



Omaha Public Schools
Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.



Early Childhood Programs
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Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming St, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

2022-2023 Program Year

Head Start/Early Head Start Annual Report to the Public



Mission Statement

To ensure the delivery of high quality, comprehensive services to a diverse population of children and families throughout Douglas County

Budget Year: 11-01-22 to 10-31-23

Message

Thank you for taking the time to review the Omaha Public Schools’ Head Start/Early Head Start Annual Report.

Omaha Public Schools Head Start/Early Head Start is dedicated to providing the highest quality services to our children and families. We recognize that parents are the primary educators of their children. As Head Start staff, we support families by providing opportunities for them to be involved in their child’s education and assist families in setting achievable goals. Our Head Start/Early Head Start program currently serves 899 children and families. Omaha Public Schools partners with Educare of Omaha, as a delegate who serves Early Head Start as well as Head Start families.

The Head Start program is part of an integrated preschool approach for Omaha Public School students. Our programs work together to meet Nebraska Department of Education standards and Head Start Performance Standards. This inclusive approach allows us to enhance our existing preschool programs to ensure children’s school readiness, social/emotional and physical health, as well as ensuring families’ needs are being met.



Results of Recent Review

Our most recent federal review from the Office of Head Start included Focus Area 1 programming review. This review took place in November 2021.

During this review, we were found to have one area of noncompliance in the area of eligibility determination. The noncompliance has since been corrected and documented in a follow-up review.

Results of the financial audit reported material weaknesses identified related to internal controls over financial reporting, however there were no findings or material weaknesses related to the federal awards.



Community Partnerships

Boys Town Audiology	Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MAACH)
BRIDGE Family Resource Connector Network	Nebraska Children's Home Society
Building Health Futures	Nebraska Methodist College
Charles Drew Health Center	Nebraska Total Care
Child Savings Institute 'Kids Squad'	Omaha Children's Museum
Children's Physicians	Omaha Firefighters Association
Creighton University Pediatric Dental Health Program	Omaha Healthy Start
Do Space	'Fathers for a Lifetime'
Douglas County Childhood Lead Prevention Program	Omaha Public Library
Douglas County Health Department	One World Community Health Center
Douglas County WIC Program	OPS School Based Health Centers
Early Learning Centers of Omaha	Parent Training & Information Center of Nebraska (PTI NE)
Foster Grandparent Program / Eastern Nebraska	Project Harmony
Healthy Blue	Salvation Army Early Head Start
Learning Communities of Omaha (North/South)	United Health Care
Lion's Club	UNMC Dept of Research 'Nurse Tiff Tuesdays'
	University of Nebraska Nutrition Education Program
	UNL Extension Services
	UNMC Pediatric Dental

What We Do

The Omaha Public Schools' (OPS) Head Start Program is a federally funded, center-based program that provides services to children 0-5 years of age who are from predominately low-income families. OPS is an Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start (HS) grant recipient for Douglas County, Nebraska. OPS provides services to children 3-5 years of age and their families. Our delegate, Educare of Omaha, provides EHS services to infants and toddlers ages 0-3 as well as some HS services for preschoolers ages 3-5.



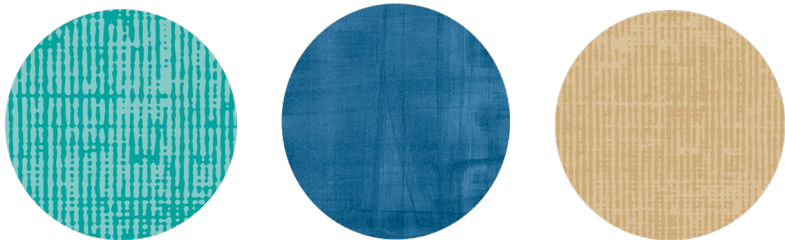
- Our objective is to:
- provide children and their families with comprehensive services that will allow them to succeed in school and in life,
 - work with birth–5-year-old children in an effort to equip them with readiness skills for school, and
 - assist all families by helping them to set achievable goals in areas of most concern to them.

Family & Community Engagement

Each family is assigned a Family Support Worker to assess needs and strengths of the family. The Family Support Worker partners with parents to establish goals and to connect families with community resources. Goals generally relate to one of seven Family Outcomes.

- Family Well-being
- Positive Parent/Child Relationships
- Families as Lifelong Educators
- Families as Learners
- Family Engagement in Transitions
- Family Connections to Peers and Community
- Families as Advocates and Leaders

Goals are parent-focused and parent-driven. During the 2022-2023 school year, many family goals were related to education, financial management and overall family health and well-being. Family Support Workers continuously partner with parents to coach and motivate them in being strong advocates for their children in the school and in their community.



Family Survey Feedback

What did our Head Start families have to say about how we are doing?

- 90% shared that the staff treated their family with respect, and they felt welcome in the classroom.
- 94% of families reported receiving home activities and completing home activities with their child.
- 88% of families felt like their relationship with their child was supported by the program.
- 80% of families received help in identifying services and resources for their family.
- 89% of families participated in setting and meeting their child's educational goals.



Percentages based on Family Engagement Survey 2022-2023 school year

Our Locations

Ashland Park Robins	1 FD	5050 South 51 th Street
Belle Ryan	1 FD	1807 South 60 th Street
Belvedere	1 FD	3775 Curtis Avenue
Boyd	1 FD	8314 Boyd Street
Chandler View	1 FD	7800 South 25 th Street
Conestoga	3 FD	2115 Burdette Street
Dodge	1 FD	3520 Maplewood Boulevard
Edison	1 FD	2303 North 97 th Street
EHS/HS Educare of Omaha @ Indian Hill	16 FD	3110 W Street
EHS/HS Educare of Omaha @ Kellom	14 FD	2123 Paul Street
ELC PK @ Gateway	4 FD	5810 South 42 nd Street
Franklin	2 FD	3506 Franklin Street
Forest Station	1 FD	1010 Childs Rd W
Gateway	2 FD	5610 South 42 nd Street
Highland	1 FD	2625 Jefferson Street
Kellom	4 FD	1311 North 24 th Street
Kennedy	4 FD	3200 North 30 th Street
King	1 FD	3706 Maple Street
Liberty	2 FD	2021 St. Mary's Avenue
Lothrop	1 FD	3300 North 22 nd Street
Miller Park	2 FD	5625 North 28 th Avenue
Minne Lusa	2 FD	2728 Ida Street
Mt. View	2 FD	5322 North 52 nd Street
Oak Valley	2 FD	3109 Pedersen Drive
Picotte	1 FD	14506 Ohio Street
Skinner	3 FD	4304 North 33 rd Street
Spring Lake	2 FD	4215 South 20 th Street
Standing Bear	1 FD	15860 Taylor Street
Sunny Slope	1 FD	10828 Old Maple Road
Wakonda	3 FD	4845 Curtis Avenue
Washington	1 FD	5519 Mayberry Street

Family & Community Engagement

Head Start Parent Committee meetings are conducted bimonthly at each Head Start location. During the meetings, parents are instructed to develop agendas based upon their interests. Past activities have included interactive events and field trips. Interactive events included the Bubble Show from the Omaha Children’s Museum, the Rose Theater PreK enrichment program, and the Zoo Classroom Experience, offered by the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. Some classrooms field trips included the Rose Theater, Vala’s Pumpkin Patch, and Lauritzen Gardens. These organizations all provide fun learning experiences while promoting positive parent-child relationships.

Families complete a survey at enrollment to identify their interests. Additional input is then gathered by Family Support Workers as they meet with families on an individual basis. Feedback provided by the survey and the Family Support Worker is used collectively to plan activities. A vote is taken at the parent meeting to choose an activity for the Early Childhood classrooms located at each school. Activities are planned based upon the specific interests of each site.

Omaha Public Schools’ Head Start continues to partner with the Omaha Children’s Museum to provide learning experiences to children and families. At the Early Childhood Family Night, our families have an opportunity to apply for a one-year Children’s Museum membership through the Children’s Welcome Fund program. Parents are encouraged to submit their income, completed application, and a \$5.00 payment directly to the Omaha Children’s Museum to obtain their membership.

In the 2018-2019 school year, our program adopted the Conscious Discipline Parent Education program. Conscious Discipline is an evidence-based learning tool that focuses on social-emotional development and systematic change. We currently use the Conscious Discipline plan as a piece of our ongoing parent committee meetings at each school site. Over 1,000 total participants attended events including parent meetings, family engagement activities, and family nights during the 2022-2023 school year.



Families exploring pumpkins while attending Fatherhood Event at Mount View Elementary.

Health & Well-Being

The OPSHS program recognizes that children who are healthy and receiving proper nutrition will perform better in school. Parent education is provided to ensure parents understand the educational and personal benefits of a healthy lifestyle for their entire family.

Parents are educated about the benefits of preventative health care and dental exams, importance of a medical and dental home and how to provide nutritious foods for their children. Preventive health care includes: an annual well child physical, vision screening, hearing screening, lead poisoning screening and hemoglobin screening. Health screenings are performed throughout the school year by school nursing staff and other community partners.

We work with many community partners in our Omaha metro area to support preventative health care. Our program partners with Nebraska Methodist College, University Of Nebraska Medical Center, Boys Town Audiology, School Based Health Centers, and Lion’s Club to ensure these screenings occur for our children.

2022-2023 HS / EHS Health Data

	OPSHS	EduHS	EHS
Enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP	88	95	91
Had private insurance	12	4.5	8
Had no insurance	4	<1	1
Up to date on their preventative health care	63	58	36
Received hearing, vision or lead treatment, if needed	64	60	43
Up to date on all immunizations	96	99	99
Received professional dental exams	91	70	89
Received dental treatment, if needed	76	100	<1
Are at risk for obesity	23	21	<1



Many families encounter barriers when trying to get their child’s health and nutrition needs met. The program connects with community partners to complete screenings at school when possible. These efforts are then continued by working with families to make every effort to ensure that each family was connected to doctors and dentists.

Inclusive Early Childhood Model

The Head Start Program of Douglas County School District works collaboratively with the Omaha Public Schools Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood Special Education programs.

The initiative has been designed to:

- 1) provide integrated preschool services within the school district and Head Start,
- 2) meet Nebraska Department of Education standards and Head Start Performance Standards, and
- 3) develop tools and technical assistance which can be used to blend Pre K, Head Start and Early Childhood Special Education into this model.

The continuation of this initiative ensures our preschool programs are high quality evidence-based systems that will positively impact children’s school readiness, social, emotional and physical health. In addition, it serves to meet families’ needs for providing seamless, full-day services.



Student enjoying dramatic play during centers.



Educare Schools of Omaha

An innovative partnership between the public and private sectors to create a more efficient, more effective early learning program. A research-based program that prepares vulnerable, young children for school. A specially designed place that nurtures early learning and sends a bold message about the value of investing in the first five years. A compelling platform to drive change among policymakers, business leaders and early childhood providers by demonstrating what quality early learning looks like.

Locations:

Educare of Omaha at Kellom 2123 Paul Street, 531.299.1699

Educare of Omaha at Indian Hill 3110 W Street, 531.299.1619



To support transition to preschool, EHS teachers start transition paperwork with parents six months before the child’s 3rd birthday (when possible). Children visit the new classrooms several times during the summer. The visits range in length from one hour to a whole morning duration. The number of visits is individualized based on the needs of the child and the family.

In addition, teachers from the preschool room visit the child’s current classroom and interact with the child. Parents and their current teachers are also asked to fill out a “My New Teacher Wants to Know” form to share information about the child.

Health & Well-Being

OPSHS/EHS partners with Nebraska Methodist College and the Douglas County Health Department Lead Prevention Program to offer lead and hemoglobin screening at school. A nurse instructor and nursing students go to Head Start schools and provide hundreds of screenings to students at schools located in target zip codes within the Omaha Lead Superfund sites. This year we were able to include screenings at all sites that serve Head Start students. For children with elevated lead levels, families receive a voucher for follow up venous blood draws, and appropriate medical treatment as needed.



UNMC students providing health and nutrition lesson to Wakonda students.

OPSHS partners with the College of Dentistry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) to provide children with dental exams at school. Dental residents provide all Head Start children with dental care education. The topics include the importance of healthy food choices, brushing and flossing teeth, and going to the dentist twice a year. All students receive a toothbrushing kit following the dental education presentation.

As we know, a balance of healthy eating and exercise is essential to health and well-being and directly affects children’s growth and learning. Teachers support healthy and physical development by including at least sixty minutes of physical activity into their daily schedule.

Teaching staff educate students on portion control and proper table etiquette while encouraging students to try different food offerings during meals. Menus with nutrition information are posted on parent boards and is accessible for families.

High Quality Classrooms and the Early Learning Framework

The Head Start program of Omaha Public Schools maintains high quality classroom environments at our school locations. Effective and engaging interactions and environments are the foundation for all learning. Our teaching staff are familiar with the Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). This tool measures the impact teachers have on a child through classroom interactions in the domains of Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.

Similar to the Pre-K version of the CLASS, the Infant and Toddler CLASS rates teacher-child relationships based on social-emotional supports. Domains for the Infant and Toddler version of CLASS vary slightly from the Pre-K version as well as from each other. The Infant CLASS has only one domain: Responsive Caregiving (made up of four dimensions). The Toddler CLASS has an additional domain, Engaged Support for Learning to measure how teachers engage the children in discovery, promote critical thinking, and provide rich language experiences. CLASS observation results help to guide coaching support for teaching staff. OPSHS CLASS scores were above the 2020 National averages for the 2022-2023 school year.



The program utilizes the Creative Curriculum, a play-based curriculum that is fully aligned with the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system. GOLD is aligned both with Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. According to Teaching Strategies data reports, at least 80% of children in our program were functioning at or above widely held expectations for their age in Spring 2023 in 5 out of the 6 developmental areas.

Policy Council – Governing Body

Policy Council meetings are virtual and scheduled monthly. Meetings consist of ongoing training to empower parents to make decisions about program policies that may enhance services to children and families. Policy Council members receive training overviews from service area specialists on the program budget, human resources, child development, health & nutrition, family services, community resources, in-Kind and enrollment procedures for the HS program. OPS Administrators and the School Board liaison are actively involved with the Policy Council to assure that the governance process remains in compliance with Head Start Performance Standard regulations.

The OPSHS Program has established and maintains a formal structure of shared governance through which parents can participate in policymaking, or in other decisions about the program.

This structure consists of the following groups:

- Governing Body - OPS School District’s Board of Education
- Policy Council Members (over thirty members, parent and community)
- Policy Committee (Educare/delegate agency level)
- Parent Committee - Established at each school where HS/EHS services are offered



In December, staff attended the 2022 NHA Parent and Family Engagement Conference in Dallas, TX.

Who We Served

		OPSHS	Edu HS	EHS
By Eligibility:	Within 0-100% of the Poverty Guideline	61%	64%	60%
	101-130% of the Poverty Guideline	23%	12%	5%
	Receiving TANF or SSI	4%	12%	5%
	In Foster Care	2%	3%	4%
	Homeless	1%	2%	3%
	Over the Poverty Guideline	9%	5%	5%
By Parent's Education:	Advanced Degree	9%	8%	7%
	Associate Degree or some College	25%	18%	17%
	High School grad or GED	38%	45%	40%
	Less than high school grad	14%	28%	34%
By Race:	American Indian	2%	<1%	1%
	Asian	7%	<1%	1%
	African American / Black	48%	31%	41%
	Caucasian / White	41%	61%	51%
	Biracial / Multi-racial	2%	6%	6%
By Age:	Under 1 year old			35%
	1 year old			35%
	2 years old	2%	<1%	30%
	3 years old	29%	49%	
	4 years old	69%	50%	
By Gender:	Female	%	49%	49%
	Male	%	51%	51%

Head Start School Readiness

The Omaha Public Schools' Head Start Program utilizes Teaching Strategies GOLD (TS Gold) to track progress of school readiness goals and the quality of the educational service delivery. TS Gold is the best fit for our needs as it aligns with Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Frameworks, as well as the State of Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines.

Assessment data is gathered for individual children daily using TS Gold. Additional child data is gathered using the Brigance screening, including the Social/Emotional screening. Each classroom provides daily large and small group instruction. Teachers use data to inform the structure of the groups. This is documented in the TS Gold Weekly Planning Form. When a child is not making progress or is far from the widely held expectations for his/her age, more individualized instruction takes place. This may include one-on-one instruction/interactions, intentional activities, additional resources gathered from and provided to the families, and may include a referral as necessary.



Spring Lake students completing a bouncing investigation during the Creative Curriculum Ball Study.

All areas of a child's development should be considered when determining if a child is ready for kindergarten, not just her/his academic skills. Ready children have families who support their learning, and schools that are prepared to meet their individual needs. Omaha Public Schools' Family Support Workers and Teachers begin to discuss transitioning to kindergarten during parent meetings, conferences, and through take-home flyers. Kindergarten transition meetings were provided in January and focused on what to expect.





Community Impact – A Year in Review

In the 2022-2023 program year, we were federally funded to serve 899 families (including our Delegate, Educare). Three hundred and six single parent families and two hundred and sixty-four two-parent families benefited from the Head Start program during the year. Monthly average enrollment was maintained at approximately 90%.



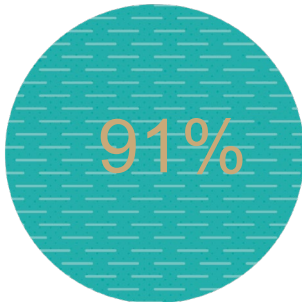
Students at Miller Park having fun exploring soil during the Garden Study.

2022-2023 Program Year

Percentage of eligible children served:

According to the program’s 2022-2023 Community Assessment, there are an estimated 8,604 children residing in Douglas County eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start services in Omaha.

Average Monthly Enrollment as a Percentage of Funded Enrollment



Students at Gateway received an OPS Attendance award for having perfect attendance.

Financial Report

Amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source:
Regular Grant: Budget Period 11-01-22 to 10-31-23

Federal Funds (80%):	\$8,993,466.00
Non Federal Funds (20%)	\$2,248,366.50

An explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for the fiscal year

Personnel:	3,798,637.00
Fringe Benefits:	1,281,917.00
Out of Town Travel:	46,508.00

Supplies:	269,382.00
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Contracts:	3,465,881.00
Facilities / Construction:	0.00
Other:	131,141.00

Direct Costs:	<u>8,993,466.00</u>
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Indirect Costs:	0.00
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Total Approved Budget:	<u>8,993,466.00</u>
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