



Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center

21 Birge Drive

Chauncey, OH 45719

www.athensmeigs.com

Heart of the Valley Head Start

Annual Report to the Public 2020-2021

Vision Statement: Heart of the Valley Head Start will promote positive outcomes in all areas of development to ensure children and families become life-long learners and achieve long term success.

Mission Statement: Heart of the Valley Head Start will support families and children by providing quality services that foster growth in school readiness, self-sufficiency, collaboration with other educational leaders, and awareness of community services.

The Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center is the grantee for the Heart of the Valley Head Start Program which provides a variety of comprehensive early childhood services to eligible infants, toddlers and preschoolers in Gallia and Meigs Counties in Ohio. The program provides center-based and child care options in eleven locations throughout the two counties. One location in Gallia County offers full day, full year child care classrooms serving infants thru preschool. 4 locations in Gallia County offer full day, 4 days per week classrooms and 3 locations in Gallia County offer full day, 5 days per week classrooms. All 3 locations in Meigs County offer full day, 5 days per week classroom.

Heart of the Valley Head Start works in collaborative partnerships with Gallia County Local Schools and Gallipolis City Schools in Gallia County, Ohio. This partnership allows head start children to attend center at the district elementary buildings along with ECE state funded and tuition preschoolers. These partnerships have ensured smooth transitions into the public school system for head start children and their families. The school districts provide transportation for these students.

Heart of the Valley also works in a collaborative partnership with Southern Local School District in Meigs County, Ohio. Head Start provides a 3 year old head start classroom in the elementary building. Children transition into the district preschool classroom the following year. The district provides transportation in the head start classroom.



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Heart of the Valley has collaborative partnerships with AMESC preschool units within Meigs Local and Eastern Local School Districts.

The Little Storm Early Learning Academy is located in Gallia County and is our only center serving infants thru preschoolers in a full working day/ full calendar year schedule. Parents whose children are served at this location are primarily students or working parents.

Heart of the Valley also has transportation contracts with Eastern Local School District and Meigs Local School District to provide busing to students who attend center at Meigs Early Learning Center (formerly Bradury Learning Center) and at the Eastern Early Learning Center (formerly Tupper Plains Early Learning Center).

2020-2021 ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Funds provided to Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center for head start and early head start children is through a federal grant.

	<u>Head Start</u>	<u>Early Head Start</u>
Funded Enrollment:	256	18
Total # Children Served	268	24
Total # Families Served	257	20
% of Eligible Children Served	100%	100%

2020-2021 FUNDING/EXPENDITURES

Funding: \$2,569,098 Federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
\$ 104,697 CACFP reimbursement for nutrition services



Expenditures:

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- Wages: \$1,078,256
- Benefits: \$658,336
- Supplies: \$132,932
- Training: \$27,031
- Contractual: \$472,185
- Indirect Costs: \$42,590
- Other: \$53,071

Please note that total administrative expenditures for the period is 390,396. Said costs include wages, benefits, supplies, property/vehicle insurance, and indirect costs listed above.

In addition to the above funding amounts, Heart of the Valley Head Start received \$642,275 Non-Federal Share in donated goods and services in FY 20.

Financial Audit

The most recent financial audit for AMESC for fiscal year 2020 is available at the Treasurer's Office located at 21 Birge Drive Chauncey, Ohio 45719. Findings and corrective action plan, should there be any, can be found in each audit.

Staffing

Heart of the Valley Head Start employs 74 staff to provide high quality early childhood experiences to children in Gallia and Meigs counties thru direct and contract services. 100% of teachers have an Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree or Master Degree in Early Childhood Education.

- 100% of teacher assistants have a CDA Credential or are currently enrolled in a CDA program.



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Health and Disability Services

- 100% of enrolled children received well-child examinations.
- 99.6% of enrolled children had medical insurance.
- 96.0% of enrolled children had a medical home.
- 97.0% of enrolled children received all required immunizations for age.
- 65.8% of enrolled children received a dental screening.
- 11.7% of enrolled children received disabilities services.

Federal Reviews and Inspection Reports

- Heart of the Valley Head Start was found to be in compliance for child care licensing through the Ohio Department of Education.
- The most recent federal on-site monitoring review was found to be in full compliance.

Step Up to Quality Rating System

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) is a five-star quality rating and improvement system administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. SUTQ recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet quality program standards that exceed licensing health and safety regulations. The program standards are based on national research identifying standards which lead to improved outcomes for children. Heart of the Valley Head Start's ratings are listed below. Any center that has not received a rating yet will be rated by 2021.

5 Star Centers:

4 Star Centers: 2

Centers Not Rated: 4

Parent, Family and Community Engagement Activities



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Heart of the Valley Head Start offers a variety of activities and trainings to support family and community engagement. All families have monthly opportunity to be a part of their centers parent meetings and to serve on Policy Council. Surveys are completed by families at the beginning of the school year to gauge parent interest. Listed below are activities that were conducted during the 2020-2021 school year for families, children and community members.

- CPR/First Aid Training
- Budgeting Your Dollars Training
- Dealing with Behaviors Training
- Literacy Night
- Math Night
- Science Night
- Week of the Young Child Activities
- Kindergarten Transition Celebration
- Local Field Trips (post office, bakery, nursing homes)
- Kindergarten Classroom Visit
- Fall Celebratio
- Winter Celebration
- Spring Celebration
- Mother's Day Tea
- Someone Special Day
- Donuts with Dad
- Grandparent Day
- Center Christmas Dinner
- Center Thanksgiving Dinner
- Christmas Caroling
- End of the Year Family Picnic
- Parent Meetings
- Policy Council Meetings

Demonstration Collaboration Project

Heart of the Valley Head Start was selected as one of twelve head start programs nationwide to participate in a pilot project for the Office of Head Start. The focus of the project was to strengthen transitions between head start children into the public school setting. Heart of the Valley partnered with Gallia County Local Schools as part of their ongoing collaboration to develop a plan that not only strengthened transitions for children but also for families. Our



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project focused on building family relationships and community relationships to help meet the whole needs of the child and the family. Heart of the Valley Head Start has been recognized as an exemplar of collaboration by the Office of Head Start and most recently as an exemplar of engagement by the Ohio Department of Education.

COVID-19

On March 16, 2020 program services had to be changed immediately due to the State of Ohio's Governors Order that ALL schools would be closed due to the spread of COVID 19. In person services were suspended for what would be the remainder of the school year. The Office of Head Start responded quickly to the pandemic and made it clear that no head start employees should be laid off or lose their income. They provided flexibilities which allowed staff to work from home if they could not be on site. During the pandemic, head start staff navigated uncharted waters and was able to provide services to children and families remotely thru the use of technology and also the use of educational packets for families who did not have access to technology or the internet. This was a learning experience for staff and families. During this time, as difficult as it seemed, head start families remained in touch with staff and was very appreciative of the many supports that they were still able to receive during this time. During the time of COVID, Head Start continued to provide hot meals daily to children. The meals could be picked up at the school or families could have them delivered. Many families benefited from this service. It was during this time that common grocery items such as milk, bread and meat could not found at the grocery store. Heart of the Valley Head Start also continued to distribute formula and diapers to the Early Head Start kids.

Although COVID interrupted many things in the spring of the year and disrupted services in many different ways, one thing that COVID strengthened was the relationships that our program had with families. Heart of the Valley staff is to be commended for stepping up and reaching out to our service area's most vulnerable families.



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