Danville Head Start Pre-K

2023 - 2024 Annual Report

Fiscal Year: Sept 1, 2023- Aug 31, 2024







"Educating Children, Empowering Families"

www.danvillesd.org 570-271-3268 ext 3700

Danville Head Start Pre-K

2023 - 2024 Annual Report to the Community

This report is made available to the public through mail/email, our website or by contacting the office at 570-271-3268 ext 3700

www.danvillesd.org



A letter from the Director:

At Danville Head Start Pre-K, we believe in nurturing the whole child and family, a philosophy that guides our work and paves the road to success.

We recognize that the needs of our children are changing, and the support systems they need are greater than ever before. During this past program year, DHSTPK focused on key areas including mental health, trauma, social-emotional learning, and staff wellness. Our initiatives included implementing the Second Step Social-Emotional curriculum, expanding services of our mental health consultant, and increasing staff wellness opportunities, leading to creating a culture of well-being.

We are grateful for our dedicated staff and the invaluable support of our grantee, the Danville Area School District, and our many community partners, who make this important work possible!

Sincerely,
Linda Marshall
Linda Marshall
Director



Board of Directors

President:
Sandy Green
Vice President:
Richard Vognetz
Members:
Wayne Brookhart
Tyler Garman
Samuel Faulkner
Kerry Hoffman
Derl Reichard
Derl Reichard Jr.
Robert Umbriac

Head Start Pre-K Management

Dr. Molly Nied, *Superintendent*

Linda Marshall, *Director*

Kristina Brady, *Assistant Director*

Coty Lenches, *Education & Family Services Manager*

Danville Head Start Pre-K Policy Council

Policy Council

In accordance with federal Head Start Program Performance Standards, Danville Head Start Pre-K is guided by a dedicated Policy Council. This council, comprised of parents of enrolled children and community members, plays a vital role in shaping the direction of our program at the agency level. The Policy Council serves as a crucial bridge, connecting families with the decision-making processes that impact their children's education. Working in close partnership with our leadership team and Board of Directors, the Policy Council actively participates in developing, reviewing, and approving policies, strategic plans, and all other essential business activities."



Policy Council Members

President
Wendy Miller
Vice President
Terry O'Brien
Secretary
Heather Barnhart
School Board
Derl Reichard
Members
Michael Heaps
Shawn Smith
Jonathan Scott-Bey
Coty Johnson
Jill Brandon
Chrissy Valania
Elizabeth Hazzard



Children & Families We Serve

As proven leaders in early childhood education and family development, Danville Head Start Pre-K is dedicated to enhancing the quality of low-income children and families in Montour County and Danville Area School District area. Our knowledgeable and caring staff accomplish our mission by providing early care and education for children three to five years of age, emphasizing healthy outcomes and school readiness, promoting family self-sufficiency, and partnering with our community.



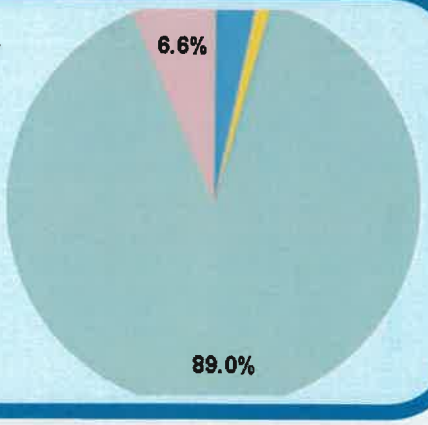
Total Number of Children Served: 91
Total Number of Families Served: 86
Number of Classrooms: 6

Age Of Children:
3 Years Old: 35
4 Years Old: 56



Enrollment by Ethnicity

- Asain
- African American
- White
- Multi-Racial





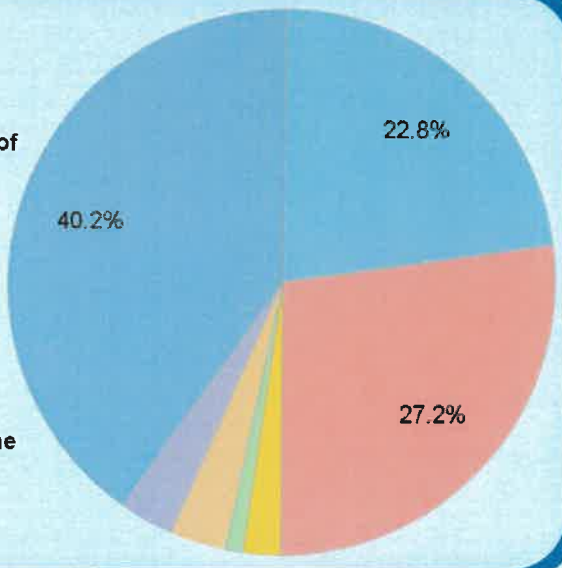
84% Head Start Children Received Transportation



15 Children Served with a Diagnosed Disability

Eligibility

- Income at or below 100% of federal poverty line
- Public Assistance (TANF, SSI, and Snap)
- Foster Care
- Homeless
- Eligibility based on other needs
- Income is between 100-130% of federal poverty line
- Pre-K Counts Program



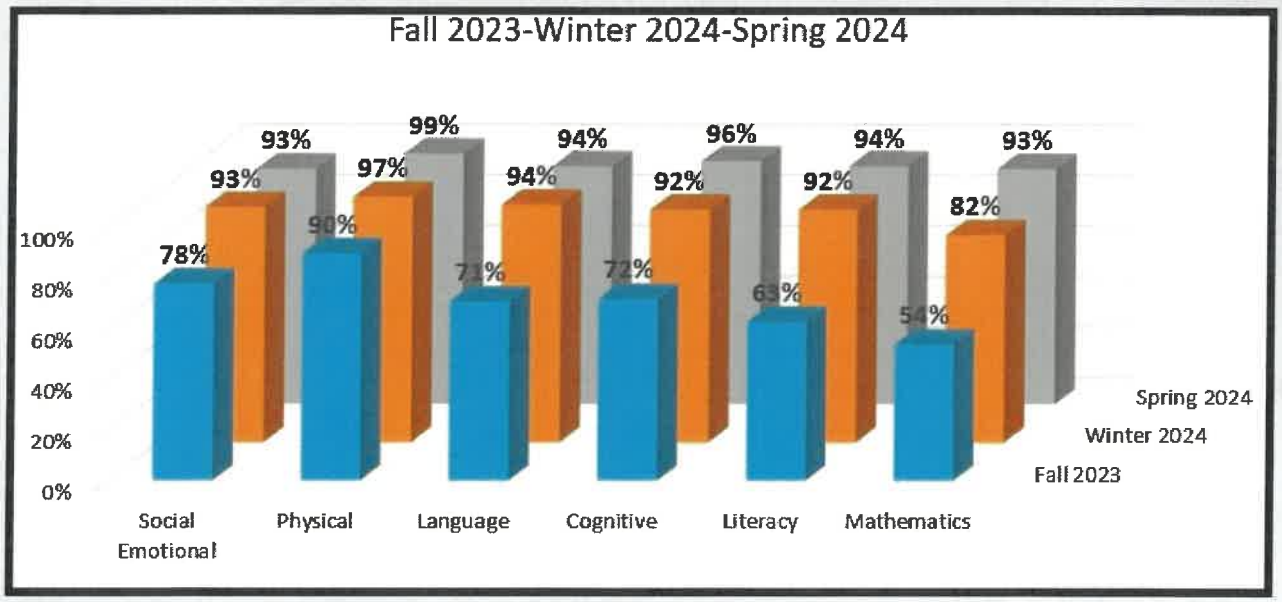


Curriculum, Assessment, & Child Outcomes



At Danville Head Start Pre-K, we are dedicated to providing a dynamic and enriching learning environment. We implement the research-based Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers, ensuring developmentally appropriate and engaging instruction tailored to diverse learners. Complementing this, we integrate Second Step for social-emotional learning and Heggerty for literacy development. Our children thrive through active exploration and discovery, cultivating confidence, creativity, and essential critical thinking skills.

We utilize Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) to assess and celebrate each child's developmental progress in cognition, social-emotional, physical, language, literacy, and mathematics. Teachers leverage TSG data to drive instruction, personalize learning experiences, promote school readiness, and maintain strong partnerships with families. To demonstrate the progress our children made, please see the chart below, which displays our child outcome data from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024."



Disabilities



To ensure every child receives the support they need, we conduct developmental screenings upon enrollment. We use the Battelle Developmental Inventory-3 (BDI-3) to assess key areas like communication, social-emotional development, motor skills, cognitive abilities, and adaptive behaviors. We value the insights of families and teachers, combining their observations with hands-on demonstrations of your child's skills. Together, we determine if additional support or intervention might be beneficial. We share screening results with families and, when needed, connect them with our local Early Intervention program for further evaluation. We're dedicated to identifying and supporting children with unique developmental needs, and we proudly meet our commitment to serving at least 10% of our funded enrollment with children who have special needs.

Transition

Transition Into Head Start Pre-K

Danville Head Start Pre-K is committed to ensuring a smooth transition for every family entering our program and as they move to the next stage. Before the first day of school, teachers complete an initial home visit with all families. This visit provides a valuable opportunity for teachers to meet children in their home environment, share important information about the child and our program, collaborate on developing educational goals, and identify any potential need for additional support. Following the home visits, families are warmly invited to attend our Welcoming Days/Open House in August. This event allows families to explore the classroom, meet their teachers at school, participate in a parent orientation, and complete any necessary paperwork before the first day of school.



Transition to Kindergarten

A smooth kindergarten transition is a collaborative effort between families, schools, and teachers. We begin in February with a dedicated parent meeting, facilitated by our Local Education Agency (LEA), to support children with Individualized Education Plans .



In May, we hosted a successful 'Kindergarten Transition Night' at Danville Primary School, welcoming all registered kindergarteners from the community. This event provided a wonderful opportunity for children to familiarize themselves with their future learning environment. Families met with the principal and kindergarten teachers, experienced a school bus ride, enjoyed a snack in the cafeteria, and explored a kindergarten classroom. Each child received a special cinch bag filled with kindergarten readiness resources, a picture book showcasing their new school, a kindergarten-themed storybook, and a pencil. Danville Head Start Pre-K parents also benefited from a dedicated orientation, offering practical guidance on preparing themselves and their children for this exciting milestone."

Health & Well-Being



We actively promote the health and development of all children. This includes providing comprehensive screenings, ensuring daily physical activity, offering nutritious meals, and supporting oral and mental health. Our health services encompass hearing and vision checks, growth monitoring, and proactive scheduling of well-child and dental appointments. For children with disabilities, we provide direct classroom support, collaborate with families, and facilitate referrals to the CSIU for specialized services. Our mental health consultant directly assists staff and families through consultations, observations, and strategy implementation for positive behavioral outcomes."

Health Outcomes



- 100% of children had health insurance
- 100% of children had a medical home
- 97% of children had all possible immunizations
- 96% of children had a dental home
- 100% of children received dental care during the year
- 100% had an up-to-date well child examination
- 21 children diagnosed with a chronic health condition



Staff Wellness

Our Staff Wellness Committee focuses on the mental health and well-being of our team, knowing that healthy staff provide the best care for our children. Throughout the year, they've offered education on health, fitness, and kindness, and hosted events like a Book Club, Yoga Night, and Paint Party to support staff wellness."





Kindness Campaign

Staff members donated items to the Women's Center in Bloomsburg as a part of the wellness committee's kindness campaign.
Staff participated in a Kindness Friend activity where they gifted each other with simple, inexpensive or free things.

Nutrition

Healthy eating is the foundation for a child's well-being, growth, and development. Our nutrition services are designed to support this, offering comprehensive nutrition assessments, delicious and nutritious meals tailored to individual dietary needs, and empowering education for families.



Throughout the year, we actively promote healthy eating habits. We begin with a family eating habits checklist, which our Nutrition Consultant reviews, providing personalized advice and suggestions to enhance your child's diet. In the classroom, children engage in fun and interactive food studies, and even get to explore their culinary creativity by building their own healthy creations!



Mental Health

The Preschool and Kindergarten Behavior Scales (PKBS) is a tool we use to understand each child's social-emotional development. This assessment helps us identify areas of strength and potential challenges, allowing us to provide proactive support. If a child shows areas where extra support would be helpful, we create individualized action plans. These plans are implemented through small group and one-on-one interactions, ensuring targeted instruction. We also utilize the Second Step Early Learning curriculum, which focuses on building core social-emotional and self-regulation skills. This includes teaching children executive function, empathy, emotion management, problem-solving, and how to build positive friendships."





Dr. Heidi Fisher, a child psychologist from Geisinger Medical Center, continues to support Danville Head Start Pre-K as our Mental Health Consultant. She visits twice a month to help staff and families understand and address social-emotional concerns. Dr. Fisher provides recommendations, assists with referrals, and offers strategies to help children thrive in the classroom."



Dr. Fisher hosted four Parent Workshop sessions to share her knowledge and experience on the following topics: Sleep Routines, Temper Tantrums, Toilet Training and Getting Your Child to Listen. The workshops were offered twice per session day once in the morning and once in the evening in order to accommodates our families schedules.

Behavior Management

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) has been a long-standing strength of our program, providing a proactive framework for creating a positive and supportive learning environment. PBIS enhances social-emotional skills, academic success, attendance rates, teacher well-being and reducing challenging behaviors. PBIS ensures our classrooms are positive, predictable, equitable and safe learning environments where everyone can thrive.





Our PBIS Leadership Team uses data-based decisions to guide efforts and outcomes with our children. This approach has shown to be effective in increasing the children's social emotional skills and increasing teacher's confidence in supporting children.

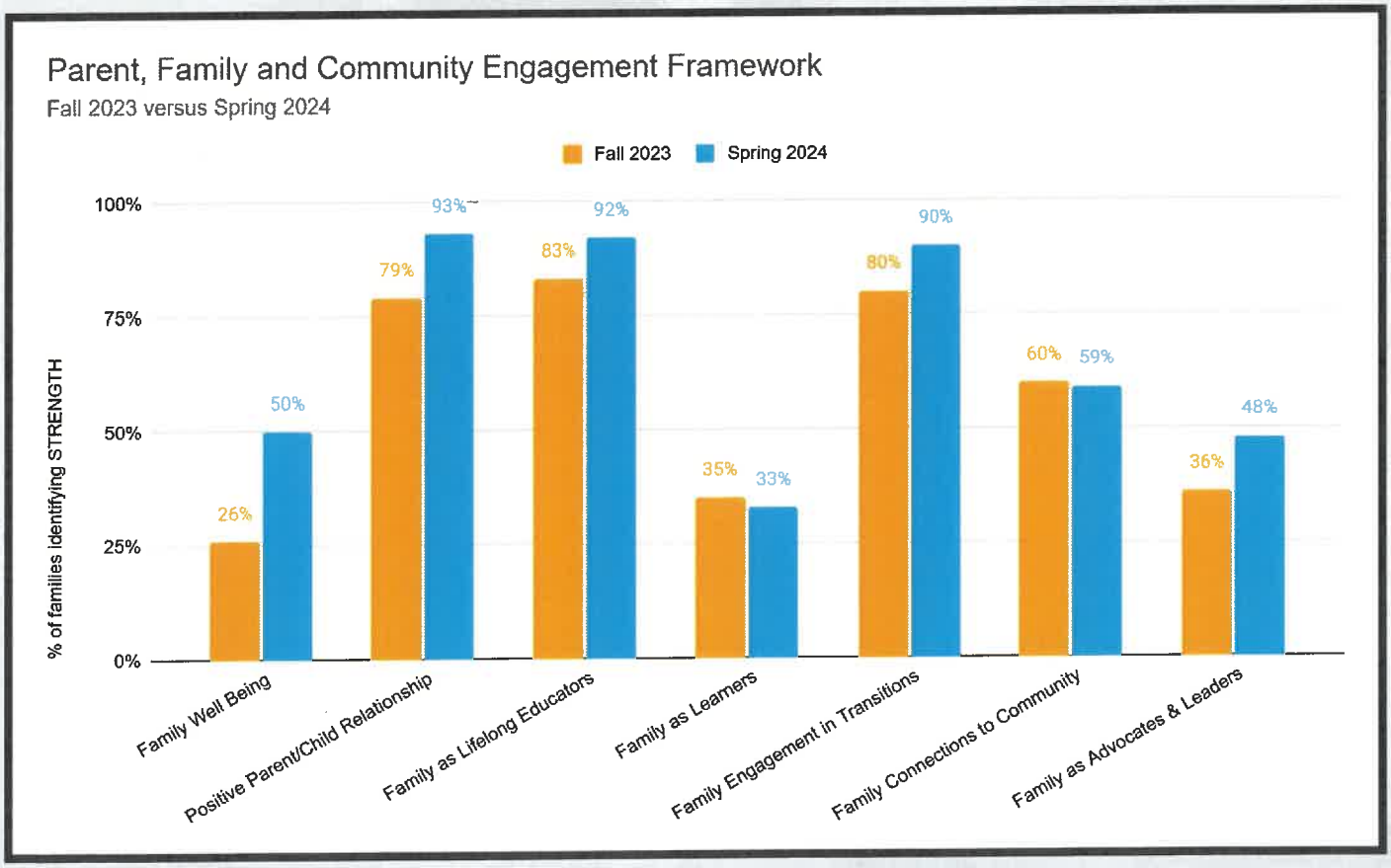
Parent & Family Engagement

Our dedicated Family Advocates partner closely with families throughout the year, providing comprehensive support. At the beginning of each year, families collaborate with their advocate to create a Family Partnership Agreement and establish personalized goals. Advocates conduct a minimum of three home visits annually, during which they review progress toward these goals, celebrate achievements, and adjust action steps as needed. They also complete a Family Outcome Assessment during each visit, identifying family strengths and needs. Based on these assessments, advocates connect families with valuable resources and referrals.



Beyond home visits, our advocates provide ongoing assistance with obtaining and maintaining up-to-date physical, dental, and immunization records. They also offer support with appointment scheduling, reminders, and transportation when needed. At Danville Head Start Pre-K, we are committed to empowering families to achieve self-sufficiency and thrive.

The table below compares the percentage of families demonastrating strenghts across nine Parent, Family, and Community Engagement framework areas between Fall 2023-2024



Parent & Family Engagement

ReadyRosie

Families can access ReadyRosie, a research-proven parenting resource, featuring brief tutorial videos tailored to classroom lessons or individual family goals, designed to enhance family engagement and promote positive child development Parent Meeting Events that we had were a science fair, and preserving memories thorugh a time capsule







Community Involvement

Week of Young Child







We celebrated April's Week of the Young Child (WOYC) with a lively, movement-focused week highlighting the importance of early learning and healthy habits. Our students enjoyed visits from a diverse group of community partners—from school leaders to a talented dance instructor and musician—who shared their expertise through interactive sessions featuring music, healthy foods, art projects, and collaborative play.











Community Involvement



Members from the local fire department came to talk to students about fire safety





Danville Head Start Pre-K participated in a local community awareness event at the Danville Primary School.

WVIA visited our program to talk about how a bad moment doesn't mean we have to have a bad day. Children did a collage to represent how a day is made up of many moments





Community Involvement

Promoting Health Education



Throughout the year, Geisinger Residents visited our program to educate students on key health topics. Their sessions included:

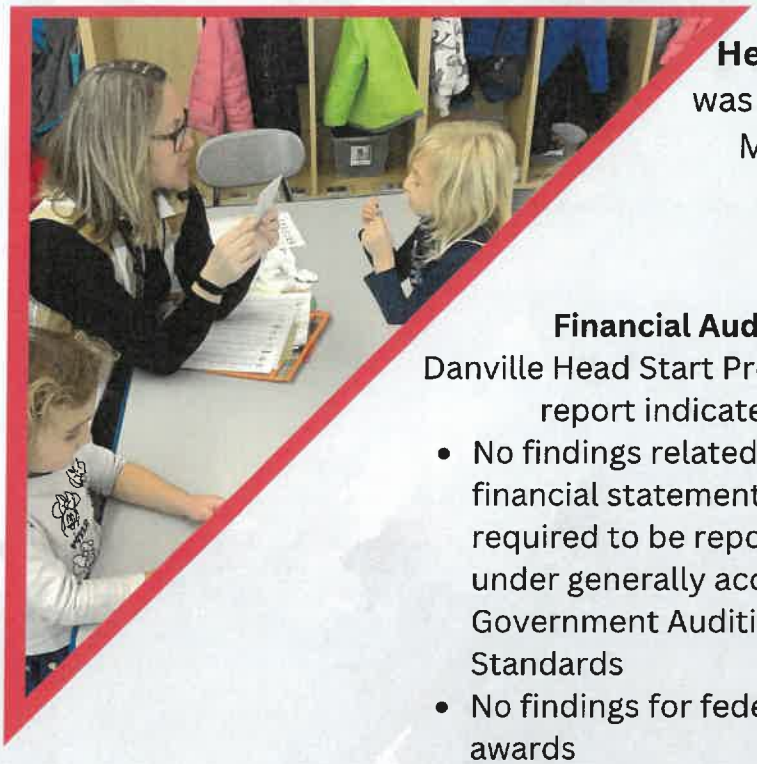
- Movers and Munchers: Emphasizing healthy eating and active lifestyles, residents discussed fueling the body with nutritious foods and suggested activities like yoga and dancing for daily exercise.
- Smart Smilers: Focusing on oral hygiene, residents taught proper teeth care and provided hands-on practice for brushing techniques.
- Germ Busters: Highlighting the importance of hygiene, residents stressed the need for frequent handwashing to prevent the spread of germs.







Accountability



Head Starts latest Federal Monitoring Review was a Focus Area II Federal Monitoring review in May 2022.. No areas of non-compliance or deficiencies were noted.

Financial Audit

Danville Head Start Pre-K's audit report indicated:

- No findings related to financial statements as required to be reported under generally accepted Government Auditing Standards
- No findings for federal awards
- No reportable conditions in internal control over major programs

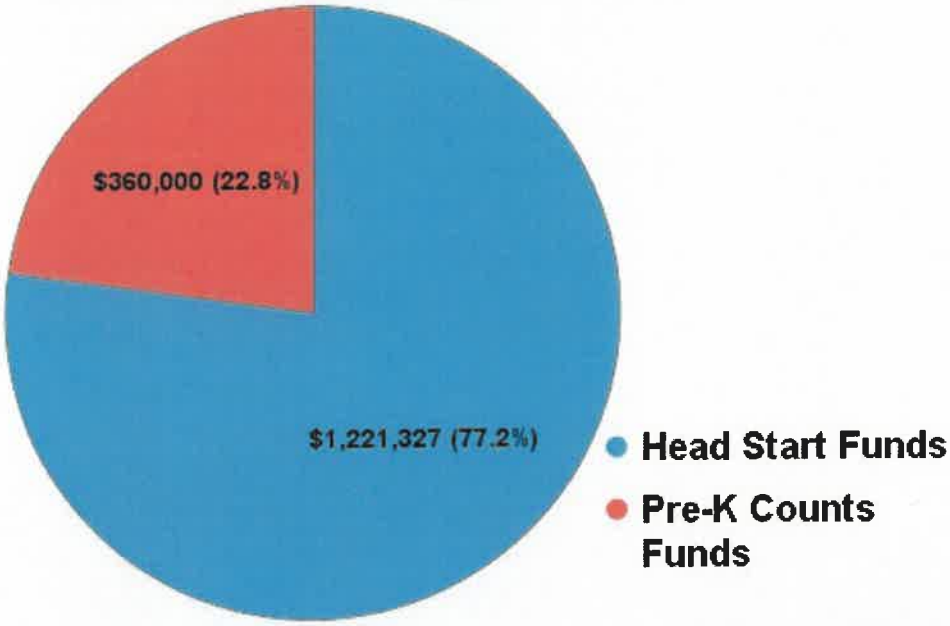


Pre-K Counts scored in the overall exemplary range during 2023-2024 monitoring review.

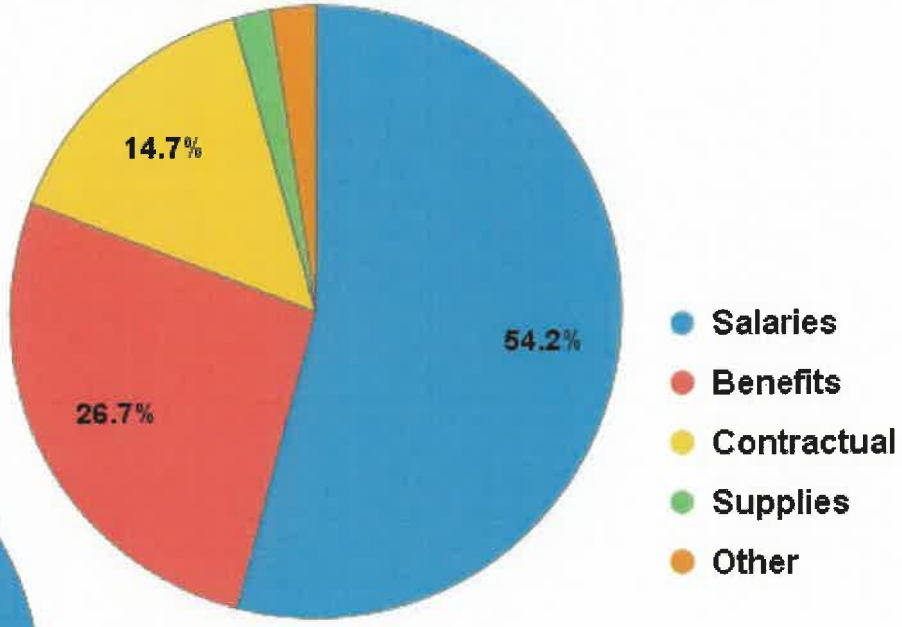


Budget & Finance

2023-2024 Funding Sources



2023-2024 Budget



2023-2024 Expenditures

