

ABILENE ISD HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022





WHO WE ARE

The Abilene ISD Early Childhood Programs provide comprehensive child development services for children ages birth through four-years-old through several developmentally appropriate programs including Early Head Start, Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten, Regional Day School for the Deaf, and the Early Childhood Special Education Program for children with Disabilities. AISD began full operation of Head Start in 1965 and Early Head Start in 1998 as a delegate agency. In April of 2012 the AISD became the direct grantee for these programs when a grant award was received from the Office of Head Start. The Early Head Start program serves pregnant and parenting teens in the district by providing them with support services to facilitate their graduation with a high school diploma. Early Head Start also provides a safe and enriched environment for their children, birth to age three, in which those children can develop the essential self-regulation, social-emotional and pre-academic skills that are the building blocks for success as they begin their academic careers. Preschool age children in Head Start experience a rich learning environment that offers cognitive growth opportunities focused on the acquisition of school readiness skills, while supporting the child's overall well-being through appropriate physical, social, and emotional development. Families have access to comprehensive services including health and dental services, mental health services, parent involvement, family (social) services, disabilities services, nutrition services, speech therapy, occupational and physical therapy, perceptual motor lab, family literacy, G.E.D. classes, transition services, and before and after-school care. These support services are designed to promote children's school readiness and assist families in reaching self-sufficiency.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS



Crockett Early Head Start, located at 3282 South 13th Street, opened in 2002. Beginning in August 2015, all of the EHS program was consolidated into the Crockett center. A total of 141 infants, toddlers and pregnant women were funded at the Crockett EHS center in 2021-2022.



Long Early Learning Center, opened in 2017. The campus is located at 3600 Sherry Lane and was funded to educate a total of 380 preschool age Head Start children during the 2020-2021 school year. The program was able to reach full enrollment in the Spring of 2021.

2021-2022

Crockett staff continued to maintain a commitment to Early Head Start students and families. During the 2021-2022 school year, an emphasis was placed on fathers and father figures in the lives of students. A campus-wide father engagement event was held with infants, toddlers, and their fathers and/or father figures. Parents and children participated in a reading event that was set up outside on the playground to accommodate fresh air and distance due to the rising COVID numbers last Fall. We took pictures of families reading to their child. Families kept the book for their home library, and teachers printed the pictures for each family. Adults and children enjoyed the time together. The event was well attended.

Head Start was also committed to serving families and children while complying with COVID 19 mandates and safety protocols. Head Start maintained the integrity of the Head Start Fatherhood Initiative FRED (Fathers Reading Every Day) activities and “Dad and Kid” nights were held virtually. Parents signed up for the events and supplies were sent home to families. A book for family libraries were also sent home after each virtual event. Surveys at the close of each activity indicated that families enjoyed their time together and were able to take valuable information to support learning in the home environments.

All students’ learning progress was assessed three times during the year and the information was shared with families. Parents set personal and family goals as Family Service staff provided the support and encouragement needed for families to work towards their goals.

Both Early Head Start and Head Start continued to teach staff, parents, infants, toddlers, and young children the concepts of positive problem-solving techniques and self-regulation skills using Conscious Discipline through virtual and in-person instruction. Home visits and parent trainings supported families as they deepened and broadened their skills. Staff also participated learning opportunities to strengthen instructional practices to meet all learners needs.

These programs offer deep gratitude to the Abilene ISD School Board, Community Partners, and the Abilene community, as a whole, for their commitment in educating the community’s youngest school-aged population.



ANNUAL BUDGETS

POLICY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

POLICY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT			
PROGRAM: Early Head Start		PROGRAM YEAR: 2021-2022 ACTUAL	
		Federal Activity (Early Head Start)	
Federal Share	Program Year Budget	Program Year Expenditures	Expenditures (Over)/Under Budget
Salaries (non-substitute personnel, benefits, & stipends)	2,348,636	2,269,252	79,384
Professional & Contractual (leases, tuition, substitutes, consultants, etc.)	23,179	23,000	179
Supplies (misc. supplies, furniture, & equipment under \$5,000)	181,425	130,388	51,037
Other Operating Expense (travel, field trips, food, fees, etc.)	20,378	16,611	3,767
Capital Outlay (equipment over \$5,000)	-	-	-
FEDERAL SHARE TOTALS		2,573,618	2,439,251
			134,367
		Non-federal Activity	
Non-federal Share (In-kind)	In-Kind Required	Program Year Actual Total	(Over)/Under Required
NON-FEDERAL TOTALS		621,997	407,980
			214,017
		Federal Activity (Other)	
Other Funding Sources that Supported Head Start	CACFP	Early Head Start Covid Supplement	Child Care Services
OTHER ANNUAL TOTALS		198,175	68,921
			24,440

POLICY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

POLICY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT			
PROGRAM: Head Start		PROGRAM YEAR: 2021-2022 ACTUAL	
		Federal Activity (Head Start)	
Federal Share	Program Year Budget	Program Year Expenditures	Expenditures (Over)/Under Budget
Salaries (non-substitute personnel, benefits, & stipends)	2,288,532	2,299,062	(10,530)
Professional & Contractual (leases, tuition, substitutes, consultants, etc.)	107,023	93,451	13,572
Supplies (misc. supplies, furniture, & equipment under \$5,000)	240,817	145,771	95,046
Other Operating Expense (travel, field trips, food, fees, etc.)	76,378	44,260	32,118
Capital Outlay (equipment over \$5,000)	-	-	-
FEDERAL SHARE TOTALS	2,712,750	2,582,544	130,206
		Non-federal Activity	
Non-federal Share (In-kind)	In-Kind Required	Program Year Actual Total	(Over)/Under Required
NON-FEDERAL TOTALS	711,784	1,221,834	(510,050)
		Federal Activity (Other)	
Other Funding Sources that Supported Head Start	Actual Title 1 Funds Total	Head Start COVID Supplement	Actual USDA Total
OTHER ANNUAL TOTALS	783,400	17,906	305,900

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Number of Children served in Head Start	413
Number of infants & toddlers served in EHS	190
Total :	603
Total number of pregnant women served	22
Total number of families served in 21-22	542
Children who received medical exam	EHS 165 HS 402
Children who were up to date on all immunizations	EHS 163 HS 368
Children who were in foster care	EHS 5 HS 32
Children with a diagnosed disability	EHS 34 HS 77
Two parent families	EHS 29 HS 108
Single parent families	EHS 13 HS 271
Children who were homeless	EHS 50 HS 29

ENROLLMENT

Historically, the EHS and HS programs maintain waiting lists of income eligible children. EHS was fully enrolled in the fall. HS was diligent in providing opportunities for eligible families to enroll throughout the year. Because HS didn't have a waiting list, some over income families were enrolled. Preference was given to families who were the neediest according to information gleaned from their applications. ERSEA staff was persistent in efforts to fill all vacant slots within 30 days.

Average monthly enrollment for Head Start: 380 (100%)

Average Monthly enrollment for EHS: 141 (100%)

Percentage of eligible children served: 31%

Data from the August 2021 Program Information Report and the 2021-2022 Community Assessment.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT

A district-wide financial audit was presented to the School Board by Eide Bailly, Certified Public Accountants, on January 10, 2022 for the 2020-2021 school fiscal year ending August 31, 2021. The audit firm stated in the report that District met federal compliance regulations for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2021. The full audit report is located in the AISD finance office for review by interested parties. A district-wide annual audit was conducted again in October 2022 for the 2021-22 school year and a full report will be available in January, 2023. “

FEDERAL AUDIT

All Head Start programs undergo regular on-site reviews to assess program compliance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards and other regulations. During the fall of 2019, the Head Start program participated in a CLASS onsite review. Shortly after, both programs participated in a Focus Area Two Monitoring Review. The final audit report held many positive attributes of the programs and stated that all areas of HS and EHS were found to be in Federal compliance. The EHS/HS programs didn't participate in onsite reviews during the 2020-2021 school year. The Office of Head Start awarded the AISD with a new grant five year grant in the spring of 2022 and a Focus Area One Audit is expected during the 2022-2023 calendar year.

FEDERAL REVIEW

All Head Start programs undergo regular on-site reviews to assess program compliance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards and other regulations. During the week of December 2-6, 2020, the Head Start program participated in a CLASS onsite review. The ISD and the HS program received an official completion notice from the Administration for Children and Families reporting the CLASS results. The HS and EHS programs also participated in a Focus Area Two Monitoring Review. A letter received on April 30, 2020 reported many positive attributes of both programs. Additionally, the report stated that all areas of HS and EHS were found to be in Federal compliance. The EHS/HS programs didn't participate in onsite reviews during the 2020-2021 or the 2021-2022 school year. In the spring of 2022, the Office of Head Start awarded a new five year Head Start grant to the program.

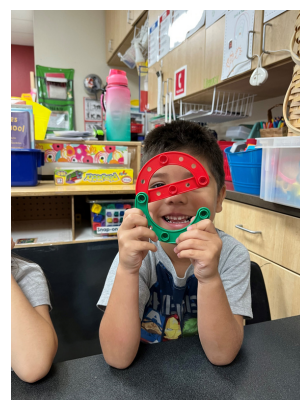
HEAD START

School Ready

The Head Start program prepares children for academic success by providing a rich learning environment in which critical social-emotional and academic skills can be effectively developed. The program has developed a School-Readiness Plan that aligns with the Head Start Performance Standards, Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework and the Texas Pre-K Curriculum Guidelines. Long Early Learning Center teachers participate in rigorous staff development activities, including Conscious Discipline, CIRCLE training, in-classroom training/mentor coaching and intensive web-based training courses. Additionally, CLASS observations and feedback are used to support classroom instruction and increase higher level of learning. These highly trained teachers use research-based instructional materials and activities with all 3-and 4-year-old children. The researched based, state approved curriculum, Scholastic Pre-K on My Way, contains intentional, cognitively-based instruction and hands-on learning activities that are used to advance language, literacy, and other academic skills in a developmentally appropriate way. Instruction addresses oral language, phonological awareness, vocabulary, letter knowledge, written expression, book and print awareness, motivation to read, basic math and science concepts, and social skills.

Outdoor play was also enhanced through the use of the COVID 19 grant. Artificial grass was added to open areas to create new playground spaces for social distancing purposes. Specific school readiness skills are targeted and monitored through periodic formal assessments of children's skills using a variety of tools, including a web-based assessment tool that provides feedback on children's progress toward school readiness skills. Data is analyzed for the program as a whole, by specific classrooms, and individual children. That data is then used by program administrators, teachers and parents to set school readiness goals, inform staff development plans, and individualize the curriculum for each child. Data from the 2020-21 school year indicated that an emphasis on mathematics, early literacy, concept development, language modeling, quality of feedback and self-regulation/problem-solving skills should continue to be focuses within each instructional day.

School readiness goals were also enhanced through the collaborative efforts of staff, parents, and community partners. Virtual trainings for parents, family engagement activities and intentional Fatherhood Initiative activities were beneficial and supported families in achieving educational and family goals.



EARLY HEAD START

Preparing Children for School

Early Head Start believes that parents are their child's primary and most important teachers. Any intervention must be family-centered and at least two-generational to achieve lasting impact on the quality of life for children. EHS works collaborative with families and utilizes a comprehensive approach with families and their children birth to three years of age and pregnant women. EHS prepares children for school by focusing on their healthy development in four important areas of growth: physical, cognitive, emotional, and social growth with an emphasis on social/emotional development. Three skills are central in creating successful relationships: expressing emotion, understanding emotion, and processing social information. The infant and toddler years are a watershed of development in the emotional domain. These skills lay the foundation for positive social interactions and, ultimately, academic and life success. EHS provides a social emotional relationship curriculum based on the West Ed Program for Infant and Toddler Caregivers from the California Department of Education. Additionally, EHS continues to implement Conscious Discipline, a self-regulation program founded by Dr. Becky Bailey, and also uses the web-based "Teaching Strategies GOLD" scale. In 2021 – 2022 children received child development services under the supervision of degreed/credentialed staff. The child/staff ratio in each classroom was 4:1 no more than eight children in each classroom. Children's growth toward School-Readiness goals are assessed using multiple tools. Parents and staff worked together to develop school-readiness goals for each child. The Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment tool was used to measure children's growth three times during the school year. Assessment data was reported to parents.



Services for Pregnant Women

The AISD EHS program prioritizes services to pregnant and parenting teens enrolled in the District. EHS helps to ensure pregnant women have a source of ongoing, continuous medical and dental care. Women without a dental provider are referred to collaborating dentists. Monthly pre-natal visits to the doctor are tracked by the program to ensure pregnant women receive comprehensive prenatal care. EHS Family Advocates also make home visits and provide information on prenatal care. Parenting classes are provided on high school campuses for teens that are pregnant and or parenting. All new mothers are visited within two-weeks of delivery, and infants may be enrolled in the center.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are recognized as their children's first and best teachers and are encouraged to participate actively in their child's education and all school activities. Parent volunteers are invaluable to the program and parents are encouraged to volunteer as often as possible. Conscious Discipline and other family building activities were presented to parents through various avenues. Many family friendly activities were well attended in the fall and early spring, offering families opportunities for fun and growth. Even when parents aren't able to participate in campus events, strong, supportive home relationships create safety and security so that students come to school ready to learn. Many parent activities were held virtually during the 2021-2022 school year, however those that were face to face were extremely well attended.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Head Start and Early Head Start Programs collaborated with many community agencies to better serve children and families. Written agreements are maintained with many of these agencies to assure high quality services are provided to our children and families. Our collaborators during the 2021-2022 school-year included:

Alliance for Women and Children	Day Nursery of Abilene	Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas
Day Nursery School Readiness Integration-AISD	Christian Ministries of Abilene	Christian Service Center
Food Bank of West Central Texas - Social Services Outreach	St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store	Salvation Army
Food Bank of West Central Texas-Long ELC	Love & Care Ministries	Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Abilene Professional Center	Abilene Christian University Education Department	Foster Grandparent Program
Abilene Christian University Marriage and Family Institute	Hardin-Simmons University Family Psychology Center	Pastoral Care & Counseling
Turning Point Counseling	Presbyterian Children's Home and Services	Abilene Regional Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse

Methodist Children's Home Family Outreach	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Hendrick Regional Laboratory
Dr. Jane Estes Tindol, DDS	Dr. Bayless, DDS	Abilene Pediatric Dental Association
Professional Association of Pediatrics	Health and Human Services Commission (BCFS)	Big Country Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
AISD Adult Education	AISD Vocational Adjustment Class	AISD Title I Homeless Program
Christian Women's Job Corp	Cisco College	Call for Help 211
Faith Works	Abilene Public Library	Dr. Poorman, DDS
Housing Authority of the City of Abilene	National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL)	Grace Museum
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	New Horizons Family Services Program	Marka Riddle, RD
Habitat for Humanity	Abilene Professional Center	Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
Noah Project	Food Bank of West Central Texas-Social Services Outreach	Abilene Taylor County Public Health District
Adams Pediatric	Abilene Children's Medical Association	Dr. Hector Garcia-Marerro, MD
Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program	Abilene Christian University School of Social Work	Dr. Susan Zeff, RD

Dr. Russell Dressen, OD	Abilene Hope Haven	Texas Midwest Optical
Big Country Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)	Early Childhood Intervention LEA Transition	Hendrick Pulmonary Rehabilitation
West Texas Rehabilitation Center	United Supermarkets	Hendrick Prenatal Clinic
Highland Counseling Center	Regional Victim Crisis Center	AI SD Office of Federal Programs
West Texas Rehabilitation Center Support Services	Abilene Taylor County Child Advocacy Center	MCH Family Outreach
Christian Women's Job Corps	AI SD Office of Federal Programs	

We are deeply grateful to our community partners for their dedication to children and families. They were, and continue to be , our heroes. Their continuous giving and consistent nurturing of the families within our community influences lives today and into future generations.

Thank
you!