

Promise

Early Education Center

The Head Start Program of Androscoggin County

Annual Report FY 2018



Hello,

I am honored on behalf of the Board of Directors, Policy Council, and program staff to present Promise Early Education Center's 2018 Annual Report. We are proud of the highlights and outcomes in this report as it is clear our program's performance in 2018 garnered solid results.

Promise Early Education Center is dedicated to educating the whole child and preparing children for success in school as well as life. Promise ensures high-quality services through the delivery of evidenced-based curricula taught by degreed, certified teachers who engage parents in their child's learning.

The efforts of the leadership team, our dedicated staff, the involved Policy Council, and a committed Board have laid a foundation which allows Promise Early Education Center to continuously provide high-quality early education and services making a difference in the lives of families with young children throughout Androscoggin County.

In 2018 the Board of Directors and Policy Council led a strategic planning process engaging with program partners, families, staff and the community-at-large. The comprehensive process resulted in the development of a plan with clear goals and strategies providing a positive direction supporting Promise's growth moving forward through 2024/over the next five years.

As we all know today's children are tomorrow's future and at Promise we are committed to the educating, engaging, and empowering families, one child at a time.

Betsy Norcross Plourde, LMSW
Executive Director

Parent Engagement

Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) was the theme for Math and Science Night at Auburn's Public Library on October 12 2017. Fifty-two parents and sixty-six children participated in games and activities focused on enhancing childrens excitement for math and science. This fun filled evening provided learning opportunities for children and parents alike. Examples of activities featured at the event included:

Pendulums

Activity Details:

Pendulums

Families build towers with children and used a pendulum to knock them over. Children explored how their actions affect the pendulums movement while experimenting with distance and speed. Families were encouraged to talk about cause and effect as they experimented together.

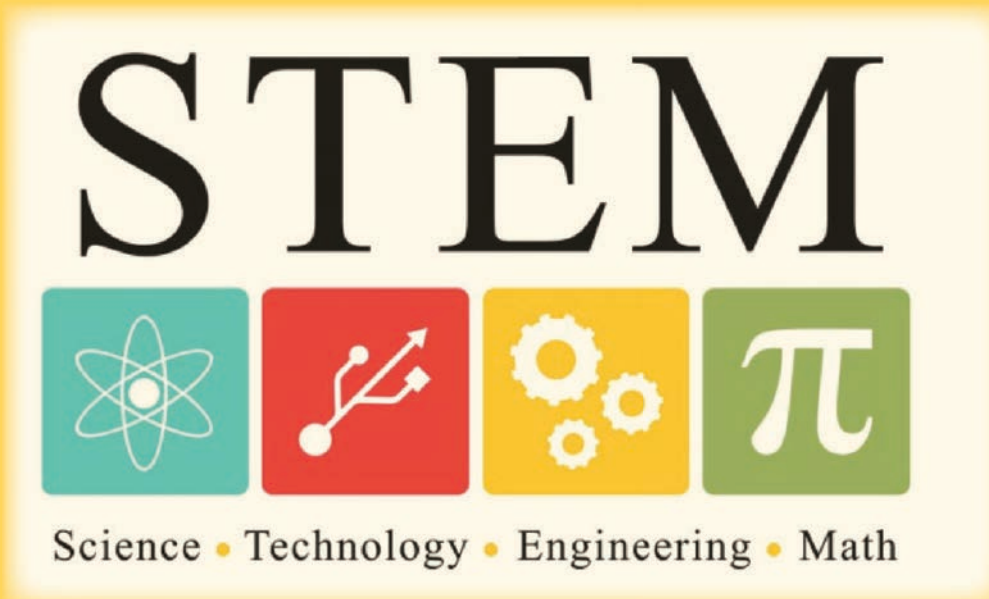
Children learn

- How their actions affect the pendulums movement
- Experimentation with direction and speed
- Force and distance
- Cause and effect

Building a Flotation Device

Activity Details:

Children worked with their family to experiment with a variety of materials to create a device that would float a figurine on water. Families engaged children in planning and predicting as they attempted to solve the flotation problem.



Parent Engagement

The Wonderful World of Eric Carle was the theme for Family Literacy Night at the Lewiston Public Library in May 2018. In attendance were 69 parents and 117 children accessing a dozen language and literacy rich activities. The evening exposed parents to new ways to engage their children in literacy learning. The activities were designed to allow families to recreate the learning opportunity at home.

Examples of activities featured at the event included:

Brown Bear Book Reading

Children read the book ***Brown Bear Brown Bear what do you see?*** with their families and then completed a matching game with animals from the book.



Hungry Caterpillar

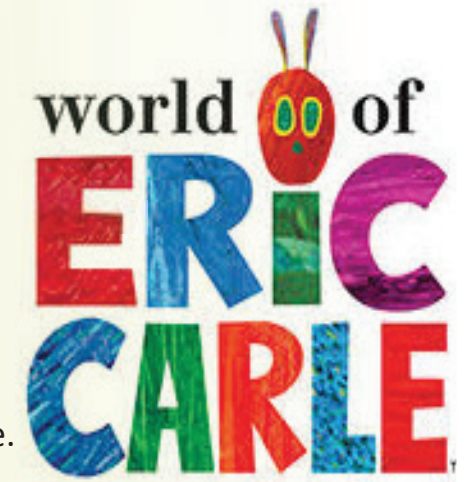
Fruit Toss- Families read ***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*** and tossed felt fruit into an oversized Tube.

Literacy Buffet

Every family was provided a bag to collect items from the literacy buffet so that they could continue to support writing at home. Supplies included stationery, notebooks, plain paper and writing utensils.

Nurturing Parenting Program

Through a partnership with Advocates for Children we were able to bring the Community Based Nurturing Parenting Program to families within our agency. We offered the program in both the Fall and Spring. A total of 20 families participated in at least 1 session.



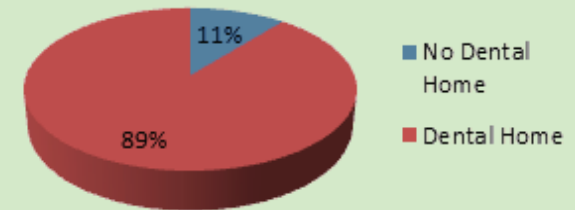
Health Services

DENTAL HEALTH

A significant struggle for children in our community is access to dental prevention services. Promise works to ensure families have an established dental home when their child's first tooth erupts. Local providers, Community Dental Service and Community Clinical Services provided on-site cleanings, fluoride treatment and exams to families. We also supported families' access to dental health through other local providers.

Onsite dental clinics significantly reduce barriers families face, including an appointment, transportation, and taking time off, in accessing dental care. This allowed us to have 88% of Promise accessed continuous dental care provided by a dentist in 2018.

238 Enrolled Children
H/S



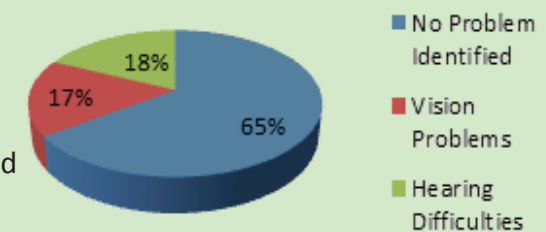
VISION AND HEARING

Vision and hearing are two of our five senses. Being able to see and hear gives children access to learning about the world around them. Early detection can lead to an effective intervention and help to restore proper vision and hearing. Young children rarely complain when they cannot see because to them, it's normal. Hearing loss is not seen and young children are unable to tell an adult when they are not hearing sounds in the world around them. Promise has purchased two Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) screening tools to screen a child of any age while asleep or awake. A small probe, like an ear bud, is placed in the ear sending a series of soft clicks or tones into the ear collecting the inner ear's response through a tiny microphone. The cochlea responds by producing an otoacoustic emission, which travels back through the middle ear to the ear canal. The response is analyzed by the screening unit. In about 30 seconds, the result is displayed as "pass" or "refer."

Any inability to hear negatively impacts child's speech, language, social and emotional development, and school readiness. Intervention improves social, emotional, and academic achievement when children with a hearing impairment are identified early.

At least one in every ten children has vision problems significant enough to interfere with their learning as reading comprehension and vision go hand in hand. Early detection leads to effective intervention to restore proper vision. Timely vision screening (coupled with an eye examination from a medical provider, when indicated) is an important step toward early detection of both vision or hearing problems. When a child doesn't pass these screens, Promise refers to the child's health care provider who often addresses problems such as a wax blockage in the ear canal, or a middle ear infection, or a vision problem that a child may outgrow.

323 Children Screened for
Vision & Hearing



Health Services



NUTRITION DEPARTMENT

The nutrition department oversees the CACFP program, 5 kitchens, two transport vans, and 6 staff who are responsible for developing menus and preparing nutritious meals to serve to 160 children daily. Nutrition also prepares meals and snacks for parent meetings, Policy Council and socialization events. Children receive home cooked meals which includes foods coming from local farmers; along with culturally diverse meals. As our children experience new foods we realize children have to try a new food 15-20 times. And we train our staff in child nutrition and how to support children as they enjoy new foods. We follow the belief that children are responsible for how much and whether they eat the foods we offer. Nutrition staff and teachers are responsible for what, when and where children are fed their meals and snacks. We are committed to providing a pleasant mealtime experience that incorporates sitting with children, making them feel safe, teaching age appropriate meal time behavior, fine gross motor skills and socialization skills.



School Readiness Goals



Social and Emotional Development

Children will demonstrate increasing ability in recognizing the emotions of themselves and others

Children will actively engage in cooperative play

Children will demonstrate the ability to follow classroom rules, routines



Physical Development and Health

Children will demonstrate gross motor manipulative skills for movement and balance

Children will demonstrate fine motor strength and coordination

Children will identify and practice healthy and safe habits



Approaches to Learning

Attend and engage in classroom activities

Persists and follow activities through to completion

Use creativity and imagination during play and routine task



Language and Literacy

Develop increasing abilities to understand and use language to communicate

Use an increasingly complex and varied spoken vocabulary

Recognize matching sounds and rhymes in familiar words, games, songs, stories and poems



Cognition & General Knowledge

Use mathematical skills to count, compare, relate, identify patterns and problem solve

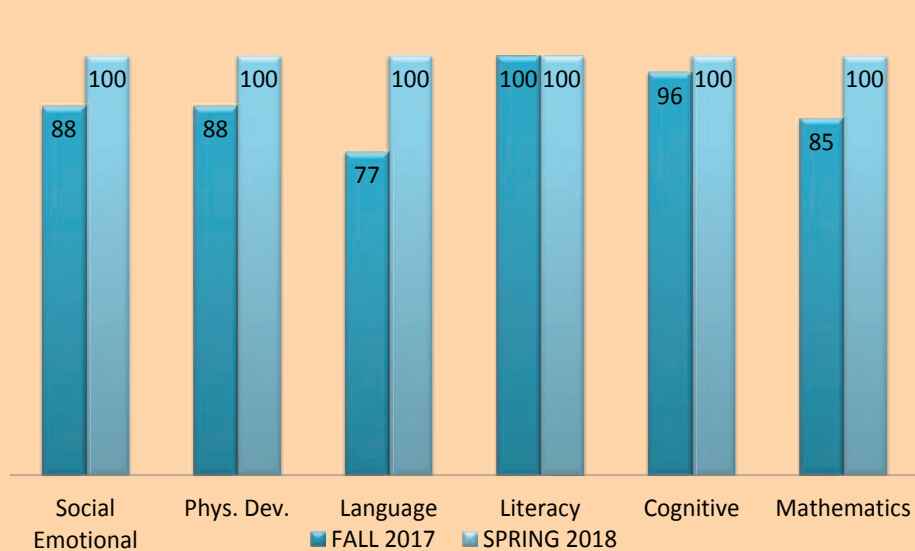
Recognize and recall past experience and apply knowledge to new experiences

Uses scientific inquiry skills (investigate, observe, predict and draw conclusions)

PROMISE CHILD OUTCOME DATA 2017-2018

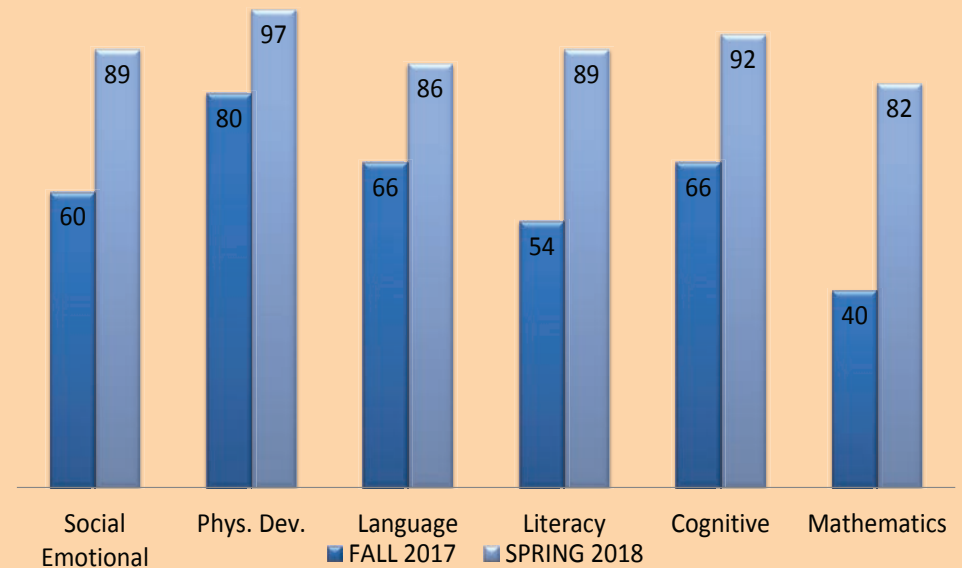
Promise EHS Child Outcomes 2017-2018

Data represents % of children who meet or exceed developmental expectations
Assessments completed by inter-rater reliable teaching staff using
Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System



Promise HS Child Outcomes 2017-2018

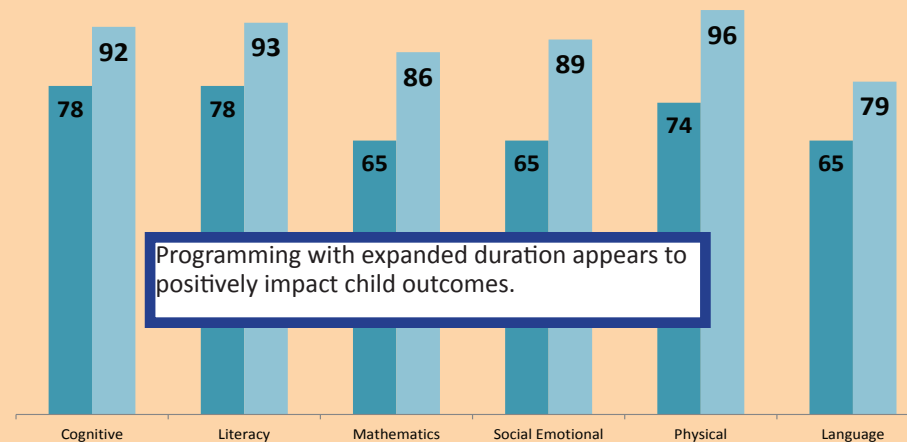
Data represents % of children who meet or exceed developmental expectations
Assessments completed by inter-rater reliable teaching staff using
Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System



Hillview Duration Data:

% of Children Meeting / Exceeding Teaching Strategies Gold Widley Held Expectations**
Data represents % of children who meet or exceed developmental expectations
Assessments completed by inter-rater reliable teaching staff using Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System

■ 2016-2017 3.5 hour classroom ■ 2017-2018 6 hour classroom

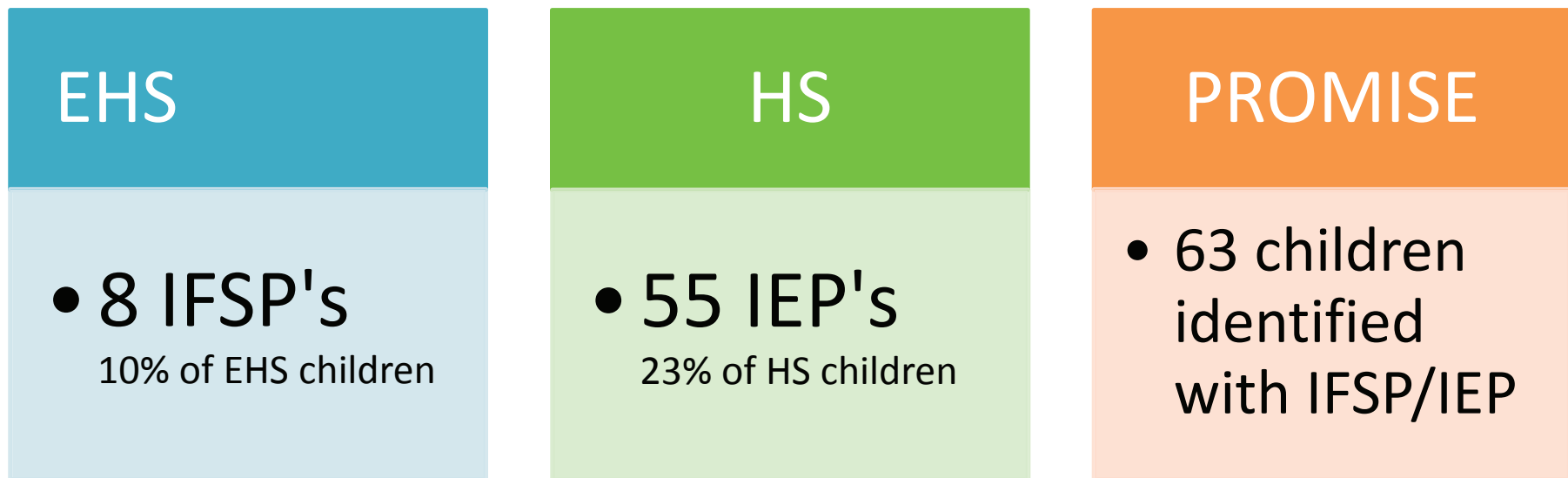


Programming with expanded duration appears to positively impact child outcomes.

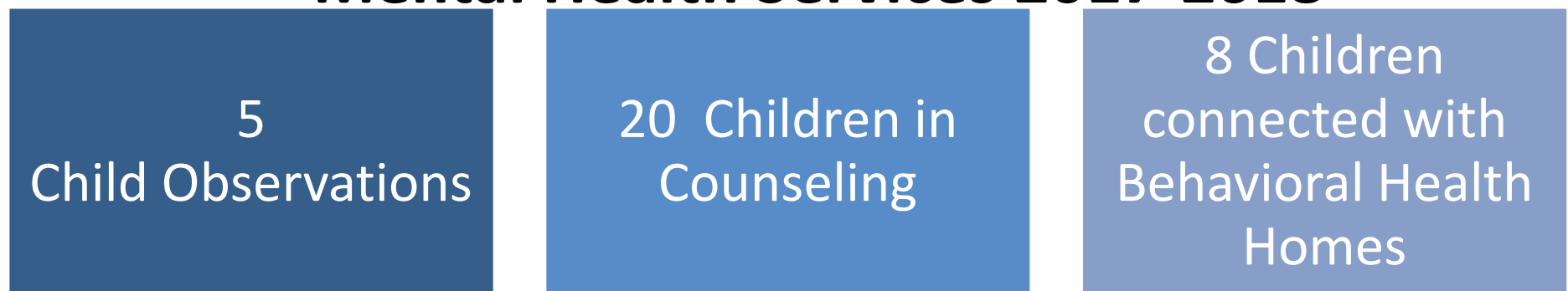
SPECIAL SERVICES

Promise is an inclusive program that purposefully designs classroom activities and routines that are individually suited to each child and makes adaptations as children's needs and interests develop or change. In our programs, activities such as circle time, outdoor play, meal time, and learning center play are already planned so that every child in the group can participate. The daily routine does not necessarily have to change when a child with a disability enrolls, but it may need to be rearranged or modified so that the child can successfully join in. Resources, such as the child's parent(s) and any therapists or specialists who are working with the child, are regularly consulted to help meaningfully include the child with a disability or delay. The desired results of inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities and their families include a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning to reach their full potential.

Special Education 2017-2018

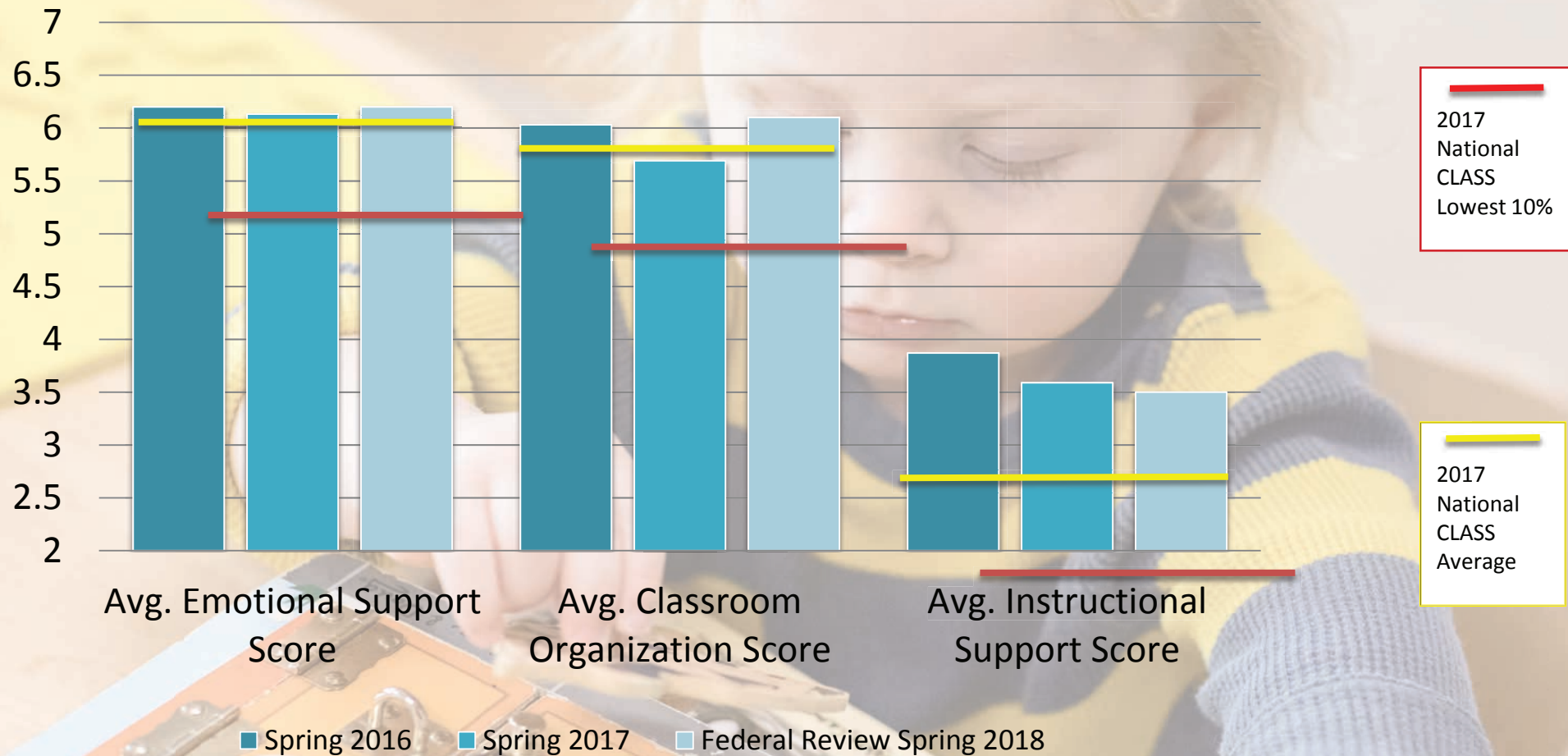


Mental Health Services 2017-2018



Promise CLASS Data: Trends

2016-2018



BY THE NUMBERS

Total Children and Families Served: 347

Under 1 year old: 19
1 year old: 27
2 year old: 40
3 years old: 86
4 years old: 146

Early Head Start: 51 Federally Funded Slots

(45 Federal/6 State)

Head Start: 200 Federally Funded Slots

Average Monthly Enrollment

Head Start: 103.7%
Early Head Start: 103.7%
12% of Eligible Children Served
80 children were enrolled for 2 year
43 children were enrolled for 3+ years
131 (39%) children enrolled for multiple years

Percent of Children that received:

Medical Exam: 84.7%
Children ongoing healthcare access: 342

Children Up To Date Immunizations: 316

Dental Exams: 68%
Children ongoing dental care access: 270

Children Enrolled at Promise

Two years - 132
Three of more years - 21

Total # Children Served 318

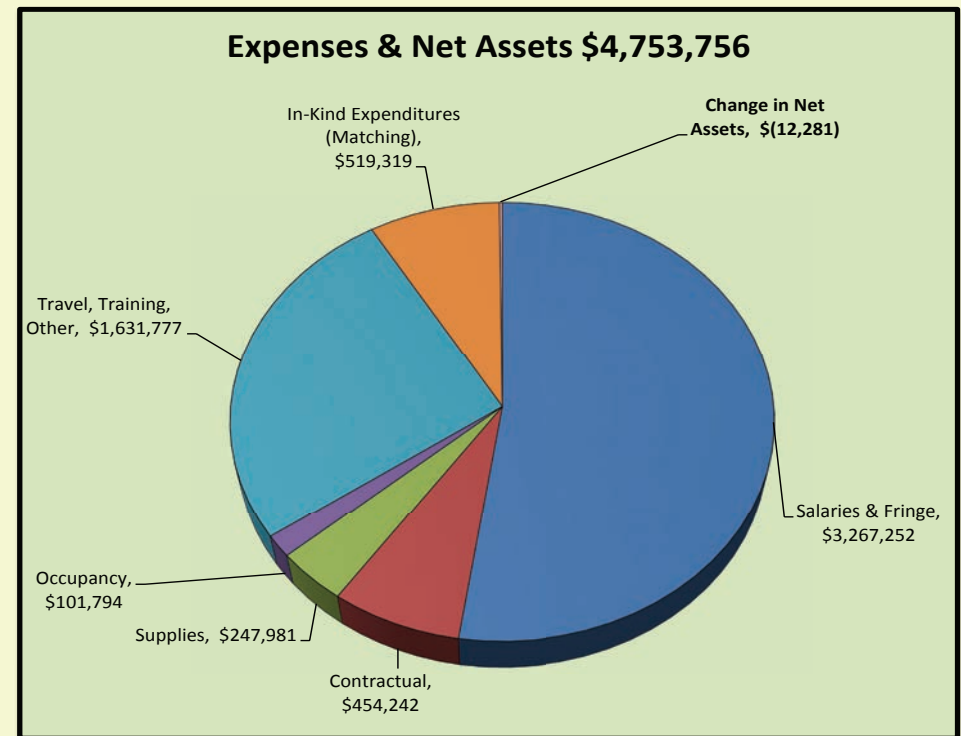
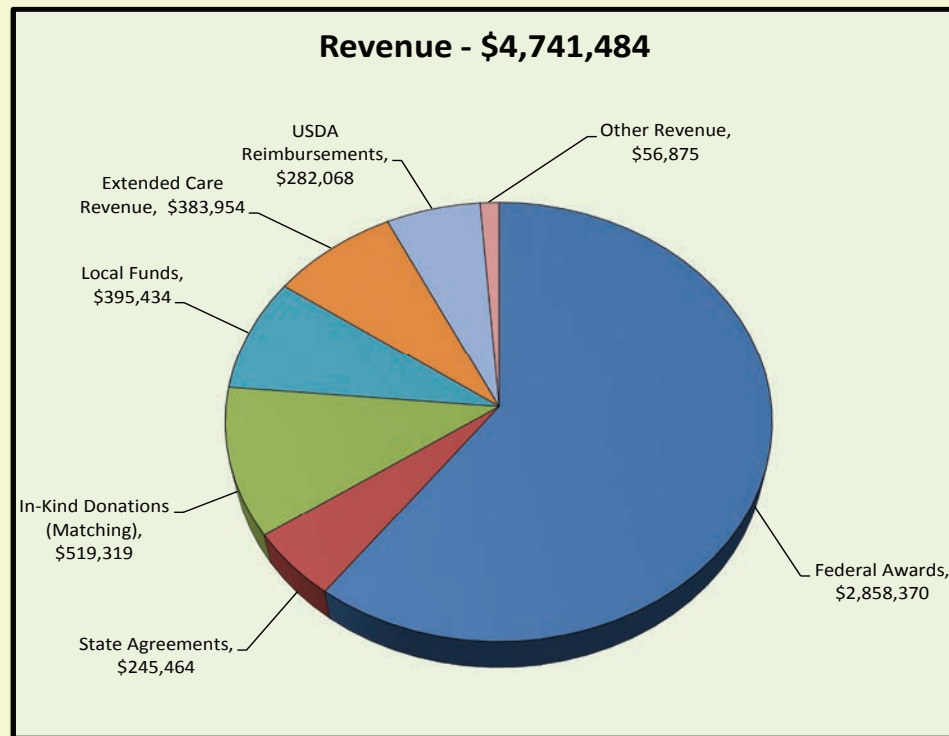
Children age 3-5 238
Children age 0-2 80

Eligibility

Income Eligible:	223	69%
Public Assistance:	54	16%
Foster Care:	3	1%
Homeless:	16	5%
Over Income	27	8%

The mission of Promise Early Education Center is to educate, engage and empower families, one child at a time.

FINANCE



Financial Audit

The Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care d/b/a Promise Early Education Center audit for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 was completed with the results being an unqualified opinion.

Federal Review (most recent)

On April 30-May 3, 2018 the Administration for Child and families conducted a Focus Area Two Monitoring Review, and a CLASS Review based on information gathered, no corrective action was required. Promise Early Education Center was found to have met the requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and Policy requirements for our Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

CLASS observations conducted in preschool classrooms looked at three domains and ten dimensions of teacher child interactions measured on a seven point scale.

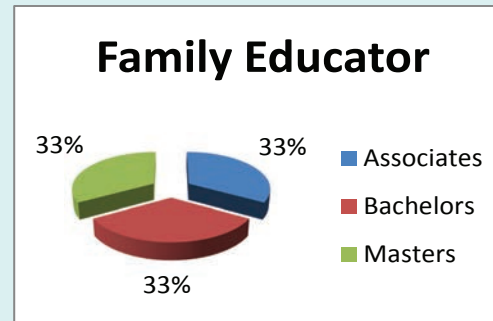
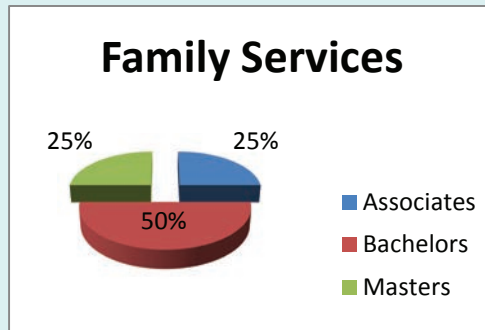
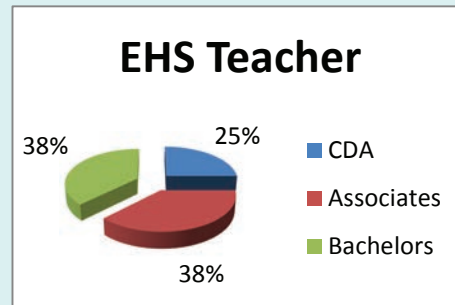
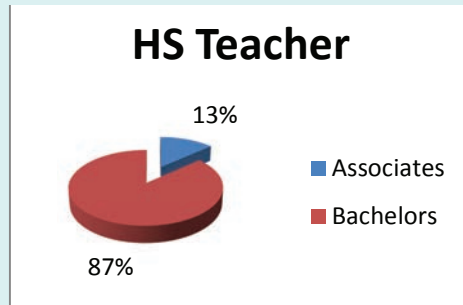
Domain scores were as follows:

- Emotional Support 6.16
- Classroom Organization 6.08
- Instructional Support 3.47

* Promise scores in all domains exceeded 2017 National median scores.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Promise Early Education Center understands that the key to providing quality programming to the children and families we serve is our staff. All of our Teaching and Family Services staff are certified in their respective fields and are formally educated in either early childhood education or social services/social work. Teaching and Family Services Staff education status was as follows for 2017/2018 School Year:

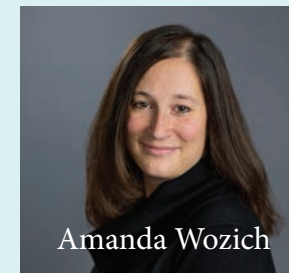


The Agency supports staff to further their education by offering a generous tuition assistance program that pays for courses up front. Over the course of the 17/18 fiscal year, the Agency spent \$11,300 on college classes and has supported 10 staff members in furthering their education.

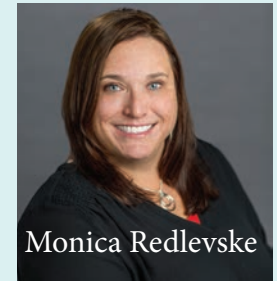
In addition, the Agency offers a robust professional development program to enhance the skillset and knowledgebase of staff. All employees attend four full day In Service trainings where they are provided with a variety of training opportunities. The Agency also employs two full time Instructional Coaches that work directly with education staff to hone and enhance their teaching abilities. Education and Family Services staff attends four Communities of Practice sessions per year with their Coach's and peers to learn from each other's situations. Nine staff members with Family Services responsibility earned their Family Services Credential this year, which is a nationally recognized credential. In addition to all of this, other training opportunities include: curriculum training, Safety Care Training, CPR and First Aid among many others! All in all staff are required to have a minimum of forty hours of professional development per year and many far surpass that. In fact, during the 17/18 fiscal year, our Agency provided staff with over 5000 hours of professional development and spent over \$45,000. As a result, our staff are compassionate and knowledgeable professionals that are dedicated and skilled at meeting the needs of the children and family we serve.



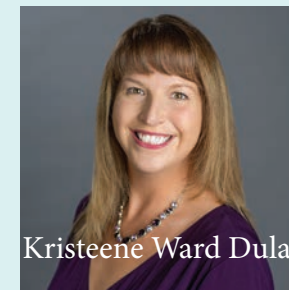
Betsy Norcross Plourde
Executive Director



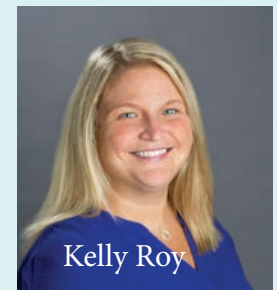
Amanda Wozich
Human Resources



Monica Redlevske
Education/Special



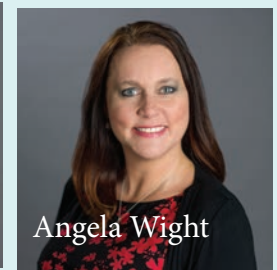
Kristeene Ward Dulac
Program Specialist



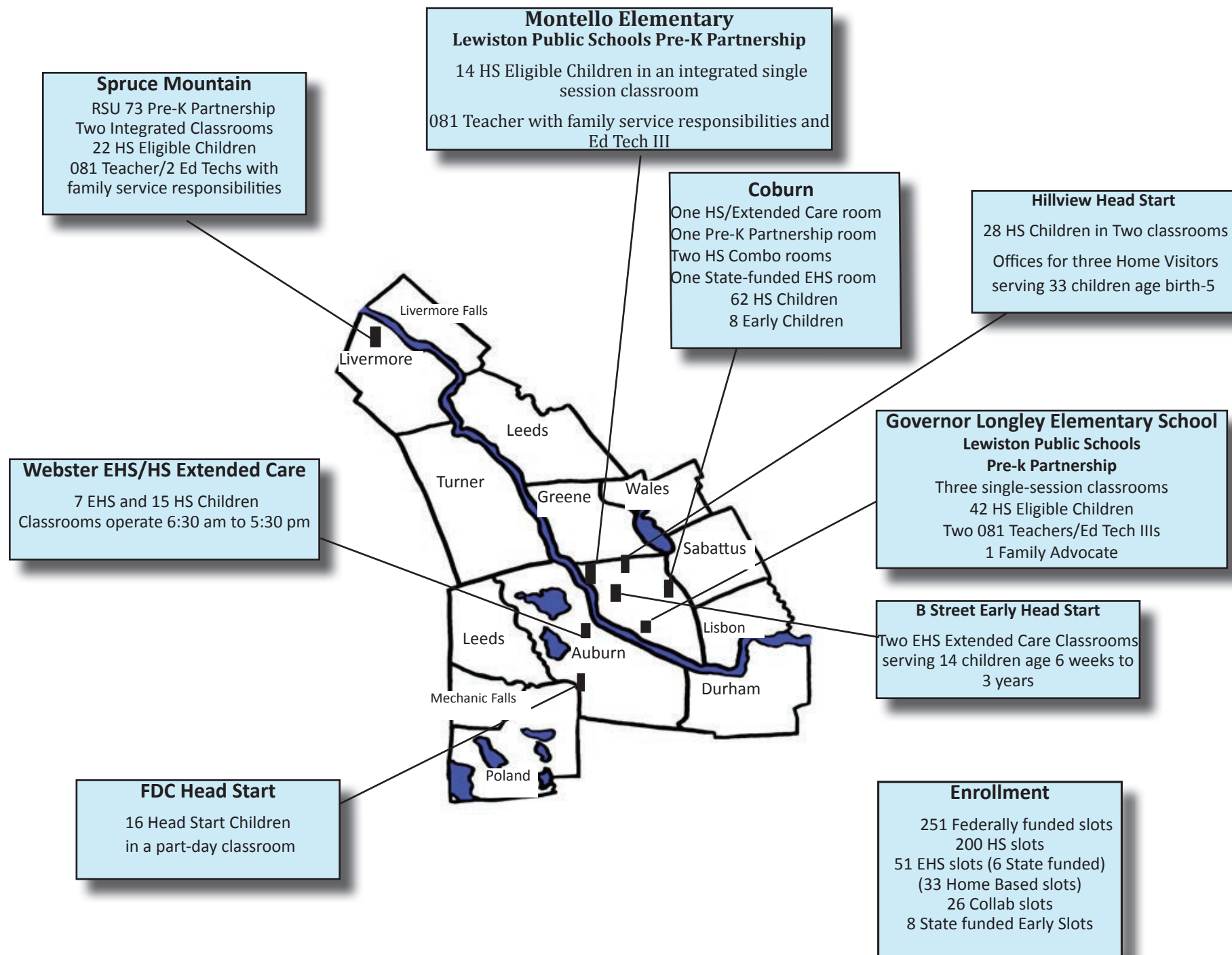
Kelly Roy
Family Services



Sharon Philbrook
Bergeron
Finance Director



Angela Wight
Health/Nu-



Engaged Communities

Empowered Families

School-Ready Kids.



Main Office

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