Danville Head Start Pre-K

2024 - 2025 Annual Report

Fiscal Year: Sept 1, 2024- Aug 31, 2025







"Educating Children, Empowering Families"

This report is made available to the public through mail/email, by contacting the office at 570-271-3268 x3700 or by visiting our website at www.danvillesd.org

A letter from the Director:

This year, we proudly celebrated 60 years of providing high-quality services to children and families both nationally and right here in our community. When President Lyndon B. Johnson launched Project Head Start in 1964 as a pillar to his "War on Poverty", few could have predicted its enduring legacy. From its inception, the program was designed to support the "whole child", addressing emotional , social, health, nutritional, and education needs.

Our program started in 1965 as an eight week summer program serving 18 children. Since then, we have grown alongside our community, expanding services, building partnerships and preparing generations of children for success in school and in life!

We are deeply grateful to the Danville Area School District, our families and community for the continued support of this amazing program! Happy 60th Birthday Danville Head Start Pre-K!

Sincerely,
Linda Marshall
Linda Marshall
Director





Board of Directors

President:
Derl Reichard Jr.

Vice President:
Tyler Garman

Members:
Wayne Brookhart
Samuel Faulkner
Sandy Green
Adam Gregg
Kerry Hoffman
Derl Reichard
Robert Umbriac

Head Start Pre-K Management

Dr. Molly Nied, *Superintendent*

Linda Marshall, *Director*

Kristina Brady, *Assistant Director*

Coty Lenches, *Education & Family Services Manager*

Happy 60th Birthday Danville Head Start Pre-K!

Danville Head Start Pre-K celebrated its 60th birthday on Thursday, June 5th, 2025, with a heartfelt event. The celebration gathered children, families, community leaders, and supporters to review the program's history and impact. Highlights included a visual timeline of both federal and local program milestones, over 115 personal testimonies, and a children's art show featuring every student's work.



Local and state leaders showed up in force to support Danville Head Start Pre-K! We were honored to host the Montour County Commissioners, State Representative Michael Stender, and Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver's office. Adding to the celebration, Governor Josh Shapiro joined Senator Culver and Representative Stender in recognizing our program with official proclamations.

Danville Head Start Pre-K has impacted my family in many different ways. We have been given resources we needed to be able to keep our family safe, fed, and stable. Without the resources from our family advocate and all staff, there are some things I don't think our family would have made it through.

Danville Head Start Pre-K has been a transformative experience for my daughter! When she first started, she was hesitant to interact with others or step out of her comfort zone, but now she flourishes by connecting with everyone and gets along wonderfully with her peers. She's also learned and grown so much in her years there. Thank you Danville Head Start Pre-K!

Danville Head Start Pre-K is an amazing program that not only helped my autistic daughter (now 17 years old) learn and develop skills but gave me peace of mind and support as a young mom. My now 4 year old son loves his teachers and the program and has grown and developed in his learning because of this program's existence. As a previous employee of the program I know for fact this program does so much for so many families.

My daughter had the most amazing experience with Head Start Pre-K, her teacher was amazing and got her completely ready and confidant for kindergarten. Thank you all!






Happy
60th
BDAY
HEAD START
PRE-K



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
Heather Barnhart
Vice President
Michael Heaps
Secretary
Liz Hazzard
School Board
Derl Reichard
Members
Shawn Smith
Moly Thuy
Sarah Breech
Coty Johnson
Jill Brandon
Jennifer Jones
Stephanie Amidon



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

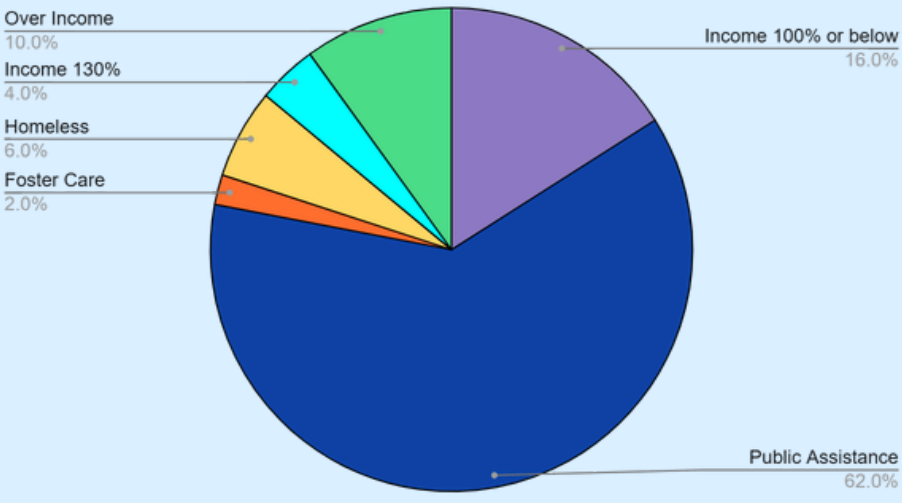


12 Children Served with a Diagnosed Disability



86% Head Start Children Utilitzed Transportation





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

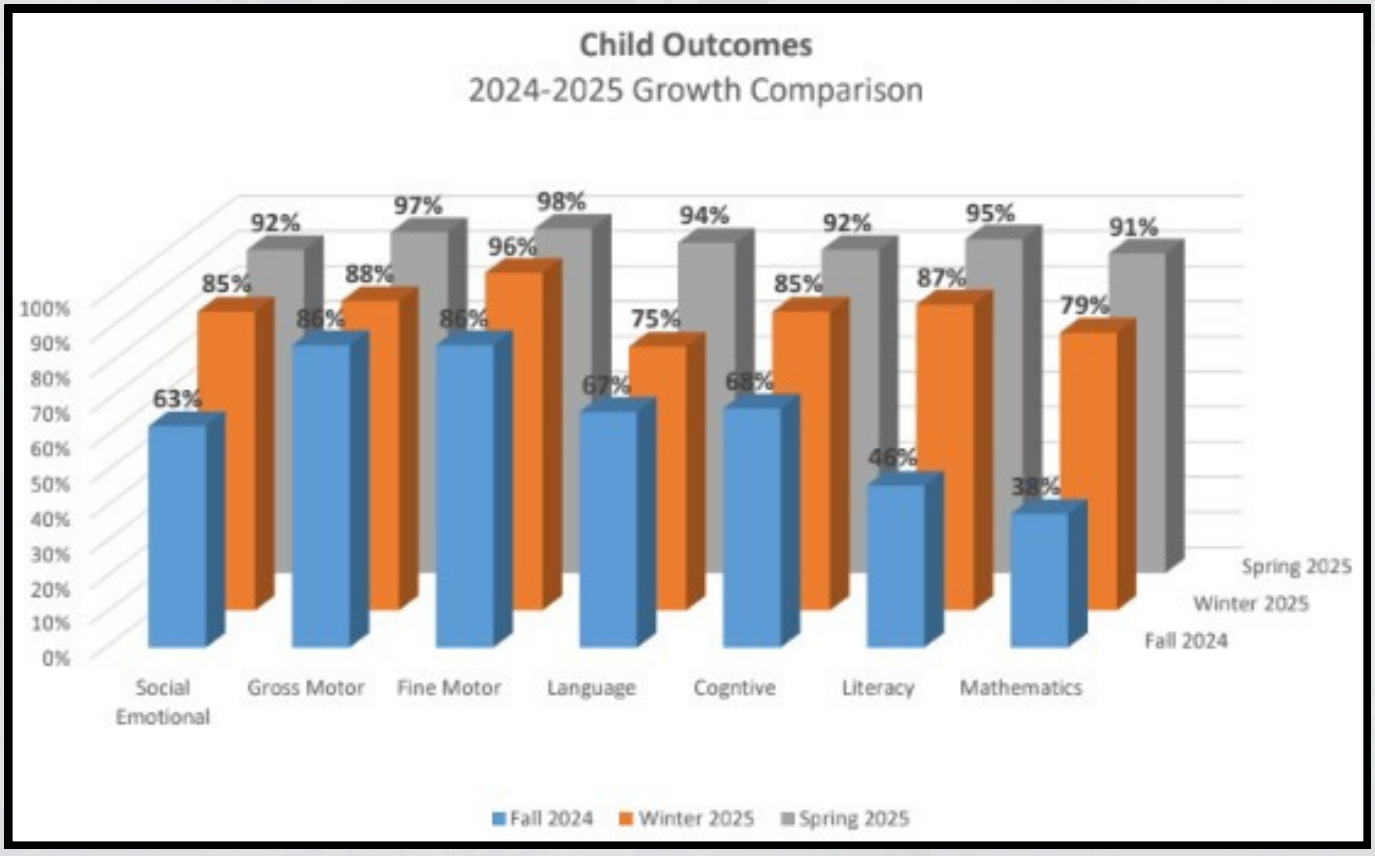


Curriculum, Assessment, & Child Outcomes

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 2024 to Spring 2025.



Disabilities

Danville Head Start Pre-K prioritizes inclusive education by meeting the diverse developmental and social-emotional needs of our students.

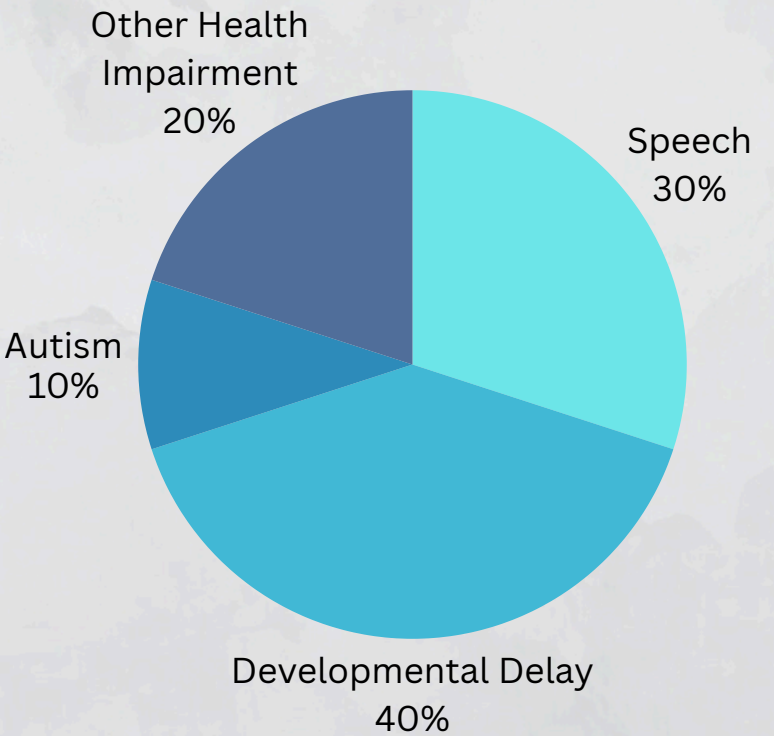
- Screening: We utilize the BDI-3 assessment for all children aged 3–5 to monitor key growth milestones.
- Partnership: Teachers and families review results together to determine if individualized interventions are required.
- Referral & Support: We facilitate referrals to the CSIU for eligibility evaluations and coordinate ongoing services for students with existing IEPs.
- Commitment: We are proud to exceed our goal of dedicating 10% of our enrollment to children with special needs, ensuring every child has the tools to succeed.

Children who entered Danville Head Start Pre-K with an IEP
5 or 6% of total children

Children who had a referral submitted on their behalf during the 24-25 SY
17 or 19% of total children

Children in the program with an IEP in June 2025
10 or 11% of total children

Categories identified for children with an IEP



Transition

Danville Head Start Pre-K ensures a smooth transition through early engagement and collaborative planning:

- **<u>Early Connection</u>: Before school starts, teachers visit families at home to build personal relationships and celebrate each child's unique background.**
- **<u>Classroom Introduction:</u> An Open House allows students to play with future classmates while parents receive a comprehensive overview of the upcoming year.**
- **<u>Kindergarten Readiness:</u> Mid-year, our Child Services Coordinator guides families through district registration and shares key dates for kindergarten events.**
- **<u>Tailored Support:</u> For students with an IEP, we host collaborative meetings with families, receiving schools, and the LEA to ensure continuity of care.**

By aligning expectations and maintaining open communication with elementary schools, we provide every child with a positive, confident introduction to their next chapter.







In May, Danville Head Start Pre-K in collaboration with other local Early Childhood Providers, held a community wide Kindergarten Transition Event at the Primary School. This event was meaningful for incoming kindergarten children as they were offered opportunities to explore a kindergarten classroom, ride a bus, walk in the cafeteria line and enjoyed a snack. This event was well attended by 27 of 40 Danville Head Start Pre-K students attending kindergarten at DASD and an additional 68 families from the community.









Health & Well-Being

Our Commitment to Child Health & Development

We provide a full spectrum of services designed to support every child's healthy growth:

- Preventative Care: Comprehensive screenings, hearing and vision checks, growth monitoring, and scheduled well-child and dental appointments
- Daily Wellness: Daily physical activity and nutritious, balanced meals
- Mental & Oral Health: Direct support for both oral and mental health
- Specialized Support (Disabilities): Direct in-classroom assistance, strong family collaboration, and facilitated referrals to the CSIU for specialized services
- Behavioral Support: Our mental health consultant works with staff and families, providing observations, consultations, and implementing strategies for positive behavior.

Health Outcomes

Health Insurance
100%

Medical Home
98%

Up-to-date Immunizations
88%

Up-to-date preventative and primary health care
95%

Dental Home
95%

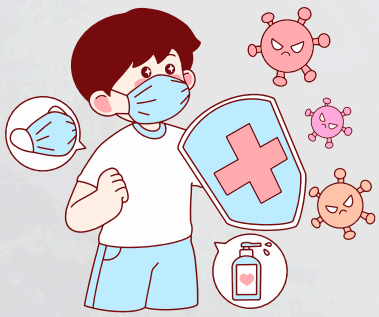
Up-to-date preventative/primary oral health care or preventative treatment
91%

Chronic Health Conditions
12 students









Nutrition

Nutritious meals are essential to healthy growth and development. Nutrition services include nutrition assessments, nutritious meals with modifications for children with special dietary needs and education to empower families to help them make healthy choices for themselves and their children. Our program provides two nutritious meal per day following CACFP guidelines. Throughout the year, we actively promote healthy eating habits. 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

Dr. Heidi Fisher, a dedicated child psychologist from Geisinger Medical Center, has continued her role as the Mental Health Consultant for our program. Dr. Fisher is a vital resource for our program, visiting us twice monthly. Her focus is on strengthening the social-emotional well-being of our students by:

Consulting with Staff & Families: Providing expert guidance to help our team and parents understand and effectively address social-emotional concerns in children.
Offering Practical Strategies: Delivering specific, actionable recommendations and classroom strategies designed to help every child flourish and thrive in the learning environment.
Facilitating Referrals: Assisting families with appropriate referrals and linkages to external services when needed.
Serving as a member of our MTSS Team



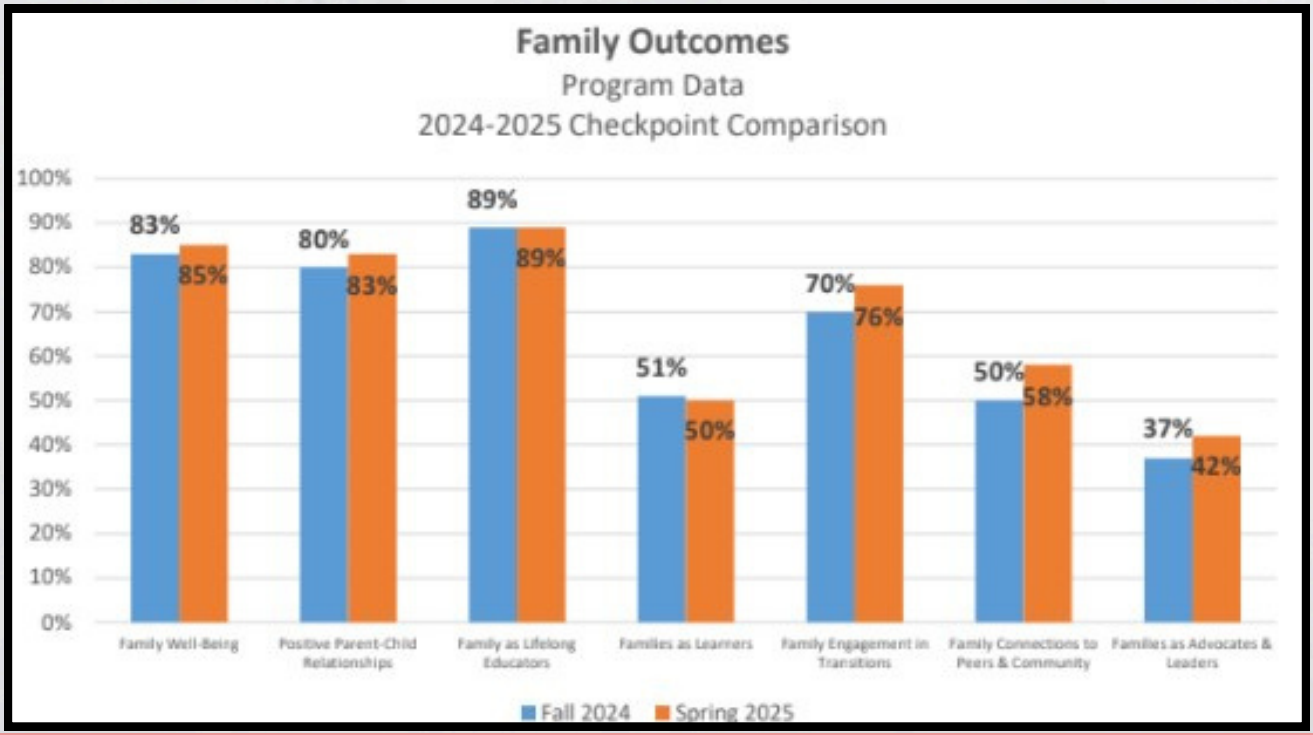
Dr. Fisher hosted four Parent Workshop sessions to share her knowledge and experience on the following topics: Sleep Routines, Managing Emotions/Temper Tantrums, Toilet Training and Child Development and Engagement. The workshops were well attended and all families left with tips and strategies to use at home.

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 demonstrating strengths across seven Parent, Family, and Community Engagement framework at the end of Spring 2025.



Parent & Family Engagement

Family Engagement is the cornerstone of Head Start! Beginning in September 2024, the Family Services Team initiated Parent Cafes on the second Friday of each month. Parent Cafes are a time for adult socialization with fellow Danville Head Start Pre-K parents. Together, attendees discussed areas of strengths and areas for growth. This information led to the planning of trainings based on parent input and interest. During Parent Cafes, cafe-style food and beverages are offered to attendees, as well as transportation for anyone in need.

15 family members participated in more than one session throughout the school year.

Topics that were presented to attendees included:

Healthy Eating

Child Development

Budgeting

Adult Self-Care

Zones of Regulation Curriculum







Community Involvement



From left: Ms. Shayne, Ms. Alexus, Ms. Mackenzie, Ms. Rachel, and Ms. Sierra

Danville Head Start Pre-K hosted five Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania students for the Spring 2025 semester. The five student teachers applied their knowledge and skills gained during their educational experience at Bloomsburg's Commonwealth University campus to positively impact five of our classrooms. Their positive energy, desire to make positive impacts and contemporary teaching practices were a great addition to the classrooms.

As an extension of learning, Nancy Haupt, a member of the Central Pennsylvania Dog Training Club, visited the three classrooms learning about pets. Nancy and her three miniature collies came to demonstrate to the children about grooming, oral care and nutrition for dogs. The dogs had the opportunity to show the children some tricks too. The children had a fun and engaging learning experience with the dogs and the dogs loved showing their talents to the children!



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





Community Involvement



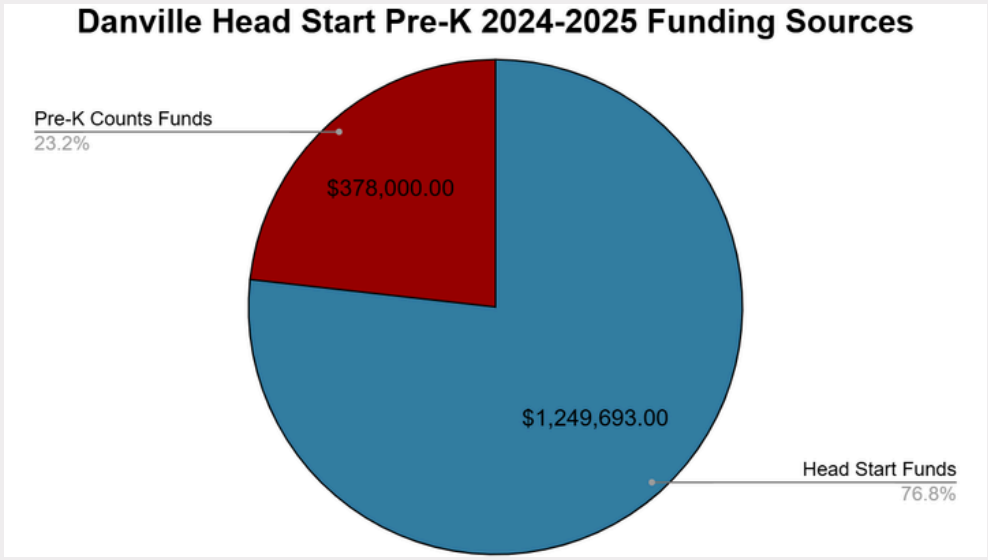
Throughout the year, Geisinger Residents visited our program to educate students on key health topics. Their sessions included:

- 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.

Danville Head Start Pre-K has collaborated with AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program. The Foster Grandparent Program's purpose is to engage Americans 55 years and older in volunteer service and to provide one-on-one support to children to improve their academic, social, or emotional development. Ms. Stephanie Rohrbach visited Danville Head Start Pre-K classrooms three times a week to help support our children in their learning environment. Grammy Steph and the children have a mutual love for one another!

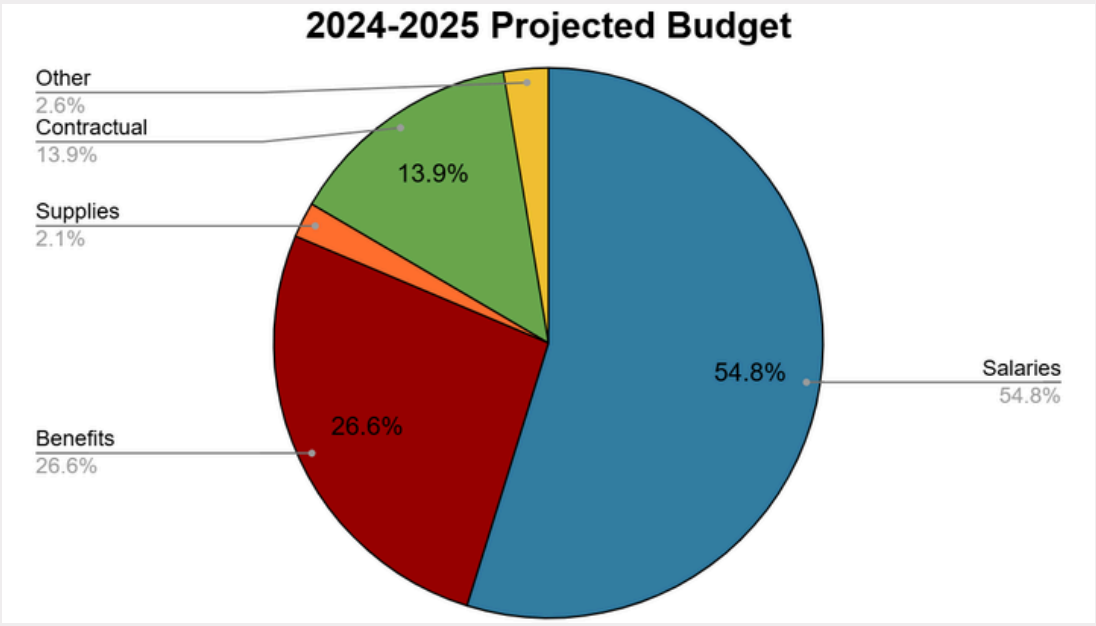


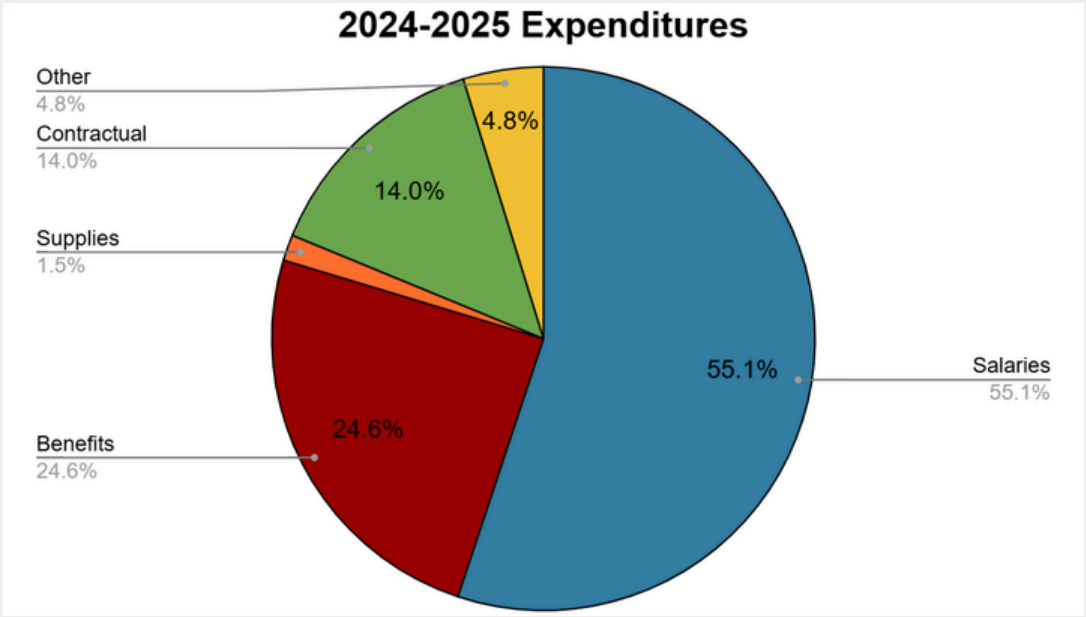
Budget & Finance











Accountability



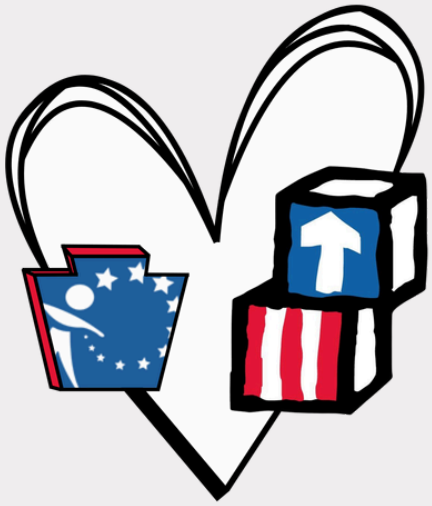
Financial Audit

Danville Area School Disctrict's Head Start Pre-K's Program 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

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.





Pre-K Counts scored in the overall exemplary range during 2024-2025 monitoring review.