ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

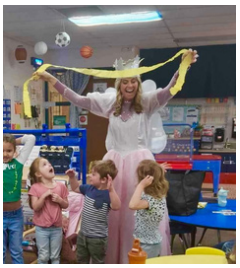
Published October 2026

USD 470
Cowley County
Head Start

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PROGRAM INFORMATION

USD 470 Cowley County Head Start is a federally funded program that provides services to children and families in core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way.

Arkansas City Locations

Adams Elementary
1201 North 10th



C-4 Elementary
11945 292nd Road



Frances Willard Elementary
201 North 4th



IXL Elementary
6758 322nd Road



Jefferson Elementary
131 Osage



Roosevelt Elementary
300 North B



In November of 2025 the community passed a bond that will include a new early childhood center. The center will be constructed over the next few years.

PROGRAM GOALS

USD 470 Head Start will provide a child focused, family centered environment that prepares each child and family for lifelong learning. USD 470 Head Start will build a greater community by preparing children to succeed in school while strengthening families.

Goal 1:

USD 470 Head Start will enhance quality early childhood programs by building the capacity of all staff and fostering a growth mindset.

Goal 2:

USD 470 will ensure quality evidence based early learning practices are sustained to improve literacy, language, math, and social emotional skills for kindergarten readiness.

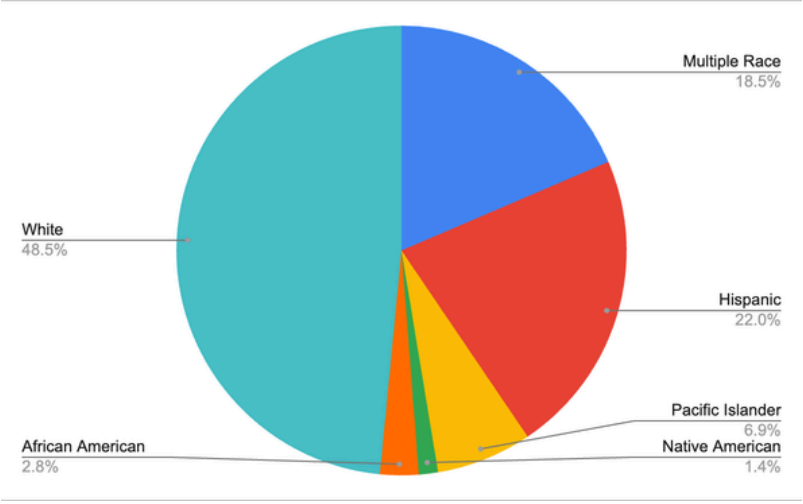
Goal 3:

USD 470 WILL SUPPORT THE ENGAGEMENT, HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGH COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

During the 2025-2026 school year, 276 enrollment applications were completed. Our program is funded for 147 children, and we were fully enrolled throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Our cumluative enrollement was 166. We had 19 children drop during the school year.

Demographics



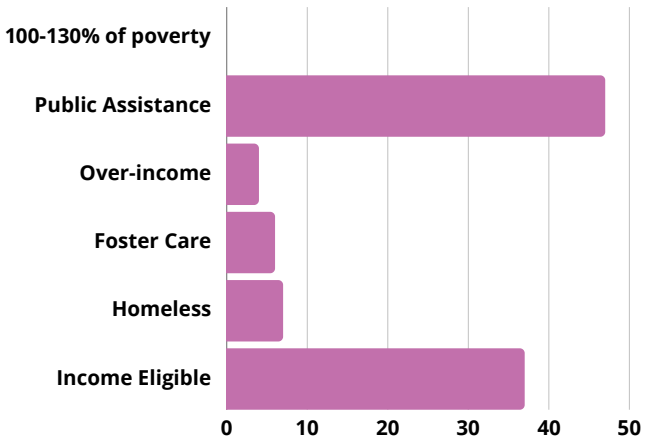
3 year olds served

54

4 year olds served

112

Eligibility



Attendance

Daily Average Attendance

91.68%

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

As parents are the first and most important teacher for their child, the program supports and strengthens parent-child relationships and strives to engage families in their child's learning and development. Parents and family members are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom and attend program community engagement activities. During the 2025/26 school year, we partnered with REACH Infant-Toddler Services and the Arkansas City Public Library for the second annual "Read & Stroll" event at Lovie Watson Park. Volunteers brought stories to life at reading stations. Adjacent to the reading stations was the Story Walk, an outdoor adventure where families could follow a walking path with storybook pages around the park. Other activities included giant yard games and playground equipment. Community Organizations offered craft projects and provided community resource information. Attendees made their own fresh blended smoothies by riding a bicycle powered blender. Each child in attendance received a free book and board game.








Thank You
VOLUNTEERS

15
VOLUNTEERS

331
HOURS

$485K
NON-FEDERAL SHARE DOLLARS

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Table Talk Workshops

To help educate and empower families, Table Talk workshops are held once a month. These sessions, typically an hour long, are open to all parents and family members. During the 2025/26 school year, sessions included:

- Connecting with PreK Parents/Routines
- Growing Together, Learning Forever with Pumpkins and Succulents hosted by La Hacienda
- Coffee & Friends Make the Perfect Blends
- Explore, Discover, Read hosted by Arkansas City Public Library
- Tortilla in a Bag hosted by K-State Extension Office
- Story Time - Pete The Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party

Conscious Discipline Family Events

Our program uses Conscious Discipline to create a compassionate school family that ensures children's success. Conscious Discipline is a program that helps adults stay calm enough to see misbehavior and upset as a signal to teach instead of punish. It is built on safety, connection, and problem solving. We hosted a variety of fun, relaxed parent education events that taught helpful strategies from Conscious Discipline. Event topics included:

- Composure
- Assertiveness
- Encouragement (hosted by Ark City Public Library)
- Choices

Policy Council *Members*

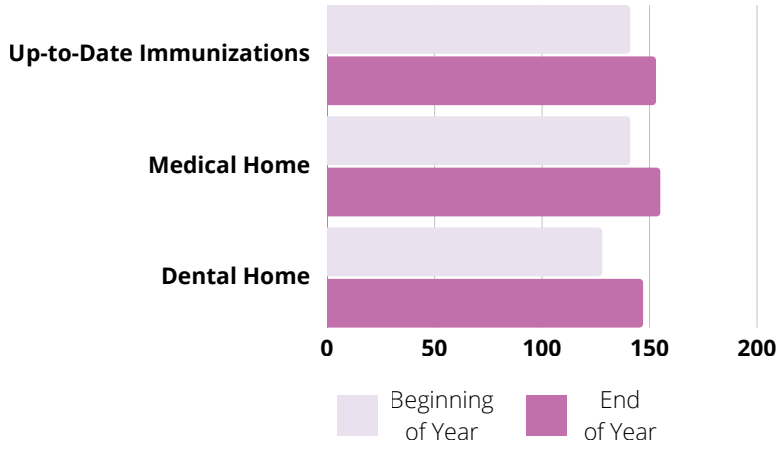
Parents are encouraged to be engaged through parent committee meetings and Policy Council. The Policy Council is made up of Board of Education (B.O.E.) Representatives, Head Start and PreK parents, and Community Members who lead and make decisions about the program.

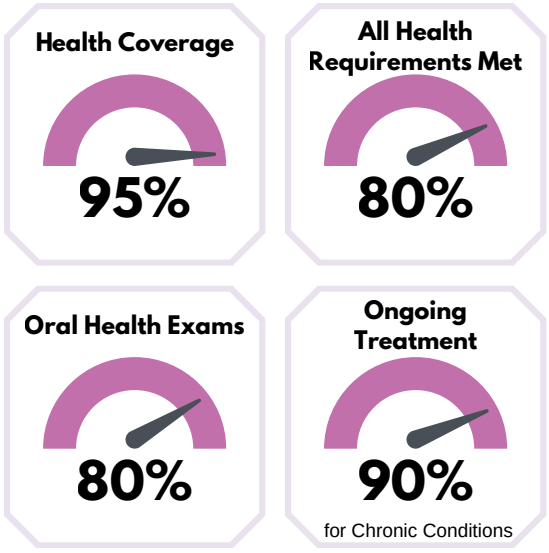
Cathy Evans, Chairperson
Jon Oak, B.O.E. Representative
Jacinda Kinzie, B.O.E. Representative
Katy Richerson, Community Representative
Britni Church, Parent Representative
Samantha Runyan, Parent Representative
Lindsey Reed, Parent Representative
Mary Brantley, Parent Representative
Kayla Ewing, Parent Representative
Kylee Johnson, Parent Representative
Sarah Haggerty, Parent Representative

HEALTH SERVICES

Head Start recognizes that in order for children to learn at an optimal level, their basic needs must be met. Education and support for overall health and wellbeing of children and their families as primary prevention is the best approach in avoiding health concerns and unhealthy habits in the future. Our program works closely with families to ensure children have access to regular medical and dental check-ups, ongoing care as needed, and assist in navigating the roadblocks that may affect this access. In 2025-26, 100% of children that needed dental treatment received follow up care. Our program continues to monitor blood lead trends, working with the health department and district nurses to ensure at-risk students and families have access to educational tools and resources related to risks and prevention of lead exposure.

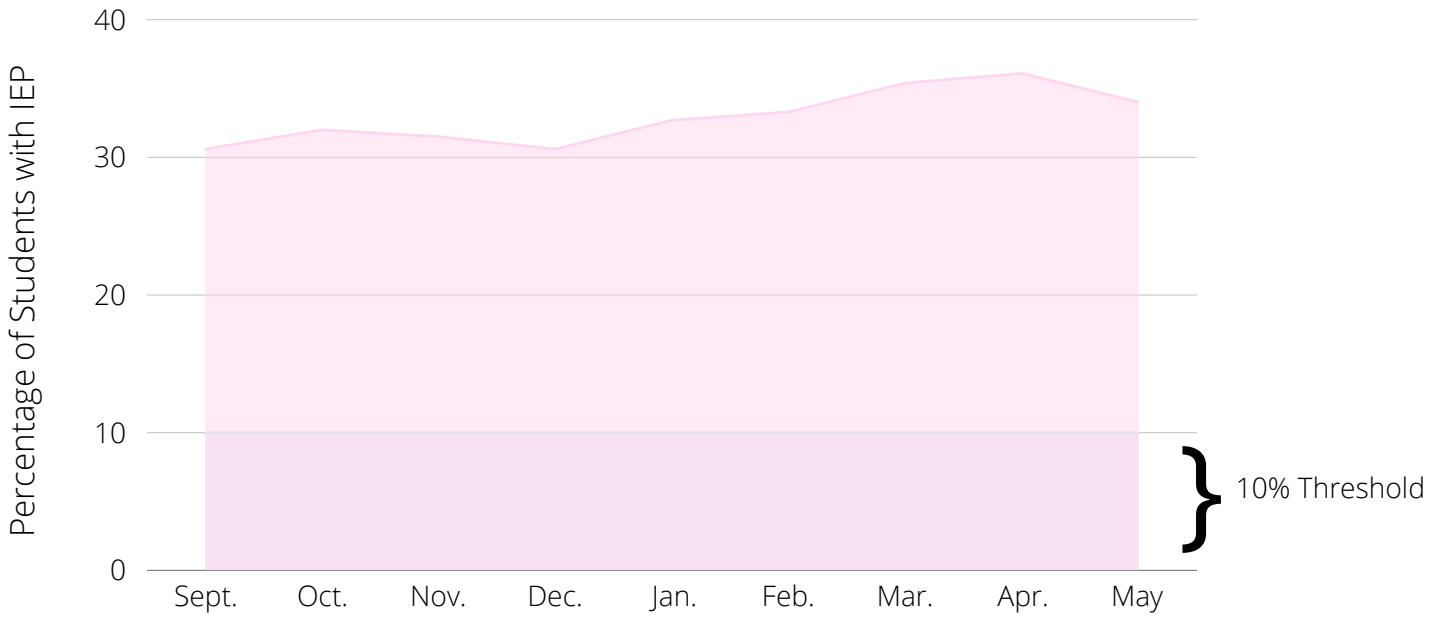
Children in the Head Start program are provided with healthy, well balanced meals and snacks to nourish their bodies and fuel their brains for learning during the school day. Children are encouraged to try new foods through an offering of a variety of fruits and vegetables over the course of the school year. Students continued to enjoy hands-on learning opportunities by making homemade snacks in the classroom monthly during the 25/26 school year.





DISABILITY SERVICES

Monthly screenings are offered and we provide a convenient place for caregivers to bring their children to be screened. Should a delay be identified, we work closely with the Cowley County Special Services Cooperative to provide students the services they need so they can be as successful in school as possible. Head Start Program Performance Standards require that we maintain that 10% of total student enrollment consists of serving children with disabilities. As a result of blended services, our program consistently exceeds that 10% threshold.



SCHOOL READINESS

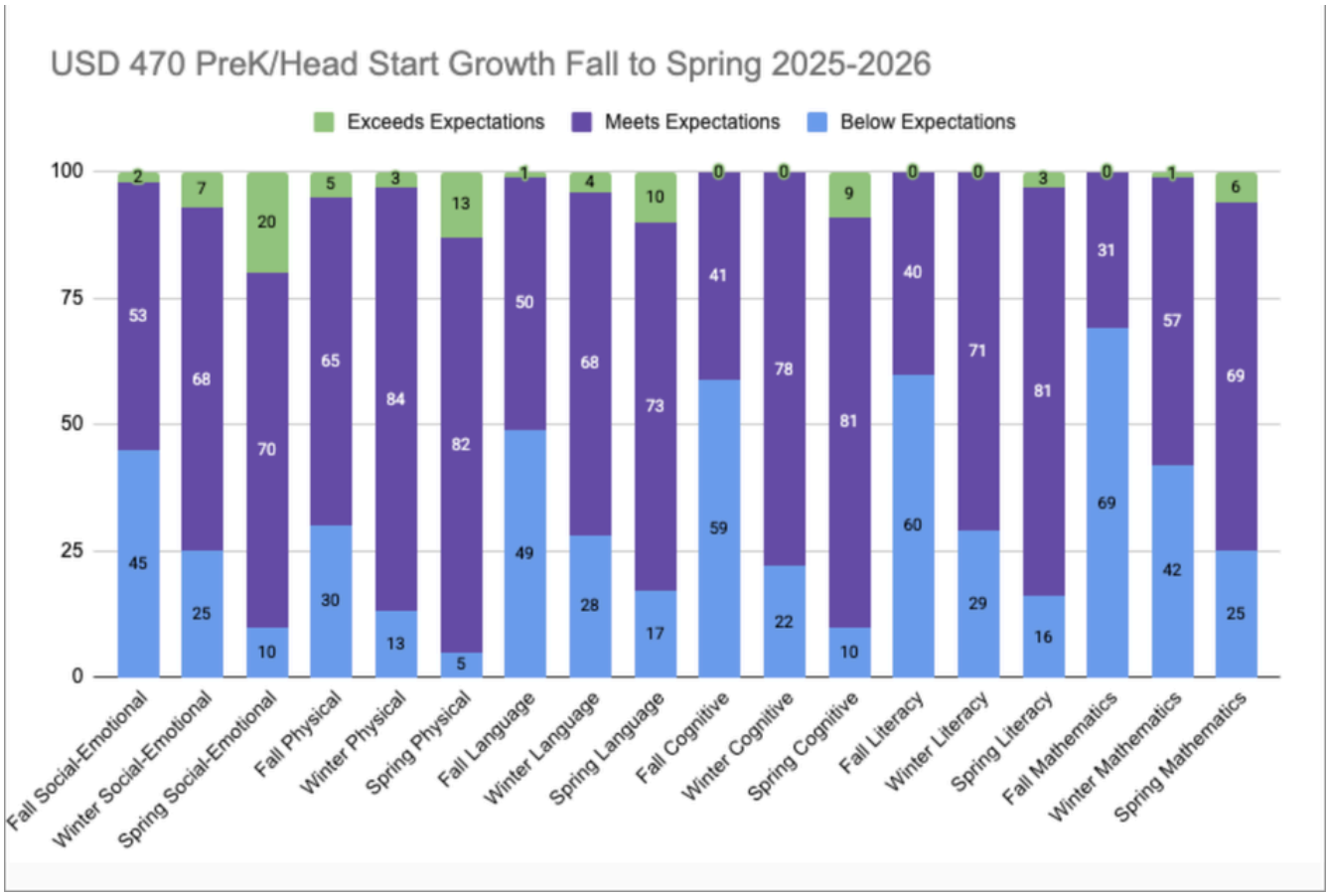
In order to meet our School Readiness Goals, USD 470 Head Start implements curriculum with fidelity. The curricula align with Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and Kansas Early Learning Standards supporting school readiness in all developmental areas. This ensures each child is prepared to succeed in school which facilitates a seamless transition to Kindergarten.



APPROACHES TO LEARNING	
1	Children will manage self in social situations, and will demonstrate persistence and engagement in learning with increasing independence.
2	Children will demonstrate initiative and express creativity while interacting with the world around them.
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
3	Children will recognize, interpret, express and manage a range of emotions while engaging in positive relationships and interactions with adults and children.
4	Children will recognize self and others as unique individuals, and have a knowledge of and a sense of belonging to a family, community, and other groups.
LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	
5	Children will communicate, understand and respond to others and will express self to meet the demands of the situation.
6	Children will understand and use an increasing vocabulary.
7	Children will demonstrate knowledge of print and awareness that print conveys meaning.
8	Children will demonstrate an understanding of a variety of text.
9	Children will express themselves through the writing process.
COGNITION: MATHEMATICS DEVELOPMENT	
10	Children will demonstrate math knowledge through number sense, counting, operations, measurement and geometry.
COGNITION: SCIENTIFIC REASONING	
11	Children will use scientific inquiry, reasoning and problem solving to learn about the world around them.
PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	
12	Children will develop and demonstrate gross motor and fine motor skills.
13	Children will demonstrate knowledge and skills that advocate wellness and safety.

ASSESSMENT DATA

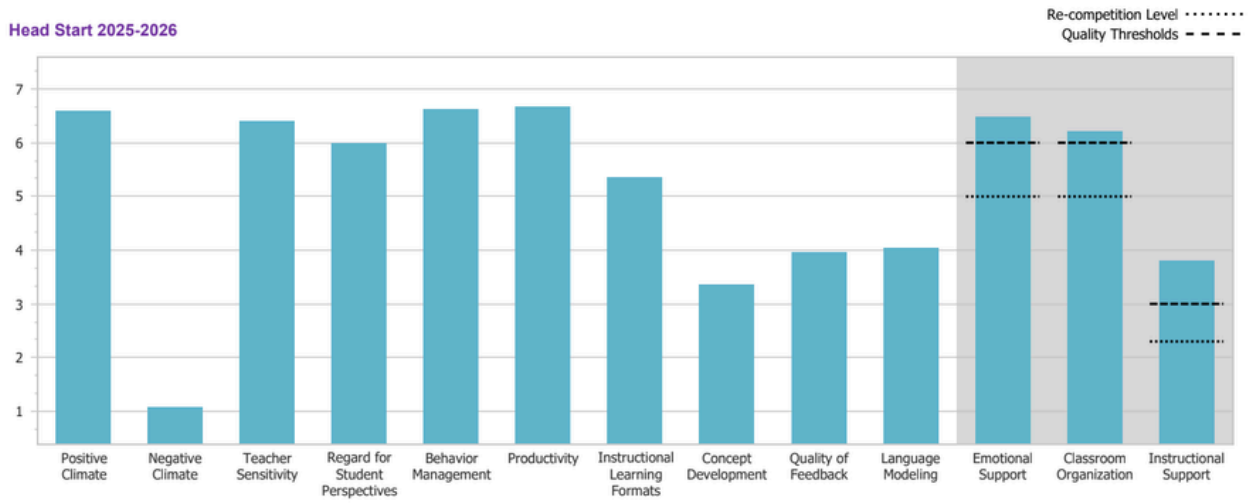
The Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment, based on 38 Objectives for Development and Learning, is used in all classrooms. The assessment is aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF) and Kansas Early Learning Standards. This observation based, embedded assessment relies on everyday interactions with children in the classroom to evaluate children's progress three times each year.



CLASS DATA

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observational tool used in Pre-K classrooms that focuses on adult-child interactions that support social, emotional, and cognitive development of children. Classrooms are scored in the domains of emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support.

Formal CLASS observations are typically conducted twice per school year, Fall and Spring. This information is used for individual classroom goal setting as well as program wide professional development. Our historical average scores were higher than the competitive and quality thresholds in all three domains. During the 2024-2025 school year, we received a Federal CLASS Review. Our scores fell above the competitive threshold and slightly below the quality threshold. Our local scores for 2025-2026 increased from the year before.



TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

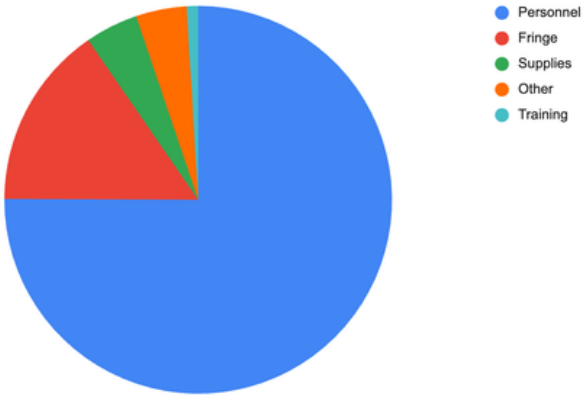
USD 470 Head Start implements transition strategies and activities that prepare Pre-K students for a smooth transition to Kindergarten. Kindergarten transition packets are provided to Pre-K students and their families second semester to prepare them for Kindergarten expectations. The packet includes a checklist for entering Kindergarten which contains important enrollment information and frequently asked questions. Families are also provided with a Kindergarten in Kansas booklet which includes learning standards along with suggested activities. A Welcome to Kindergarten video featuring local Kindergarten students is also shared with families to help ease any anxiety of the transition. At the end of the school year, activities are planned between Kindergarten and Pre-K classes to introduce the Pre-K students to Kindergarten. Child data and information is shared with receiving Kindergarten classes to provide children with a consistent, supportive transition and learning experience.



Additional Services for Children with an IEP

In the spring, our Disabilities Coordinator attends IEP transition meetings for students with disabilities who will be moving on from our program to Kindergarten. At that time, families can ask questions about what this new chapter will look like and be assured that their child will successfully transition to Kindergarten with much support and encouragement.

BUDGET & MONITORING



Grant Funds	Budgeted in Grant Proposal	%	Actual Amount Spent
Personnel	$1,411,303.20	98%	$1,379,366.30
Fringe	$296,385.00	95%	$281,493.34
Equipment (one time funds)	$0.00		$0.00
Supplies	$49,720.00	163%	$80,989.17
Other	$62,294.80	125%	$77,854.18
Training	$17,552.00	100%	$17,552.00
Total	$1,837,255.00	100%	$1,837,254.99

Annual Audit

BFR CPA, LLC 10000 W 37th St N Wichita, KS conducted the annual audit for the year ending June 30, 2025. There were no matters to report.

Monitoring

In January 2025 the Administration of Children Families conducted a Focus Area Two Monitoring Review. USD 470 Head Start program met the requirements of Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements. Additionally, eight areas were identified as a strong practice.