

Promise
Early Education Center
The Head Start Program of Androscoggin County

FY 19-24 Community Assessment Report

(Updated 8/20)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About Promise Early Education Center

Promise Early Education Center (Promise) is a premier early learning program in Central Maine dedicated to educating the whole child and preparing children for success in school and opportunities beyond. As the Head Start program for Androscoggin County, Promise offers a results-driven curriculum taught by degreed, licensed teachers and engages parents in their child's learning through partnership and commitment.

In addition to Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs, Promise offers early education, pre-K programs, and childcare to children and families who are not eligible for Head Start. Like Head Start programs, early education is available to children ages 6 weeks – 3 years, and pre-K is available to children ages 3 – 5. Full day, year round childcare is available on a limited basis for children ages 6 weeks – 5 years. At Promise, we help all families put their children first. Last year, Promise served 321 children in Androscoggin County.

Community Assessment Purpose & Process

Promise's programs meet a critical community need for high quality, affordable early childhood care and education. By engaging in regular review of community, county and state-wide data, Promise is able to ensure that its programs and services are informed by and responsive to actual community needs. By engaging in regular review of data about the children and families it services, Promise is able to see how program statistics compare to community, county and state-wide data and can learn from internal program trends.

Community assessment is a comprehensive process that involves review of dozens of data sources and documentation of data points that demonstrate community need within Promise's immediate service area of Androscoggin County and within the state of Maine. Promise engages in comprehensive community assessment once every five years per the terms of federal Office of Head Start funding requirements and updates select internal and external data points on an annual basis.

Data Limitations

The primary limitation of the data relied upon to write this report is that there is typically a lag between the year data is published and the year or span of years that data represents. Also, the data sources referenced in this report are not all collected or published on the same frequency, so some data may be up to nine years out of date^A, while other data is only out of date by one year or less. While community, county and state-wide data may not always be directly comparable, Promise's internal program data offers a reliable, up to date picture of the demographics, strengths and needs of the children and families Promise serves in Androscoggin County.

Community Assessment Observations

Community indicators around economic well-being, education, health, and safety at both the county and state levels demonstrate that there is a continued need for organizations like Promise to support early childhood education and provide connections for families to the resources and education they need. As the sole provider of EHS and HS programs in Androscoggin County, Promise is well positioned to improve outcomes for children and families most in need who reside in this service area. In fact, Promise consistently reports improved development outcomes for enrolled children, and extended program duration has shown to be linked with even greater child outcomes. Finally, the ways in which Promise supports the whole family – parents and guardians as well as children – increases families' chances of achieving their goals.

^A 2010 U.S. Census data for children by single age in Androscoggin County referenced in Table 4 on page 5.

GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREA

Promise’s service area includes all of Androscoggin County, ME – approximately 497 total square miles made up of 468 square miles of land and 29 square miles of water. It is the second smallest county in Maine by total area.¹ Androscoggin County is bordered by Cumberland County to the South, Oxford County to the West, Franklin County to the North, and Kennebec and Sagadahoc Counties to the East.

POPULATION

Total Population

Androscoggin County is the fifth most populated county in Maine with a population of 107,679.² The county’s population comprises 8% of the total population in Maine (see Table 1) and has a population density of 230 people per square mile of land.

The two largest cities in Androscoggin County are Auburn and Lewiston with populations of 22,958 and 36,382, respectively. The combined population of these two cities represents more than half (55%) of the county’s total population.³ Auburn and Lewiston are known locally as the Twin Cities or Lewiston – Auburn (L – A).

Births

The number of births in both Maine and Androscoggin County declined from the previous year (see Table 2).⁴ Androscoggin County has the fourth highest projected number of births for 2018 of all counties in Maine. Lewiston and Auburn have had the first and second highest number of births, respectively, since 2009.⁵

The proportion of births to single teens under age 20 in Androscoggin County is 3.1% - compared with 3.0% for Maine.⁶

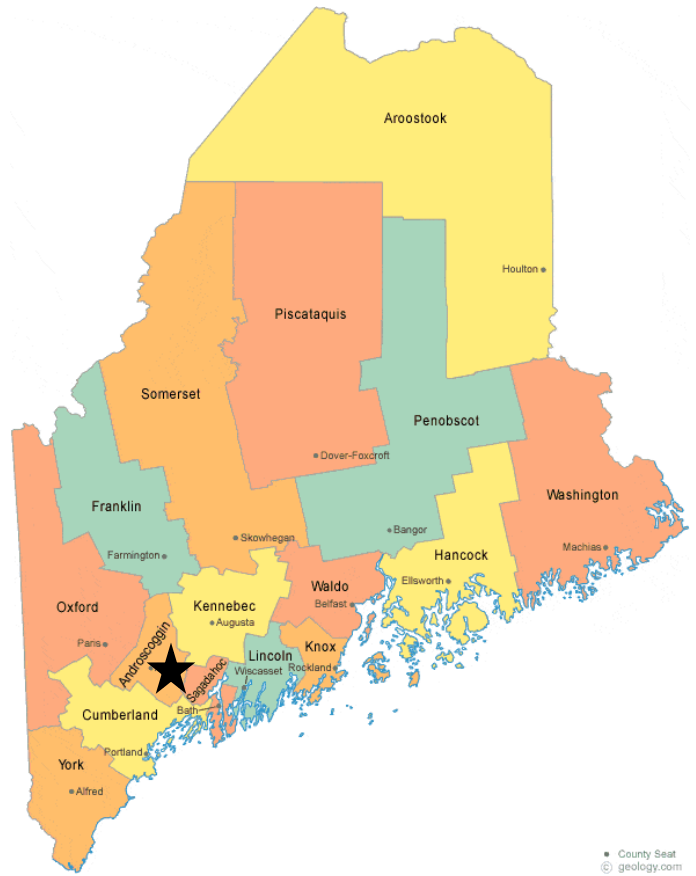


Image retrieved from Geology.com. <https://geology.com/county-map/maine.shtml>.

Table 1: Total Population estimate, State & County Comparison

	Population
Maine	1,338,404
Androscoggin County	107,678

Table 2: Births – State & County Comparison

	2018 Births (#)
Maine	12,300
Androscoggin County	1,235

Population by Age

In many instances, this report focuses on data for children who are five and younger due to the fact that Promise programs only serve children in this age range. Children under five make up 4.8% of Maine’s total population and 5.8% of Androscoggin County’s total population (see Table 3).⁷ Androscoggin County has a higher concentration of young people than Maine in all three age categories presented in Table 3 – less than 5, 5-17, and less than 18. The median age of Androscoggin County’s total population is 40.7.

Table 3: Population by Age Group – State, County & Promise Comparison

Age Group	Maine # (2018)	% of Total Population ^B	Androscoggin County (2018)	% of Total Population ^C	Promise EHS Enrollment (2017-2018) ⁸	Promise HS Enrollment (2017-2018) ⁹
< 5	64,282	4.8	6,415	5.8	74	247
5 to 17	185,823	14.0	17,085	15.8	0	0
< 18	250,105	18.7	23,500	21.6	74	247

Recent data is available for population by single age for Maine children age five and below, but the latest data on children by single age for Androscoggin County is from 2010 (see Table 4).

The total number of children age 5 and under in Maine and Androscoggin County is 77,535 and 7,753, respectively.¹⁴ Androscoggin County has the fourth highest number of children age 5 and under of all counties in Maine.

Table 4: Population by Single Age – State, County & Promise Comparison

Single Age	Maine (2018) ¹⁰	Androscoggin County (2010) ¹¹	Promise EHS Enrollment (2018-2019) ¹²	Promise HS Enrollment (2018-2019) ¹³
<1	12,409	1,343	17	0
1	12,629	1,362	22	0
2	12,930	1,385	31	3
3	13,126	1,398	4	94
4	13,188	1,398	0	149
5	13,253	1,396	0	1

Table 5: Population by Race/Ethnicity – State & County Comparison

	Maine (2018) ¹⁵		Androscoggin County (2016) ¹⁶	
	#	%	#	%
Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaskan Native alone	2,116	1%	23	0.1%
Non-Hispanic Asian alone	3,305	1%	188	0.8%
Non-Hispanic Black alone	7,168	3%	376	1.6%
Hispanic or Latino	7,127	3%	400	1.7%
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	103	<0.5%	1	<0.002%
Non-Hispanic White alone	221,008	88%	21,455	91.3%
Non-Hispanic Two or More Race Groups	9,577	4%	1,057	4.5%
Total less than 18	250,404	100%	23,500	100%

Population by Race/Ethnicity

The vast majority of people in Maine and Androscoggin County (88% and 91.3%, respectively) are “non-Hispanic white” (see Table 5).

^B Denominator is total Maine population, 1,338,404.

^C Denominator is total Androscoggin County population, 107,678.

Children enrolled in Promise programs are predominantly “white, non-Hispanic” or “black or African American, non-Hispanic” (see Table 6).

Population by Family Nativity

Family nativity is becoming an increasingly relevant data point for Androscoggin County and many other Counties in Maine due to rising immigration to the state over time. This is also a difficult data point to report accurately due to the number of new immigrants arriving each day and the fact that this data is not reported at frequent intervals.

Table 6: Promise Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

	Promise EHS (2018-2019)		Promise HS (2018-2019)	
	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	1.32%	0	.4%
Black or African American	3.95%	51.31%	1.18%	45.76%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	1.32%	0	.81%
White	0	39.47%	0	49.39%
Biracial/Multiracial	0	0	1.62%	0
Other	2.63%	0	1.21%	0.4%
Unspecified	0	0	0	0

In 2016, 3% of Androscoggin County’s population – compared to 3.5% for Maine – was individuals, any age, who were foreign born (see Table 7). Within the total child population in Maine in 2017, 99% were native-born, and only 1% were foreign-born.¹⁷ Native vs. foreign born status for total child population was not available for Androscoggin County.

Table 7: Nativity, State & County Comparison¹⁸

	Individuals, any age, who were foreign born (2017)	
	#	% ^D
Maine	47,556	3.5
Androscoggin County	3,179	3.0

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Poverty

Statistics in Table 8 are based on the number of individuals for whom poverty status was determined. For all three categories – all ages, age 0-17 and under 5 – Androscoggin County has higher poverty rates than the state of Maine overall. Androscoggin County has the fourth lowest unemployment rate of all Maine counties (tied with Knox County).

Table 8: 2017 Poverty Rates, Adults & Children – State & County Comparison¹⁹

	Rate Overall All ages	Rate for Children Age 0-17	Rate for Children Under 5
Maine	12.9%	16.7%	20.2%
Androscoggin County	14.3%	19.8%	24.3%

According to the latest data available, the largest demographic living in poverty were females age 25-34 (9.6%), then females age 18-24 (7.6%), and finally females less than five years old (6.5%).²⁰

^D For Maine data point, 1,338,404 is the denominator. For Androscoggin County data point, 107,676 is the denominator.

In terms of Promise enrollment, 51 EHS children and 182 HS children have a household income below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).²¹

Employment

Unemployment rates in Androscoggin County and Maine have declined steadily since 2010, and Androscoggin County has a lower unemployment rate than the state of Maine (3.1% compared with 3.3%, respectively).²²

In Androscoggin County, 70.7% of children under age 6 have all available parents in the workforce (compared with 69.2% for Maine overall).²³

For both Promise EHS and HS programs, the majority of enrolled children reside in two-parent/guardian families, and of the children who reside in two-parent families, a majority of enrolled children have at least one parent/guardian who is employed (see Table 9).

Table 9: Employment Status of Parents/Guardians with Children Enrolled in Promise Programs

	Promise EHS ²⁴	Promise HS ²⁵
Of the number of 2-parent families, the number of families in which:		
Both parents/guardians are employed	17.71%	23.48%
One parent/guardian is employed	30.24%	42.30%
Both parents/guardians are not working (unemployed, retired or disabled)	52.05%	34.22%
Of the number of single parent families, the number of families in which:		
The parent/guardian is employed	48.48%	46.85%
The parent/guardian is not working (unemployed, retired or disabled)	51.52%	53.15%
The number of all families in which at least one parent/guardian is a:		
Member of the U.S. military on active duty	0	9.0%
Veteran of the U.S. military	2.7%	5.4%

Income

Androscoggin County’s median household income is \$48,494 – lower than the median household income for Maine overall (\$52,926) and eighth in rank among all Maine counties.²⁶

The estimated living wage for a single adult with two children in Androscoggin County is \$28.40 (compared with \$29.01 for Maine) – the eighth highest figure among all Maine counties.²⁷ The living wage is defined as the wage needed to cover basic family expenses (basic needs budget^E) plus all relevant taxes.^F While the living wage increases each year based on rising household costs due to inflation, many families do not receive annual wage or salary increases.

^E Basic needs budget = Food cost + child care cost + (insurance premiums + health care costs) + housing cost + transportation cost + other necessities cost

^F For more information visit: <http://livingwage.mit.edu/resources/MIT-Part-Time-Documentation.pdf>

Public Assistance

In Androscoggin County, children five years and under account for 42.1% of the total children ages 0 – 17 who are receiving benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) public assistance program. Children five years and under in Androscoggin County account for 34.6% of the total children ages 0 – 17 who are receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

In Maine, children five years and under account for 39.7% of the total children ages 0 – 17 who are receiving TANF benefits and 33.2% of the total children ages 0 – 17 who are receiving SNAP benefits. For Children age five and under, Table 10 shows the number of children who received TANF and/or SNAP.

Table 10: Children 5 and under Receiving Public Assistance, by Type – State & County Comparison

	Maine	Androscoggin County
TANF and/or SNAP (as of 1/2/19) ²⁸	20,823	2,925

Subsidized school lunch is another form of public assistance available to eligible children enrolled in school. Sixty-three percent of students in Androscoggin County are eligible for subsidized school lunch. This is high compared to the statistic for Maine (46.5%).³¹

Table 11: Families with Children 5 and Under Enrolled in Promise Programs Who Receive Public Assistance, by Type

		Promise EHS ²⁹	Promise HS ³⁰
TANF	56	30%	24.0%
SNAP	180	55%	80.0%
WIC	138	52%	59.2%
SSI	26	8%	11.15%
Child Care Subsidy		47.7%	17.6%

In addition to TANF and SNAP, Promise tracks the number of enrolled children who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Women, Infants & Children (WIC) benefits (see Table 11).

EDUCATION

Early Care & Education Programs

Early care and education programs typically serve children from birth through age 5 and sometimes older. There are numerous settings for these programs including childcare centers, family childcare homes, nursery schools, license-exempt childcare, Head Start, public pre-school, and in-home care.⁶ Table 12 is the most current data for all licensed child care facilities. More recent data could be pulled by looking at individual childcare provider records through the Department of Health & Human Services.

Table 12: Licensed Childcare Facilities – State & County Comparison

	Type of Licensed Child Care Facility	2019	
		#	%
Maine	Licensed center-based child care	794	47.9
	Licensed family childcare	865	52.1
	Total licensed providers	1659	100
Androscoggin County	Licensed center-based child care	64	37.0
	Licensed family childcare	109	63.0
	Total licensed providers	173	100

A list of child care programs in Androscoggin County by town appears in Table 13 below. This chart is not all inclusive. Specifically, this chart does not capture license-exempt providers who also do not accept child care subsidy and therefore are not required to report data on their programs to the state.

⁶ A list of childcare settings can be found here: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/infoparents.htm#TwelveToFifteen>.

All promise programs are step four. The red text in table 4 shows where Promise programs are located

Table 13: Licensed Child Care Programs in Androscoggin County that Accept Child Care Subsidies^{H 32}

	Child Care Programs by Market Quality Rating (Step 1 is lowest and Step 4 is highest) ³³					
	No Rating	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	TOTAL
Auburn 2	7	11	4	2	9	33
Durham	6	3	2	0	0	11
Greene	3	4	1	0	0	8
Leeds	1	2	0	0	0	3
Lewiston 5	23	22	5	2	7	59
Lisbon	4	3	1	0	0	8
Livermore 1?	2	2	0	0	1	5
Livermore Falls	0	4	0	0	0	4
Mechanic Falls	7	3	0	0	0	10
Minot	3	4	0	0	0	7
Poland	4	7	1	0	0	12
Sabattus	4	2	1	0	0	7
Turner	4	5	0	0	0	9
Wales	2	1	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	70	73	15	4	17	179

Quality for ME is a four-step program designed to increase awareness of the basic standards of early care and education, to recognize and support providers who are providing care above and beyond those standards, and to educate the community of the benefits of higher quality care. Quality for ME has three goals.

- To recognize child care programs that provide quality care
- To encourage providers to increase their level of quality
- To provide parents with identifiable standards of quality

Early Head Start & Head Start Enrollment

Families eligible for EHS and HS programs fall below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Enrollment in Promise EHS (includes pregnant women) and HS programs constitutes 8% of the statewide enrollment in these programs (see Table 14).

Forty-two EHS children are enrolled in full-day programs (six hours), and 60 are enrolled in the home-based program.

Twenty-nine HS children are enrolled in full-day programs (six hours), 168 in part-day programs (3.5 hours), and 3 in the home-based program.

Table 14: Early Head Start & Head Start Enrollment – State & County Comparison

Age Group	Maine (2017) ^{34I}	Androscoggin County (2017-2018) ³⁵	
		Promise EHS	Promise HS
<3 ^J	1,331	5.79%	.68%
3	1,132	3.26%	7.33%
4	1,525	0	9.57%
5 years and older	50	0	0
Total	4,038	3.25%	5.98%

^H This table does not include license-exempt child care providers, of which there are many in Androscoggin County.

^I Data represents enrollment in Early Head Start, Head Start and enrollment of pregnant women.

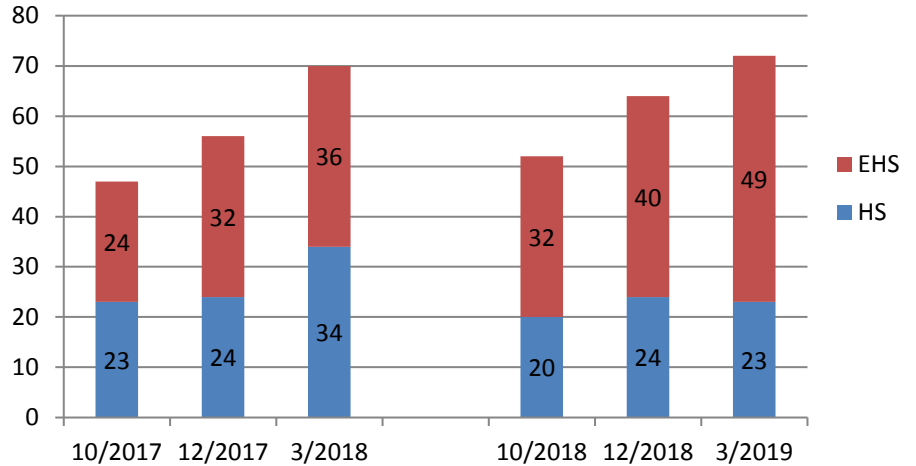
^J The Office of Head Start (OHS) Program Information Report (PIR) includes pregnant women in the “<3” category. Promise reported 5 pregnant women enrolled in EHS programs in 2017-2018 program year, and these women are included in the “<3” category.

Promise EHS and HS programs are typically fully enrolled and have a number of families on the waitlist. Waitlist data for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 program years is shown in Figure 1.

Waitlists tend to be shorter in the fall because families move from the waitlist to open EHS or HS program slots or because families make other arrangements for childcare. The waitlists tend to be larger in the spring due to Promise’s promotion or registration for the coming year.

Regardless of the reasons behind the data, these waitlist trends are indicative of the high demand for EHS and HS programs among families in Androscoggin County.

Figure 1: Promise Waitlist Data, FYs 2018 & 2019



Public Pre-K Enrollment

Every school district in Androscoggin County offers public pre-K. While not every family chooses this option, existing programs have the capacity to serve all families who chose to enroll.

A significant factor in a family’s decision to enroll in public pre-K is transportation to and from home or to and from a childcare provider who is providing before and after care. For the 2017-2018 program year, 68% (98 school districts) reported that they provided transportation in both directions for pre-K students.³⁶

Lewiston Public Schools, the largest school district in Androscoggin County, had the highest public-pre-K enrollment (see Table 15). There are 80 Lewiston Public School pre-K students and 22 Spruce Mountain School District pre-K students who are dually enrolled in Promise programs.

In Maine between 2015 and 2017, an average of 16,000 (57% of the three and four year olds statewide) were not enrolled in an early childhood education program.³⁸

Table 15: Public Pre-K Enrollment – State & School District Comparison³⁷

	Pre-K Enrollment
Auburn Public Schools	176
Lewiston Public Schools	298
Spruce Mountain School District (RSU 73)	80
Maine	6,130

Enrollment, Age 3 and Over

Androscoggin County has a higher percent of children enrolled in nursery school or preschool than Maine (5.9% vs. 5.2%). Androscoggin County also has a higher percent of children enrolled in public nursery school or preschool than Maine (67.9% vs. 58.1%) (see Tables 16 and 17). These higher enrollment rates are likely due to the fact that every school district in Androscoggin County offers public pre-K and has sufficient slots to accommodate all families who want to enroll. This is not the case in all areas of the state.

Participation in early childhood education programs (EHS, HS, private pre-school, public pre-K and kindergarten) is linked with school readiness and improved early learning and development outcomes. The eligible population for these programs is generally children age three to five.

Table 16: Androscoggin County Education Enrollment, Age 3 and Over³⁹

	Androscoggin County					
	Total	Percent	In public school	Percent in public school	In private school	Percent in private school
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	25,297	(X)	(X)	80.4%	(X)	19.6%
Nursery school, preschool	1,493	5.9%	1,014	67.9%	479	32.1%
Kindergarten to 12th grade	17,161	67.8%	14,989	87.3%	2,172	12.7%
Kindergarten	1,369	5.4%	1,163	85.0%	206	15.0%
Elementary: grade 1 to grade 4	5,225	20.7%	4,714	90.2%	511	9.8%
Elementary: grade 5 to grade 8	5,371	21.2%	4,516	84.1%	855	15.9%
High school: grade 9 to grade 12	5,196	20.5%	4,596	88.5%	600	11.5%
College, undergraduate	5,728	22.6%	3,839	67.0%	1,889	33.0%
Graduate, professional school	915	3.6%	505	55.2%	410	44.8%

Table 17: Maine Education Enrollment, Age 3 and Over⁴⁰

	Maine					
	Total	Percent	In public school	Percent in public school	In private school	Percent in private school
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	293,384	(X)	(X)	82.8%	(X)	17.2%
Nursery school, preschool	15,223	5.2%	8,847	58.1%	6,376	41.9%
Kindergarten to 12th grade	194,381	66.3%	174,798	89.9%	19,583	10.1%
Kindergarten	14,290	4.9%	12,884	90.2%	1,406	9.8%
Elementary: grade 1 to grade 4	57,597	19.6%	52,489	91.1%	5,108	8.9%
Elementary: grade 5 to grade 8	58,105	19.8%	52,710	90.7%	5,395	9.3%
High school: grade 9 to grade 12	64,389	21.9%	56,715	88.1%	7,674	11.9%
College, undergraduate	69,428	23.7%	50,262	72.4%	19,166	27.6%
Graduate, professional school	14,352	4.9%	8,869	61.8%	5,483	38.2%

Outcomes, Early Head Start & Head Start

Promise utilizes the Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) assessment tool to measure child developmental outcomes in six areas.^k By the end of the 2018-19 program year, 94% of EHS participants met or exceeded developmental expectations in each of the six assessment areas (see Figure 2). HS participants experienced significantly improved outcomes over the two assessment periods, halfway through the program year and at year end (see Figure 3).

Promise offers both full-day (6 hours) and part-day (3.5 hours) programs for EHS and HS. Each of these options exceeds the state’s minimum instructional time requirement of 10 hours per week. Promise also offers before and after care to meet the needs of full-time working families.

Programming with expanded duration appears to positively impact child outcomes, these children meet or exceed in all six of the TSG assessment areas (see Figure 4).

Outcomes, Pre-K through 12th Grade

The TSG assessment is the most common research-based tool to measure ongoing, whole-child development among statewide public pre-K programs. Outcome data is not available due to the fact that there is no statewide standardize assessment.

Twenty-seven percent of districts reporting offered five full-days (defined as 5+ hours for one pre-K session); seven percent offered four full-days; and 27% offered a combination of full- and half-days.⁴¹

In terms of academic proficiency of students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools, performance of students statewide exceeds the performance of students in Auburn Public Schools and Lewiston Public Schools in all three testing areas (see Table 18).⁴²

Figure 2: Promise EHS Outcomes

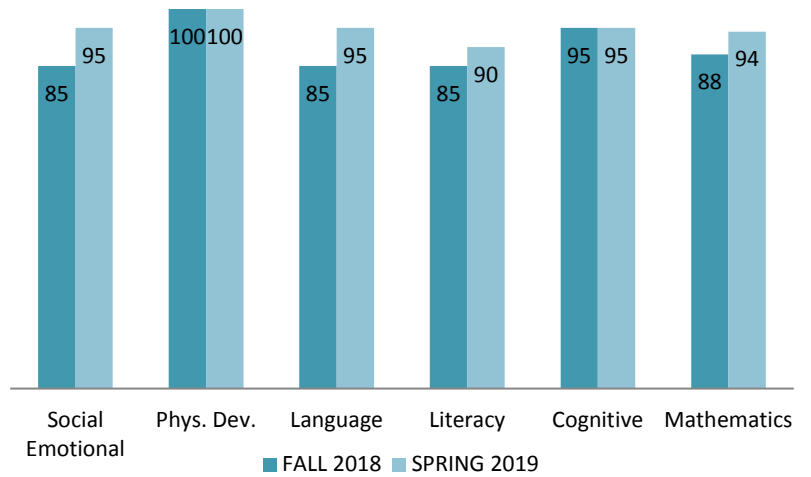


Figure 3: Promise HS Outcomes

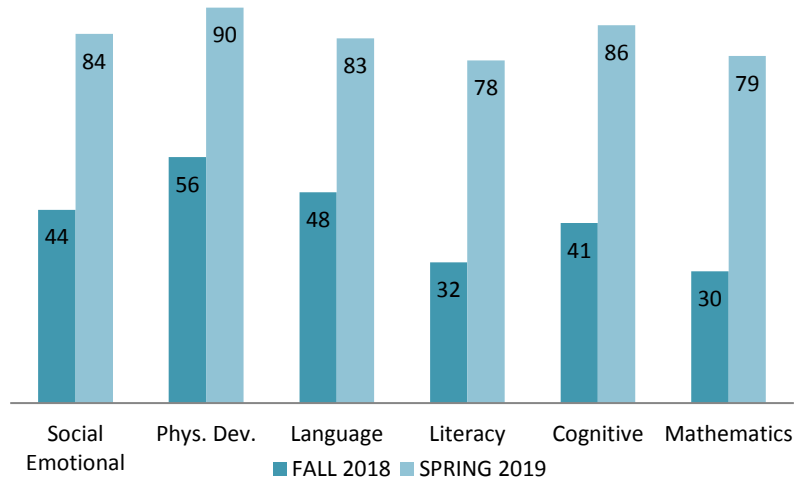
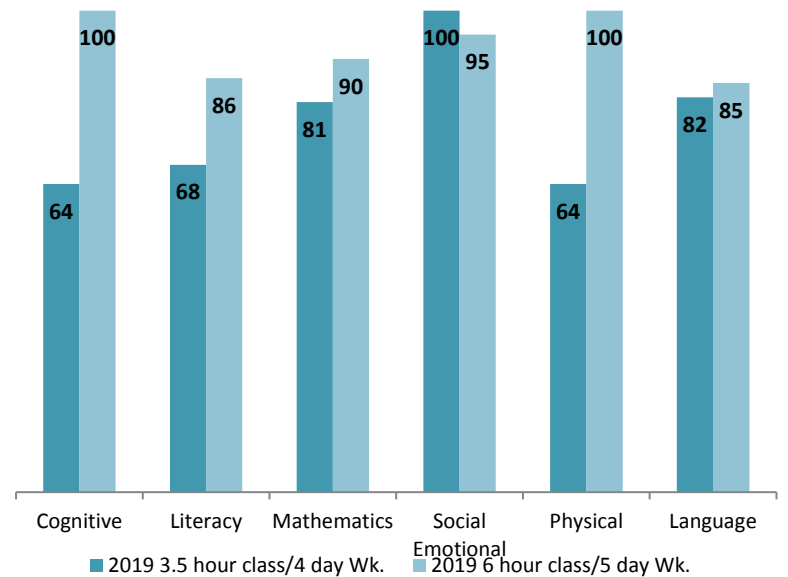


Figure 4: Duration Data Spring 2019



^k Social/emotional, physical development, language, literacy, cognitive, and math.

Similarly, the statewide graduation rate for a four-year cohort (86.92%) is higher than the graduation rates for both Auburn Public Schools (79.79%) and Lewiston Public Schools (75.84%).⁴³

Table 18: Percent Performing At or Above State Expectations, by Content Area – State and District Comparison

	English Language Arts/Literacy	Mathematics	Science
Maine	50.24%	37.05%	58.88%
Auburn Public Schools	40.77	28.13%	51.84%
Lewiston Public Schools	25.42%	16.87%	30.29%

Attendance is a factor known to influence academic outcomes. Auburn Public Schools and Lewiston Public Schools both have chronic absenteeism rates that are higher than the rate for Maine overall – 21.5% and 21.01%, respectively (compared to 16.51% for Maine).⁴⁴ Within the population of students who are chronically absent statewide, homeless students have the highest rate of chronic absenteeism (43.33%) followed by Native American students (30.94%).⁴⁵

Children with Disabilities, Birth through 5
Child Development Services (CDS) is the state entity that oversees determination of eligibility, screening, allocation of funds, and coordination of services for children with disabilities from birth through age five. CDS tracks early intervention services for children less than three and special education and related services for children age three to five.

Table 19: Children who Entered CDS by Primary Disability ⁴⁶

	Children, Birth to <3	#Children, Age 3 to 5
Autism		229
Deaf-Blindness		0
Deafness		4
Developmental Delay	1,130	173
Emotional Disability		18
Hearing Impairment		17
Intellectual Disability		7
Multiple Disability		28
Orthopedic Impairment		6
Other Health Impairment		192
Specific Learning Disability		0
Speech or Language Impairment		1,256
Traumatic Brain Injury		0
Visual Impairment including Blindness		1

In Maine, the predominant disability type for children birth through age 2 is developmental delay, and the predominant disability type for children three to five is speech or language impairment (see Table 19).

Promise works with three of the nine regional CDS sites – First Step, Opportunities and PEDS. The unduplicated number of children who received direct services at these two sites is 340, 146 and 277, respectively, and the predominant disability among children who received services through these three sites is speech or language impairment.⁴⁷

Eight children enrolled in Promise EHS programs were eligible to receive early intervention services. Five of these were determined eligible during the program year, and three were determined eligible prior to enrollment. The predominant disability among children enrolled in Promise HS programs last year was speech or language impairment – 47 children were determined to have a disability and 46 were receiving special services. Other disabilities among HS enrolled children were intellectual disability, hearing impairment including deafness, learning disability, and autism.

English Learners

Maine reported having 6,048 English Learners (ELs) as of October 2018 enrollment data – 3.31% of the total student population – an increase from the prior school year when there were 5,878 ELs.⁴⁸ Of these ELs, 92 are age three to five.⁴⁹

2014-2015 data reported by the Maine Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Education for the purpose of a national report on ELs, shows the most predominant languages spoken by the EL student population in Maine overall was Somali (32.4%), Arabic (13%), Spanish, Castilian (9.5%), and French (9.2%).⁵⁰ This is the most recent data point available.

According to 2016 U.S. Census estimates, Androscoggin County had 12,267 non-English speakers within the total population (not just students), and the most predominant native languages were French (8.3%), Spanish (1.11%) and African Languages (.47%).⁵¹

English is the predominant language spoken at home by children enrolled in both EHS and HS programs (59%), followed by African languages (34%)

Educational Attainment, Age 18 and Over

In Androscoggin County, the most predominant level of educational attainment among individuals age 18 – 24 (45.2%) is some college or an associate’s degree. The least common level of educational attainment among individuals ages 18-24 (6.7%) is a bachelor’s degree or higher. Among the 25 and older age group, the most predominant level of educational attainment (37%) is high school graduate or an equivalency program. The least common level of educational attainment for the 25 and older age group (3.9%) is less than 9th grade.

State-wide data mirrors the trends noted above for Androscoggin County with only small differences in percent value. Maine has a higher percentage of individuals age 18-24 with a bachelor’s degree or higher, individuals age 25 and older with a bachelor’s degree and individuals age 25 and older with a graduate or professional degree (see Table 20).

Table 20: Population by Educational Attainment – State & County Comparison⁵²

	Androscoggin County		Maine	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
	Estimate	Estimate		
Population 18 to 24 years	9,514	(X)	112,245	(X)
Less than high school graduate	1,335	14.0%	12,658	11.3%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	3,242	34.1%	35,083	31.3%
Some college or associate's degree	4,303	45.2%	53,178	47.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	634	6.7%	11,326	10.1%
Population 25 years and over	74,251	(X)	961,086	(X)
Less than 9th grade	2,904	3.9%	26,575	2.8%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	4,680	6.3%	49,053	5.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	27,506	37.0%	310,724	32.3%
Some college, no degree	15,013	20.2%	187,812	19.5%
Associate's degree	7,719	10.4%	95,895	10.0%
Bachelor's degree	10,984	14.8%	185,832	19.3%
Graduate or professional degree	5,445	7.3%	105,195	10.9%

Parents/guardians of children enrolled in Promise programs have a slightly lower educational attainment than the total adult populations of Androscoggin County and Maine. High school graduate or GED is the highest level of education obtained by 45.7% of EHS parents/guardians and 58.2% of HS parents/guardians (see Table 21).

Table 21: Educational Attainment of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Children Enrolled in Promise Programs

	Promise EHS Families	Promise HS Families
Of the total number of families, the highest level of education obtained by the child's parent(s)/guardian(s):		
An advanced degree or baccalaureate degree	39.2%	17.0%
An associate's degree, vocational school or some college	10.8%	10.9%
High school graduate or GED	25.7%	44.9%
Less than high school graduate	13.5%	19.0%

Thirty-two Promise families (10.92%) – EHS and HS combined – had one or more parent/guardian complete a job training program, professional certificate or license during the program year. Twenty-nine families had one parent/guardian in job training or schools.⁵³

HEALTH

Health Insurance Status

The 2018 Androscoggin County Health Profile reports an uninsured rate in Androscoggin County for the period of 8.6% (compared to 9.5% for Maine).⁵⁴

Nearly all children enrolled in Promise EHS and HS programs (including pregnant women) had health insurance coverage by the end of the 2017-2018 enrollment year, and of these insured children and pregnant women, nearly all were enrolled in Medicaid and/or CHIP (see Table 22).

Table 22: Insurance Status of Pregnant Women & Children Enrolled in Promise Programs (as of end of enrollment year)

	Pregnant Women	EHS Children	HS Children
Total with health insurance coverage	100%	95.7%	98.7%
Enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP	100%	90%	94.3%
Private Health Insurance	0	5.7%	4.3%
No health insurance coverage	0	0	.84%

MaineCare is a state sponsored health insurance program for financially eligible Maine residents who cannot otherwise afford private health insurance. Rates of MaineCare participation in Androscoggin County are higher than rates for Maine overall among children ages 0-5, 6-18 and 0-18 (see Table 23). MaineCare enrollment for individuals of all ages is also higher in Androscoggin County (32.2%) than in Maine (25.4%).⁵⁶

Table 23: Children's Participation in Maine-Care – State & County Comparison⁵⁵

	Maine (2017)		Androscoggin County (2017)	
	#	%	#	%
Total children, 0-18	126,239	46.5	14,288	57.5
Children, 0-5	40,243	51.5	4,865	62.7
Children, 6-18	85,996	44.5	9,423	55.2

Access to Healthcare Providers

Availability of healthcare professionals is a critical factor influencing individuals’ ability to access care. The ratio of providers per 100,000 population is higher in Androscoggin County than Maine in two of three categories – primary care physicians and psychiatrists (see Table 24).

Ninety-three percent of children and pregnant women enrolled in Promise EHS programs and 99% of children enrolled in Promise HS programs have access to a medical home. At the end of the 2017-2018 enrollment year, 85% of EHS participants and 95% of HS participants were up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary health care.^L

Three EHS participants and 19 HS participants were referred by Promise for mental health services outside of HS. All but two of these participants received mental health services.

Smaller percentages of EHS and HS participants had continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist – 39% and 87%, respectively.

All pregnant women (100%) received prenatal health care, postpartum health care, prenatal education on fetal development, and information on the benefits of breastfeeding while enrolled in Promise EHS. Four pregnant women received mental health interventions and follow-up while enrolled in EHS, one received substance abuse prevention, one received substance abuse treatment, and one received a professional dental examination and/or treatment.

In the fall of 2018, Promise began a co-location initiative with WIC whereby WIC staff comes to Promise’s Hillview site once per month to serve families who are enrolled at Promise as well as families in the broader community.

Immunizations

Androscoggin County has a lower percentage of two year olds who are up-to-date with recommended immunizations and a lower percentage of immunization exemptions among kindergarteners (see Table 25).^M

Eighty-eight percent of EHS participants and 94% of HS participants have been determined by a healthcare professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age. These rates far exceed the rates at the County and state levels.

Table 24: Healthcare Provider Ratios – State & County Comparison⁵⁷

	Maine	Androscoggin County
Ratio of primary care physicians to 100,000 population	67.3	86.3
Ratio of psychiatrists to 100,000 population	8.4	10.0
Ratio of practicing dentists to 100,000 population	32.1	28.1

Table 25: Immunization Statistics – State & County Comparison⁵⁸

	2 Year Olds Up-To-Date with Recommended Immunizations	Immunization Exemptions among Kindergarteners
Maine	73.7%	4.6%
Androscoggin County	65.8%	4.4%

^L This measure is according to the relevant state’s EPSDT schedule for well child care.

^M Exemptions from kindergarten immunization requirements may be granted for philosophical, religious, or medical reasons.

Food Insecurity

Androscoggin County has a slightly higher childhood food insecurity rate than Maine – 20.7% compared to 19.8%.⁵⁹ This data point represents children under age 18 living in households where in the previous 12 months there was an uncertainty of having or an inability to acquire enough food for all household members because of insufficient money or other resources.

Promise promotes healthy eating habits, ensures that nutrition services are culturally and developmentally appropriate, and offers access to a variety of nutritious foods at no cost to enrolled families. Promise supports breastfeeding mothers by accommodating mothers who wish to breastfeed during program hours and ensuring the capacity to properly store breast milk.

Promise partners with local producers to obtain fresh ingredients for its nutrition program. Meals and snacks are also provided for parent and Policy Council meetings and for family and community events. Menus are created collaboratively by the Promise Chef, Nutrition Manager and a Registered dietician to ensure that meals meet children’s daily nutritional needs while still being child-friendly.

Exposure to Lead

Androscoggin County has the third highest prevalence of lead poisoning among children birth-36 months of all Maine counties. Lewiston and Auburn are designated as high risk areas by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s The Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit. In 2017, 65% of children age 12 to 24 months in Androscoggin County had a blood lead test (screening), and every 5 out of 1,000 children has lead poisoning (i.e. a blood lead level of 5 micrograms per deciliter or higher).⁶⁰

Promise has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center for a phlebotomist to provide Blood Lead Screenings for children enrolled in Promise programs. Additionally, Promise employs a Health Coordinator who has phlebotomy training and is able to perform finger pricks. Tests are sent to the State Laboratory, and once results are received, Promise shares the information with the child’s parents/guardians and primary care physician.

When needed, Promise follows-up on positive lead tests by providing education or resources to families. An example of a resource for parents that Promise refers to frequently is The Lead Paint Project operated by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, which provides information about lead screening, the harmful effects of lead, landlords’ responsibilities with regard to lead testing and abatement, and how to access free lead testing. As a result of Promise’s extensive work around lead screening and education, children enrolled in Promise programs have much lower rates of lead poisoning than children in the broader community.

Substance Use

Rates of alcohol and drug use and overdose deaths in Androscoggin County and Maine are on the rise (see Table 26).

Androscoggin County has the second highest rate among all Maine counties (9.5%) of infants who, at birth, were potentially exposed or actually affected by alcohol or illicit or prescribed substances- compared to 7.8% in Maine.⁶¹

Table 26: Alcohol and Drug Trends on the Rise – State & County Comparison

	Maine	Androscoggin County
Overdose deaths per 100,000	18.1	18.3
Substance use hospitalizations per 10,000 population	18.1	39.4
Drug-induced deaths per 100,000	18.9	19.0
Alcohol-induced deaths per 100,000	9.7	11.9

SAFETY

Child Protective Services

The number of referrals to Child Protective Services (CPS) increased between 2016 and 2017, while the reports assigned for Child Protective (CP) assessment declined. Androscoggin County ranks first in the number of reports assigned to Alternate Response, fourth in number of referrals and fifth in reports assigned for CP assessment^o (see Table 27).

Table 27: Child Protective Services Summary Statistics – State & County Comparison⁶²

	Maine	Androscoggin County
Referrals	19,567	2,199 / Rank: 4
Reports Assigned to Alternate Response	2,185	312 / Rank: 1
Reports Assigned for CP Assessment	7,288	810 / Rank: 5
Total Victims Age 0-4 ^N Associated with Assigned Reports	4,545	532 / Rank: 5

Of the reports assigned for CP assessment, a majority of cases in Androscoggin County were found to be unsubstantiated (see Table 28). Finally, of the cases assigned for CP assessment, 76% had prior history with CPS.⁶³

Children in Care

In 2017, there were 1,534 children age 0-17 in Maine who were in placements outside of their home, and there were 132 children age 0-17 in Androscoggin County in placements outside of their home.^{p 65}

Table 28: Child Protective Assessment Findings – State & County Comparison⁶⁴

	Maine	Androscoggin County
Substantiated/Indicated	2,160	229
Unsubstantiated	5,124	581
Assessment Findings Rate	30%	28%

Children age one to five make up the largest concentration of children in foster care in Maine (43% of the total children age 0-20 in foster care), followed by children age 6 to 10 (25%).⁶⁶ Twenty-one percent of children in EHS and 6% of children in HS programs at Promise had some level of involvement with foster care and/or a child welfare agency (see Table 28).

Table 29: Foster Care & Child Welfare Involvement of Children Enrolled in Promise

	Promise EHS	Promise HS
Enrolled Children who were in foster care at any point during the program year	8.1%	2.83%
Enrolled children who were referred to HS/EHS services by a child welfare agency	16.2%	4.0%

Homelessness

For the state fiscal year ending June 2018, the number of people residing in homeless shelters was 6,454 – a decline from 2017 but an increase from 2016 – and the average length of stay was 62 days.⁶⁷ The top three age groups with the largest concentration of homeless individuals were 25-34, 35-44 and 45-54, and 12% of homeless households included children.⁶⁸

At the school district level, less than one percent of students enrolled in pre-K through 12th grade in Maine were homeless (1,405 students).

^N These values may include duplicates due to the fact that if children were involved in more than one report in a calendar year, they would be counted each time.

^o Alternate response is appropriate when reports of child abuse or neglect are deemed to be of low to moderate severity. CP assessment cases are severe enough to warrant being assigned to a caseworker for further investigation.

^p Maine total includes children in out of state placements and children where their county of origin is not recorded.

Of the EHS families that were served by Promise at some point during the enrollment year, a majority (77.7%) acquired housing during the enrollment year, and 66.7% of HS families experiencing homelessness that were served by Promise at some point during the enrollment year acquired housing during the enrollment year (see Table 29).

Table 30: Homelessness Data for Children & Families Served by Promise during the Enrollment Year

	Promise EHS	Promise HS
Families experiencing homelessness	9.45%	5.66%
Children experiencing homelessness	9.05%	6.07%
Families experiencing homelessness that acquired housing	71.42%	57.14%

Domestic Violence

Androscoggin County has the second highest rate of all Maine counties of assaults perpetrated by family or household members who live together that were reported to the police – 502.2 per 100,000 compared to 351.1 for Maine.^{Q 69}

^Q These are not unduplicated counts and may include numerous assaults affecting the same individuals.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Promise strives to meet the needs of the children and families it serves through both direct delivery of early childhood care and education as well as through referrals to community partners that provide other essential services in support of children and families. Below is a complete list of these community partners.

School District Partners

- Lewiston Public Schools
- Spruce Mountain School District (RSU 73)

Special Education Partners

- Early Learning Center (ELC)
- Maine Department of Education
- Sandcastle

Health & Safety Partners

- Advocates for Children
- Community Clinical Services
- Community Dental
- Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child & Family Services
- Pine Tree Legal Assistance, The Lead Paint Project
- St. Mary's Regional Medical Center
- Tri County Mental Health Services
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

MOU Partners for Utilization of Space

- Auburn Housing Authority
- City of Lewiston
- Lewiston Housing Authority

Contract Partners

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Infant Mental Health Specialist
- Registered Nurse, Health Consultant

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