

# 2024 Annual Report

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 Omaha Public Schools  
Head Start/Early Head Start



**OMAHA<sup>+</sup>**  
Public Schools

## Mission Statement

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

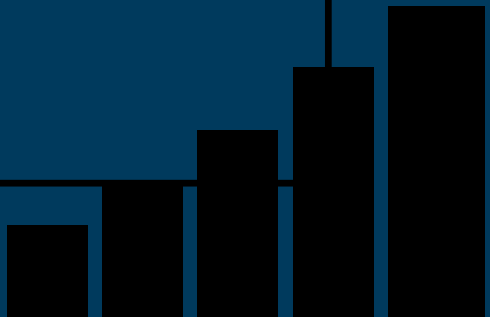


# Message

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.

The Omaha Public Schools Head Start program is a federally funded, center based program that provides services to children 0-5 years of age who are from predominantly low income families. OPS provides services to children 3-5 years of age and their families. Our delegate, Educare of Omaha provides services to infants and toddlers ages 0-3 as well as some Head Start services for preschoolers ages 3-5.



# What We Do

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## School Readiness

School Readiness means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support children's learning, and schools are ready for children. Our program utilizes the Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies GOLD which fully aligns with Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.



## Family and Community Engagement

A strong parent-child relationship is essential to a child's healthy development, school readiness, and well-being. Our Family Support Workers work closely with families to connect them to resources and services in the community that support them in being successful in the goals they choose.



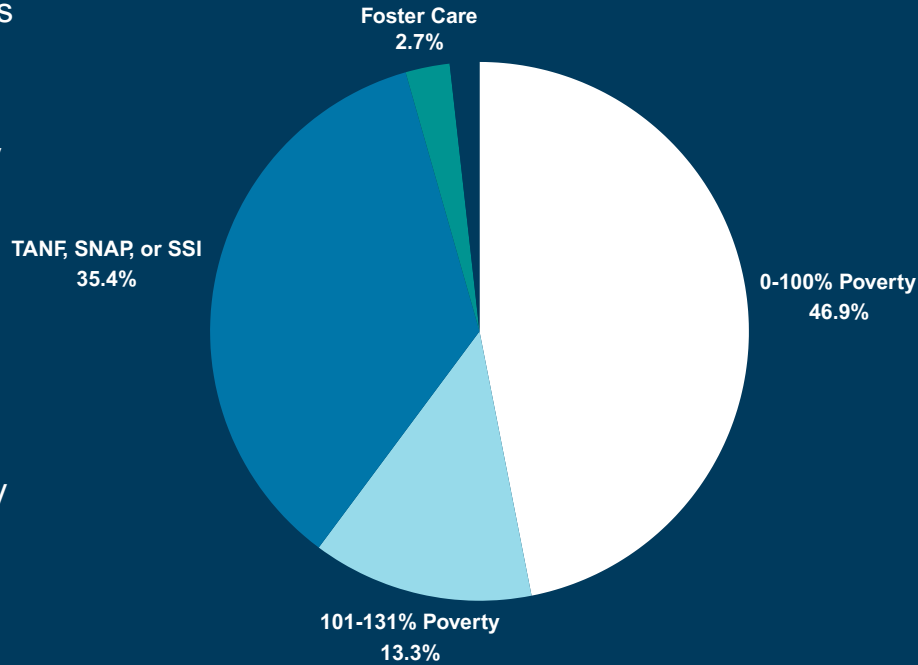
## Health Services

Health and school readiness are closely linked. Our staff ensures our students are healthy by partnering with Community resources to complete health screenings. Our Family Support workers help families establish and maintain access to ongoing, continuous health care for their children.

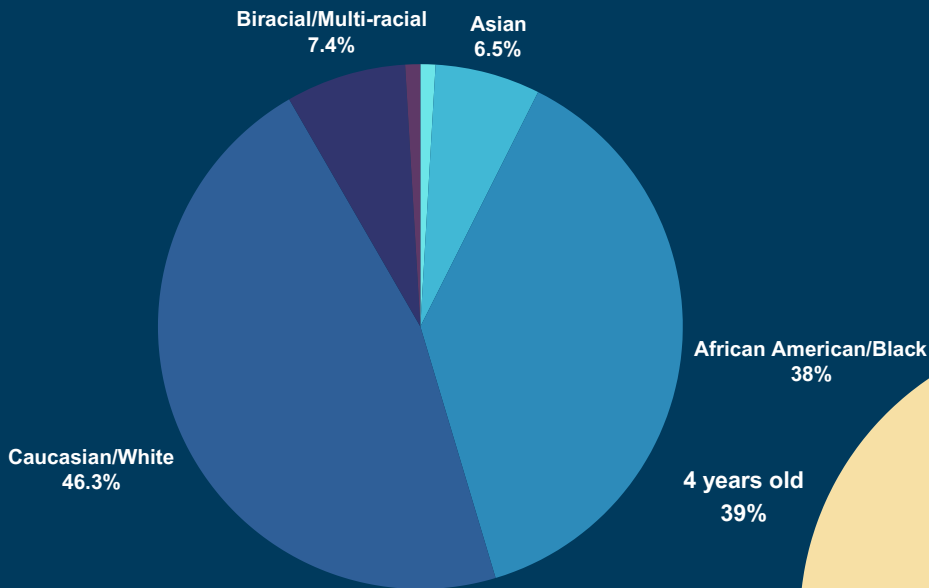
# Who We Served

According to the program's 2023-2024 Community Assessment, there are an estimated 8,604 children residing in Douglas County eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start services in Omaha. During the 2023-2024 program year, we were federally funded to serve 899 families (including our Delegate, Educare). Five hundred and seventy-three single parent families and three hundred and forty-nine two parent families benefitted from the Head Start program during the year. Monthly average enrollment was maintained at approximately 90%.

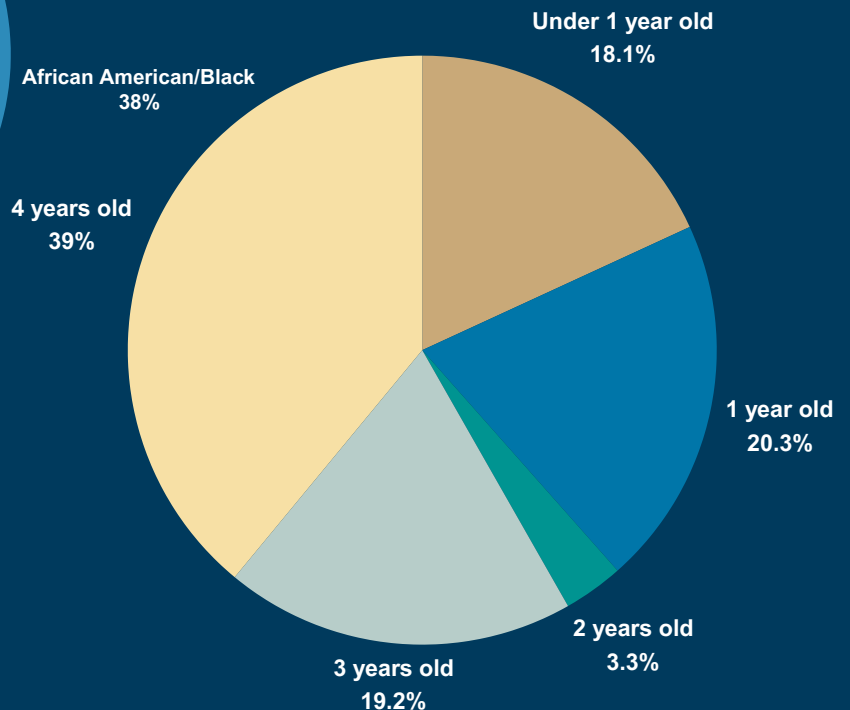
## Enrollment by Eligibility:



## Enrollment by Race:



## Enrollment by Age:



# School Readiness

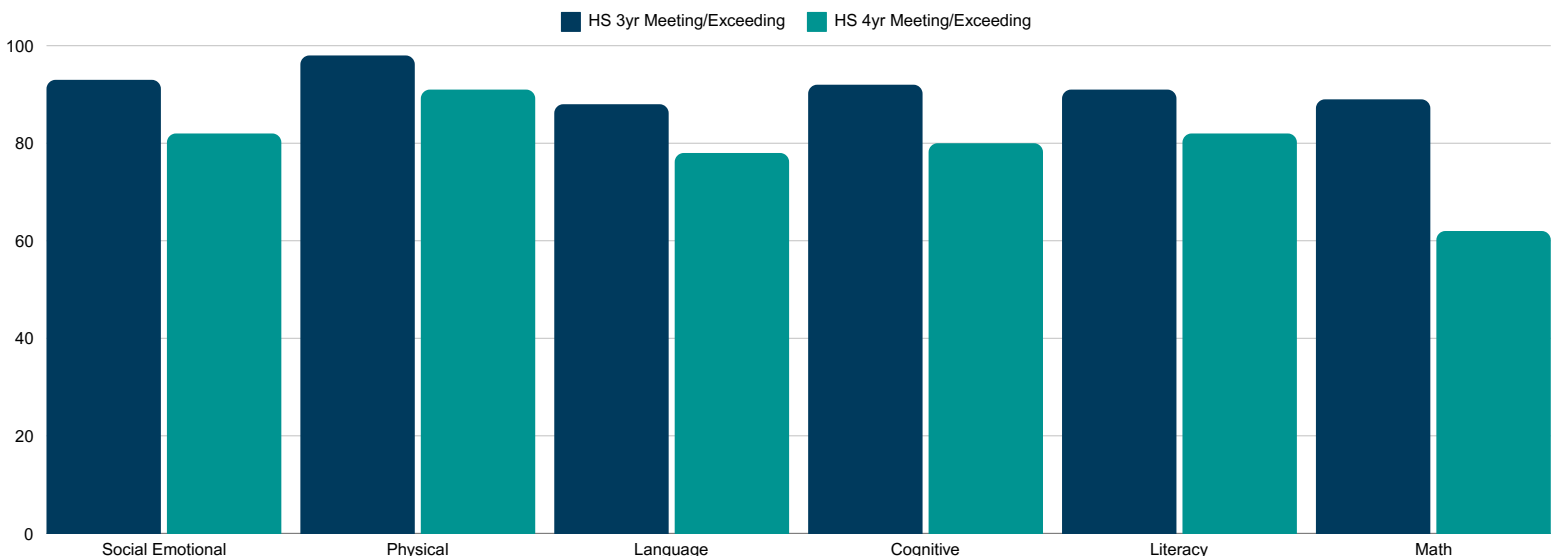
## Creative Curriculum

The program utilizes the Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies GOLD (TS GOLD) to track progress of school readiness goals and the quality of educational service delivery. TS GOLD is the best fit for our needs as it aligns with both Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Data informs us how many students are meeting/exceeding widely held expectations for their age in each domain area.

Assessment data is gathered for individual children daily using TS GOLD. Each classroom provides daily large group and small group instruction. Teachers use data to inform the structure and content of lesson planning. This planning includes one-on-one instruction/interactions and intentional activities. Teachers and Family Support Workers begin to discuss transitioning to kindergarten during parent meetings, conferences, and through take home flyers. Kindergarten transition meetings are provided in January. In the Spring, teachers participate in the district Articulation Day. They work with the kindergarten teachers to plan and schedule transition experiences for students.

According to Teaching Strategies reports, by the end of the spring checkpoint, 86.59% of Head Start and Early Head Start students (Educare) and 71% of Head Start students (Omaha Public Schools) met or exceeded Widely Held Expectations for social-emotional development.

## TS GOLD



# School Readiness

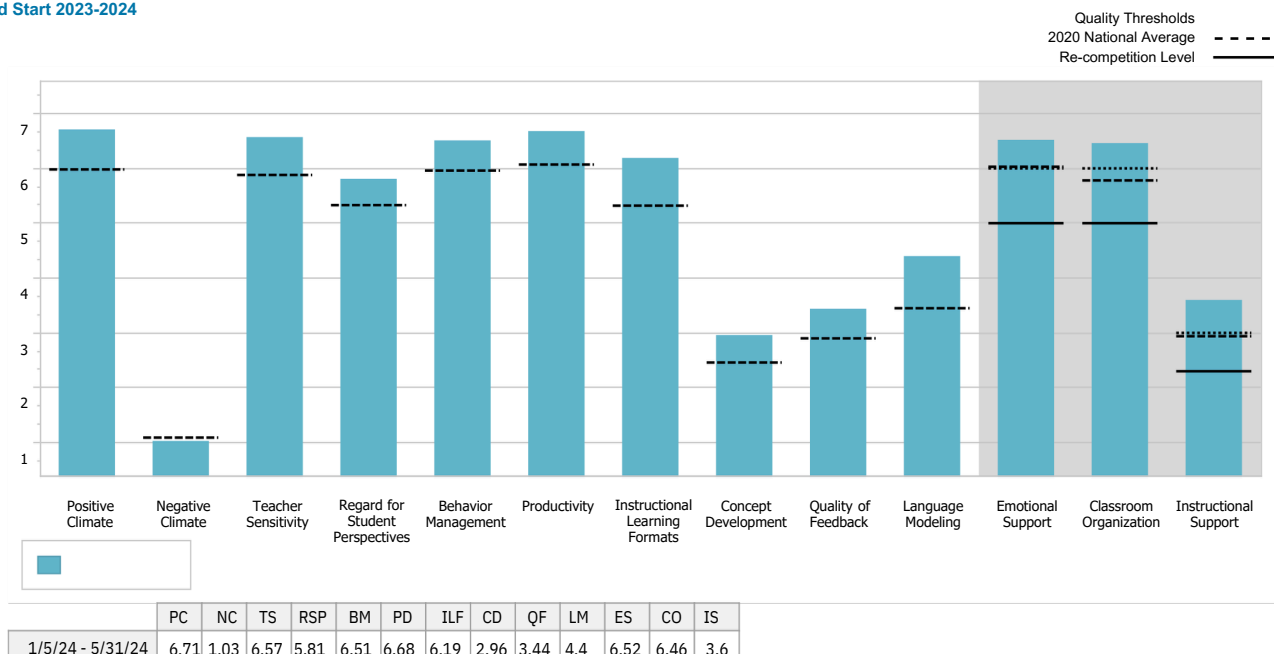
## High Quality Classrooms

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 Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). This tool measures the impact teachers have on a child through classroom interactions. CLASS observation results help to guide coaching support for teaching staff.

All classrooms received CLASS observations through the Nebraska Department of Education or an independent contractor. Data showed that averages met or exceeded national standards.

## CLASS

OPS Head Start 2023-2024







# FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Parent Committee meetings are conducted bimonthly at each school. Families receive Conscious Discipline parent trainings and set agendas and activities to support their goals. Over 1,000 total participants attended events including parent meetings, family engagement activities, and family nights during the 2023-2024 school year.

Family Support Workers partner with parents to establish goals and to connect families with community resources. Goals generally relate to one of the seven outcomes below:

Positive Parent/Child Relationships

Families as Learners

Families as Advocates and Leaders

Families as Lifelong Educators

Family Well-being

Family Engagement in Transitions

Family Connections to Peers and Community

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

92% of families say they feel welcome in their child's classroom.

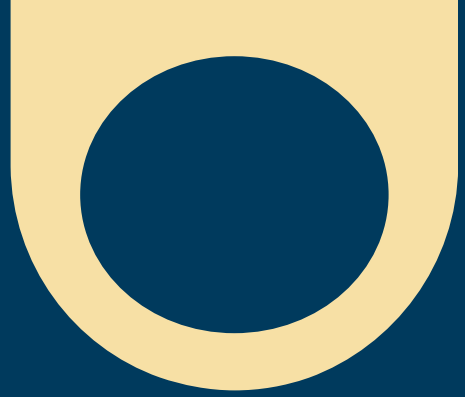
85% of families say they received help in identifying services and resources for their family.

93% of families say their teacher treats them and their family with respect.

90% of families say they received information about home activities to support their child's learning at home.



# Health & Well-Being



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

Parents are educated about the benefits of preventive health care and dental exams, importance of a medical and dental home, and how to provide nutritious food for their children. Health screenings are offered throughout the school year by school nursing staff and other community partners.

## 2023-2024 HS/EHS Health Data

	OPS HS	Edu HS	Edu EHS
Enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP	87%	94%	89%
Had private insurance	13%	5%	9%
Had no insurance	4%	1%	2%
Up to date on their preventive health care	73%	44%	35%
Receiving hearing, vision, or lead treatment, if needed	65%	95%	10%
Up to date on all immunizations	96%	98%	82%
Received professional dental exams	91%	98%	92%
Received dental treatment, if needed	81%	39%	1%
Are at risk for obesity	21%	13%	0%





# Financial Report

Amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source:

Regular Grant:

Budget Period 11-01-23 to 10-31-24

Federal Funds (80%):

\$9,202,203.00

Non Federal Funds (20%):

\$2,300,550.75

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

Personnel	\$ 3,933,017.00
Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,556,292.00
Out of Town Travel	\$ 46,508.00
Supplies	\$ 55,274.00
Contracts	\$ 3,543,813.00
Facilities / Construction	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 65,299.00
Direct Cost	\$ 9,202,203.00
Indirect Cost	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$9,202,203.00</b>

# Results of Recent Review

Our most recent federal review from the Office of Head Start included Focus Area 2 programming review. This review took place in February 2024.

During this review, we were found to have 5 areas of noncompliance. The Early Childhood/Head Start Leadership created a corrective action plan to address the areas of noncompliance. A follow up review was held on December 10, 2024.

The Office of Head Start CLASS Video review was conducted from March 18, 24 to May 10, 2024. We were above competitive thresholds in the domains of Emotional Support and Classroom Organization.

Results of the financial audit reported no findings or material weaknesses.





# Contact Us

## Early Childhood Programs Head Start

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Omaha, NE 68131  
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**Fax:** 531-299-0398

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 of Equity and Diversity ([equityanddiversity@ops.org](mailto:equityanddiversity@ops.org)), 3215 Cuming St, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

