

Early Learning Program



Annual Report 2025-2026

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Program Overview:

Early Learning Head Start: Building Bright Futures from the Start

Head Start offers more than a preschool experience—it provides a high-quality, engaging early learning foundation that supports lifelong success. Serving children ages three to five in Washington County, the program creates a supportive and enriching environment where young learners can grow and succeed.

Operated by the West Bend School District, this federally funded program is offered at three convenient community locations: Kettle Moraine YMCA, Rolfs Education Center, and Jackson Community Center.

Why Choose Head Start?

- **Serving Up to 121 Students:** Small class sizes ensure personalized attention and support.
- **Comprehensive Learning Approach:** Our curriculum builds early literacy and math skills while prioritizing social-emotional and communication development.
- **Flexible Scheduling:** Choose from **Extended-Day and Half-Day** sessions, Monday through Thursday.
- **Nutritious Meals & Snacks:** Healthy eating habits start early, and we provide delicious, well-balanced meals with a family style setting.

- **Safe & Reliable Transportation:** We help families by offering transportation services.
- **Inclusive Eligibility:** Multiple factors determine eligibility, with family income being the primary consideration.

View the **2026 income guidelines** here: [Income Guidelines](#)

In Head Start, we believe every child deserves a strong foundation. Let's build it together!



Part A: Investing in Our Future – Head Start Funding Sources

In Head Start we believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life—and that begins with strong, reliable funding. Our program is powered by multiple funding sources that ensure we can provide top-tier early childhood education, essential resources, and nutritious meals to our students.

Who Funds Head Start?

The **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)**, through the **Administration for Children & Families (ACF)**, plays a vital role in shaping the future of young learners. The ACF is dedicated to fostering health and well-being by leading, partnering, and providing resources for the effective and compassionate delivery of human services. Within the ACF, the **Office of Head Start** is specifically designed to prepare children and families for success in school and beyond.

HS Funding Sources

Head Start is supported by three key funding streams:

- **Office of Head Start Federal Grant** – The backbone of our program, providing critical funding for early childhood education and services.
- **Wisconsin Head Start State Supplemental Grant** – A state-level investment that enhances our ability to serve local families.
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)** – Ensuring every child has access to healthy breakfasts, lunches, and snacks.

2025-2026 Funding Allocations

* **Federal Grant:** \$1,485,418 (plus \$17,095 for training and technical assistance)

* **State Grant:** \$111,327

* **CACFP Grant:** \$70,600 (dedicated to providing nutritious meals and snacks)

These essential funding sources allow WCHS to continue making a meaningful impact, helping children grow, learn, and thrive in a supportive and enriching environment.

Part B: Federal and State Budget for 2025-26

2025-26 Federal Grant Budget			
Expense Categories	Program Operations	Training & Technical Assistance	Non-Federal Share
Personnel	\$991,513	\$1,906	\$248,354
Fringes Benefits	\$272,477	\$166	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$1,469	\$0
Supplies	\$36,228	\$3,490	\$0
Contractual	\$141,200	\$8,240	\$0
Other: Utilities, Telephone, Printing, etc.	\$44,000	\$1,824	\$51,072
Total	\$1,341,919	\$17,095	\$329,831

2025-26 State Grant Budget			
Expense Categories	Program Operations	Training & Technical Assistance	Non-Federal Share
Personnel	\$101,718	\$0	\$0
Fringe Benefits	included	\$0	\$0
Purchased Services	\$9,609	\$0	\$0
Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0

Part C: Head Start Student Data Review

- 📌 **Total Students Served (2025-26):** 121
- 📌 **Average Monthly Enrollment:** 98.4%
- 📌 **Enrollment Impact:** HS successfully reached **98.4% of eligible students**, ensuring access to high-quality early education for the majority of those in need.

This data reflects our ongoing commitment to providing essential early learning experiences and support for families in Washington County.



Part D: Percentage of Documented Preventative Health Care & Annual Dental Visits

Health Services	Total Number	Total %
<i>Physical Exams Completed</i>	82	71.93%
<i>Dental Exams Completed</i>	84	73.68%
<i>Immunizations Completed</i>	105	92.11%

*Students who withdraw before the first 45 days are excluded from these counts

Part E: Empowering Parents Through Involvement

At **Early Learning Head Start**, we believe parents are a child's first and most important teacher. That's why **parent involvement** is at the heart of our program. We engage families through **Family Outreach Events, educational resources, and meaningful volunteer opportunities** that strengthen the connection between home and school.

In the **2025-26 school year**:

- 📌 **16 individuals** volunteered in our program.
- 📌 Our dedicated volunteers contributed **a total of 910 hours**, making a lasting impact on our children and community.
- 📌 Our Head Start program won the Program of Excellence Award from 2025-2030.

What is the Program Excellence Award?

A Program of Excellence Award is a prestigious recognition honoring organizations, departments, or educational programs that demonstrate superior performance, innovation, and high standards in their field. It signifies that a program is a model for others, showing exceptional, well-rounded, and effective, evidence-based results

Through active participation, parents help create a **supportive, enriching environment** where every child can thrive.



Part F: Preparation for Kindergarten

At Head Start, we are committed to ensuring children are well-prepared for kindergarten through a developmentally appropriate curriculum. Our approach emphasizes early literacy and math, fosters cognitive skills such as problem-solving and perseverance, and nurtures social-emotional and communication development.

Through engaging, play-based learning, children develop a strong foundation for academic success and a lifelong love of learning. To support a smooth transition to kindergarten, HS teachers and Family Advocates collaborate with kindergarten teachers, sharing each child's learning profile at the end of the 4K year. Additionally, all children are invited to participate in **Jump Start**, a summer program designed to help them acclimate to their elementary school environment. As an extra layer of support,

our Head Start staff personally greet children at their elementary school and spend time in kindergarten classrooms during the first week to ensure a positive adjustment.

For children with unique needs, we create individualized transition plans, providing additional support and services to promote a successful and confident start to kindergarten.

Part G: Financial Audit Results

The most recent audit cited these areas in need of improvement: None at this time.

The West Bend School District, Head Start Program, continues to monitor, refine and improve its administration of the grant.

[FA 2 review](#)

Results from Class Video Review

DOMAIN	YOUR PROGRAM'S SCORE	Quality Threshold	Competitive Threshold
Emotional Support	6.3625	6.00	5.00
Classroom Organization	6.4833	6.00	5.00
Instructional Support	2.6000	3.00	2.30

DIMENSION	SCORE
Emotional Support*	6.3625
Positive Climate	6.65
Negative Climate	1.00
Teacher Sensitivity	6.95
Regard for Student Perspectives	4.85
Classroom Organization	6.4833
Behavior Management	6.50
Productivity	6.85
Instructional Learning Formats	6.10
Instructional Support	2.6000
Concept Development	2.05
Quality of Feedback	2.65
Language Modeling	3.10

Part H: End of Year TSG Data

2025-26 HS	Preschool 3 class/grade				Pre-K 4 class/grade			
Essential	% Meeting or Exceeding Power Objectives:				% Meeting or Exceeding Power Objectives:			
Important	BOY CP	MOY CP	EOY CP	BOY-to-EOY	BOY CP	MOY CP	EOY CP	BOY-to-EOY
Nice	Nov '25	Feb '26	May '26	change	Nov '25	Feb '26	May '26	change
Table 1: Social-Emotional								
1a. Manages feelings	87.9%	91.2%	94.5%	6.6%	58.6%	65.5%	73.3%	14.7%
1b. Follows limits and expectations	51.7%	84.2%	92.7%	41.0%	62.1%	72.4%	80.0%	17.9%
2b. Responds to emotional cues	89.7%	94.7%	96.4%	6.7%	44.8%	72.4%	80.0%	35.2%
3b. Solves social problems	74.1%	91.2%	92.7%	18.6%	62.1%	79.3%	83.3%	21.2%
Table 3: Language								
8a. Comprehends language	70.7%	84.2%	92.7%	22.0%	82.8%	86.2%	90.0%	7.2%
9a. Uses an expanding expressive vocabulary	70.7%	89.5%	85.5%	14.8%	79.3%	89.7%	96.7%	17.4%
Table 4: Cognitive								
11a. Attends and engages	63.8%	78.9%	94.5%	30.7%	48.3%	55.2%	73.3%	25.0%
13. Uses classification skills	37.9%	100.0%	100.0%	62.1%	89.7%	93.1%	100.0%	10.3%
Table 5: Literacy								
15c. Notices and discriminates discrete units of sound	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	72.4%	86.2%	90.0%	17.6%
16a. Identifies and names letters	37.9%	63.2%	96.4%	58.4%	65.5%	96.6%	100.0%	34.5%
16b. Identifies letter-sound correspondences	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	27.6%	58.6%	93.3%	65.7%
17a. Uses and appreciates books and other texts	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	96.6%	100.0%	100.0%	3.4%
17b. Uses print concepts	63.8%	80.7%	89.1%	25.3%	72.4%	89.7%	90.0%	17.6%
19b. Writes to convey ideas and information	62.1%	87.7%	96.4%	34.3%	31.0%	86.2%	93.3%	62.3%
Table 6: Mathematics								
20a. Counts	70.7%	93.0%	100.0%	29.3%	65.5%	89.7%	90.0%	24.5%
20c. Connects numerals with their quantities	46.6%	70.2%	83.6%	37.0%	58.6%	75.9%	90.0%	31.4%
21a. Understands spatial relationships	34.5%	52.6%	67.3%	32.8%	55.2%	86.2%	90.0%	34.8%
21b. Understands shapes	91.4%	96.5%	96.4%	5.0%	27.6%	51.7%	76.7%	49.1%