

# Abilene Independent School District

Community Assessment  
2021-2022



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## **History of Taylor County & Abilene, Texas**

Source: Abilene Chamber of Commerce; Life in Balance

The geographical area now known as Taylor County was created in 1858. It was named for Edward, James and George Taylor, defenders of the Alamo. Dozens of families settled in the southern part of the county in a cut or gap in the Callahan Divide. This settlement was named Buffalo Gap. It became the county seat in 1878.

In the years between 1878 and 1880, the Texas and Pacific Railroad considered two possible routes through West Central Texas. One route was by way of Buffalo Gap and the other was by way of Fort Phantom Hill. When it looked probable that the route would be developed through Buffalo Gap, land values around the settlement began to increase. People fought over land ownership which resulted in litigation and caused a delay in the construction of the railroad.

The Railroad met with landowners and civic leaders in the summer of 1880. The Railroad negotiated with property owners to the north of Buffalo Gap. When the dust settled, the thriving community of Buffalo Gap was bypassed.

One of the landowners, Caleb Merchant, chose the name for the new community. He named the area "Abilene" in honor of the Kansas town to which ranchers had been driving their cattle. The name means "grassy plain" and originally came from a Biblical reference in Luke 3 to a Middle East tetrarchy (empire ruled by 4 rulers).

The area was advertised in newspapers across the state as the "Future Great Town of West Texas." People came in trains and by wagons to buy lots. Over a two day period of time 319 lots were sold for a total of \$51,310. The profits were split between the railroad and the landowners.

On October 31, 1883, the county seat was moved to Abilene from Buffalo Gap. The Railroad gave the city a solid foundation from which to grow.

In 1891, the beginnings of the educational community began with Simmons College. Over the years, the school grew into Hardin-Simmons University. It was followed by Abilene Christian University and McMurry University. In recent years, Abilene leaders were successful in bringing branches of Cisco College, Texas State Technical Institute, and Texas Tech University to the town. The educational community meets educational needs of citizens of Abilene, surrounding communities and international students. The student population adds to the economic growth in Abilene and holds a wealth of volunteers for various community groups and activities within the school system.



In the 1950's community members began working to get an Air Force base in Abilene. Residents raised \$839,261 (an equivalent of \$7 million today) to buy 3,400 acres for the base. Today, Dyess Air Force Base holds the distinguished honor of being the city's largest employer. The Base is home to the C-130s, B-1 Bombers and the training grounds for all B-1 air crews. Also during the 1950's, oil was discovered within a 75-mile radius of Abilene. Many were drawn to the area due to oil related jobs. Abilene became the headquarters for independent operators and major oil companies. Refining plants were also established in the area.

Since its beginnings in 1858, Taylor County and Abilene have grown to populations of 132,755 and 118,887 respectively. Agriculture, the military, and the oil industry set a solid economic foundation. The most common occupations are educational services, health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, recreation and accommodation and food services; professional, scientific, management and administrative waste management, public administration, retail trade, construction, manufacturing and other service-oriented occupations. Civic leaders continue to encourage business growth in the area. Today, major employers include Dyess Air Force Base, Hendrick Health System, Abilene Independent School District, Abilene State Supported Living System, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, City of Abilene, Abilene Christian University, Abilene Regional Medical Center, Teleperformance USA, Taylor County, Sears Methodist and numerous fast food restaurants.

## **Mission of the AISD and Head Start**

The Abilene ISD Early Childhood Program believes in equipping infants, toddlers and young children with the skills needed so they become “school ready” prior to entering Kindergarten. The Program also believes in empowering young children and families to improve the quality of their daily lives so they will reach their full potential. The staff of the Early Childhood Program is committed to the mission of providing quality comprehensive child and family development services and dynamic growth opportunities which are responsive to individual and community needs. The mission is fulfilled by providing services in a proactive and collaborative manner, in an inclusive, nurturing, and supportive environment, using all available resources.

## **Beliefs of Head Start**

The AISD Early Childhood Program is founded upon the following beliefs:

- All children can learn.
- Collaboration between families and schools is vital for students and families to become successful.
- Collaborative goal setting in the home and school environments helps students and their families’ transition successfully.
- Families should be encouraged to participate in programming for young children. Young children learn best from each other, through doing, exploring, and creating.
- Children’s play is a primary vehicle for and indicator of their mental well-being. Play builds a foundation for future academic learning of abstract concepts and symbols.
- Teaching should be well-planned, playful, and purposeful so that learning can be meaningful and useful to the learner.
- An effective classroom reflects the community at large and is responsive to individual, cultural and linguistic differences.
- Developmentally appropriate practices are used in all classes for young children.
- An effective teacher will address the individual needs of all children.
- The Pre-K Curriculum Guidelines and the components within the Head Start Early Learning Framework are implemented to meet the developmental levels of all students.
- Children learn best, from adults, when their relationships are consistent over time, emotionally rewarding, and supportive to the child’s total well-being. Therefore, the school/classroom environment should be a physically and emotionally safe place, in which children can develop academic and social skills, in a positive, nurturing relationships enabling them to become “school ready.”
- Children learn to their fullest potential when their social, physical, emotional, and family needs are met. Therefore, effective early childhood programs support the overall well-being of the students and their families.
- The goal of early childhood education is to create a collaborative spirit with families and a positive environment so that school readiness goals are achieved as children become enthusiastic, confident, inquisitive, and independent learners.

## 1302.11 (a)(1) Service Area for Head Start

The current service area for the Abilene ISD Head Start/Early Head Start program are the portions of the city of Abilene, Texas that fall within the AISD attendance boundaries.

Abilene, Texas is located within Taylor County. Taylor County ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in population among counties within the State of Texas. Abilene is the largest city within the county with a population of approximately 123,420. (U.S. Census Bureau)

The state percentage for Texas residents living in poverty is 13.6%. The percentage of residents in Abilene, TX living in poverty is 16.5%, making Abilene, TX above the state's poverty average.

### POPULATION, HOUSING UNITS, AREA AND DENSITY: 2010

Geographic area	Population	Housing units
<b>Taylor County</b>	131,506	55,750
<b>COUNTY SUBDIVISION AND PLACE</b>		
<b>Abilene CCD</b>	118,774	50,082
<b>Abilene city (part)</b>	111,918	47,333
<b>Impact town</b>	35	17
<b>Potosi CDP</b>	2,991	1,095
<b>Tye city (part)</b>	1,242	544
<b>Remainder of Abilene CCD</b>	2,588	1,093
<b>Jim Ned CCD</b>	7,269	3,173
<b>Buffalo Gap town</b>	464	235
<b>Lawn town</b>	314	172
<b>Tuscola city</b>	742	322
<b>Remainder of Jim Ned CCD</b>	5,749	2,444
<b>Merkel CCD</b>	5,463	2,495
<b>Merkel town</b>	2,590	1,181
<b>Trent town</b>	337	156
<b>Tye city (part)</b>	0	0
<b>Remainder of Merkel CCD</b>	2,536	1,158

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

The local Head Start grant was originally awarded to the Taylor County Community Action Program in 1965. That same year, Taylor County Community Action Program delegated full operation of the local Head Start program to Abilene ISD and the “pass-through” relationship established continued for 45 years. While the original service area was all of Taylor County, limited funds resulted in the service area being redefined in grant applications as those areas of the county that were “within the AISD attendance boundaries.”

In 1999, the Community Action Program of Taylor County released the service area outside of the Abilene ISD attendance boundaries to the Region 14 Service Center. These rural areas were released because 90% of the population of the county were located within the Abilene ISD boundaries and a long waiting list of eligible children was

maintained within the Abilene ISD attendance zone. Although there are now two grantees in the county, Head Start services are not currently available for all eligible students in Taylor County. In the Taylor County area that Region 14 serves, two of the school districts have Head Start programs. Three do not have Head Start, but they have ECSE and Pre-K programs in place for students.

**School Districts within the Taylor County, Texas**

Independent School District	Early Childhood Programs Available	Early Childhood Students Served 2020-2021	Student Population 2020-2021	Early Childhood Students Served 2021-2022	Student Population 2021-2021
Abilene ISD	PK, ECSE, Early Head Start & Head Start	896	15,697	1,030	15,407
Merkel ISD including Tye	PK, ECSE & Head Start	72 PK/HS & ECSE	1,090	68	1082
Trent ISD	PK, ECSE, no Head Start	7 PK & 1 ECSE	133	7 PK & 1 ECSE	133
Jim Ned ISD including Buffalo Gap and Tuscola	PK, ECSE, no Head Start	27 PK/ECSE	1, 418	27 PK/ECSE	1, 418
Wylie including Potosi	PK, ECSE, no Head Start	125 PK & 15 ECSE	4,914	162 PK & 19 ECSE	4,914

Source: ISD Administrative Offices: Enrollment Information October 29, 2020 and October 30, 2021

**Abilene ISD awarded Head Start Grant in 2012**

In 2010, the Community Action Program relinquished the Head Start Grant. Abilene ISD applied to be the grantee and was awarded the grant to serve the city of Abilene, Texas, in 2012. Because of limited funding, the number of eligible students in Abilene, and the lack of additional space, the Abilene ISD Head Start programs serve children residing within the Abilene ISD boundaries. However, any parent wanting to enroll a child residing outside of Abilene ISD’s attendance boundaries may fill out an application for possible enrollment and be placed on the waiting list, with the understanding that students living in Abilene ISD boundaries will be served first.

**Profiles of Early Head Start & Head Start Campuses**

There are two sites in Abilene that serve Early Head Start and Head Start eligible children. In total, the two sites are funded to serve 521 students and pregnant teens.

Long Early Learning Center (Head Start) is located in Northwest Abilene (3600 Sherry Lane). The original building was built in 1959. In 2017, Long ELC was renovated, to meet the needs of small children, as well as a new wing built so all the early childhood programs/classrooms would be in one site.



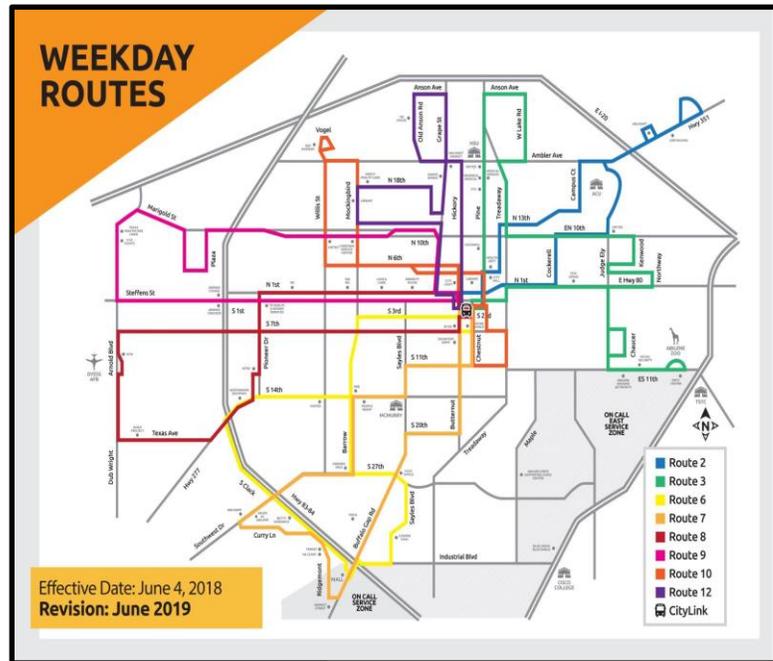
Long ELC houses the Head Start funded program (380 three and four-year-old children) and multiple other programs: Pre-Kindergarten, Dual Language, Early Childhood Special Education Program and the Regional School for the Deaf.



Crockett Early Head Start located in South Abilene (3282 S 13<sup>th</sup>), was built in

1950 and a second wing was added in 1953. It was fully renovated in 2001 and 2015. The 2001 renovations were funded by federal funds and local foundation monies. The 2015 renovation was funded by a local bond election. Crockett is funded to serve 132 infants and toddlers as well as up to 9 pregnant teens.

These sites are in lower income neighborhoods making them more readily accessible to the families being served. Both sites are within walking distance of the City Link bus routes. Additional transportation services are provided for students through our LEA, Abilene ISD.



Early Head Start teen parents and their infants/toddlers ride buses together from their homes to Crockett EHS. Parents sign their infant/toddlers in with the EHS campus staff and then ride school buses to middle school or one of the high school campuses where they attend classes.

The EHS/HS families continue to see a need for transportation to be provided for our families. Due to this need the LEA assists by providing children in the Head Start program transportation services from elementary schools to the Long Early Learning Center. An assessment of the community's needs, information gathered from parents, parent committees and the Policy Council, determined that most parents are working, therefore, in need of a full day program for their children.

## 1302.11 (b)(1)(i) Eligible Children

### POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX BY AGE

	Abilene city, Texas	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Children under 18 years in households	28,532	+/-419
<b>Male:</b>		
Under 5 years	804	+/-482
5 years	145	+/-93
<b>Female:</b>		
Under 5 years	1,061	+/-591
5 years	95	+/-129

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

### NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVICED IN ABILENE ISD IN 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

EHS & HS	
<b>Early Head Start (0-3 &amp; pregnant teens)</b>	<b>191</b>
0-3	168
Pregnant teens	23
<b>Head Start</b>	<b>424</b>
2-year-olds	2
3-year-olds	157
4-year-olds	265
<b>Served by LEA:</b>	<b>453</b>
3-year-olds	23
4-year-olds	316
ECSE	114
<b>Total Served in Community</b>	<b>1,068</b>

Source: Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021, Abilene ISD data

<b>Estimated number of eligible under 5 per 2019 ACS 5 yr. Estimate</b>	<b>1,980</b>
<b>Percent eligible children EHS/HS Grant Funded to serve</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Percent of eligible children served through our EHS/HS Grant 20-21</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Percent of eligible children served by HS Grant and LEA 2018-2019</b>	<b>54%</b>

The total number of children, within our service area, who are eligible for services is approximately 1,980 according to the Census. The EHS and HS centers are funded to serve only 26% of this population. In the 2020-2021 school year EHS/HS served 31% of the eligible children. In collaboration with the LEA another 453 eligible students received services through the State funded Pre-Kindergarten program, Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (ECSE), and/or Regional School for the Deaf. Within our community EHS, HS and the LEA serve 54% of the eligible children under five. It is impossible to serve all eligible children since monies and availability of space hinder the expansion of services to these ages. Since the HS program and the LEA are only able to serve 54% of the eligible children within the service area, the EHS and HS maintain a wait list. AISD Early Childhood also partners with Day Nursery of Abilene (DNA) to implement prekindergarten classrooms located in three DNA facilities. These three classrooms help to facilitate some of the 3-year-old children who would have been on our waitlist.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, The 2020-2021 enrollment was down not only in Head Start, but throughout our Local Education Agency (LEA), as well as the other early childhood programs. To ensure no children were put on a waiting list, Abilene HS converted two 4-year-old classrooms into 3-year-old classrooms. and created some mixed age classrooms.

Enrollment is up for the 21-22 the previous year. Due to the waitlist numbers Abilene HS kept the two converted 3-year-old classrooms and created 2 mixed age classrooms. This allowed for the 3-year-old wait list to have less while still having enough availability for 4-year-old students.

**WAITING LIST FOR HEAD START**

	AS OF October 1, 2020	AS OF November 1, 2021
Early Head Start	153	83
Head Start	0	
• Three-year-old		76
• Four-year-old		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>161</b>

Source: Abilene ISD

**1302.11 (b)(1)(iv) Other child development, childcare centers & family childcare programs**

**SCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

	Abilene city, Texas					
	Total		Percent of enrolled population			
			In public school		In private school	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Nursery school, preschool 3 year old preschool	1,980	+/-341	1,400	+/-312	580	+/-178

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

**Number of Preschool Age Children served (2020-2021) by:**

**LEA Pre-Kindergarten** **453**  
**Home Visiting through Early Childhood Intervention (19-20)** **206**

Within the community there are many childcare centers and family childcare programs that charge to participate in their services. There are no other centers or child developments within our service area who are funded by a Head Start grant. We also do not compete with a pre-kindergarten program because we are affiliated with the Local Education Agency/Abilene ISD.

## 1302.11 (b)(1)(i) Expectant Mothers

### TAYLOR COUNTY Adolescent Health (2019)

Births to 10–14-year-old	>10
Births to 15–17-year-old	37
Births to 18–19-year-old	106
<b>Total Teen Births (15-19)</b>	<b>143</b>

The Texas Campaign 2019: <https://txcampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Taylor-County-2019-Adolescent-Health.pdf>

### Abilene ISD Teen Pregnancy Numbers

School Year	Number of Pregnant Teens
2020-2021	25
2019-2020	33
2018-2019	45
2017-2018	55
2016-2017	63
2015-2016	64
2014-2015	63
2013-2014	74
2012-2013	74
2011-2012	73
2010-2011	91

Source: Abilene ISD

According to Power to Decide, Texas has one of the highest teen birth rates in the nation at 24.0 births per 1,000 girls for 2019. This places Texas in the top 10 for highest teen birth rates. This birth rate has declined 5% in a year and 11% since 2011. This decline is also seen in the data from Abilene ISD for the past 10 years. This decrease could be due to the numerous community agencies reaching out to teen women with information about sex education and birth control. The Abilene community is making a focused effort to reach teen women before pregnancy and are serving pregnant teens with medical care, parenting classes and postnatal care.

## 1302.11 (b)(1)(i) Race & Ethnicity

### CHILDREN CHARACTERISTICS

Subject	Abilene city, Texas							
	Total		In married-couple family household		In male householder, no wife present, family household		In female householder, no husband present, family household	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
<b>RACE &amp; HISPANIC/LATINO ORIGIN</b>								
<b>One race</b>	95.1%	±1.4	95.1%	±1.6	96.4%	±3.7	94.8%	±2.8
<b>White</b>	71.5%	+/-0.3	75.2%	+/-0.5	69.9%	+/-1.9	62.3%	+/-1.1
<b>Black or African American</b>	66.9%	±2.5	70.7%	±3.4	71.4%	±9.8	58.9%	±5.8
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native</b>	11.1%	±1.0	8.9%	±1.6	11.3%	±6.9	14.4%	±3.3
<b>Asian</b>	0.9%	±0.5	0.4%	±0.3	0.4%	±0.6	2.2%	±1.8
<b>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</b>	1.8%	±0.6	1.5%	±0.7	2.9%	±3.3	2.3%	±1.9
<b>Some other race</b>	0.0%	±0.1	0.0%	±0.2	0.0%	±2.2	0.0%	±0.5
<b>Two or more races</b>	14.3%	±2.5	13.5%	±2.8	10.4%	±6.7	17.0%	±6.0
<b>Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)</b>	35.9%	±1.0	32.7%	±2.6	37.6%	±11.3	42.7%	±5.7
<b>White alone, not Hispanic or Latino</b>	48.1%	±1.0	53.8%	±2.8	47.8%	±11.3	37.2%	±5.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

### RACE & ETHNICITY OF ABILENE ISD HS & EHS CHILDREN SERVED 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Subject	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
<b>RACE &amp; HISPANIC/LATINO ORIGIN</b>		
<b>One race</b>		
<b>White</b>	284	115
<b>Black or African American</b>	29	123
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native</b>	5	2
<b>Asian</b>	1	2
<b>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</b>	3	0
<b>Other</b>	0	0
<b>Two or more races</b>	32	18

Source: Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021

## 1302.11 (b)(1)(i) Languages

Languages spoken by children enrolled in Abilene ISD Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

	Number of Students
English	572
Spanish	6
Native Central America, South American and Mexican Languages	19
Caribbean Languages (e.g. Haitian-Creole, Patois)	0
Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages (e.g. Arabic, Hebrew Hindi, Urdu, Bengali)	0
East Asian Languages (e.g. Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog)	0
Native North American/Alaska Native Languages	0
Pacific Island Languages (e.g. Palauan, Fijian)	0
European & Slavic Languages (e.g. German, French, Italian, Croatian, Yiddish, Portuguese, Russian)	2
African Languages (e.g. Swahili, Wolof)	22
Other (e.g. American Sign Language)	0

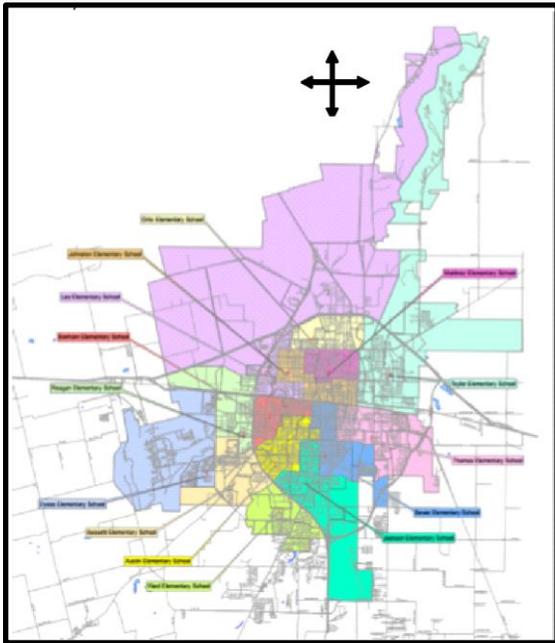
Source: Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021

Currently, there are at least 15 identified non-English languages spoken by students enrolled in the AISD Early Childhood programs. The district maintains a Bilingual/ESL Department to assure that the educational and language needs of these students and their families are met. Due to the growing ELL population, HS recognized the need for more ESL teachers. This 2021-22 school year the HS program has 15 certified ESL teachers. The Early Childhood Program has 21 certified ESL teachers.

Interpreters are available for Spanish, Swahili, Kirundi, French, Amharic and American Sign Language within the staff of the Early Childhood program. Interpreters for families who speak Nepali, Thai and other African Languages, including and Kinyarwanda, are provided through the LEA. For all other languages the EHS/HS Programs contact the International Rescue Committee for interpreters. Additionally, the local universities can be contacted and are willing to provide interpreters to support families needing services.

Within the past 10 years there has been an influx of refugees into Abilene because the community has been designated as a “resettlement city” for the International Rescue Committee. Families are relocated in Abilene due to the city’s reasonable cost of living, ability to provide medical services and the willingness of the community to accept the refugees’ diversity in languages and cultures. This agency assists and helps refugees navigate their new surroundings. The IRC helps families to navigate and integrate into the American culture. They also help families enroll the children in school and will help the school with language translation, if needed.

**1302.11 (b)(1)(i) Geographic location—**



At the end of each year, Head Start students transition into one of the Abilene ISD’s 13 elementary schools. There are only 3 elementary campuses located on the east side of the city and 10 located on the west side. A majority of EHS/HS eligible students reside in the northwest part of the city where Long ELC is located as well as 4 elementary schools. Also, in the northwest part of the city, there are 3 federally subsidized housing complexes which provide housing to many of the EHS/HS families and a large number of the refugee population. Additionally, Abilene has numerous low-income properties and apartments dispersed throughout the community, therefore eligible children are located across the city. The Abilene ISD has been attentive and intentional in supporting

and meeting the needs of our families in the determination of the placement of Crockett Early Head Start and Long Early Learning Center

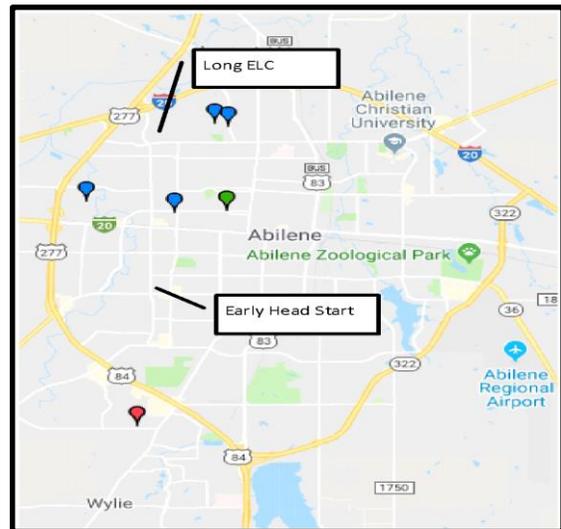
**2020-2021 Long ELC & EHS Geographical Enrollment according to household zip codes**

	<b>HS</b>	<b>EHS</b>
79601	130	13
79602	118	18
79603- Long ELC zip code	252	36
79605- EHS zip code	210	43
79606	76	7
79607	55	0
Out of District due to Foster-previously enrolled in district	841	1

Source: Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021

The Abilene Community has 3 Multi-Family Public Housing complexes. All of them are located on the Northwest side of Abilene, TX around Long ELC. All the multi-family public housing complexes are in the geographical location of the 79603-zip code.

<http://www.abileneha.org/properties/map>



**1302.11 (b)(1)(i)(A) Homelessness & 1302.11 (b)(1)(i)(B) Foster Care**

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the county, community, and LEA are experiencing larger numbers of homelessness, foster and unaccompanied youth. Some of the families enrolling in 2020-2021, have completed a needs assessment and noted due to loss of jobs and housing they are experiencing temporary hardships.

<b>Abilene ISD Homeless &amp; Foster Care</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
Children serviced experiencing homelessness	
• Early Head Start	42
• Head Start	49
• Unaccompanied Youth	173
• Homeless in other AISD programs	1,237
<b>Total in Abilene ISD</b>	<b>1,501</b>
Enrolled Children in Foster Care	
• Early Head Start	14
• Head Start	14
• Other AISD programs	282
<b>Total in Abilene ISD</b>	<b>296</b>

	As of October 2020,
Children Living in Foster Care	745
Children Living in Kinship Care	579
Children served in Family Violence Shelters Noah Project (August 2020-September 2021)	290
Outreach Services for Family Violence Shelter Noah Project (August 2020-September 2021)	132
<b>Total</b>	

Historical patterns within the EHS/HS Program suggest that families move frequently within the Abilene ISD boundaries. The Program Information Report (PIR) data indicates the EHS/HS programs provided services for 615 students and pregnant teens from a funded enrollment of 521 children and pregnant teens. The 16% turnover in the student population matches the community’s mobility rate. The downward turn of the economy and changes in family structures attribute greatly to mobility rates.

**Mobility rate in Taylor County** **18.8%**  
(www.censusreporter.org)  
**Mobility rate in EHS/HS Program 2020-2021** **16%**

The numbers of children living with grandparents or in institutions continue to grow, as does the numbers of homeless children. EHS and HS have a partnership with the Abilene ISD Title 1 and Homeless liaison providing services for the growing number of students who are considered homeless.

## 1302.11 (b)(1)(i)(C) Children with Disabilities

Number of children with disabilities in Abilene, TX under age 18

1,341

### CHILDREN CHARACTERISTICS

Subject	Abilene city, Texas							
	Total		In married-couple family household		In male householder, no wife present, family household		In female householder, no husband present, family household	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
<b>DISABILITY STATUS</b>								
Civilian children under 18 years in households	28,532	±419	17,798	±910	1,924	±433	8,600	±885
With any disability	4.7%	±1.0	5.3%	±1.5	1.0%	±1.4	4.0%	±1.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

	Number of Children with Disabilities served by EHS/HS
0-2.11 years (EHS)	28
3-4.11 years (HS)	60
<b>Total served by HS Grant</b>	<b>88</b>

Source: Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021

Some of the disabilities in the Abilene area include, but are not limited to:

- Autism
- Visual Impairment
- Auditory Impairment
- Intellectual Disability
- Non-Categorical Early Childhood Disorder
- Other Health Impairment
- Orthopedic impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech-language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury

The Abilene community is sensitive to children with special needs and their parents. Available services within the Abilene community include: early intervention services, diagnostic services, educational services, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, music therapy, vision and mobility training, audiology services, hippo-therapy, respite care, orthotic services, prosthetics, adaptive equipment, diagnostic testing, child care, advocacy, support groups, parent training, and case management.

## 1302.11 (b)(1)(ii) Education

### POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

	Abilene city, Texas	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
<b>Income in the past 12 months below poverty level:</b>	<b>8,403</b>	<b>+/-1,779</b>
Less than high school graduate	1,539	+/-736
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	3,533	+/-1,214
Some college, associate degree	2,543	+/-1,008
Bachelor's degree or higher	788	+/-411

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

According to the data provided by the U.S. Census, approximately 18% of poverty within the Abilene community have an education less than high school graduates. While 42% have a High School Diploma or GED equivalence.

### EHS/HS Family Education

Highest level of education obtained by the child's parent or guardian	# of families at enrollment
Advanced degree or Baccalaureate degree	39
Associated Degree, Vocational school, or some college	162
High School Graduate or GED	261
Less than High School Graduate	79

Source: Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021

### Dropouts Abilene ISD and Taylor County

2020 Abilene ISD dropouts	98
Dropouts in Taylor County	198

Source: Abilene ISD & 2015 KIDS Count Data

Abilene ISD, the LEA, is sensitive to the learning needs and career aspirations of all students. An increase in the number of students entering trade schools and/or universities was observed. The Abilene ISD saw the need for career tech and in the Fall of 2021 opened the LIFT (Leadership & Innovation in the Future Technologies). The LIFT is a state-of-the-art CTE Center offering a variety of career and technical trade classes. The LEA also offers "dual credit" classes on the secondary campuses making trade schools, two-year colleges, and four-year universities more affordable. In addition to "dual credit" classes and the LIFT Abilene ISD has a A.T.E.M.S. (Academy for Technology, Engineering, Math and Science) and Holland Medical School which are designed to prepare students for post-secondary schooling and/or to educate them with the necessary skills or certifications so they are "work ready" upon graduation. The Abilene community has several options of post-secondary education. There are several 4-year universities, Abilene Christian University, McMurry University, and Hardin Simmons University and one two-year college, Cisco College. Texas State Technical School, Texas Cosmetology School, Cisco College and Neecee's Cosmetology are some of the local trade schools.

## 1302.11 (b)(1)(ii) Health Conditions/Nutrition

	EHS & HS enrolled children	
	# of children at enrollment	# of children at end of enrollment year
Dental Homes	491	520
Medical Homes	578	584
Up to date on EPSDT	556	491
Up to date on Immunizations	731	731
Immunizations on a Catch-up Schedule	13	12
Immunization Exemption	5	5
	Diagnosed as Needed Treatment and/or Services	Of Diagnosed- Received Treatment and/or Services
Dental	53	42
Chronic Health Condition	75	66

Source: Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021

Collaborating with families to assure that children are healthy physically, socially, and emotionally is important. EHS/HS health staff screen monitor and document children's status in the above areas and help families obtain resources when needed.

Due to the impacts COVID-19, medical offices saw a decrease in office visits and/or were temporarily closed. Families were unable to fulfill required shots prior to the beginning of school. The LEA did not put-up barriers for the 2020-2021 school year and gave a grace period for students to get shots up to date. However, this 2021-2022 school access to care and compliance for requirements has improved.

EHS/HS staff have been trained in COVID-19 safety procedures, symptom recognition and the LEA daily protocols. Child size masks were provided by the LEA. EHS/HS health staff are monitoring students, campus visitors and staff daily, as well as supporting families with questions on health issues.

### Texas State Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Profile (2018)

Number of children 2-4 on WIC: obese	15.9%
Children ages 10-17	20.3%
Adults	35.8%
Texas Percentage of children who are food insecure	15%

<https://stateofchildhoodobesity.org/states/tx/>

### Nutritional Conditions of HS

Number of HS children obese	82
Number of HS children overweight	63
Number of HS children healthy	249
Number of HS children underweight	20

Source: Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021

During the 2020-2021 school year the percent of obese students surpassed the Texas percentage of children 2-4 on WIC. 19.8% obese and 15.2% overweight. The EHS and HS programs are diligent in their efforts to promote good eating habits and are committed to introducing healthy foods to infants, toddlers, and children. The HS/EHS programs participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). EHS provides reimbursable breakfast, lunch and snack and HS provides reimbursable snacks. The program ensures children receive nutritious foods that contribute to their health and wellness.

Due to COVID-19, families have expressed the need for supplemental food. The LEA Homeless Office offers a CarePack program, providing weekend food for students experiencing food insecurity. Currently Early Childhood has 94 students on the CarePack program with 11 pending parent permissions.

### 1302.11 (b)(1)(ii) Social Service Needs

FAMILIES IN TAYLOR COUNTY & IN EHS/HS PROGRAMS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE AT END OF ENROLLMENT

	Taylor County (0-18)	Early Head Start	Head Start
<b>TANF</b>	267	2	13
<b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)</b>	20,001	54	234
<b>WIC (birth-4 years)</b>	1,345	81	121
<b>TX Health Steps/Medicaid</b>	14,467	166	397
<b>Families receiving CHIP</b>	1,647	Included in Medicaid #	Included in Medicaid #
<b>Children receiving SSI</b>	694	1	45
<b>Other Insurance than listed above</b>		2	22
<b>Children with no insurance</b>	5,362	0	5

Source: KIDS Count Data (2019), Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021

According to the Kids Health Care Report, Texas ranks 51<sup>st</sup> out of 51 states for children with no health insurance at 12.7%. When children are uninsured, they are more likely to have unmet health needs and lack a usual source of care, diminishing in their chances to grow into healthy and productive adults. This suggests that many families in Texas are in greater need than in the past. The EHS/HS uninsured rate is less than 1% showing the Early Childhood program is reaching out to families, making them aware of resources. Parents working minimum wage jobs often have difficulty making ends meet, so they rely on government programs to bridge the gap between what they can provide and what their families need.

#### Living Arrangements of EHS/HS Served Children

	Number of Families
<b>Total Number of Families</b>	<b>542</b>
<b>Two Parents</b>	
Parents (biological, adoptive, stepparent, etc.)	139
<b>Single Parent</b>	<b>393</b>
Mother (biological, adoptive, stepparent, etc.)	358

Father (biological, adoptive, stepparent, etc.)	19
<b>Non-Parents</b>	
Grandparents	13
Relative other than grandparents	4
Foster parents not relatives	8
Other	2

Source: Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021

The Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021 data indicates that 72.5% of the EHS/HS children live in a single parent household. Dynamics within what has been known as the “traditional family” have changed. The statistics noted above indicate that homes with single mothers are more prevalent than homes with two parents and significantly higher than single fathers.

### 1302.11 (b)(1)(ii) Economic Factors

#### INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2018 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)

Subject	Abilene city, Texas							
	Households		Single Families		Married-couple families		Nonfamily households	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
<b>Total</b>	42,786	±762	27,332	±743	19,325	±738	15,454	±780
<b>Less than \$10,000</b>	6.8%	±0.9	4.3%	±1.0	0.8%	±0.4	13.4%	±2.0
<b>\$10,000 to \$14,999</b>	5.3%	±0.8	2.8%	±0.7	1.5%	±0.5	10.3%	±1.9
<b>\$15,000 to \$24,999</b>	9.7%	±0.9	7.3%	±0.9	3.4%	±0.7	15.6%	±2.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

	August 2020	May 2021	September 2021
<b>Abilene, Texas Unemployment Rate</b>	4.9%	5.3%	5.6%
<b>Texas Unemployment Rate</b>	6.8%	6.6%	6.2%
<b>National Unemployment Rate</b>	8.4%	5.8%	6.0%

Texas Workforce Commission, Bureau of Labor Statistics

The unemployment rate for Abilene, has remained less than the State and National rate even through COVID-19. The Abilene unemployment improved quickly after the shut down in the Spring of

Within the Abilene community there are a variety of jobs available to citizens. Some jobs are manual labor positions and require no specific training (examples: construction laborers, farm workers/laborers, crop and or nursery workers, cooks in institutions and fast food restaurants, cleaning services in hotels/motels, roustabouts for oil and gas industry). However, many of the available jobs require training beyond a high school

diploma (examples: automotive service technicians, mechanics, diesel engine specialist, computer support specialists, computer-controlled machine tool operators, administrative secretaries and assistants, medical lab technicians, licensed vocational nurse, registered nurses, electrical power line installers, and school teachers).

### 1302.11 (b)(1)(iii) Typical Work, School and Training Schedules

#### AGE OF OWN CHILDREN IN FAMILIES BY LIVING ARRANGEMENTS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARENTS

	Abilene city, Texas	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
<b>Total:</b>		
<b>Under 6 years:</b>	10,465	+/-1,334
<b>Living with two parents:</b>	6,130	+/-1,309
<b>Both parents in labor force</b>	3,179	+/-1,011
<b>Father only in labor force</b>	2,895	+/-1,073
<b>Mother only in labor force</b>	56	+/-69
<b>Neither parent in labor force</b>	0	+/-214
<b>Living with one parent:</b>	4,335	+/-1,287
<b>Living with father:</b>	621	+/-553
<b>In labor force</b>	621	+/-553
<b>Not in labor force</b>	0	+/-214
<b>Living with mother:</b>	3,714	+/-1,228
<b>In labor force</b>	2,553	+/-768
<b>Not in labor force</b>	1,161	+/-953

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Employment	# of families at enrollment
<b>Total number of families</b>	<b>582</b>
<b>One or more parent is employed</b>	367
<b>One or more in job training</b>	5
<b>One or more parent is in school</b>	72
<b>One is a member of US military or active duty</b>	5
<b>Neither parent is employed, in job training, or in school</b>	133

Source: Abilene ISD PIR 2020-2021

The PIR 2020-2021 data shows that 77% of our families were in the workforce, which is a 2% decrease from the 2018-2019 PIR. Of the eligible families only 32% have education beyond a high school diploma, which indicates most of our families are working in a minimum wage job with an atypical work schedule. (See EHS/HS Family Education chart on pg. 15)

The low unemployment rate and EHS/HS parent data both suggest that a great majority of parents are working, or are in school, and need full day educational/childcare services for their children.

### **1302.11 (b)(1)(v) Needs Due to Impact of COVID-19: by Early Head Start, Head Start, LEA, & Families**

- Medical: COVID-19 information, dental/well visits, shots,
- Emergency Needs: Food, housing, utility assistance, medical needs, diapers, gas, transportation
- Childcare: quarantined student, and non-school aged children.
- Cleaning supplies: home and school, sanitization machine for large campus use
- Personal Protective Equipment: child & adult size masks, hand sanitizer, gloves
- Clinic Personal Protective Equipment: N95, gown, face shield, gloves, goggles
- Classroom & Campus Protocols: Masks storage, social distancing procedures, arrival and dismissal procedures, visitor/volunteer restrictions, cafeteria protocols
- Unemployment assistance
- Employment: job opportunities, application assistance
- Affordable/Reliable Internet
- Community Resource awareness
- Mental Health resources
- Social/Emotional & Cognitive Development resources

### **1302.11 (b)(1)(v) Needs Expressed by Community Agencies Serving Eligible Families**

The EHS/HS programs are fortunate to have over eighty partnership agreements with local agencies. Through positive and long-standing collaboration efforts with these partnerships, the following needs have been expressed by those serving eligible families.

#### **Needs as determined by Early Head Start & Head Start Staff**

- Additional classrooms to accommodate transitioning and waitlist children
- Childcare: after school daycare for 3-year-old children
- Access to affordable Medical & Mental Health Services: dental, hearing screening, immunizations, Health Steps (physical), vision screening, counseling, head lice treatment
- Housing Assistance: electric/gas bills, kitchenware, furniture, Pest Control: Bed Bugs & Fleas
- Housing: safe and affordable, emergency shelter
- Nutrition: food, summer food programs, nutrition counseling
- Family Needs: adult clothing, diapers, children clothing, shoes, socks, underwear, hygiene, coats
- Employment: application process, interview skills, job opportunities
- Adult Education: GED
- Government Assistance Support: Medicaid, Lone Star card (food stamps), TANF
- Community Counseling services: nurturing and safe environment, trauma
- Public transportation
- Access to Interpreters
- Affordable & reliable Internet

- Affordable Community activities: sports fees, camp fees
- Parent Education: fine/gross motor skills, social/emotional skills, cognitive development

**Needs determined by Day Nursery of Abilene**

- Training for grandparents raising grandchildren
- Parent information concerning referral process for children with learning differences

**Needs determined by Early Childhood Intervention**

- Health care with flexible schedules to meet the needs of working families
- Low cost well baby exams
- More available community resources
- More parenting classes
- More quality childcare for children with disabilities
- Resource awareness
- Resource guide for daycare centers serving pre-k age students
- Transportation to daycare centers from all elementary campuses

**Needs determined by West Texas Rehab (Family Support Services)**

- Affordable childcare
- Assistance paying rent, utilities
- Job training
- More assistance with food
- More transportation
- Respite care for children with disabilities

**Needs determined by MHMR (Child and adolescent services)**

- Education in the availability of resources
- Insurance for children
- Greater number of case managers, etc.

**Needs determined by Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

- Anger management courses
- Needs for treatment centers
- Prevention education
- Prevention training
- Helping drug addicted babies

## 1302.11 (b)(1)(v) Needs determined by parents

### **Affordable, Quality Child Care**

- After-school care
- Care for medically fragile or special needs children (respite)
- Evening and night care
- Infant and toddler care
- Summer care

### **Affordable, Safe, Quality Housing**

- Assistance with deposits and rent
- Child-proofing a home
- Electric/gas bills
- Home maintenance
- Pest control
- Weatherization or repairs
- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

### **Career Development**

- Career planning and testing
- Financial assistance for certifications and licenses that would enable parents to increase their personal salaries
- Interview preparation
- Job placement assistance
- Resume development

### **Disabilities & Special Needs**

- Sensory Needs training
- More training for parents on special needs
- Visuals and Routines at home

### **Education**

- Assistance finding and filling out grant/scholarship applications
- Budgeting training
- College Applications/Tuition Assistance
- College assistance
- Computer Training
- Family Literacy
- GED and ESL classes
- Health and safety training
- Job and career training
- Parent Training
- Information regarding foster care and adoption
- Training on Screen Time for children

## **Family Needs**

- Appropriate furniture for rooms of infants and toddlers
- Food
- Clothing
- Cribs, supplies, diapers
- Developmentally appropriate toys (education how to choose toys)
- Household goods (i.e. blankets, appliances)
- Knowledge of the churches who assist with food, clothing, household goods, transportation and help with utilities and medical needs
- Information about support groups for families of young children
- Training & Resources for Grandparents raising their grandchildren

## **Financial Security**

- Budgeting training
- Credit counseling
- Financial literacy

## **Nutrition**

- Nutritional counseling (healthy food on a budget)
- Information regarding breast feeding
- Nutritional counseling for over and underweight children

## **Medical Care**

- Affordable comprehensive services for children with disabilities
- Information regarding prevention/detection/treatment of STDs
- Information regarding birth control/prenatal education/birthing classes
- Information about free or low-cost prescription plans
- Information about applications/timelines for CHIPS and Medicaid
- Dental care for the family
- Dental care for children without insurance, CHIPS and Medicaid
- Emergency Medical Care/Advice
- Vision and hearing care
- Home Health care or day care for elderly
- Immunizations for the entire family
- Medical care for non-Medicaid families or family members (ie. MAAC program)
- Referral services for children with disabilities

## **Mental Health Assistance/Family Support**

- Anger and stress management
- Assistance with special population children
- Counseling
- Domestic violence
- Parenting training, support, and family event nights
- Substance abuse assistance
- Support groups for families; families with children with disabilities; grandparents raising grandchildren

- Grief counseling
- Child Abuse
- Lessons on Bulling

### **Technology**

- Affordable internet
- Training on Screen Time for children
- Affordable technology

### **Transportation**

- Affordable car insurance
- Assistance with paying for licenses (CDL), car registration fees and inspection fees
- Assistance with fees for passes on city buses
- Bus routes that run every thirty minutes instead of every hour
- Public Transportation that is accessible
- Gas Money for transportation to and from HS campuses
- Mechanical repair

## 1302.11 (b)(1)(v) Community Resources

A Community Resource Directory has been published, in English and in Spanish, for our families to know the agencies within the community where they can receive help if needed. This Directory serves as a resource guide for families. Below is a list of all the EHS/HS formal partnerships as well as those agencies who assist our families through informal agreements.

### **Child Care**

Day Nursery School Readiness Integration-AISD

Alliance for Women and Children

Day Nursery Abilene

Minda Street Daycare Center

Child Care Services at Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas (Financial Assistance)

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have partnerships with the above agencies.*

YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of Abilene, Habitat for Learning, His Little Angels Daycare Center, Kids on Maple Daycare Center, Kids of Faith, Kindercare, Kids Kampus, Pioneer Drive Baptist Daycare Center,

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have a relationship with the above agencies.*

### **Clothing/Household Items/Food**

Christian Ministries of Abilene

Christian Service Center

Food Bank of West Central Texas-Long ELC

Abilene ISD: Care Packs for Kids

Food Bank of West Central Texas-Social Services Outreach

Love and Care Ministry

The Salvation Army

St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have Partnership Agreements with the above agencies.*

Goodwill Industries, St. Mark's Baby Room, Meals on Wheel, City Light Ministry, Breakfast on Beech Street, Abilene-Callahan Baptist Association, Junior League of Abilene, Sacred Heart

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have a relationship with the above agencies.*

### **Connecting**

A Call for Help 211

BCFS Health and Human Services

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program

Big Country Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Big Country CASA

Department of Family and Protective Services: Child Protective Services

Foster Grandparent Program

Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have Partnership Agreements with the above agencies.*

Abilene Christian University volunteer and Service-Learning Center, International Rescue Committee, Christian Homes of Abilene, City Link Bus and Van Service, Taylor County Social Services

\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have a relationship with the above agencies.

### **Dental/Medical/Health**

Abilene Pediatric Dental Association  
Smile Crafters (Dental)  
Dr. Jane Estes-Tindol (Dental)  
Children's Dentistry of Abilene (Dental)  
Abilene/Taylor County Public Health District  
Adams Pediatric  
Abilene Children's Medical Association  
Dr. Hector Garica-Marerro  
Hendrick Regional Laboratory  
Hendrick Pulmonary Rehabilitation  
Professional Association of Pediatrics  
Marka Riddle, R.D.  
Susan Zeff, R.D.  
Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC)  
Dr. Russell Dressen (Ophthalmology)  
Love and Care Ministry

\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have Partnership Agreements with the above agencies.

Abilene Independent School District Health Services, Holland Medical High School, Presbyterian Care Mission (adults only), Dental Care Mission, Texas Health Steps Program, Abilene Regional Women's Care Center, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Red Cross, Patty Shelton Hanks School of Nursing, Mercy Medical, Lions Club

\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have a relationship with the above agencies.

### **Education**

Abilene Christian University Education Department  
Abilene Christian Social Work Department  
Abilene ISD Adult Education  
Abilene Public Library  
Abilene ISD Title I Homeless Program  
Abilene ISD Office of Federal Programs  
Foster Grandparents  
Abilene ISD Vocational Adjustment Class  
Day Nursery School Readiness Integration-AISD  
Cisco College  
National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature  
New Horizons Family Services Program  
Texas Agrilife Extension

\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have Partnership Agreements with the above agencies.

Abilene ISD Planetarium, Abilene Zoo, ACCESS, Hardin Simmons University, Kiwanis, Region 14 Educational Service Center, Texas Department of Public Safety, American Red Cross, Texas College of Cosmetology, Texas Tech (Abilene branch), TSTC, HSU Six White Horses,

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have a relationship with the above agencies.*

### **Housing**

Habitat for Humanity

Abilene Hope Haven

Housing Authority of the City of Abilene

Noah Project

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have Partnership Agreements with the above agencies.*

Hendrick Home for Children, Ben Richey Boys' Ranch Family Care Program,

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have a relationship with the above agencies.*

### **Job**

Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas

Christian Women's Job Corp.

FaithWorks

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have Partnership Agreements with the above agencies.*

### **Mental Health**

Abilene Christian University Marriage and Family Institute

Abilene Professional Center

Abilene Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ARCADA)

Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center

Hardin Simmons University Family Psychology Center

Highland Counseling Center

MCH Family Outreach

Presbyterian Children's Home and Services

Turning Point Counseling

Regional Victim Crisis Center

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have Partnership Agreements with the above agencies.*

Betty Hardwick Center, Camp Courage, FBC Ministry of Counseling Enrichment, Harmony Family Services, Texas Family Institute, Crisis Intervention MHMR, Mental Health Association of Abilene, Life Renovations

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have a relationship with the above agencies.*

### **Disabilities**

Abilene Independent School District

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

Early Childhood Intervention ECI-LEA Early Transition

West Texas Rehabilitation Center

West Texas Rehabilitation Center/Family Support Services

*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have Partnership Agreements with the above agencies*

Abilene State Supported Living Center, Betty Hardwick Center, Disability Resources, Texas Commissions for the Blind, ACU Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic, Region 14 Education Service Center, Disability Resources Hendrick Center for Rehabilitation, King David's Kids, Reach for a Difference, Upside Down Club, Texas Commission for the Blind  
*\*\*\*EHS and/or HS have relationships with the above agencies.*

### **1302.11 (b)(1)(vi) Strengths**

There are also strengths within our community and our programs.

- The passion the community has for children is reflected in the number of agencies willing to engage in partnerships with Head Start. Currently, the EHS/HS programs have formal partnerships with eighty agencies and individuals and have one Adopt-A-School plan. These partnerships allow our students experiences in the classroom (examples: cooking, volunteer readers, incentives) and opportunities to go on field trips to a variety of sites throughout the year.
- Our sites are convenient for most families because they are in low-income areas located on both sides of town.
- HS can use the Abilene ISD transportation services, thereby directing the use of federal funds to other needed services.
- Crockett and Long have access to the city's City Link bus route.
- Our community is robust and believes in education and family. Aside from state and federal agencies, there are many private and faith-based organizations/ individuals who offer services to families in need.
- Abilene has a strong relationship with Dyess Air Force Base personnel.
- There are many opportunities for staff and parents to further their education within the community.
- The unemployment rate ensures that there are opportunities for families to gain employment and become self-sufficient.
- The Abilene ISD administration is very supportive of early childhood education and is actively involved in the development and growth of the programs.
- Many high-quality services are available for children with disabilities within the community and Abilene ISD.
- Our sites, utilities, maintenance, and many personnel costs are provided in-kind from the Abilene ISD. Having the LEA support our facilities, allows for the federal monies to be used to better serve children and families.
- The Abilene ISD GED program is offered to EHS/HS parents, as well as any adult in the service area. Free childcare services are offered to EHS/HS parents while they are in class. HS pays for the costs of all tests, graduation caps and gowns.
- Residents from the community typically volunteer their time in the classrooms helping to meet the social/emotional needs of the children. However, due to COVID-19 volunteers are restricted.
- Many of the coordinators for EHS/HS serve on boards for agencies that work with our parents and children, thereby strengthening our partnerships.
- In an attempt to alleviate the 3-year-old wait list, Head Start opened 2 more classes for three-year-old and place a few 3s in a mixed classroom for the 20-21 school year. The LEA also has the Day Nursery of Abilene Centers where 3s can be enrolled.....

## Summary of Community Assessment

It is recognized that there are a great number of people in Abilene and Taylor County living in poverty. While attempting to meet the needs of the children in our service area, we face some challenges.

- Many children are now living in non-traditional homes. Instead of living with both parents and one biological parent, children are living with grandparents, in foster care homes or institutional settings.
- Mobility among our families has decreased in the past few years. The mobility we are experiencing is caused from many reasons. Some of the reasons are absentee parents, foster care/CPS placement of children, death, divorce, incarceration of a family member, and familial mental health issues.
- Additional after school care is needed for three-year-old children.
- Many parents are working or in school with an atypical schedule and need full day childcare/school.
- Parents express the need for transportation. While parents have access to Abilene ISD and City Link public transportation, there continues to be a need for a greater variety and inexpensive modes of transportation.
- The program maintains waiting lists for eligible EHS and HS children.
- Families have expressed significant needs in a wide range of areas for which they require support and assistance. Due to the impacts of COVID-19 these needs are great this year.
- The challenge for Head Start continues to be meeting the physical, social, and emotional needs of children as they learn in an academic environment.

\*\* The Community Needs Assessment is used in planning and developing philosophy statements for the Early Head Start/Head Start Programs. It is also used to determine short- and long-term goals for the programs. *(This document was discussed and completed by parents, Early Head Start staff and Head Start staff therefore there were no outside costs beyond staff time. Conclusions were based on interviews, internet research, phone calls, newspaper articles and the discussion of the data with participants.)*

## Sources

### **Abilene ISD Early Head Start and Head Start Program Information Report (PIR)**

#### **Abilene ISD Administration Office**

241 Pine Street, Abilene, TX 79604

#### **Merkel ISD Administration Office**

300 Ash Street, Merkel, TX 79536

#### **Trent ISD Administration Office**

12821 Interstate 20, Trent, TX 79561

#### **Jim Ned ISD Administration Office**

830 Garza Street, Tuscola, TX 79562

#### **Wylie ISD Administration Office**

6251 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX 79606

#### **American Fact Finder**

[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

#### **County Map of Texas**

[www.countymapsoftexas.com/taylor.shtml](http://www.countymapsoftexas.com/taylor.shtml)

#### **Abilene ISD Elementary School Boundaries**

[https://www.abileneisd.org/cms/lib/TX01001461/Centricity/Domain/37/ES\\_Attendance\\_Zones\\_2017.pdf](https://www.abileneisd.org/cms/lib/TX01001461/Centricity/Domain/37/ES_Attendance_Zones_2017.pdf)

#### **Taylor County Community Health Assessment**

[http://www.westtexasahec.org/content/pdf\\_forms/RHP\\_CHNA/TaylorCounty\\_CHA.pdf](http://www.westtexasahec.org/content/pdf_forms/RHP_CHNA/TaylorCounty_CHA.pdf)

#### **Census Tract 104, Taylor County, Texas**

[www.censusreporter.org](http://www.censusreporter.org)

#### **National Initiative for children's Healthcare Quality 2013**

<http://obesity.nichq.org/resources/obesity-factsheets>

#### **Texas Health Data 2013**

[www.healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/vitalstatistics/Birth](http://www.healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/vitalstatistics/Birth)

#### **Kids Count Data Center**

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

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