

FY 2019

Annual Report



 Promise
Early Education Center

The Head Start Program of Androscoggin County

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure on behalf of the Board of Directors, Policy Council, and staff to share with you that 2019 was another successful year for Promise Early Education Center. As I reflect on the past year and each member of the Promise team I am filled with great pride! The information and highlights contained in this report show that the effort put forth by our team resulted in robust outcomes.

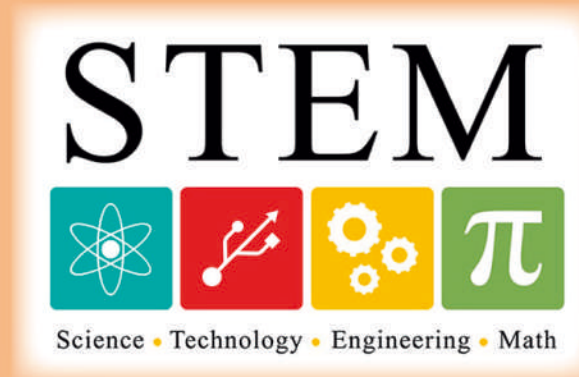
At Promise Early Education Center, we make sure children can explore and experience the world through play. Our existing programs continue to prepare young children for success in school and life, but we are now doing more through expanded program hours and increased class days. The Board of Directors remains committed to existing relationships while also exploring new partnerships that will allow Promise to further grow and expand services for children and families. In the coming year we are excited about increasing our presence on social media. We look forward to connecting more broadly with our community developing new and expanded relationships with families and businesses by sharing staff and family accounts along with program photos on our social media platforms to help bring Promise programming to life.

The pages in this report feature photos of Promise children and programming in action along with data that highlights our early education and comprehensive services in our community. I want to personally thank the amazing staff, volunteers, families, Board members, Policy Council, and community members for the time, commitment, and support each of you have given to Promise over the past year. You are all REMARKABLE and I am blessed to be part of the awesomeness which happens every day at Promise!

Betsy Norcross Plourde, LMSW
Executive Director

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) was again the focus at the Auburn Public Library on our Math and Science Night in November 2018. Over 125 parents and children played games and engaged in activities focused on enhancing children's excitement for Math and Science. This fun filled evening provided learning opportunities for children and parents alike.



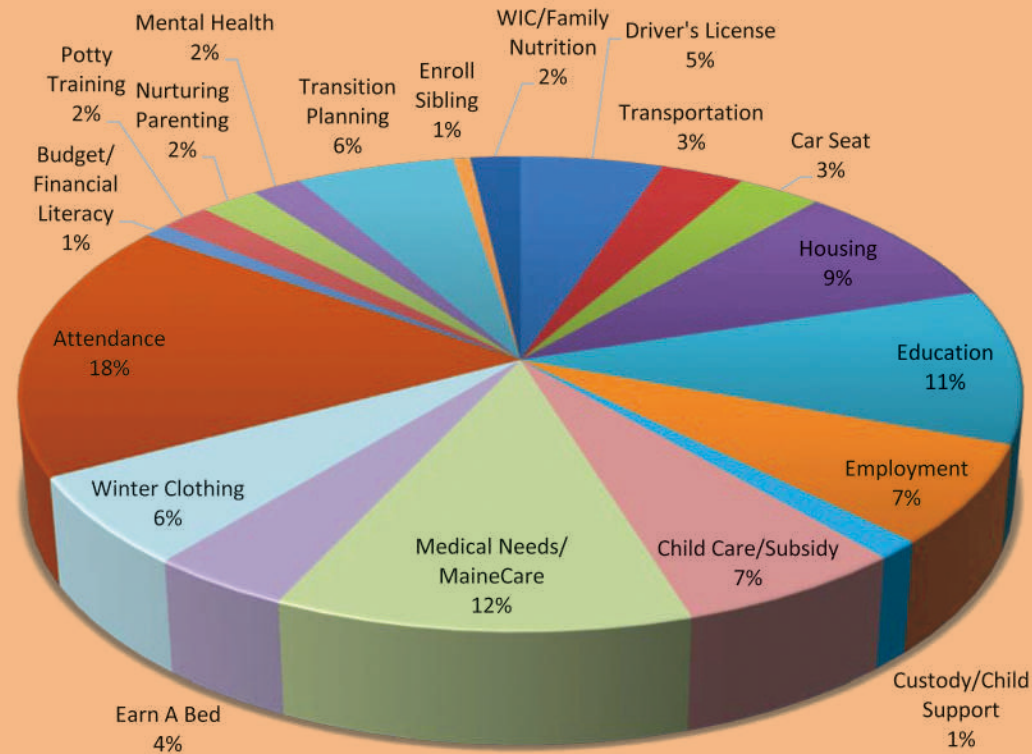
Family Literacy Night

Dr. Seuss was the theme of our Family Literacy Night held at the Lewiston Public Library in May 2019. We were visited by The Cat in the Hat and the Fish in a Pot! Over 175 parents and children engaged in more than 10 different literacy focused games and activities. The evening exposed parents to exciting new ways to encourage their children's enthusiasm for learning!

Nurturing Parenting Program

Nurturing Parenting Program is an evidence-based program providing families with the necessary skills and tools to make healthy lifestyle choices. Promise in partnership with Advocates for Children provided a 9-week session of the Community Based Nurturing Parenting Program in the Spring of 2019 to seven enrolled families.

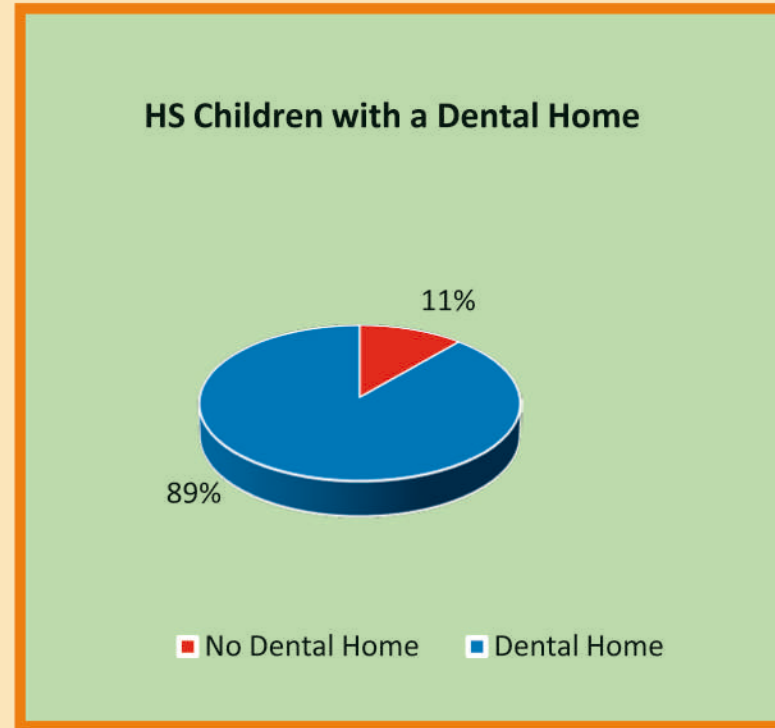
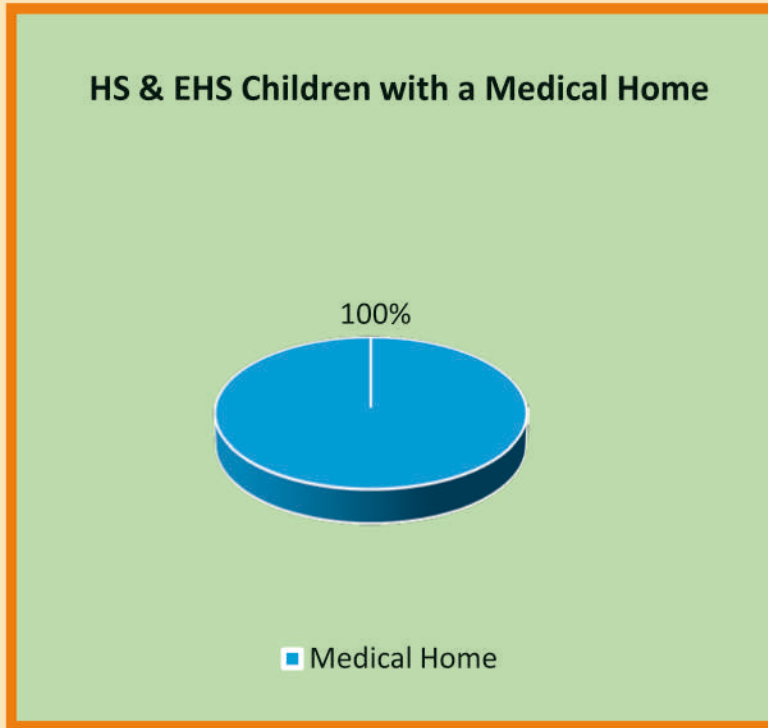
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Family Goals

Throughout our time with families we work to develop strong trusting relationships between staff and parents or caregivers. One of the ways we support those relationships is through Family Goals which are driven by the parents or caregivers to meet the needs of their individual family.

HEALTH SERVICES



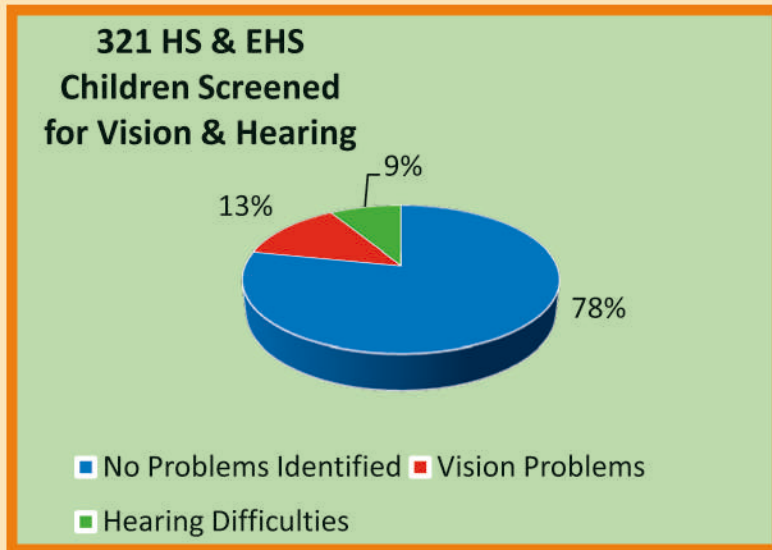
Health

Here at Promise, we support families in maintaining medical and dental homes for their children. Access to dental services continues to be an on-going struggle in our community with barriers which include lengthy applications, scheduling challenges, transportation and families' inability to take time off from work. We feel fortunate to have our collaborative partners, Community Dental and CCS Dental Services work with us to ensure children receive cleanings, fluoride treatments and exams. Community Dental's ability to provide onsite dental clinics in Promise classrooms further reduces barriers.

HEALTH SERVICES

Vision and Hearing

Vision and hearing are two of our five senses. Being able to see and hear gives children tremendous 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 well because to them, it's normal. You cannot see a hearing loss and young children cannot tell an adult if they are hearing all the important sounds in the world around them.

Promise has two Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) screening tools that allow us to screen a child of any age while asleep or awake. A small probe, like an ear bud, is placed in the ear. This sends a series of soft clicks or tones into the ear and also collects 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 a "pass" or "refer." Any inability to hear can get in the way of a child's speech, language, social and

emotional development, and school readiness. Intervention may improve social and emotional and academic achievement when children who are deaf or hard of hearing are identified early.

Promise has two Spot Vision Screeners, handheld devices that quickly and easily detect vision issues on patients from 6 months of age. Spot screens both eyes at once from a nonthreatening 3-foot distance. 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 screenings are important in early detection of possible vision or hearing problems. When a child does not pass a screen, Promise refers children to their health care provider who resolves temporary problems such as a wax blockage in the ear canal, or a middle ear infection, or a vision problem that a child may outgrow.

HEALTH SERVICES

Nutrition Department

The nutrition department oversees the CACFP program, a main kitchen where meals are prepared and delivered to four locations. This is made possible by our 5 committed food service personnel, four satellite kitchens and two transport vans.

Quarterly menus are developed for children following CACFP Federal guidelines and with input from a Certified Dietician.

Children receive home cooked meals with locally sources ingredients. Promise staff understand nutrition and the need to be patient as children become familiar with new foods. We follow the belief that children are responsible for *how much* and *whether they* eat the foods we offer. The nutrition department provides children with healthy food choices while classroom staff offer a pleasant mealtime experience sitting with the children, teaching age appropriate meal 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

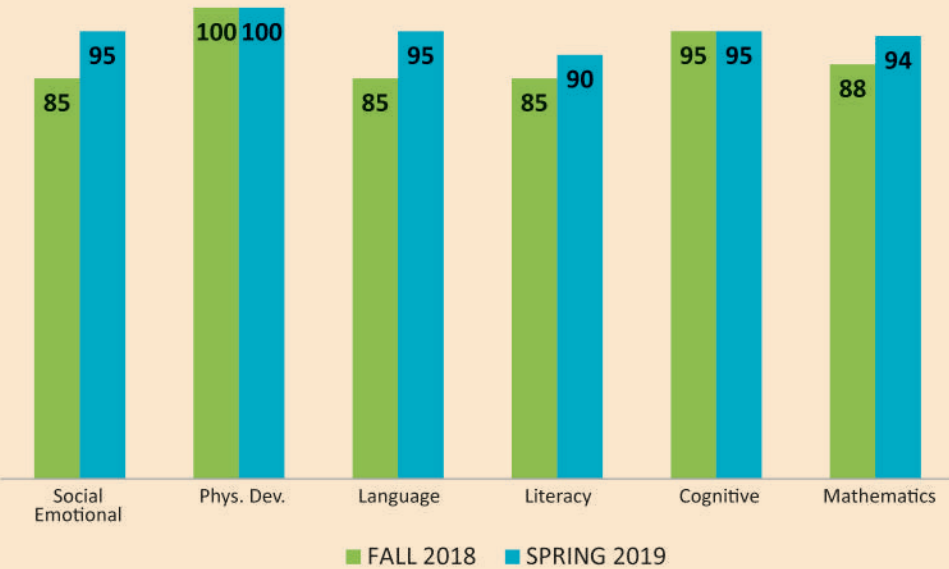
Recognize and recall past experience and apply knowledge to new experiences

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

PROMISE CHILD OUTCOME DATA 2018-2019

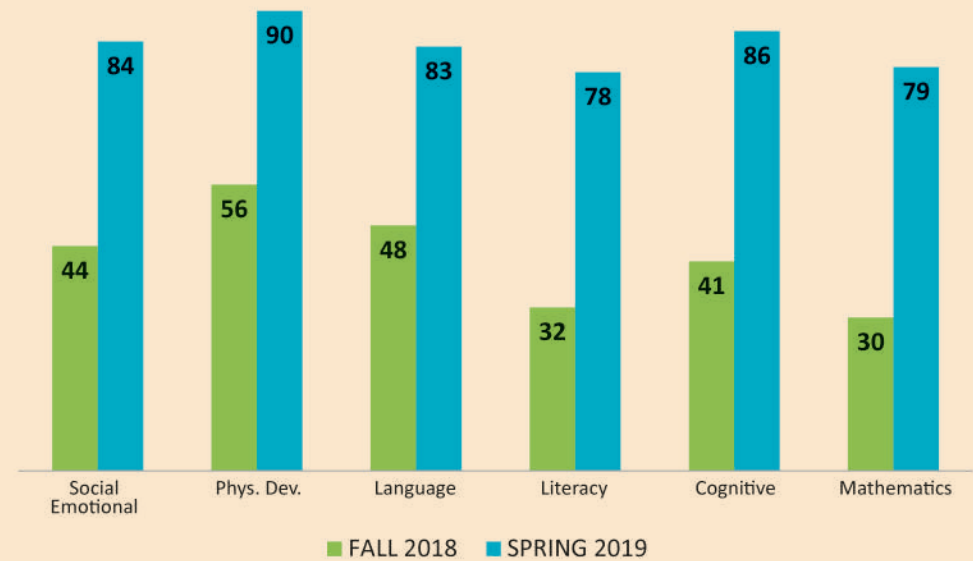
Promise EHS Child Outcomes 2018-2019

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 2018-2019

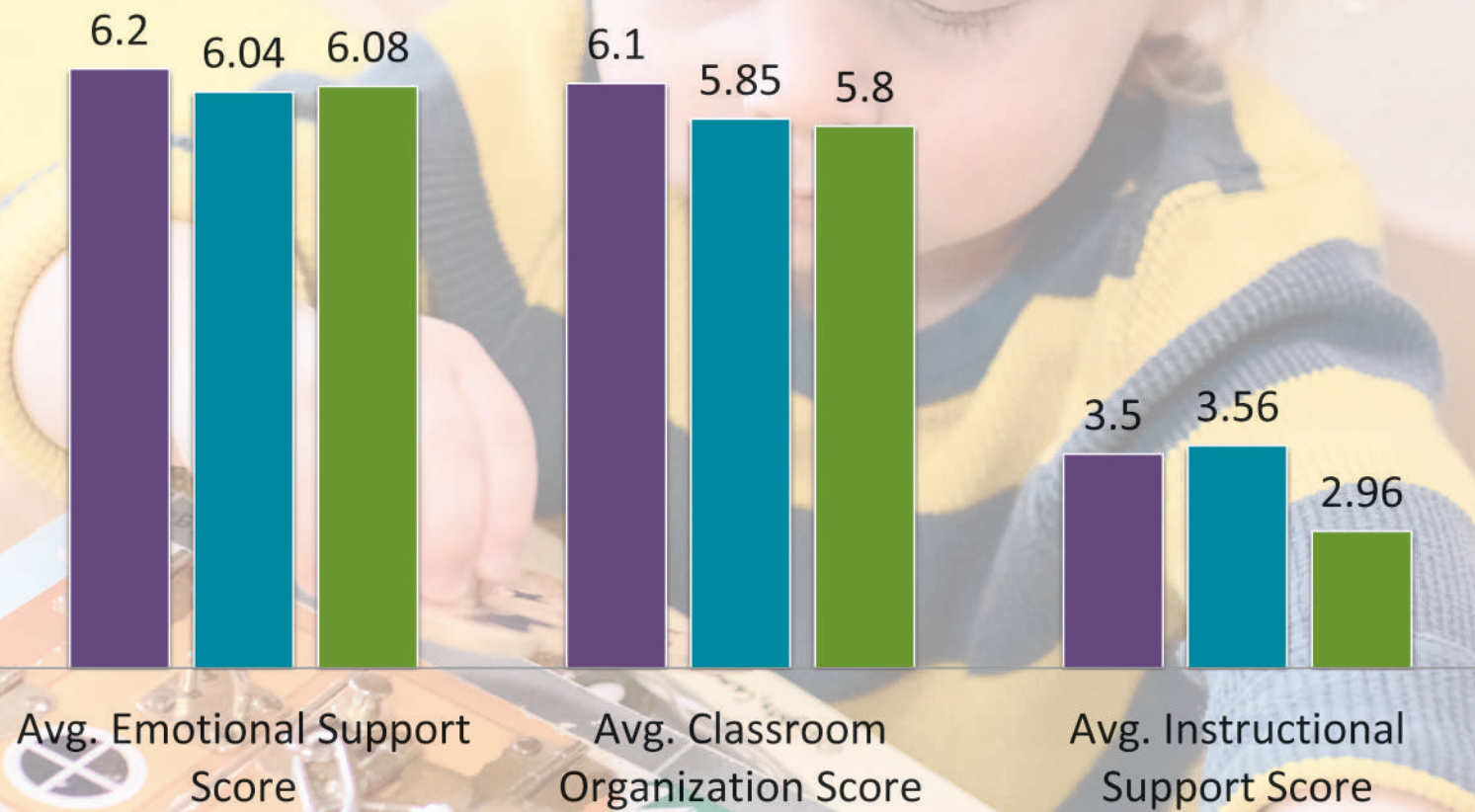
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Promise CLASS PreK Data: Trends

2017-2019

■ Federal Review Spring '18 ■ Fall/Winter '18-'19 ■ National CLASS Average 2018



BY THE NUMBERS

2018-2019

Early Head Start: 45 Federally Funded Slots
Head Start: 200 Federally Funded Slots

Total # of Children Served: 323

Children ages 3-5: 247
Children ages 0-2: 76

Total children and families served: 323

Under 1 year old: 17
1 Year olds: 22
2-Year olds: 34
3-Year-olds: 98
4-Year-olds: 149
5-Year-old: 1
Pregnant Women: 2

Children Enrolled at Promise

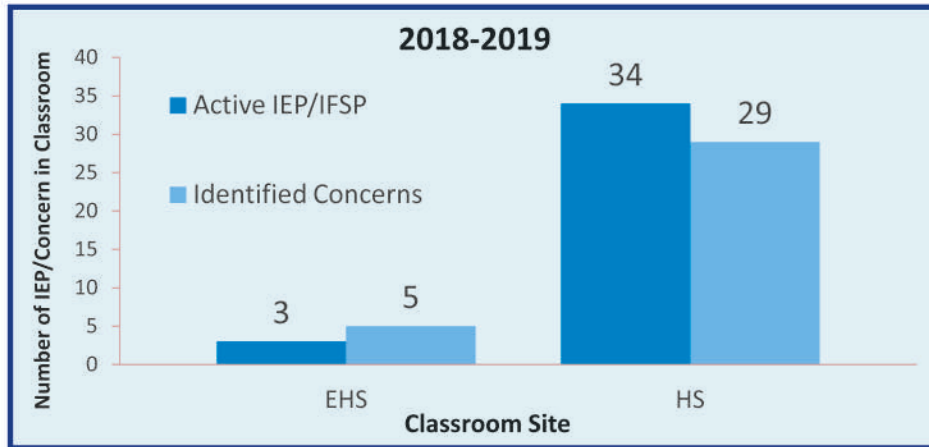
Two Years: 65
Three or more Years: 28

Eligibility

Income Eligible 233
Public Assistance 53
Foster Care 5
Homeless 9
Over Income 23

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

SPECIAL SERVICES



The most common disability category is speech/language impairment

Head Start
of Individual education programs (IEP)
54

Early Head Start
of Individual family service plans (IFSP)
4

Mental Health Services and Supports for Students and Families

- 31 children supported by the mental health professional consulting with the classroom about behavior
- 30 families received consultation from mental health professional about their child's behavior concerns
- 17 children received a formal assessment from the mental health professional
- 23 children received an outside referral for services with assistance from the mental health professional

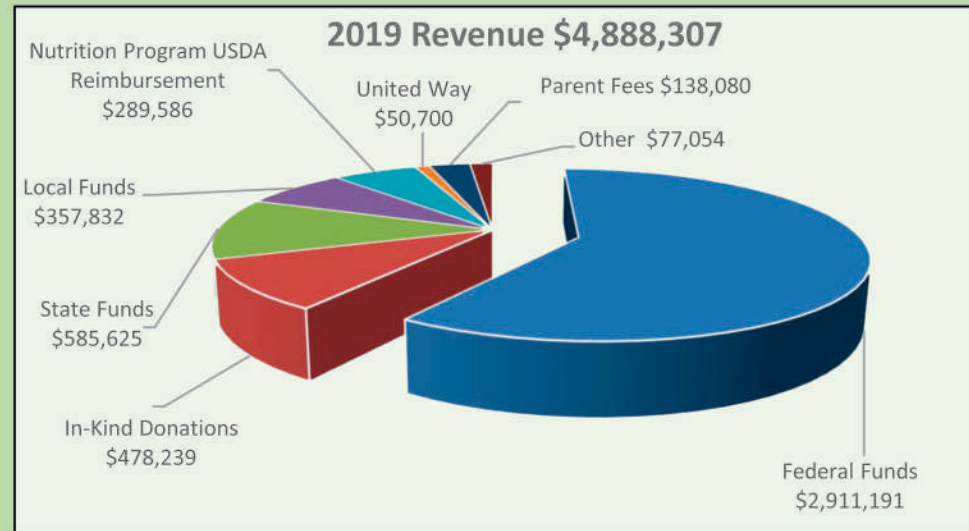
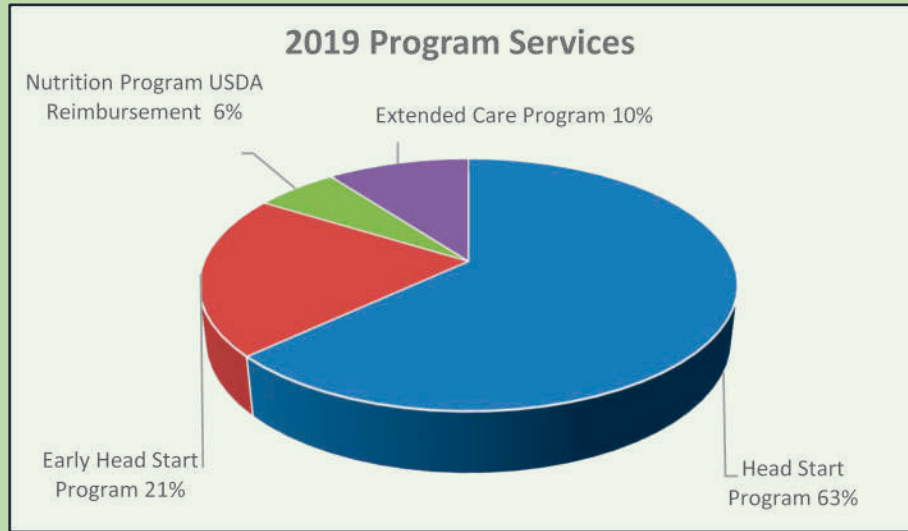
Mental Health Services and Supports for Staff

Classroom staff support provided by licensed clinical social worker throughout the year

- Classroom observation & reflective consultation
- Professional development around trauma and attachment



FINANCE



Financial Audit

The Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care d/b/a Promise Early Education Center audit for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 was completed with the results being an unqualified opinion.

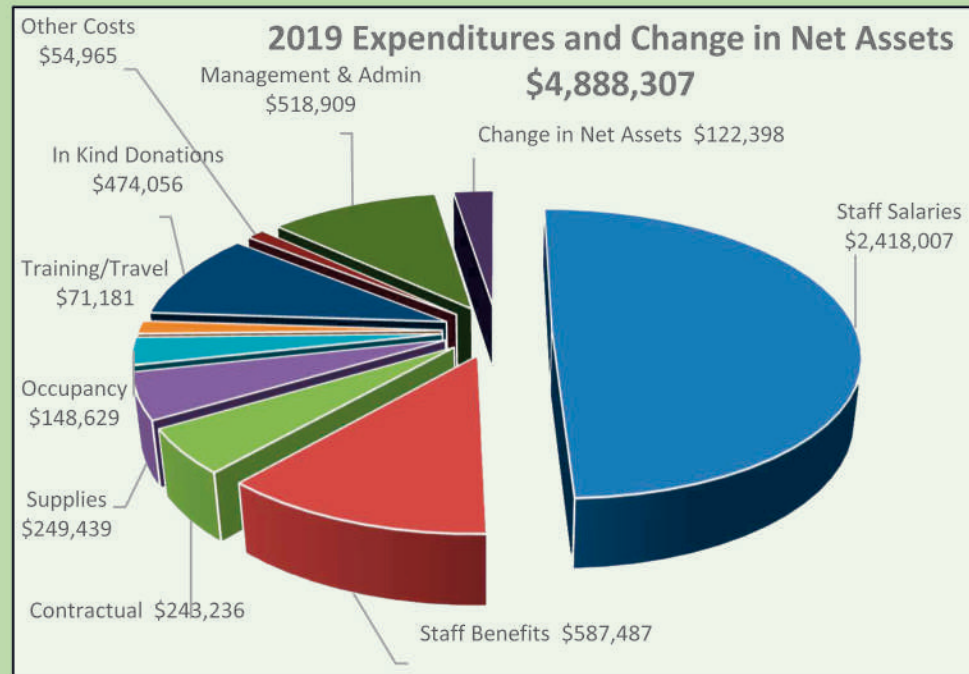
Federal Review (Most Recent)

On April 30-May 3, 2018 the Administration for Child and Families conducted a Focus AreaTwo Monitoring Review, and a CLASS Review, based on information gathered no corrective actions 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 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



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 18/19 fiscal year, the Agency spent almost \$15,000 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. Family Services staff attends monthly

Communities of Practice sessions per year with the Family Services Manager and peers to learn from each other's situations. Three 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 18/19 fiscal year, our Agency provided staff with over 5000 hours of professional development and spent over \$69,819!

As a result, our staff are compassionate and knowledgeable professionals that are dedicated and skilled at meeting the needs of the children and families we serve.



**Spruce Mountain/
RSU 73 Pre-K Partnership**
Two Integrated Classrooms
081 Teacher/2 Ed Techs with family service responsibilities

Coburn Building
One HS/Extended Care Room
Operating 6:30 am to 5:30 pm

One EHS Classroom
One HS Part Day Room
One HS Full Day Room

Administration 2nd floor

Hillview Head Start
Two HS Classrooms with LPS Slots

Offices for three Home Visitors serving 33 children age birth-5

Webster EHS/HS Extended Care
One EHS/Extended Care Room
One HS/Extended Care Room
Operating 6:30 am to 5:30 pm

**Connors Elementary School
Lewiston Public Schools
Pre-K Partnership**

Five HS/Pre K Classrooms
One Special Educ Room
Six 081 Teachers/7 Ed Tech IIIs/
2 Family Advocates

B Street Early Head Start
Two EHS Extended Care Classrooms serving children age 6 weeks to 3 years
Operating 6:30 am to 5:30 pm

FDC Head Start
One HS Full Day Classroom

Federal Enrollment
245 Federally funded slots
200 HS slots
45 EHS slots (33 Home Based)

Engaged Communities

Empowered Families

School-Ready Kids.

Because
every child
has promise



Main Office

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