



MISSION STATEMENT

Our students and families will become responsible, self-directed, lifelong learners with the skills necessary to live successfully in a global society.

INTRODUCTION

Head Start/Early Head Start is operated by the Preschool Department, an entity of Anderson County Schools. The program is governed by the Anderson County Board of Education and the Anderson County Head Start Policy Council.

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs which serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families. These are child-focused programs with the overall goal of increasing the social competence and school readiness of young children in low-income families. Social competence takes into account the inter-relatedness of social, cognitive, and physical development.

Head Start and Early Head Start services are family-centered, following the tenets that children develop in the context of their family and culture and that parents are respected as the primary educators and nurturers of their children. Head Start offers family members opportunities and support for growth and change, believing that people can identify their own strengths, needs, and interests and are capable of finding solutions.

Head Start submits its grant application to Region IV in Atlanta each year. The grant is typically due at the end of March, 90 days prior to the start of our next funding year (July 1 – June 30).

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

Anderson County is located in East Tennessee. Our Head Start/Early Head Start program is center-based and operates Monday through Friday. Preschool follows the school calendar and Early Head Start is considered a year-round program. Each program operates for 6 hours and 6.5 hours respectively. Oak Ridge Preschool is our delegate agency.

Anderson County Head Start/Early Head Start is funded to provide services for 72 infants and toddlers and 172 preschoolers.

Program	Total # of Children served	Average monthly enrollment percentage	Number of eligible children served
Early Head Start	127 children 4 pregnant moms	100%	126
Head Start	212 children	100%	205

EFFORTS TO PREPARE CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

Anderson County Head Start program has a “transition agreement” with Anderson County Schools. The agreement states our mutual commitment to our partnership as an important part of a comprehensive, coordinated and systematic approach to transition services for all pre-kindergarten children including children with disabilities. Our goal is to ensure smooth transitions and seamless provision of services for all preschool children entering school for the first time. All information is shared between the agencies and is governed by the rules of confidentiality and in accordance with the policies and procedures of all agencies involved.

Our responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Transfer of records
- Assist with kindergarten registration to assist parents and gather information needed for a successful transition
- Provide packets of information and activities to help the parent work with their child during the summer months in preparation of public school
- Plan parent meetings and meet with a kindergarten teacher representative to orient parents to the school program
- Arrange a visit to a kindergarten classroom for children and families (including off-campus classrooms)
- Send assessment information, if requested

In response, Anderson County Schools will:

- Send a representative to end-of-year parent meeting to provide information regarding kindergarten enrollment.
- Conduct early registration for parents
- Share training with preschool staff and parents when deemed appropriate

In addition, an IEP meeting is held for children with disabilities to update the IEP information for kindergarten. The classroom teacher and disabilities manager attend the meeting to support the parent and guarantee the parent has input into the IEP process.

PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLED CHILDREN THAT RECEIVED MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAMS

During FY 2008, the percentage of children that received a dental exam was 88.5% or 185 out of 209 children. The percentage of enrolled Early Head Start children that received a dental exam was 97% or 127 out of 131 children.

Our Early Head Start and Head Start programs were 96% compliant with age-appropriate medical exams; 4% were enrolled in our program but never entered the classroom. 100% of enrollees were compliant with up-to-date immunizations according to Tennessee Department of Health audit.

OUTCOMES

Anderson County Head Start/Early Head Start operates 18 classrooms.

Throughout the program year, our teaching staff implements the research-based Creative Curriculum (for Head Start and Early Head Start) and uses supplemental resources for further enrichment. This curriculum is used as a framework for an integrated teaching approach that includes social-emotional development, physical development, cognitive development and language development. Creative Curriculum provides a comprehensive view of an appropriate preschool and infant/toddler environment complete with suggested ideas and activities for center enrichment.

The LAP-3 Assessment (Head Start) and E-LAP (Early Head Start) is administered to each child in our program three and four times, respectively, each school year. The results provide teachers with an individual profile of each child for use in targeting curriculum to meet individual needs. The program-based results compile averages across classrooms for each domain assessed. These program-based results are used to evaluate the effectiveness of our academic efforts in support of children's learning and development.

The evaluation and planning report for 2008-2009 indicates significantly improved skills and development across seven of eight assessed domains. The exception is the approach to learning domain. High initial scores for this domain precluded assessing improvement using the LAP-3 instrument. Average initial scores for the approach to learning domain in Head Start were 98%. The end year scores were 100%.

Scores in domains including language development, literacy, mathematics, social and emotional, and science improved between 7%-29%. The literacy, math, and science scores improved on average by 25% during 2008-2009.

Domain	Head Start	
	Initial	End-Year
Language Development	67%	82%
Literacy	25%	51%
Mathematics	42%	65%
Science	34%	59%
Creative Arts	51%	82%
Social and Emotional	77%	89%
Approaches to Learning	98%	100%
Physical Health and Development	67%	84%

PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

During 2008-2009 we were busy working with parents and involving them in a myriad of opportunities. Highlights of parent involvement activities are listed below:

- Male/Child activities:
 - Cooking with Dad
 - Building a kite
 - Planting a tree for Earth Day
 - Friendly contest between most dads/significant males reading to their child's class
- Mom/Child activity:
 - Cooking with Mom and making fruit smoothies and a simple craft
- Coffee Break workshops:
 - Gardening class
 - Canning class
- Parent training and field trip:
 - Stress management and bowling at the community center
- Relationship strengthening:
 - Speaker and viewing the movie Fire Proof at the local cinema

TOTAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS RECEIVED

Head Start is federally funded through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and Office of Head Start (OHS). The table below outlines the monies we receive. Head Start also takes part in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Children attending our program receive breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack daily. We receive funding on meals served; all children who qualify for Head Start/Early Head Start also qualify for free meals.

	Awarded	Expended
Head Start & T/TA	\$ 1,846,191.00	\$ 1,841,650.00
Early Head Start & T/TA	\$ 812,676.00	\$ 803,130.00
USDA	\$ 161,009.00	\$ 161,009.00

BUDGET INFORMATION

The majority of our budget supports personnel. During FY 2008, we employed 64 Head Start and Early Head Start staff. The table below identifies additional operating expenses.

	Head Start	Early Head Start
Personnel	\$ 1,248,420.00	\$ 496,560.00
Fringe	\$ 364,604.00	\$ 136,595.00
Travel	\$ 8,801.00	\$ 780.00
Supplies	\$ 38,504.00	\$ 13,753.00
Contractual	\$ 31,312.00	\$ 15,570.00
Other	\$ 113,048.00	\$ 124,171.00
Indirect Costs	\$ 36,961.00	\$ 15,701.00
TOTALS	\$ 1,841,650.00	\$ 803,130.00

NON-FEDERAL SHARE

We are required to obtain a 25% non-federal match on every federal dollar expended in our budget. During FY 2008, our non-federal shares total was \$661,195.00.

RESULTS OF MOST RECENT REVIEW BY SECRETARY AND FINANCIAL AUDIT

Anderson County Schools had no findings for FY ending June 30, 2009.