



Annual Report 2022-2023





Head Start Mission

Arrowhead Head Start works with young children and families on healthy prenatal and early childhood development, school readiness, and supporting their success in life.

Head Start Program Goals



- Strengthen children's mental and behavioral health outcomes, so they are able to learn and develop positive social connections.
- Strengthen and support our Arrowhead Head Start staff team.
- Expand children's experiences with high quality early learning to prepare them for kindergarten.
- Strengthen connections and support for families to improve their wellbeing.



Head Start School Readiness Goals

- With the help of familiar adults, children will demonstrate developmentally appropriate skills to manage their behavior with increasing independence.
- Children will engage in positive relationships with others, appropriately expressing and responding to a broad range of emotions.
- Children will increase communication and literacy skills through language-rich experiences.
- Children will actively explore their environment to increase their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Children will develop healthy and safe behaviors.



Arrowhead Head Start Funding

Grant/Funding Sources	Funding Period	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total
Head Start & Early Head Start Program Operations	April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024 (FY 2023)	\$2,684,682	\$1,210,552	\$3,895,234
Head Start & Early Head Start T/TA	April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024 (FY 2023)	\$29,229	\$24,999	\$54,228
FY 2023 COLA & Quality Improvement	April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024 (FY 2023)	\$214,305	\$103,632	\$317,937
State Head Start/EHS Program Operations	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 (SFY 2023)	\$575,065	\$212,115	\$787,180
Pathway II Scholarships	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 (SFY 2023)	\$272,415		\$272,415
TOTAL		\$3,775,696	\$1,551,298	\$5,326,994

Funded Enrollment



Funding Source	Funded Slots
Federal-Head Start Pre-School	226
State-Head Start Pre-School	28
Total Head Start Pre-School	254
Federal-Early Head Start	85
State-Early Head Start	15
Total Early Head Start	100
PROGRAM TOTAL	354

More About the Children We Serve		
Participants by Age		
Under 1 year	23	21% EHS
1 year old	41	38% EHS
2 years old	43	40% EHS
3 years old	114	44.9%
4 year olds	135	53.1%
5 year olds	1	.04%
Total number in foster care during the program year	24	9.4%
Total number experiencing homelessness during the program year	4	1.6%
Children attending for a second year	75	29.5%
Children attending for 3 or more years	41	16.1%

Service Area



School District	County	Current Services
Mt. Iron-Buhl	St. Louis	HS Center Base Classroom Preschool Home Base Early Head Start Home Base
Hibbing	St. Louis	HS Center Base 4 Classrooms Preschool Home Base Early Head Start Home Base
Rockridge Virginia-Eveleth-Gilbert	St. Louis	HS Center Base 4 Classrooms Preschool Home Base Early Head Start Home Base
Mesabi East Aurora, Hoyt Lakes, Biwabik	St. Louis	Preschool Home Base Early Head Start Home Base
Ely	St. Louis	HS Center Base Classroom Early Head Start Home Base
St. Louis County (schools) Babbitt	St. Louis	HS Center Base Classroom (blended with district) Early Head Start Home Base
Lake Superior Two Harbors	Lake	HS Center Base Classroom Early Head Start Home Base
Chisholm	St. Louis	HS Center Base Classrooms Preschool Home Base Early Head Start Home Base
Proctor	St. Louis	HS Center Base Classroom Early Head Start Home Base
Hermantown	St. Louis	HS Center Base Classroom Early Head Start Home Base
Duluth	St. Louis	Early Head Start Home Base

2022-2023 CHILD OUTCOMES

Head Start Teachers use the researched based High Scope Curriculum and the High Scope COR Advantage Assessment tool. Observations are taken throughout the day that capture individual child growth and learning. This data is tracked, reviewed, and used to support planning for highly individualized teaching and learning. COR Advantage assesses early childhood development from infancy through kindergarten in all areas of development using a scale of zero to seven to track individual growth. Children are determined to be school ready if they have an average score of **3.75** in each COR category and an overall average score of **4.0** or higher.

School Readiness Goals	Progress/Outcomes 3-Year-Old Fall and Spring Benchmark (3)	Progress/Outcomes 4-Year-Old Fall and Spring Benchmark (4)
1. With the help of familiar adults, children will demonstrate developmentally appropriate skills to manage their behavior with increasing independence.	2.61- 3.76	3.23- 4.44
2. Children will engage in positive relationships with others, appropriately expressing and responding to a broad range of emotions.	2.63- 3.82	3.15- 4.42
3. Children will increase communication and literacy skills through language-rich experiences.	2.44- 3.47	3.09- 4.30
4. Children will actively explore their environment to increase their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills.	2.57- 3.66	3.26- 4.35
5. Children will develop healthy and safe behaviors.	3.13- 4.39	3.67- 5.05
6. Approaches to learning is embedded within all developmental/goal areas but is observed and scored separately.	2.63- 3.75	3.16- 4.53
73% of the 118 Children going on to kindergarten reached their benchmarks. This was up from 56% last program year.		

LOOK AT WHAT WE LEARNED THIS YEAR!



PROBLEM SOLVING AND TEAMWORK



Being Friends and Caring for each other



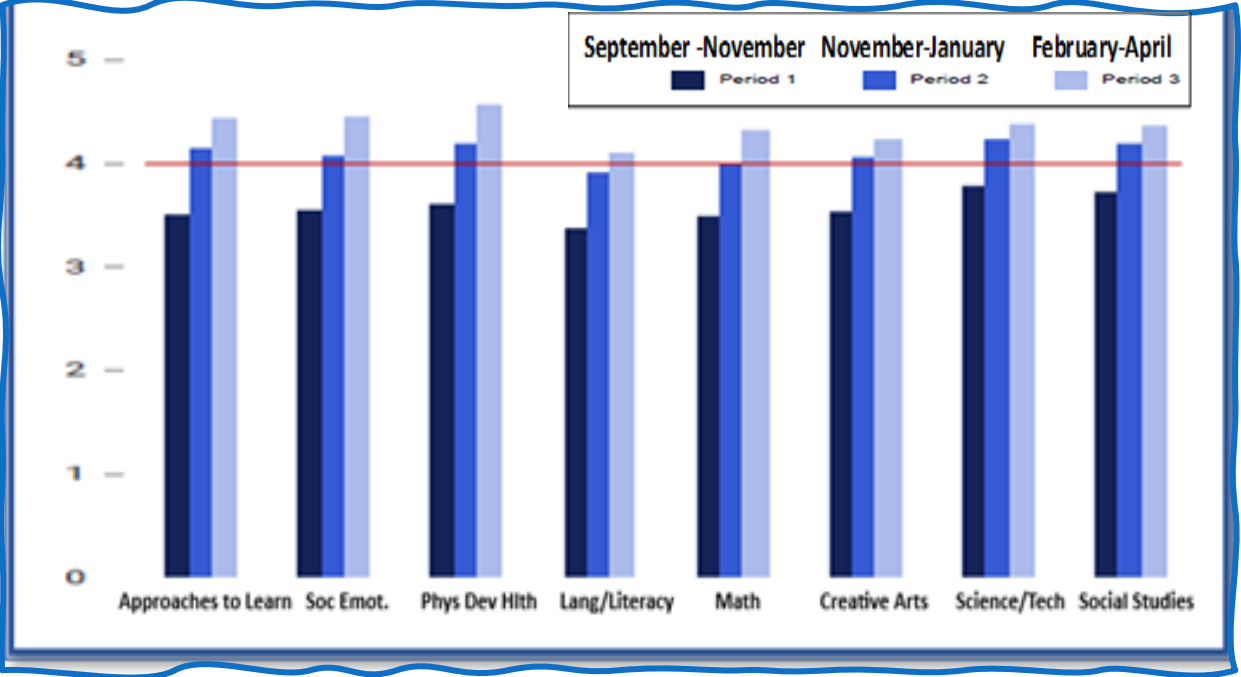
EXPLORING AND EXPERIMENTING!



DEVELOPING A LOVE OF BOOKS and MUSIC



MATH AND SCIENCE!



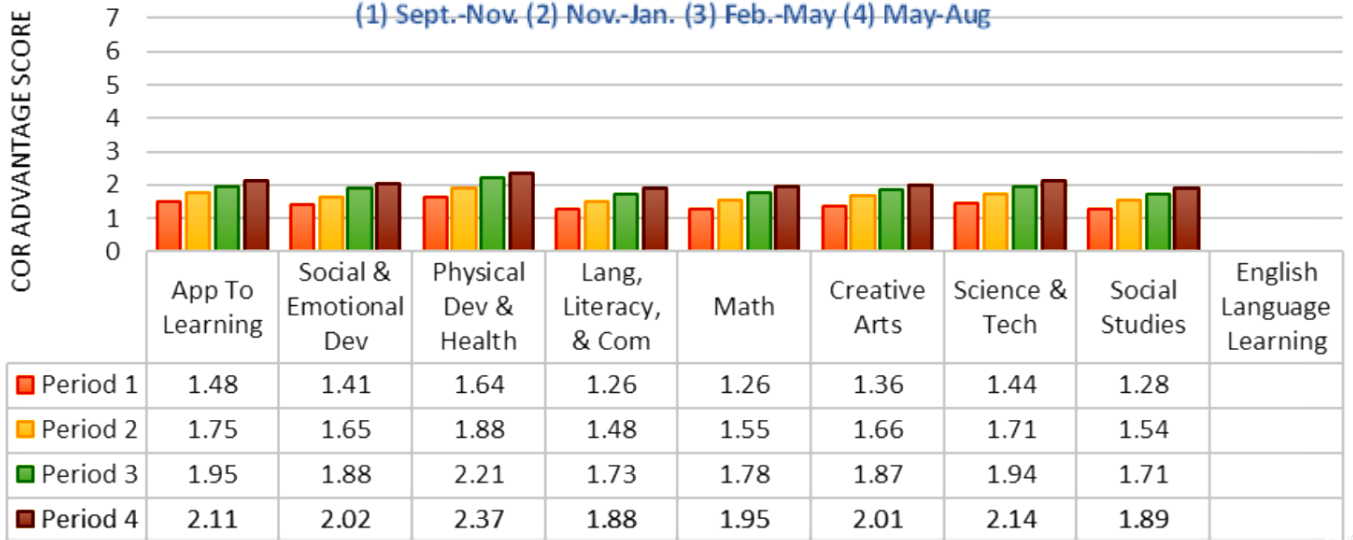


EARLY HEAD START
 ENGAGING YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN EARLY EDUCATION AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCES THAT WILL SET THE STAGE FOR A LIFETIME OF POSITIVE LEARNING OUTCOMES



EARLY HEAD START: OVERALL AVERAGE SCORES

(1) Sept.-Nov. (2) Nov.-Jan. (3) Feb.-May (4) May-Aug



Disability and Mental Health Services



72 (30%) of children enrolled in Head Start were on an Individual Education Plan-IEP

20 (17%) of children enrolled in EHS were on an Individual Family Service Plan-IFSP

62 children were referred for special education services

61% of the children referred for evaluation were eligible for special education services

A total of 28 children were referred for mental health services.

81% of these children received mental health supportive services.

15% were pending outside provider services at the end of the year.

Vision (45%) and Autism (22%) were the two highest chronic health conditions that required support and intervention.

CAFP-Nutrition Services

Head Start Children received healthy and nutritious breakfast, lunch and snacks each day. For the 2022-2023 program year we provided:

Breakfasts-17,829

Lunches- 18,673

Snacks-10,699



Health Services



This program year, 55 children were identified as having a chronic health condition.

Vision (45%) and Autism (22%) were the two highest chronic health conditions that children were receiving ongoing services for. Thirteen percent of the children have more than one chronic health condition.



91% of children who have been determined by a health care professional to be up to date on all immunizations appropriate for their age

6% of children who have been determined by a health care professional to have received all immunizations possible at this time, but who have not received all immunizations appropriate for their age

4 % Number of children who meet their state's guidelines for an exemption from immunizations



Of 358 total family participants (95%) reported that they had health insurance at the end of the program year.



57% of children received preventive dental care during the program year



A total of 14 health-related educational events were offered for Head Start families during the program year.

100% of home-based families participated in health education. Topics included: importance of well-child check-ups, oral health, home safety, emergency care, caring for your sick child, my plate on a budget, medication awareness, car seats, pedestrian safety, driveway safety.



100% of enrolled children have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care provided by a health care professional that maintains the child's ongoing health record and is not primarily a source of emergency or urgent care.

72% of enrolled children were up to date on their well child exams.

Family Services

Head Start Families received the following program service to promote family wellness:	# of families that received the following services during the program year	% of families that received the following services during the program year
Emergency/crisis intervention (e.g., meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter)	101	43%
Housing assistance (e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs)	18	8%
Asset building services (e.g., financial education, debt counseling)	4	2%
Mental health services	34	14%
Substance misuse prevention	2	1%
Substance misuse treatment	2	1%
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	2	1%
Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	18	8%
Research-based parenting curriculum	12	5%
Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	214	91%
Supporting transitions between programs (i.e., EHS to HS, HS to kindergarten)	79	33%
Education on preventive medical and oral health	153	65%
Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	46	19%
Education on nutrition	186	79%
Education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)	2	1%
Education on relationship/marriage	9	4%
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	3	1%
Of these, the number of families who were counted in at least one of the services listed above	223	94%

Family Engagement

Head Start and Early Head Start families volunteered 9,443 hours this past year from 9/1/23 to 8/31/23!



94% of parents surveyed reported that participating in Head Start has helped them strengthen their parenting skills and the relationship they have with their child.

Of the 314 families that completed the full program year, 97% participated in two home visits, and 95% participated in two parent conferences. This represents an increase over the prior year.

Arrowhead Head Start Family Outcomes 2022-2023

Assessment Growth from Periods	Positive Parent Child Relationships	Family as Life Long Educators	Families as Learners	Family Engagement in Transitions	Family Connections to Peers & Community	Families as Advocates & Leaders	Family Well Being
1-2	0.1 ↑	0.05 ↑	0.1 ↑	0.1 ↑	0.2 ↑	0.1 ↑	0.04 ↑
2-3	0.1 ↑	0.1 ↑	0 =	0 =	0 =	0 =	0.1 ↑
1-3	0.2 ↑	0.15 ↑	0.1 ↑	0.1 ↑	0.2 ↑	0.1 ↑	0.14 ↑



- ⇒ Positive Parent-Child Relationship and Family Connections to Peers & Community has shown to have the highest growth throughout the program year.
- ⇒ Program wide, families made gains in all areas this program year.
- ⇒ Staff's early intervention and continuous services impacted families to maintain stability and growth.



Governance



Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency Board

AEOA is governed by a 27-member Board of Directors, representing an equal cross-section of low-income individuals, public officials, and private sector parties who live and work in the Agency's service area.

2022-2023 AEOA Board Members

Jeff Kletcher- Chair*	Tom Cvar- Treasurer	Bob Larkin
Bethany Johnson	Robert Heitala	Kevin Adee- 1st Vice Chair*
Cathy Zelinski*	Reggie Engebritson	Paul Mcdonald
Les Northrup*	Cherrie Averill Manner*	Gary Peterson*
Robin Raplinger	Beverly Green	Keith Nelson
Marisa Fontaine	Tom Cvar- Treasurer	Ben Denucci
Kaylie Hoover	Robert Heitala	Peter Walsh
David Abazs	Reggie Engebritson	Laurie Westerlund
Laura Perry- 2nd Vice Chair*	Cherrie Averill Manner*	Michael Jugovich
Dana Waldron- Secretary	Beverly Green	David Mills



Arrowhead Head Start Policy Council

Parents are encouraged to be involved through parent committee meetings and Policy Council. The Policy Council is made up of Head Start and Early Head Start parents and community members who lead and make decisions about the program. The Policy Council met every other month throughout the 2022-2023 program year.

Policy Council Representatives 2022-2023

Ashley Minkkinen	Chairperson/EHS Lake & Hermantown
Cassie Adams	Mt. Iron Buhl
Cody Barth	Ely
Jessica Poitra	EHS Hibbing & Chisholm/PC Rep to the AEOA B.O.D.
Stacey Roepke	CHIC EHS & Northern Tier
DaNeil Sirjord	Community Representative
Alecia Varani	EHS Quad 1
Brandi Casto	EHS East Range & Quad 2
Rob Hietala	AEOA Board Representative