2025 Annual Report

Omaha Public Schools
Head Start/Early Head Start







Misson 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



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.



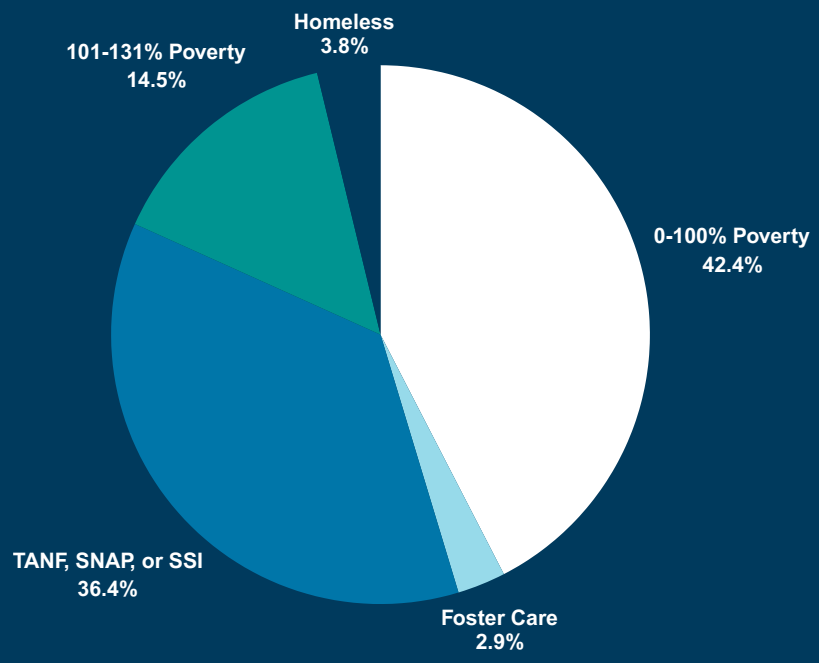
Health Services

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.

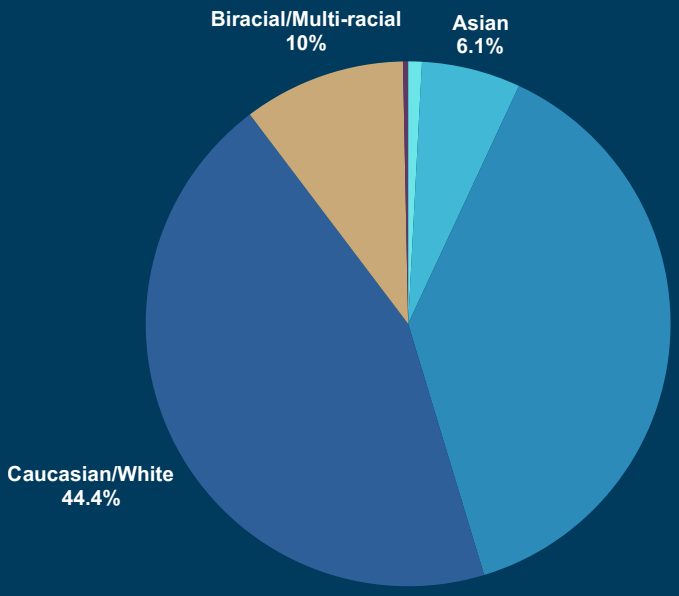
Who We Served

According to the program's 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 program year, we were federally funded to serve 899 families (including our Delegate, Educare). Five hundred and sixty-one single parent families and three hundred and thirty-seven two parent families benefitted from the Head Start program during the year. Monthly average enrollment was maintained at approximately 98%.

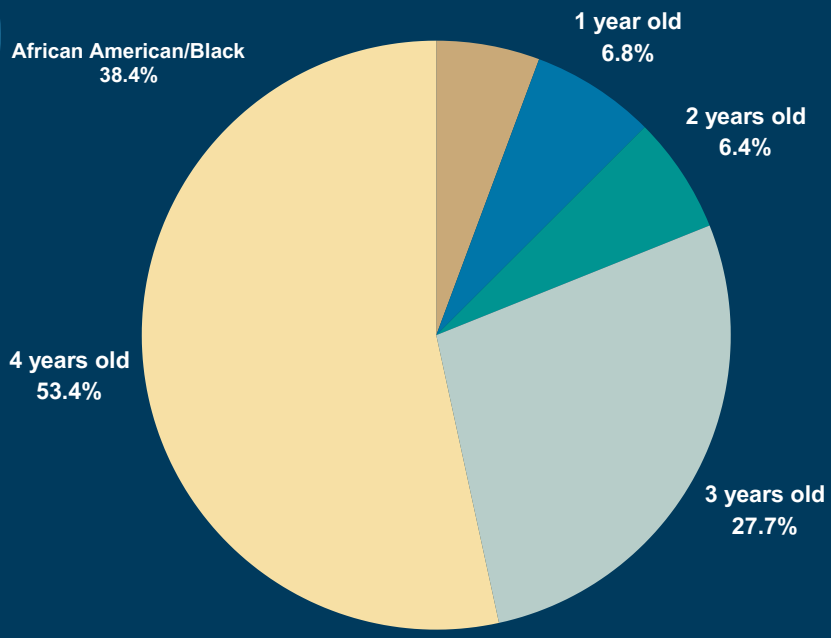
Enrollment by Eligibility:



Enrollment by Race:



Enrollment by Age:



School Readiness

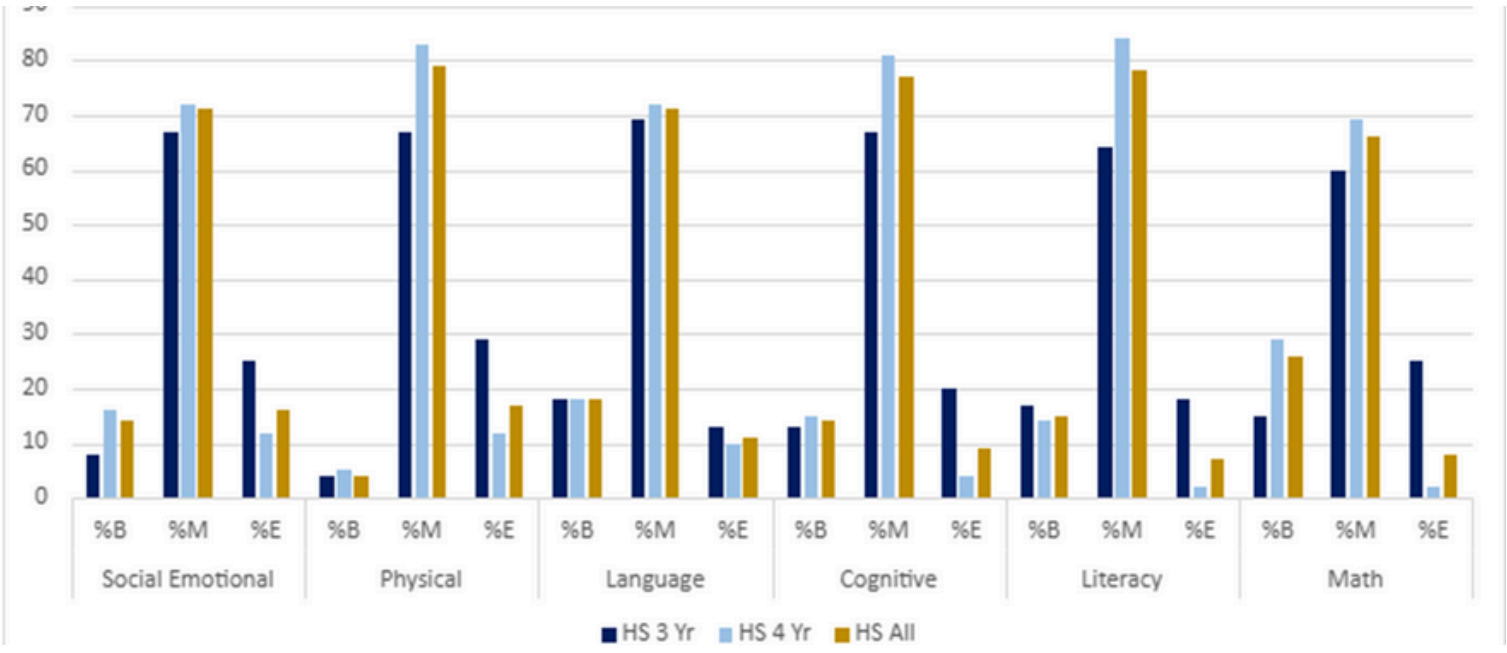
Creative Curriculum

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.

By the end of the spring checkpoint, Teaching Strategies data reports showed that 86% of Head Start and Early Head Start students met or exceeded Widely Held Expectations for social-emotional development, while 85% met or exceeded expectations in literacy, reflecting strong overall progress across both domains.

TS GOLD



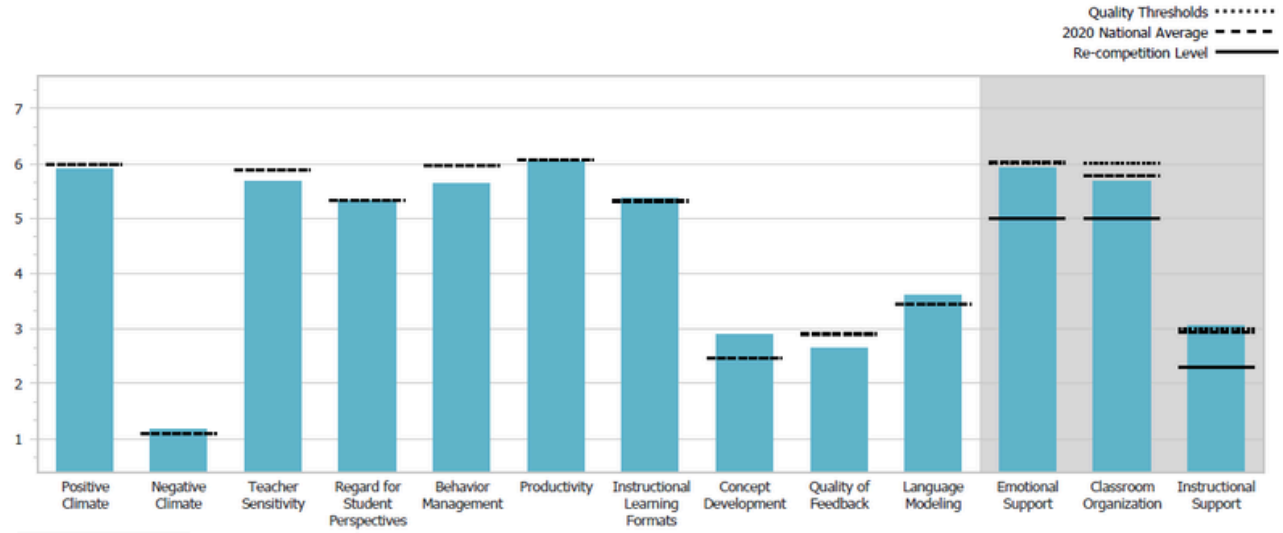
School Readiness

High Quality Classrooms

The Creative Curriculum provides detailed guidance on creating effective learning environments, tailoring instruction to meet individual needs and supporting in-depth exploration of topics to engage children. The Head Start program of Omaha Public Schools maintains high quality classroom environments. 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. Classrooms received CLASS observations through an independent contractor.

CLASS

OPS Head Start 2024-2025



	PC	NC	TS	RSP	BM	PD	ILF	CD	QF	LM	ES	CO	IS
8/1/24 - 5/30/25	5.9	1.18	5.67	5.32	5.63	6.04	5.36	2.9	2.64	3.6	5.93	5.68	3.05



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Parent Committee meetings are held bimonthly at each school, where families participate in Conscious Discipline parent trainings and collaboratively set agendas and activities aligned to their goals. During the 2024–2025 school year, approximately 350 families regularly participated in parent meetings, family engagement activities, and family nights.

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 Adocates and Leaders
- Families as Lifelong Educators
- Family Well-being
- Family Engagement in Transisitons
- Family Connections to Peers and Community

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

93% of families say they feel welcome in their child's classroom.

82% 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.

92% 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.

2024-2025 HS/EHS Health Data

	OPS HS	Edu HS	Edu EHS
Enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP	99%	90%	91%
Had private insurance	13%	10%	8%
Had no insurance	5%	0%	1%
Up to date on their preventive health care	90%	97%	75%
Receiving hearing, vision, or lead treatment, if needed	58%	95%	100%
Up to date on all immunizations	99%	98%	79%
Received professional dental exams	95%	96%	86%
Received dental treatment, if needed	77%	2%	NA
Are at risk for obesity	22%	24%	NA

Financial Report

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

Regular Grant: Budget Period 11-01-24 to 10-31-25

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	$ 3,659,024.00
Fringe Benefits	$ 1,492,850.00
Out of Town Travel	$ 46,508.00
Supplies	$ 12,455.00
Contracts	$ 3,545,813.00
Facilites / Construction	$ 0.00
Other	$ 26,561.00
Direct Cost	$ 8,783,211.00
Indirect Cost	$418,992.00
Total Approved Budget	**$9,202,203.00**

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. We fell below competitive thresholds in the domain of Instructional Support.

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



Contact Us

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Head Start

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