in the classroom by helping with or leading activities or projects, field trips, planning classroom activities with the teaching staff, and introducing or sharing their culture with the class.

How do parents and staff work together?

Family service workers meet with the families in their homes and assist them in setting school readiness goals and expressed family need goals. They follow up with families by providing information and referrals as needed to help families accomplish the goals they set.

Teachers meet with the child's family four times each year for two conferences and two home visits. Parents are provided with a copy of the child's progress at least twice a year. Parents/guardians are encouraged to volunteer time in the classrooms as often as possible. We have an **"open door"** policy for parents/guardians to come to the classroom at any time.

How do parents share their ideas, gifts, and talents with the Head Start program?

PCC - Parent Committee Meetings are held monthly. At these meetings, family and staff discuss center and community concerns and suggestions. Presenters discuss topics of interest chosen by the participants and a craft or activity is scheduled.

Policy Council is the advisory board of the Head Start program. Parents, guardians, and community volunteers meet monthly to plan for the future of Head Start. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Northern Tier Community Action Corporation's conference room.

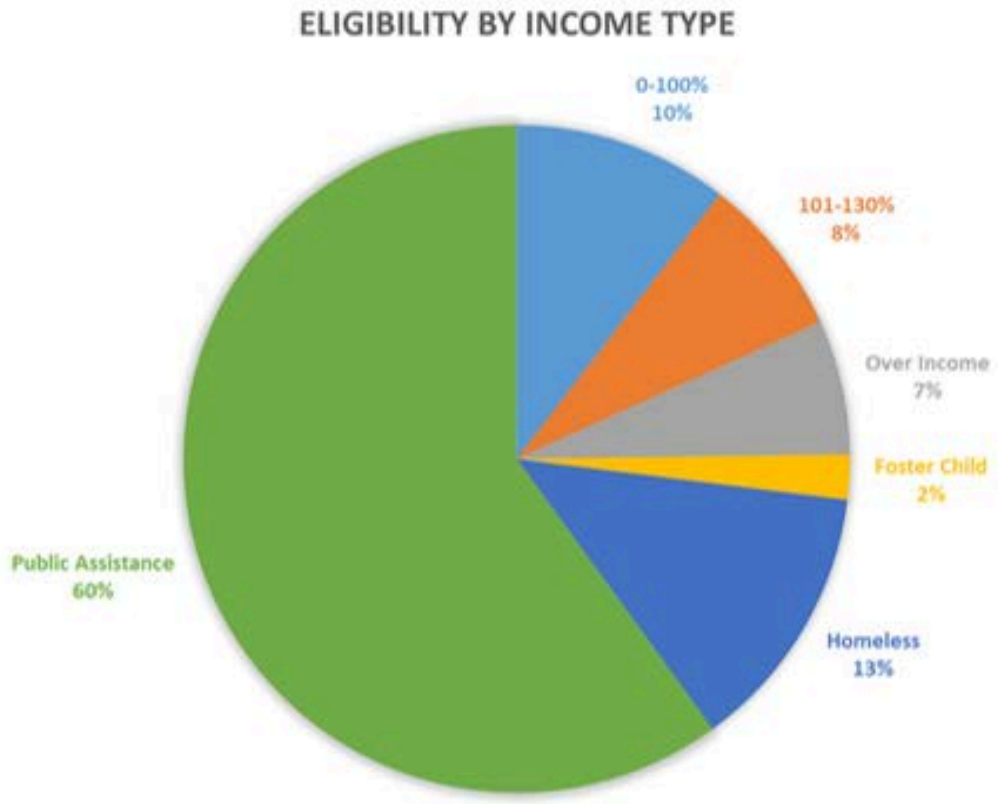
"There is no program and no policy that can substitute for a parent who is involved in their child's education from day one."
- President Barack Obama

Ways to get involved at Head Start

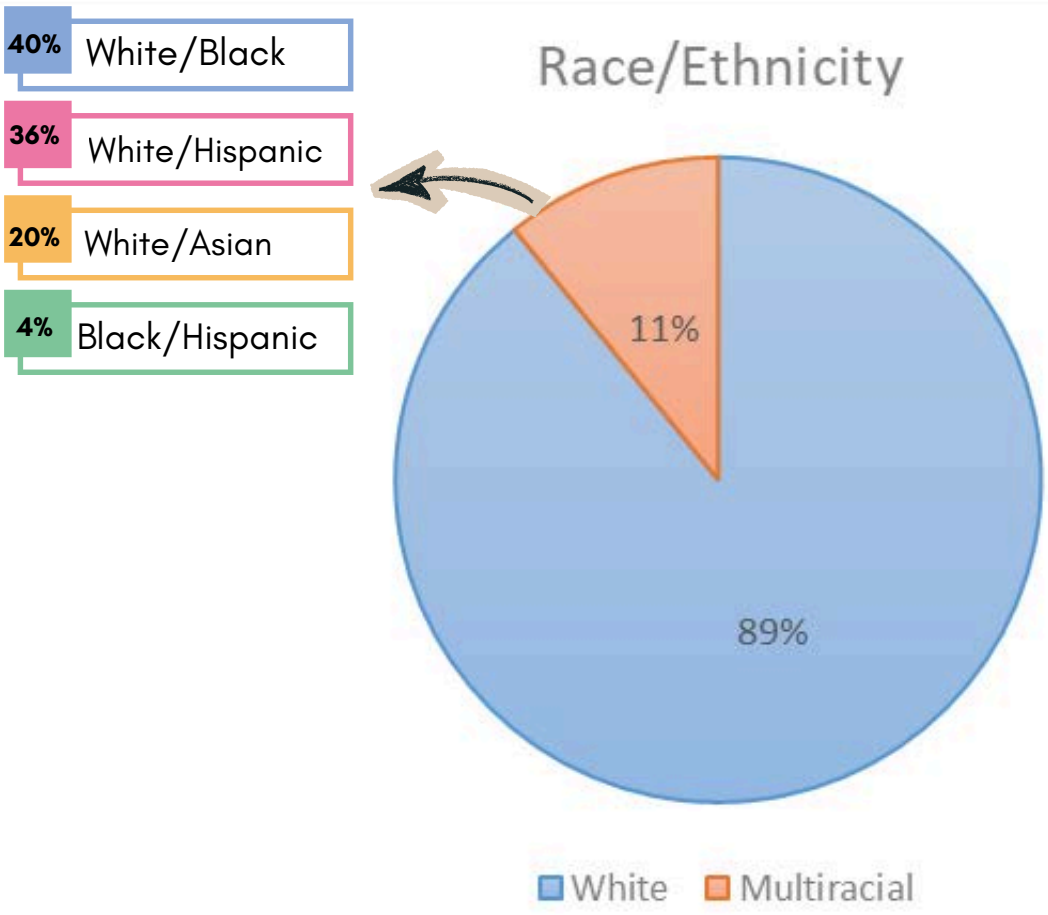
- Family literacy functions
- Home visits
- Board of directors
- Committees
- Program planning/design
- Parent meetings
- Home-based socializations
- Volunteer opportunities
- Family partnerships
- Trainings
- Parent/teacher conferences
- Policy Council
- Volunteer training program
- Curriculum input
- Referrals for information

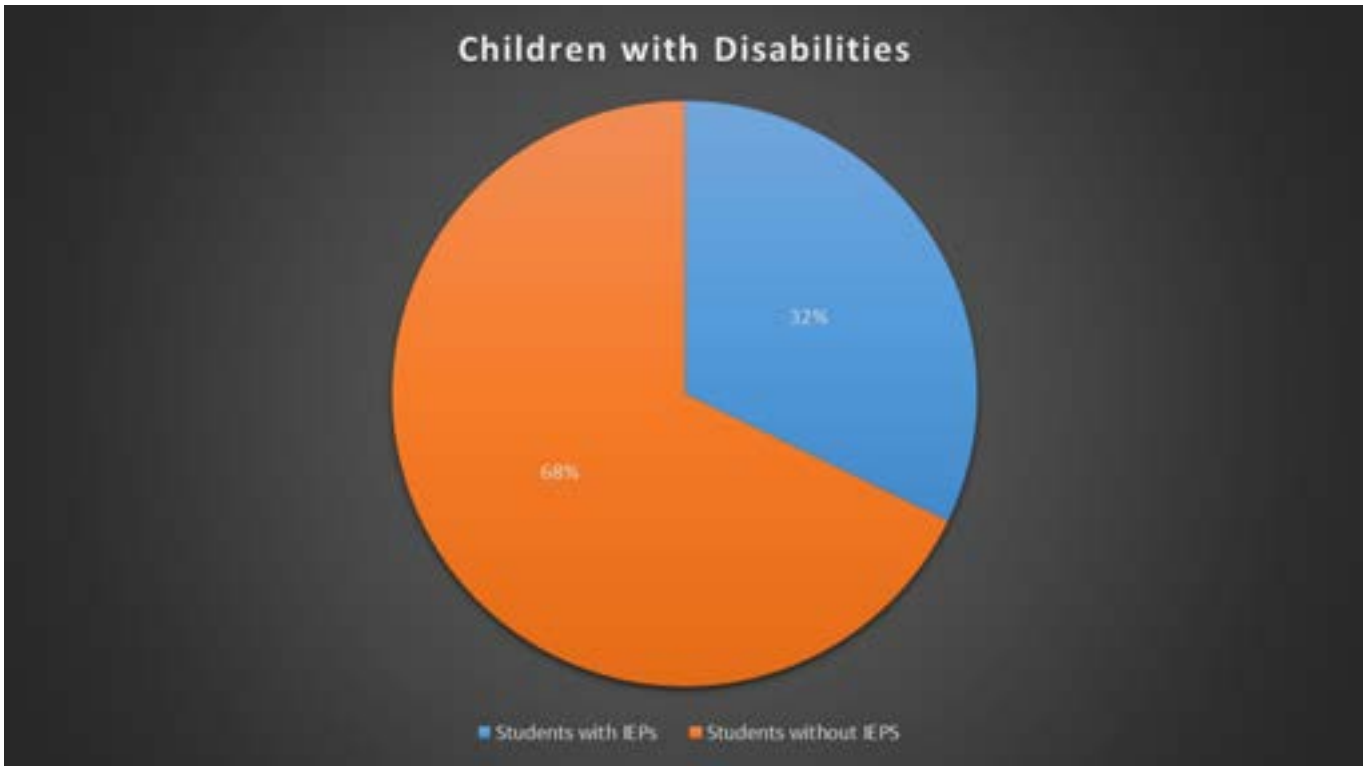
Eligibility and Enrollment

Enrollment	Head Start		
Average Monthly Enrollment	**Reported**	**Funded**	**Average Monthly Attendance**
194	189	194	86%

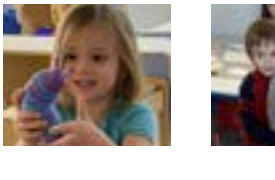
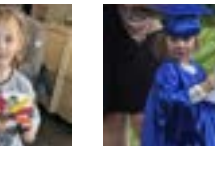
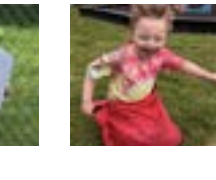


Of enrolled students whose families received public assistance, 14 families received Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), 30 families received Supplemental Security Income (SSI), 148 families received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), & 103 families received Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance for Women, Infants, & Children (WIC).





Of the students with a categorized disability, 39 students had a speech/language impairment (52%), 32 students had a developmental disability (43%), 5 students received services for autism (7%), and 1 student received services for visual impairment (1%).

"Many things can wait. Children cannot...To them, we cannot say 'tomorrow.'"

– Gabriela Mistral