



Luzerne County Head Start, Inc.

2016 - 2017 *Annual Report to the Community*

Serving pregnant women, children birth to age 5, and their families in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties



52 years of providing the
HEAD START ADVANTAGE

WHAT IS THE HEAD START ADVANTAGE?



At Luzerne County Head Start, we work to provide opportunities for children and families so they can be successful.

THE HEAD START ADVANTAGE:

- Focuses on the child as a whole
- Lays the foundation for a lifetime of learning
- Is the result of educational opportunities
- Encompasses instilling healthy habits
- Equips parents with the tools they need for success

Our comprehensive outlook encourages the well-being of not only the child, but also incorporates the whole family. By creating these opportunities, children and families have an advantage that benefits them for years to come.



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Did you know?

For every \$1 given to Head Start, the economy sees a 13% return on investment

(National Head Start Association Statistic)

Luzerne County Head Start's commitment to children and families has extended over 52 years. We continue to remain dedicated to ensuring that our community's families receive the services they deserve. The 2016-2017 school year has been a very exciting time for us, as our new school structure includes 5 days/week for all children in the program, allowing us to better meet our families' needs. As we look to the upcoming school year, we will now offer services in 4 new locations including Luzerne County Community College as their Early Childhood Lab School, the Hazleton Integration Project, the Westmoreland Business Center, and a new Wyoming Area Center. We are thankful for the support from our community partners and for the hard work of our staff who continues to place the well-being of children and families at the forefront of everything we do. We are proud to know that now, even more children will receive a Head Start Advantage, and we invite you to join us in our effort to improve the lives of children and families in our community.



Lynn Evans Biga
Executive Director



Robert D. Schaub, Esquire
President, Board of Directors

IN THE CLASSROOM

Children are engaged in a learning environment that promotes the development of school readiness skills. Through the use of a curriculum that supports interactive learning, each child's progress is measured throughout the year. We work closely with children so they enter kindergarten prepared to do their best.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

We believe that parents are their child's first and most important teachers, so we encourage parents to play an active role in their child's education. Through our partnership with families, we support them achieve their personal goals and provide them with access to community resources that they need.

“Over 40% of Luzerne County Head Start families advanced their education this year.”

Families can:

- Enroll in onsite GED and ESL classes
- Participate in center activities
- Engage in family days
- Attend various workshops

Whether it is through spending time volunteering, or participating in program decisions through our Parent Committee or Policy Council, we help families take on leadership roles as they become advocates for their children.

Because of Head Start, 100% of families received health education regarding their children.

(Luzerne County Head Start Statistics)

“Head Start has helped me be a leader and encourage other parents to do the same for their children.”

- Shannon, Luzerne County Head Start Mom



Policy Council Officers

Chairperson
Jennifer Cebrick

Co-Chairperson
Shannon Fagaly

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Our motto is that “children need to be well to do well,” so we help them develop healthy habits each day.

We promote a healthy lifestyle by:

- Teaching children to brush their teeth and wash their hands
- Providing families with materials about health and nutrition
- Providing children with nutritious meals daily
- Providing developmentally appropriate screenings (vision, hearing, lead)

We ensure that children enter the classroom ready to learn. Through our close partnerships with local organizations, such as Maternal & Family Health Services and Geisinger, we are able to provide families with the resources they need to be healthy. Involvement from our Health Advisory Committee, which includes local health professionals, allows us to continue to meet the health needs of children and families in the program.

Luzerne County Head Start Health and Dental Outcomes

Head Start: By the end of the school year

98.5% of children had health insurance

97.2% of children had a medical home

96.2% of children had a dental home

98.3% of children were up to date on immunizations

Early Head Start: By the end of the school year

100% of children had health insurance

96.4% of children had a medical home

68.8% of children had a dental home

87.5% of children were up to date on immunizations



A special thank you to all of our Community Partners who help to make our Head Start program one of the strongest in the nation!

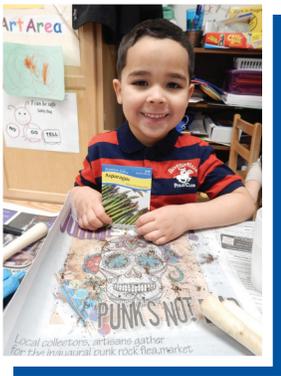
PARTNERING WITH LEADERSHIP WILKES-BARRE

LEADERSHIP WILKES-BARRE - “OPERATION LET’S GROW”

This year, Leadership Wilkes-Barre’s project group, “Operation Let’s Grow,” celebrated the completion of their garden project in a collaborative event with Head Start families at our Beekman Street Center. The year-long project incorporated the addition of a series of gardens at our Beekman Street center playground. The project provides an interactive learning experience for children, as they have the opportunity to plant and care for the gardens. This project has been essential in facilitating classroom learning and building upon STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts so that children can further understand nature, fostering a love for the environment. Through this hands on experience, children are encouraged and empowered to develop sustainable agricultural skills and understand the importance of forming healthy eating habits.

“We are pleased to be able to show our support and respect for these much-needed programs that are doing the most important work there is.”

- Operation Let’s Grow, 2017 Leadership Wilkes-Barre Project Group



Jr. Leadership Wilkes-Barre:

This year, Jr. Leadership Wilkes-Barre’s project group “Read For Youth,” dedicated their work to promote literacy, and organized a community book drive to benefit the children at our Beekman Street Center. The



group donated a total of 2,900 books so that each child could build their home library collection. Students volunteered their time to distribute the books and read in Head Start classrooms.



This community effort truly exemplifies what can be accomplished when we work together.

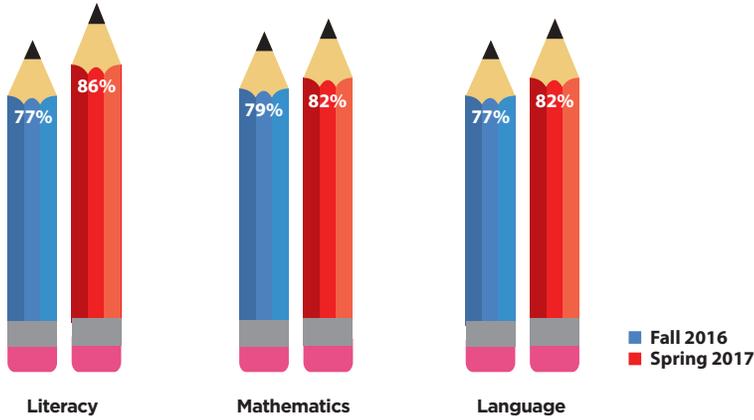
Leadership Wilkes-Barre Impact Group:

Luzerne County Head Start Teacher, Christine Martin, had the opportunity to participate in this Leadership Education Program. With the goal of empowering teachers to be progressive agents of positive change within schools, Christine’s projects enhanced Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in the Head Start classroom. As the only representative from an early childhood program, Christine collaborated with various School District Teachers in completing her project. Christine’s participation in this program was integral in establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for her children to achieve social, emotional, and academic success.

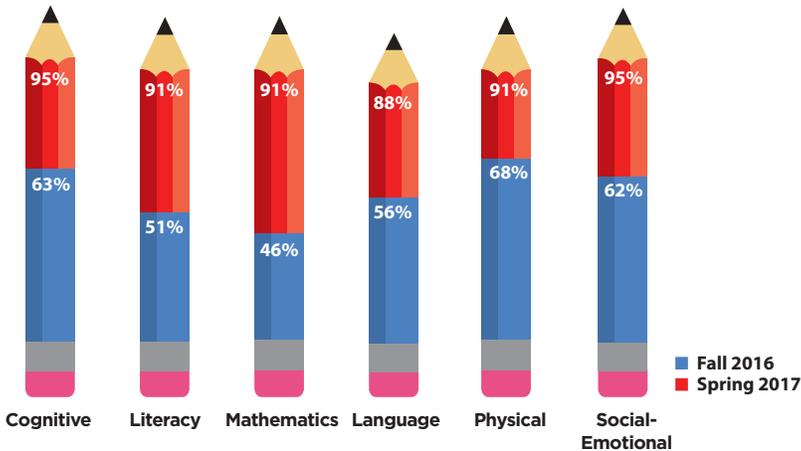
READY FOR SCHOOL, READY TO LEARN

Luzerne County Head Start school readiness goals are outcomes-focused, and they address developmental domains of learning for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

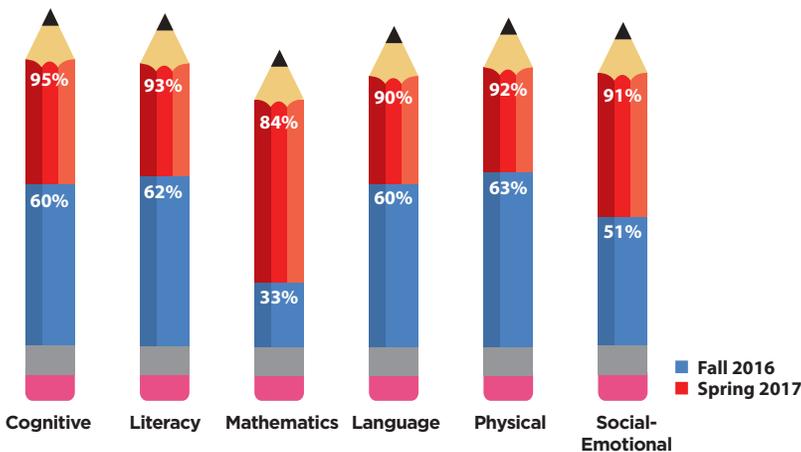
Early Head Start Children 0-3-Years-Old Teaching Strategies GOLD Domain Outcomes 2016-2017



Head Start Children 3-Years-Old Teaching Strategies GOLD Domain Outcomes 2016-2017



Head Start Children 4-Years-Old Teaching Strategies GOLD Domain Outcomes 2016-2017



ENROLLMENT

- 3 & 4 year olds: 905
- Infants & Toddlers: 304
- Pregnant Women: 41
- Children with Diagnosed Disability: 17.9%
- Foster Children: 3.8%

76% of families' home language is English
22% of families' home language is Spanish

Total Meals Served: 241,932
Total Buses: 22
Total Bus Miles: 154,299

The 2017 Community Indicators Report developed by the Institute for Public & Economic Development states that only about 1/4 of eligible 3 & 4 year olds (23%) were enrolled in a high quality Pre-K program. According to the Office of Child Development and Early Learning Reach and Risk Assessment, 26.8% of children under age 5 are living in economically high-risk families with incomes at or below the federal poverty guidelines.

CELEBRATING 52 YEARS OF THE HEAD START ADVANTAGE

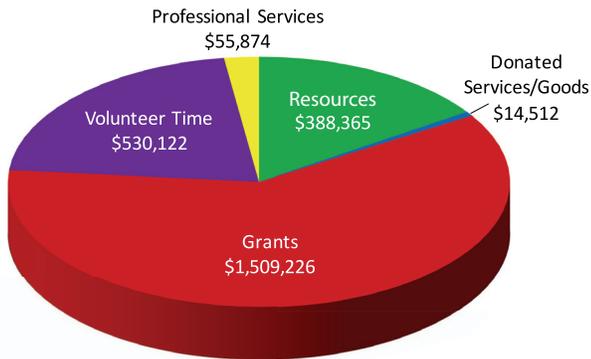
As part of our 52nd Anniversary celebration, eleven local Luzerne County Head Start Alumni who plan to continue their education after high school were honored with scholarships totaling \$16,500 as part of the Luzerne County Head Start Alumni Scholarship Program. To date, the Luzerne County Head Start alumni have been awarded 241 scholarships totaling \$220,750. We are proud of these students for their hard work and achievements, as they truly embody what it means to have a Head Start advantage. We also welcomed Luzerne County Head Start Alumnus and Hazleton native, Dr. Andrea Saksek as the keynote speaker. Her successful work as a veterinarian at home and abroad shows us the far reaching impacts of the Head Start Advantage.



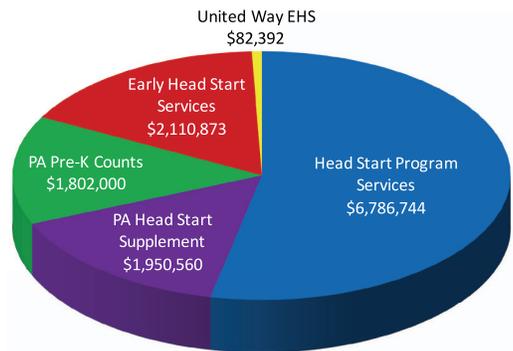
ACCOUNTABILITY

Luzerne County Head Start's federal Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) Review took place the week of March 6-9 2017 in 31 federally funded classrooms. CLASS is a tool used to measure adult-child interaction in classrooms. It examines the areas of Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. Luzerne County Head Start's program scores are comparable to the national 50% median average scores.

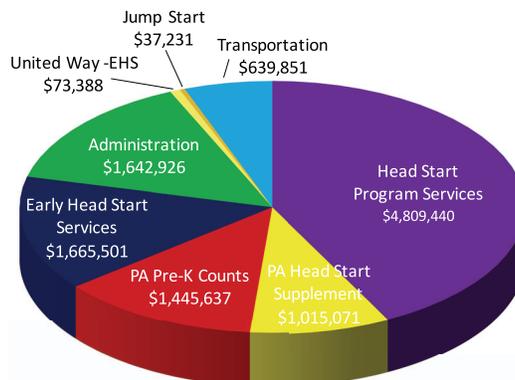
2016 Non-Federal Share Sources by Income



2017 Projected Budget by Program Service



2016 Expenses by Program





Luzerne County Head Start, Inc.
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Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

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2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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