

ADAMS COUNTY
Head Start
2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Adams County Head Start

The mission of Adams County Head Start (ACHS) is to provide high-quality, early childhood education for children in partnership with their families and the community. This is accomplished by offering services that provide and build a foundation for children to grow and develop skills for school success by improving the ability of families to be self-sufficient, and promoting the healthy development of children and families.





Program Overview

Adams County Head Start (ACHS) is a federally funded, comprehensive preschool program serving children 3-5 years of age and is a division under the Adams County Human Services Department. In the 2023-2024 program year, ACHS provided 240 Head Starts slots in the county. Due to staffing shortages, two classrooms were only able to open in March 2024, while one classroom remained closed for the entire year. This reduced the number of available slots from 256 to 240. This program helped meet the diverse needs of young children and their families throughout the county.

VISION

Every child enrolled in Head Start will enter kindergarten with the competencies necessary to succeed in school, and parents/caregivers will be empowered to be their child's most important teacher.


MISSION

To provide high-quality, early childhood education for children in partnership with their families and the community.

PHILOSOPHY

All children are born ready to learn; therefore, the quality of their earliest experiences is critical for future school success.

LONG-TERM GOALS

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- **Goal 1:** Enhance staff skills and knowledge specific to their role.
 - **Goal 2:** Connect parents/guardians with services and skill-building opportunities that lead to improved financial well-being.



Enrollment

ACHS LOCATIONS, FULL FUNDING

Center	Number of Slots	Program Options	Communities Served
Brighton HS	48	FD and 1020 sessions	Brighton
Creekside HS	32	1020 sessions	Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton
Little Star HS	32	FD and 1020 sessions	Federal Heights, Westminister
Northglenn HS	48	FD and 1020 sessions	Northglenn, Thornton, Westminister
Rainbow HS	48	FD and 1020 sessions	Federal Heights, Unincorporated Adams County, Westminister
Sunshine HS	48	FD and 1020 sessions	Commerce City
Total	256		

FD= Full-Day Sessions (Monday – Thursday)

1020= Full-Day Sessions (Monday – Friday)

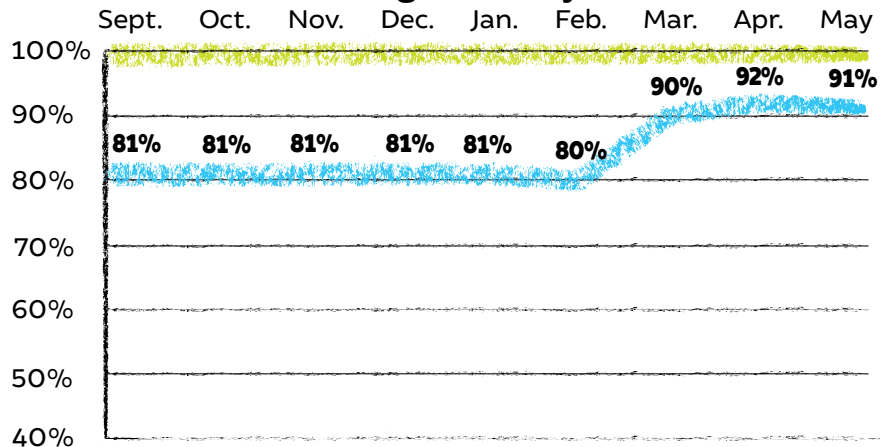
ACHS LOCATIONS, WITH CLOSED CLASSROOMS

Center	Number of Slots	Program Options	Communities Served
Brighton HS	48	FD and 1020 sessions	Brighton
Creekside HS	32	1020 sessions	Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton
Little Star HS	16 (Opened one classroom on 3/25/24)	1020 sessions	Federal Heights, Westminister
Northglenn HS	64 (Opened one classroom on 3/25/24)	FD and 1020 sessions	Northglenn, Thornton, Westminister
Rainbow HS	48	FD and 1020 sessions	Federal Heights, Unincorporated Adams County, Westminister
Sunshine HS	32 (One classroom remained closed for the 2023-2024 school year)	FD and 1020 sessions	Commerce City
Total	240		

FD= Full-Day Sessions (Monday – Thursday)

1020= Full-Day Sessions (Monday – Friday)

2023-2024 Average Monthly Child Enrollment



ACHS



Head Start Standard

Head Start's monthly enrollment goal is 100%.

Due to a staffing shortage, three classrooms were temporarily closed until March 2024. On March 25, two classrooms reopened—one at Little Star Head Start and one at Northglenn Head Start. However, 16 slots remained unfilled for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year at Sunshine Head Start due to ongoing staffing challenges and the inability to recruit additional staff in early 2024 to reopen the third classroom at the Commerce City location.

ACHS 2023-2024 FAMILY INFORMATION

- 257 Head Start accumulative enrollment.
- Zero over-income children were enrolled.
- 257 families served.
- Zero families with income between 100% and 130% of the Federal Poverty Guideline were enrolled.
- 43.46% of families served were two-parent families, and 56.54% were single-parent families.
- 73% of ACHS-enrolled families had at least one employed parent/guardian.
- 1% of ACHS-enrolled families had at least one parent/guardian in job training or school.
- 29% of families had less than a high school diploma.
- 38% of families had a high school diploma or GED.
- 33% of families had an advanced degree, vocational school, or some college.
- Approximately 237 families were referred to community resources; the top three resources offered to ACHS families were supporting transitions between programs (i.e. EHS to HS, HS to Kindergarten), assistance in enrolling in job training or education, and oral healthcare.

Demographics of Enrolled Children

Of the total population of enrolled children, 86.9% were Hispanic or of Latino origin while 13.1% were of Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino origin, as self-reported by families. The race of enrolled children was as follows: White (78.4%), Black (5.5%), Biracial/Multiracial (5.5%), American Indian or Alaska Native (3%), other (2.5%), unspecified (2.5%), Asian (1.7%), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.5%), also self-reported by families.

Wellness

In 2023–2024, ACHS conducted regular required screenings (anemia, hearing, lead, speech/ language, and vision) as well as continued a successful partnership with Salud Dental Clinic to provide dental clinics twice a year at each of the ACHS center locations to all enrolled preschool children.

While children continued to receive consistent care through their designated medical homes, many physical exams were scheduled toward the end of the school year. Timely access to primary care physicians and pediatricians posed a challenge for several families. Additionally, the health team was focused on enrolling 32 new children and supporting with health needs to ensure children enrolled safely in March to fill the newly opened classrooms, further impacting this team's ability to support and remind the families to schedule physical exams in advance.

Health Metrics

At the End of the 2023–2024 School Year*

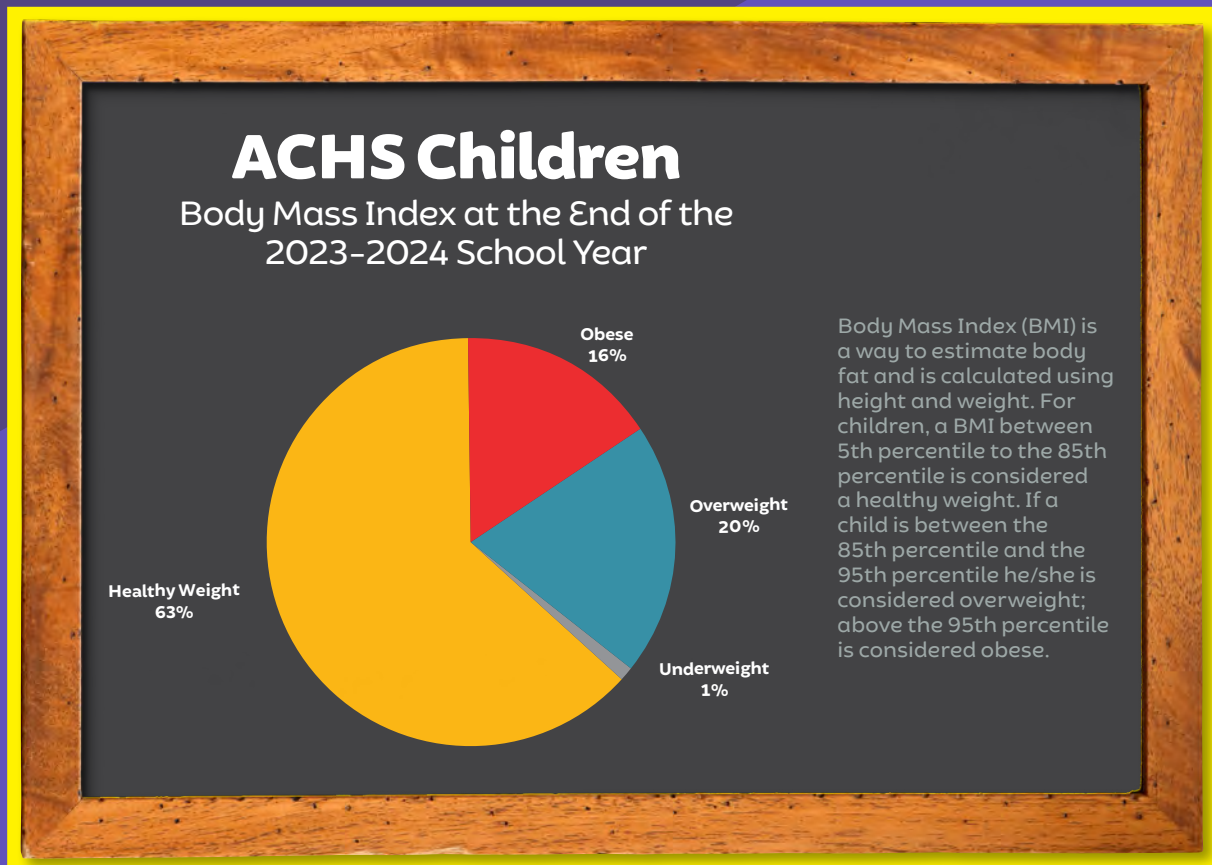
Completed Lead Screening	93.8%	241
Completed Annual Anemia Screening	86.8%	223
Completed Annual Physical Exam	86%	221
Completed a Professional Dental Exam	96.9%	249
Maintained a Current Schedule of Preventive and Primary Health Care (EPSDT)–Hearing & Vision	87.9%	226
Current in State–Mandated Immunizations	98.4%	253
Maintains Health Insurance Coverage	96.3%	247
Maintains a Dental Home	99.6%	256
Maintains a Medical Home	100%	257

**These metrics represent all children enrolled at any time during the year, or "actually enrolled." These numbers include both children who dropped out of the program as well as children who stayed in the program.*

Wellness

In 2023-2024, 36% of enrolled Head Start children were greater than the 85th percentile for weight/height (BMI). This represents a 1% increase from the previous school year. The rise in the proportion of children exceeding this percentile was minimally significant.

ACHS continues to partner with the Culture of Wellness Program (COWP) where healthy eating habits and increased physical activity remain part of a regular curriculum offered monthly to all enrolled children. Additionally, ACHS continues to focus on a neutral eating principle to ensure preschool-aged children develop healthy eating behaviors and a positive relationship with food that will remain into their adult years.



Preparing for School Success

ACHS' focus is to prepare children for kindergarten and their school success. ACHS provides a high-quality, full-day preschool experience utilizing and implementing research-based curriculum elements. The curriculum elements cover all developmental areas to prepare children for kindergarten. A social-emotional curriculum is implemented to support children's social-emotional skill and focuses on problem solving, self-monitoring emotions, anger management, and how to make friends.



Another program effort that supports school readiness is partnering with the families to establish goals for their children for preschool or kindergarten readiness. Parents are encouraged to engage in their child's development as they are their child's first teacher. Each month, children are given a literacy book. A total of 1,858 books were given to children during the school year.

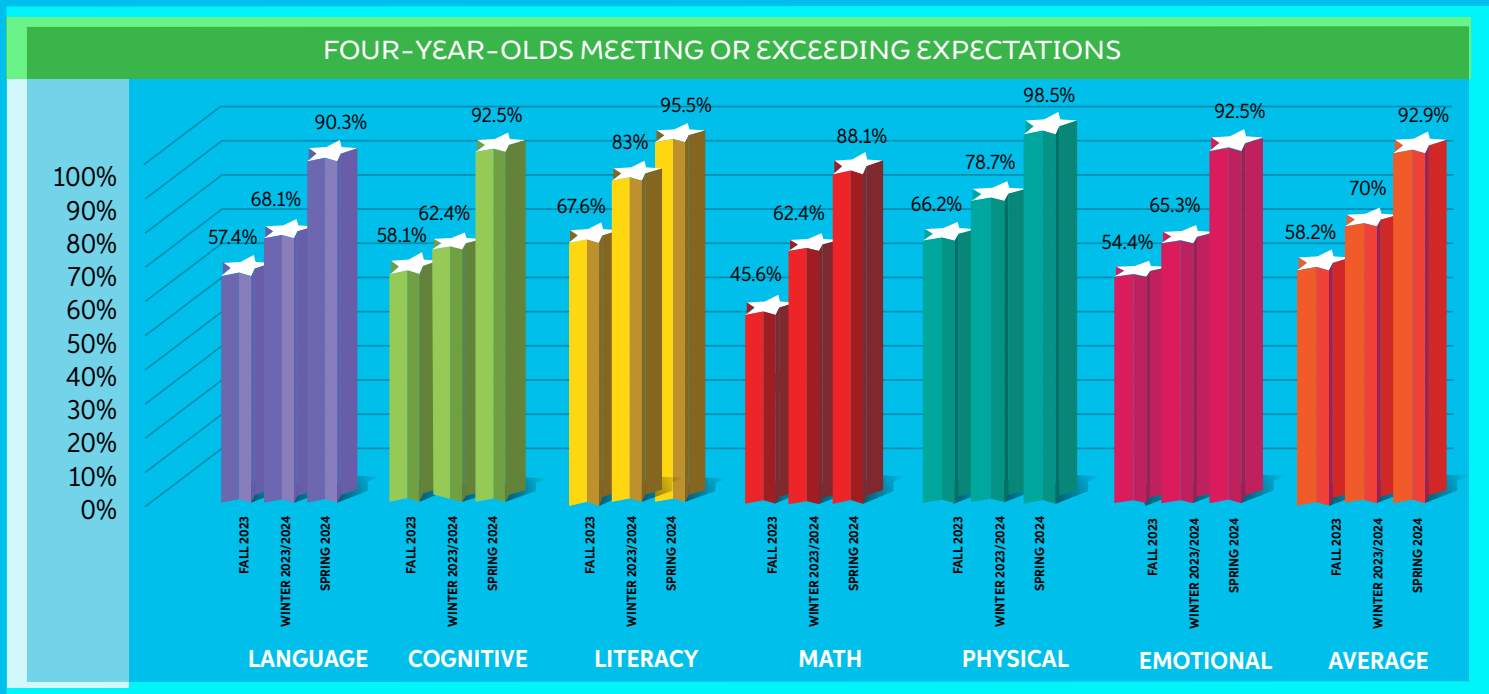
Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) Report

TSG is an assessment tool used in our classrooms to observe and track children's growth and development in language, cognitive, literacy, math, physical, and social-emotional. This helps teachers understand where children are in their learning and identify opportunities for growth.

ACHS' goal is to support all children in progressing and meeting or exceeding widely held expectations of 90% for their age group. These expectations reflect typical developmental milestones and help ensure all children are on a path toward success. Assessing occurs three times a year (fall, winter, and spring) and is shared with parents/guardians. The teacher and parent guardian can then work together to provide the best support for children's learning and development.

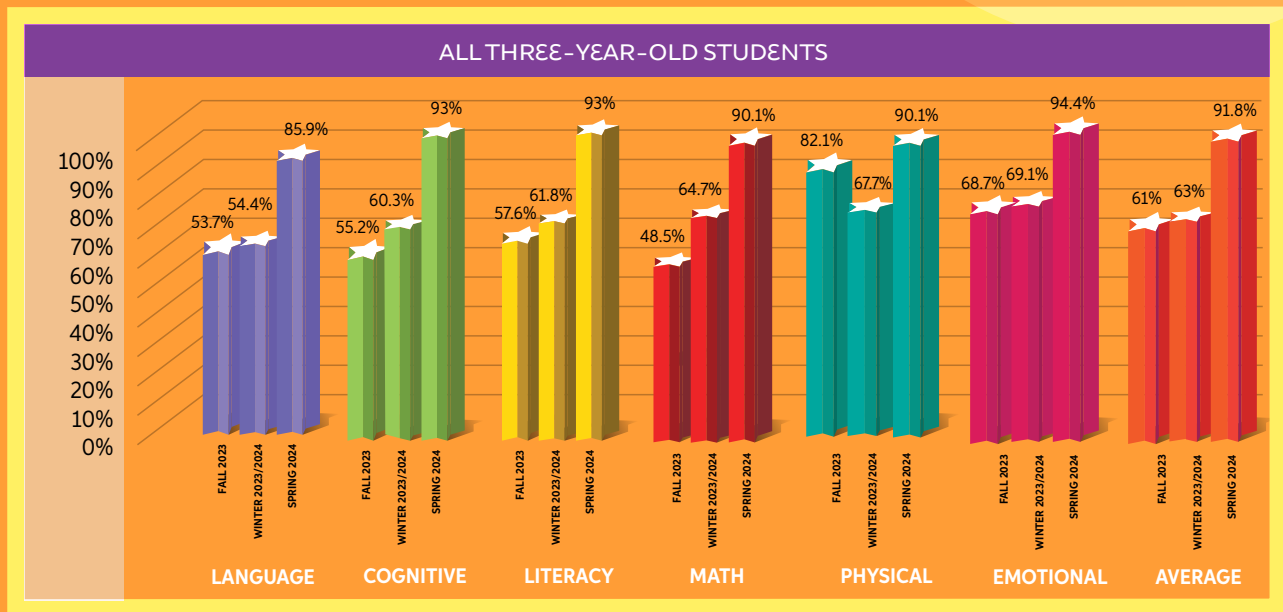
Four-Year-Old Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations

More than 90% of four-year-olds met or exceeded expectations in language, cognitive, literacy, physical, and social-emotional by spring 2024. In math, 88.1% of four-year-olds met or exceeded expectations, nearly meeting the goal.



Three-Year-Old Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations

More than 90% of three-year-olds met or exceeded expectations in the following developmental areas by spring 2024: cognitive, literacy, math, physical, and social-emotional. In language, 85.9% of three-year-olds met or exceeded expectations, nearly achieving the goal of 90%.



ACHS Class Summary

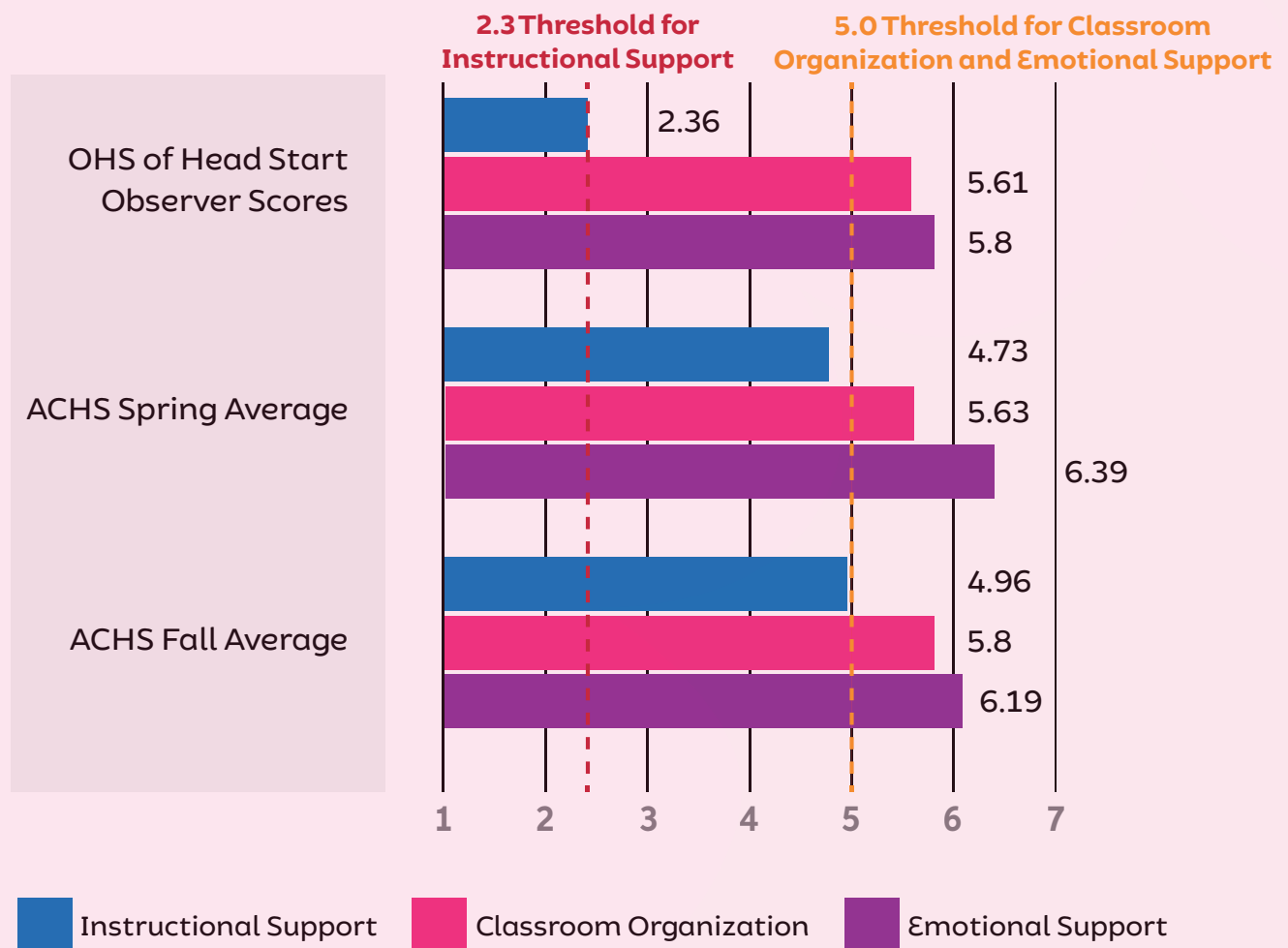
The Class Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) focuses on interactions in three different domains: emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support. The CLASS scale focuses on high-quality interactions and creating a shared understanding of quality in a program. It measures the quality of interactions to continue enhancing a system that enables data-driven improvement which supports tailored and individualized professional development for teachers.

During the 2023-2024 school year, the Office of Head Start (OHS) conducted CLASS Observations via video recordings in 12 of the 13 classrooms.

The ACHS average scores in emotional support increased from 6.19 (fall) to 6.39 (spring), both above the quality threshold of five. The OHS observer scores for emotional support (5.8) also exceeded the quality threshold. The school year's average scores in classroom organization decreased slightly from 5.8 (fall) to 5.63 (spring), and the OHS observer scores were 5.61. All scores for classroom management are above the quality threshold of five. Lastly, the average score in instructional support had a slight decrease from 4.96 (fall) to 4.73 (spring), with an OHS score of 2.36, which were all above the quality threshold of 2.3.



Head Start by the Numbers



Parent Engagement

Parents are included in all aspects of our program. Teachers complete two home visits a year to learn the goals parents have for their child and encourage them to be as involved as they can. Parents support the program in different ways, such as serving on the Head Start Policy Council. In this role, they

participate in program decision-making, program self-assessment, hiring and termination of staff, and strategic planning for the program. In addition, parents who volunteer in the classroom serve on the parent committee and plan program events.

THERE ARE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO BE INVOLVED:

- *Incredible Years Parent Group*
- *Classroom Orientation/Open House*
- *Parent Café*
- *Policy Council*
- *Home Visits*
- *Parent Surveys*
- *Parent/Teacher Conferences*
- *Classroom Volunteering*
- *Cultural Literacy Festival Event*
- *Health Advisory Meetings*
- *Collaboration Meetings*
- *Parent/Guardian Days*
- *Motheread/Fatheread*
- *Parent Wellness Workshop*
- *Special Education Workshop*

Financials

Monitoring Review and Financial Audits

Independent auditors reviewed the Head Start program as part of the county's audit process per the Single Audit Act. There were no audit findings. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) conducted ACHS triennial site review for fiscal year 2023-2024. The final report identified one corrective action requirement with no additional findings noted. The corrective action has been implemented and accepted by CACFP.

Federal Review

The program completed year four of the five-year grant cycle.

Revenue and Expenses

The actual operating budget for the 2023-2024 program year was **\$6,804,162**.

Head Start 2023-2024 Revenue

	2023-24 Projected	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Projected
Health and Human Services Grants (HHS)	\$5,111,623	\$5,230,599	\$5,230,599
Universal Pre-K	\$744,492	\$1,084,443	\$913,296
Building Capacity Grant	-	\$186,123	-
CACFP	\$216,915	\$192,967	\$220,727
Temple Buell	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$32,787
Adams County	\$304,217	\$41,853	\$877,214
CDHS-Incredible Years	\$16,700	\$18,892	\$12,500
Total	\$6,443,947	\$6,804,877	\$7,287,123

Head Start 2023-2024 Expenses

	2023-24 Projected	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Projected
Personnel Costs	\$5,026,994	\$5,287,317	\$5,921,848
Other	\$672,196	\$672,316	\$568,267
Supplies	\$140,450	\$497,140	\$102,604
Contractual	\$555,500	\$295,321	\$645,597
Education & Training	\$48,807	\$52,783	\$48,807
Total	\$6,443,947	\$6,804,877	\$7,287,123

CACFP Department of Agriculture Information

Number of breakfasts served	23,656
Number of snacks served	24,314
Number of lunches served	23,038
Number of meals served	71,008
Total CACFP funds received	\$192,967

Council Members

HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL MEMBER ROSTER 2023 - 2024

Role	Name
Brighton Representative	Mayra Perez Lopez
Brighton Alternate	Itzel Batrez
Community Representative (BoCC Appointed) Historian; Executive	Stephanie A. Mirelez
Community Representative (Fiscal) Treasurer; Executive	Lily Paredes-Gomez
Community Representative (At-Large) Personnel Committee	Abi Steiner
Creekside Representative	Monica Gonzalez
Creekside Representative Chairperson; Executive; Personnel Committee	Jorge Adame
Little Star Representative	Angelique Bailey
Little Star Representative	Cindy Lucero Pedroza
Little Star Alternate	Laura Orozco
Northglenn Representative Vice-Chairperson; Executive; Personnel Committee	Yolanda Landa
Northglenn Alternate	Sarah Ortega
Rainbow Representative Secretary; Executive Committee	Mireya Velazquez Gomez
Rainbow Representative	Oralia Loza
Rainbow Alternate	Luis Rios
Sunshine Representative	Rhina Ruano
Sunshine Representative	Rachel Rodriguez
Sunshine Alternate	Cecilia Lemus

Adams County Commissioners



ADAMS COUNTY HEAD START CHILDREN

THE 2023 ADAMS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SERVED AS THE HEAD START GOVERNING BOARD

Eva J. Henry

Emma Pinter

Lynn Baca

Charles "Chaz" Tedesco

Steve O'Dorisio

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ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

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