

2025-2026

HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT



“

Every child deserves a strong start, and every family deserves to be treated with care and respect. Our teachers and family advocate staff work alongside families to support children's learning, health, and well-being. I am grateful for the trust families place in us and for the community partners who help make this work possible.

”



Community Impact at a Glance

Services and support delivered to children and families



194
children
Received Head Start &
Early Head Start services

AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT

September: 78%	December: 87%	March: 93%	June: 100%
October: 79%	January: 92%	April: 94%	July: 100%
November: 84%	February: 92%	May: 94%	August: 88%



CHILDREN & LEARNING



64

enrolled children
received Early
Childhood Special
Education services



50

enrolled children
received Mental
Health supports



30

Enrolled children
(17% of total) during
program year.



15,000

Over 15,000
planned
classroom hours
for enrolled
children



FAMILY SUPPORT



1,130

Food Boxes
Delivered



430

Home Visits
Completed



58

People received dental services
through partnership with Children's
Dental Services.



DENTAL & HEALTH SUPPORT

98% of all children received a medical examination.

178 HS

95% of funded
enrollment

11 EHS

100% of funded
enrollment

156 HS

83% of funded
enrollment

5 EHS

62% of funded
enrollment - due to age

174 HS

93% of funded
enrollment

9 EHS

100% of funded
enrollment

Current on preventative health
care at end of enrollment

Completed a
professional oral exam

Received oral health
preventative care

Mission & Goals



MISSION:

Dedicated to building lifelong connections using a whole-family approach to early learning.

Ready for School, Ready for Life!

GOALS:



Curriculum Fidelity

Ensuring consistent, high-quality learning experiences remained a key focus. We focused on helping staff better understand how different curriculum components work together to support child outcomes. Ongoing coaching and support were provided to reinforce effective practices, while also allowing space for reflection and growth.



Staff Retention

Transition in leadership brought both change and opportunities. Maintaining stability became a priority and intentional efforts were made to strengthen communication, clarify expectations, and support team cohesion.

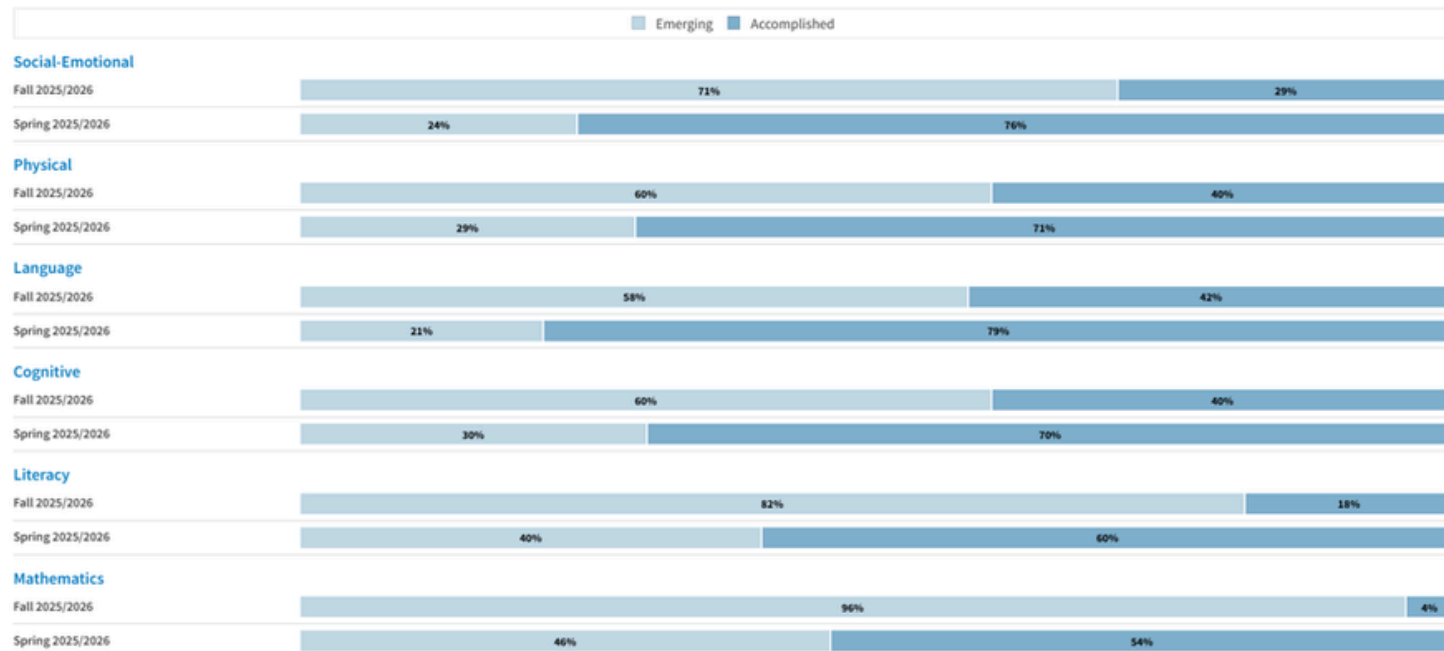


Enrollment & Community

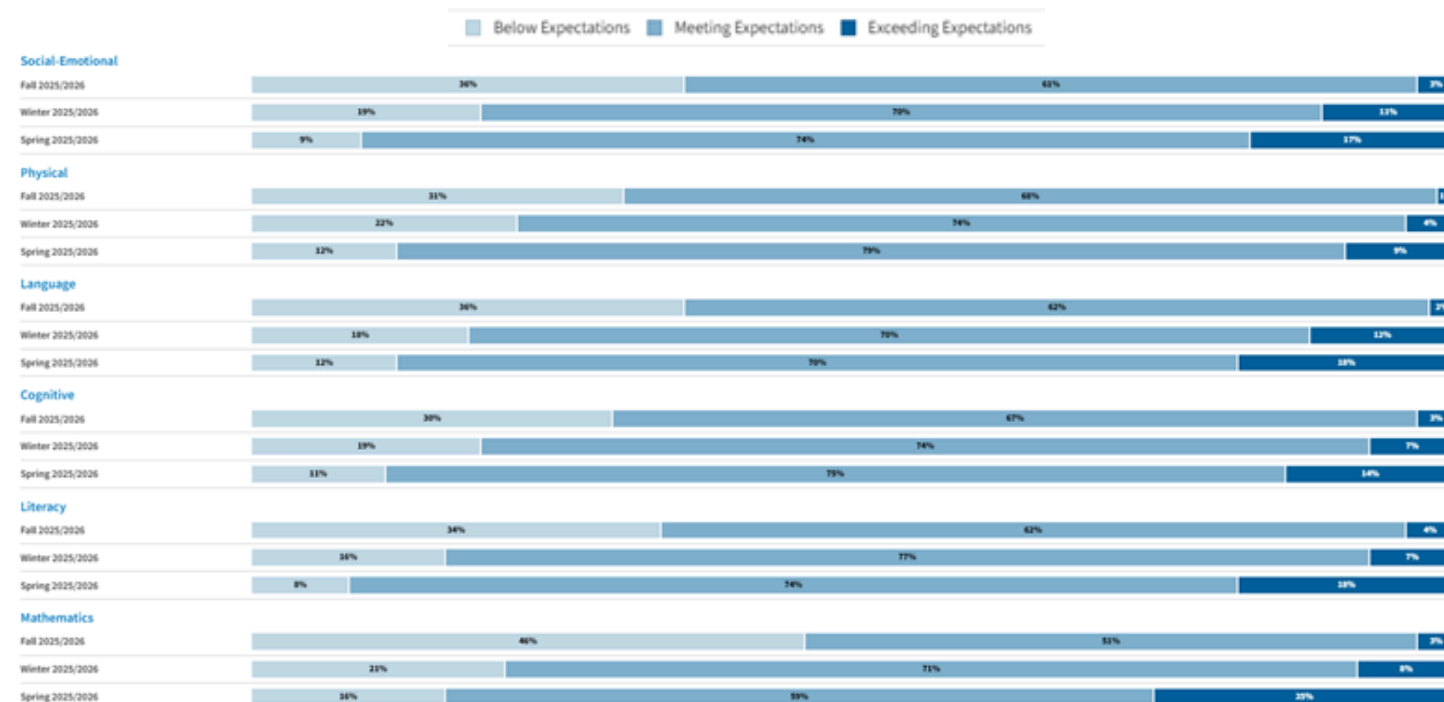
Maintaining full enrollment continues to be a priority to ensure access for families and full utilization of program resources. Through intentional outreach, strong community partnerships, and responsive enrollment practices, we successfully enrolled 30 children after the school year had already begun.

School Readiness Data

KINDERGARTEN READINESS (4-YEAR-OLDS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN IN 2026)

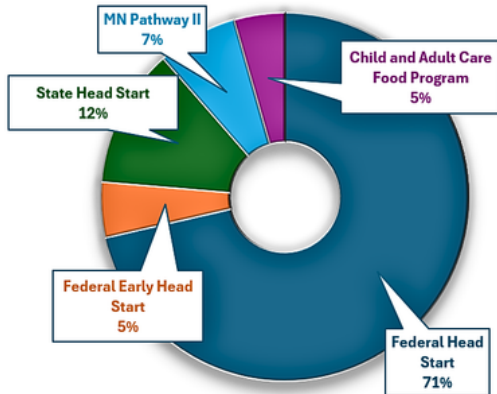


PROGRAM WIDE DATA (0-5 YEARS OLD):



FINANCE REPORT

FUNDS RECEIVED BY TYPE



AMOUNT OF FUNDS RECEIVED

TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED

Federal Head Start	\$2,658,244
Federal Early Head Start	\$181,655
State Head Start	\$425,855
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$165,449
MN Pathway II	\$262,500

\$3,720,703

EXPENDITURES AND MAJOR CATEGORIES

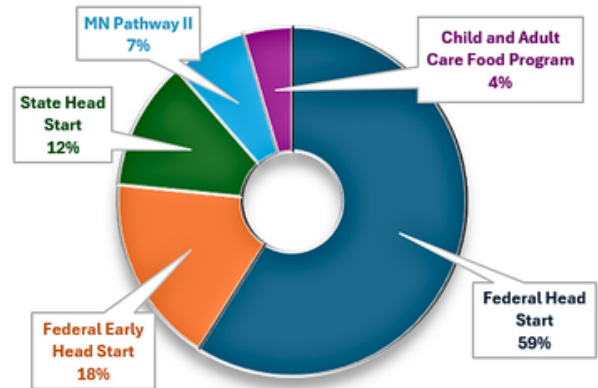
Wage and Fringe	\$2,794,899
Supplies & Other	\$354,816
Space Costs	\$238,631
Contracts	\$137,229

PROPOSED AMOUNT

\$3,943,751

for the
2026-2027 Program Year

PROPOSED BUDGET BY TYPE



FEDERAL & STATE REVIEW RESULTS

Review period: 2025-26

We did not have a Federal Review during the program year 2025-26. Thus, no results to share at this time.

All annual licensing inspections resulted in no corrective action or findings.

FINANCIAL AUDIT RESULTS

Audit period: 2026

Audit opinion: Clean audit

Key Findings: None

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

2025-26 Head Start Annual Report



PURPOSE

To identify needs among families of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, expectant mothers within Itasca and Koochiching counties.



KEY COMMUNITY NEEDS

Among surveyed households with children:

- 72.3 % reported transportation as a problem.
- 69.4% reported mental health and stress as a problem.
- 42.2% reported difficulty finding childcare during evenings, weekends, or other nontraditional hours.



WHO WE HEARD FROM

Community households in Itasca and Koochiching counties with children under 18. Therefore, not all families represented in the survey results indicate only Head Start eligible families.



PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Maintain strong recruitment & enrollment efforts.
- Evaluate current programming options to align with community need.
- Strengthen and increase infant and toddler capacity, where possible.

TOP TAKEAWAYS

- Child poverty remains higher than the Minnesota average in both counties, at 14.7% in Itasca and 17.6 % in Koochiching counties.
- Persistent gaps include limited infant and toddler care, non-traditional hours care, transportation barriers, provider and workforce shortages and difficulty navigating available services.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look ahead, we remain focused on what matters most: helping children and families thrive. We will strengthen school readiness, nurture meaningful family relationships, support staff, and create engaging, inclusive learning experiences where every child can grow. Through strong partnerships with families, schools, and community organizations, we will continue connecting families to the resources and opportunities they need. Together, our goal is simple but powerful—to make sure Every Piece Matters and every child is Ready for School, Ready for Life.



CONTACT INFORMATION



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Thank you to the families, staff, and community partners who make our work possible. Together, we create meaningful opportunities for children, strengthen families, and build stronger communities. We are grateful for your partnership and proud of what we accomplish together.

