



Annual Report

FY 2021

Dear Friends,

Dear Friends:

In 2020-2021 the pandemic continued to affect our program, staff, children, and families. Following our return to in-person programming staff agencywide embraced the challenges brought on by COVID-19. The effects of COVID included a reduction in children in each classroom, fewer class days in pre k partnership rooms, and changes to classroom operations and environment. Program adjustments included social distancing, masking, and individualized activities involving sand and water along with remote support to families all implemented to keep our program open and safe while serving 281 children throughout the year.

We have a fantastic teaching team and support personnel who navigated evolving expectations with grace and success bringing their best daily. They became effective communicators providing virtual learning and hands on activities to families remotely. Teaching staff's commitment along with reduced class sizes and increased parent involvement resulted in some of the highest child development outcome scores to date.

Promise Early Education Center continues to build on 56 years as a Head Start funded program to ensure all eligible children have access to equitable learning opportunities. We look forward to continued collaboration with our many community partners in 2022 as it is our privilege to bring high-quality early childhood education to families living in Androscoggin County.

Sincerely,



Betsy Norcross Plourde, LMSW
Executive Director

Learning During a Pandemic

Exploring how to understand emotions while wearing a mask



Using the environment to engineer physical distancing



Promise Early Education Center

Average Daily Attendance

HS 85%

EHS 88%

of Meals Served Daily: 180

Children Enrolled at Promise

Two years: 80

Three or more years: 29



285 Children & Families Served

Under 1 year old: 14

1 year old: 30

2 year olds: 30

3 year olds: 65

4 year olds: 102

5 year olds: 40

Pregnant women: 4

Families Experiencing Homelessness

16



281 Children Served

Children ages 3-5: 214

Children ages 0-3: 67



Family Status

256 families

43% two parent families

57% single parent families

Race/Ethnicity

American Indian/Alaskan: 1

Black/African: 120

Caucasian: 138

Multi-racial: 13

Hispanic: 10

Other: 1

Eligibility

Income Eligible: 224

Public Assistance: 27

Foster Care: 2

Homeless: 5

Over Income: 27

Dual Language Learners

102 (36% enrolled children)

Languages

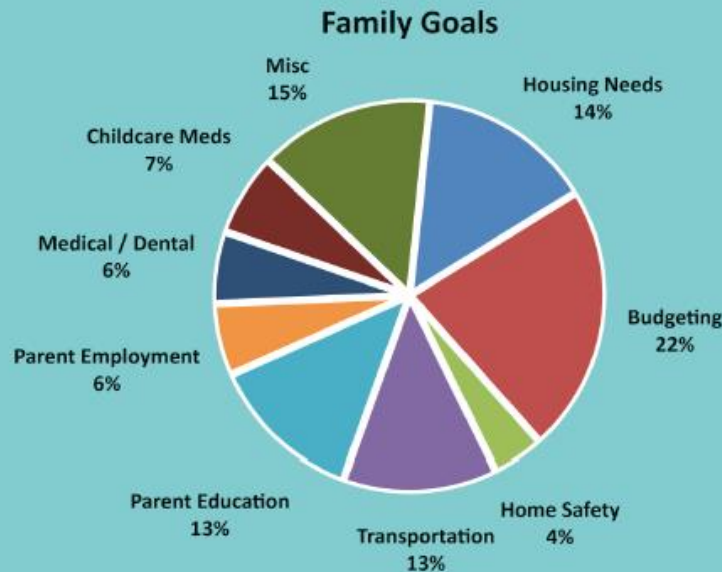
English: 65%

African: 33%

Other: 2%

Family Services

Family partnerships support family well-being and help families to meet their goals for themselves and their children. Engaging families in goal setting helps parents identify strengths, needs and interests to help families grow strong. Strong, healthy families give their children the best chance at success in school and in life.



"I see that the teachers have gone above and beyond with the take and make activities from home and working really hard with their students. In unprecedented times they have done great at overcoming challenges and teaching these preschool students. I just want to thank Ms. Campbell and Ms. Virgin for all they have done!"

-- Promise Parent

Food Pantry

Promise is proud to partner with Good Shepherd to provide fresh produce, dairy and shelf-stable items to our families. In FY21 the food pantry distributed 25,107 pounds of food.

Parents at each site are offered the opportunity to shop from a wide assortment of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, canned items and cleaning supplies. Over 80 % of Promise families accessed the Pantry on a regular basis in FY21.





HV Outdoor Visits

The 5-week summer program focused on Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Math. Children received materials and non-fiction texts each week. Teachers read books and modeled use of new toys and games in Zoom classes and teacher created videos. During outdoor home visits, teachers supported families use of resources using hula hoops as a visual prompt to physically distance. Families reported that learning how to use the materials with their children helped them feel more confident about engaging in the activities!



Support Parents in Play

As their child's first and most influential teacher, parents have an important role in Head Start. Parents participate in numerous activities throughout the year including parent meetings, parent trainings, home visits, socializations, policy council and the development of Family Partnership Agreements.



Nutrition

USDA meals and snacks are provided to meet the nutritional needs of young children. Meals at Promise promote a healthy relationship to a child's first foods. Children learn to make healthy food choices by seeing positive attitudes from teachers and peers. Mealtimes and nutritional activities help support a child's learning, social, and fine motor skills.

Health/Special Services

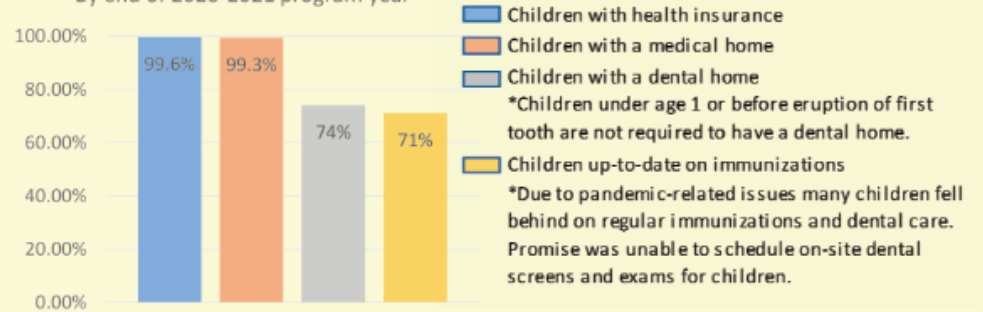
As a Head Start program, Promise Early Education Center has a Health Advisory Committee (HAC) which supports children’s healthy development. The HAC is composed of local providers who represent a variety of social services agencies.

- Child Development Services**
- Community Clinical Services**
- Healthy Androscoggin**
- Optometric Association**
- Partnership for Children’s Oral Health**
- Pediatric Associates**
- Pine Tree Legal**
- Red Maple Audiology**
- Sandcastle Audiology**
- WIC**

The HAC plays a key role in community planning by facilitating communication, cooperation, and the sharing of information among organizations to promote access and delivery of health services to children and families.

Child Health

Health Data - Head Start and Early Head Start
By end of 2020-2021 program year



Special Services	Head Start	Early Head Start
Children with an active IEP/IFSP	56	11

Disability Categories	Head Start	Early Head Start
Developmental Delay	3	11
Speech & Language	27	--
Other Health Impairment (ADHD)	15	--
Autism	5	--

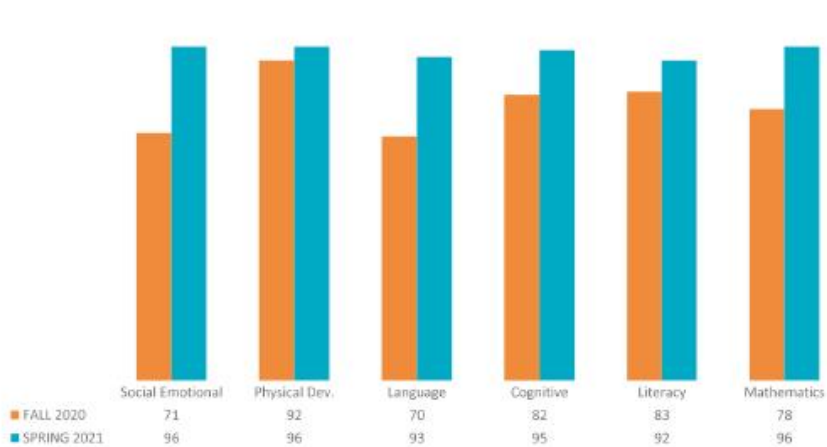
Mental Health Services / Supports

A licensed clinical social worker provided 110 hours of reflective consultation to teachers, home visitors, and family advocates in FY21.



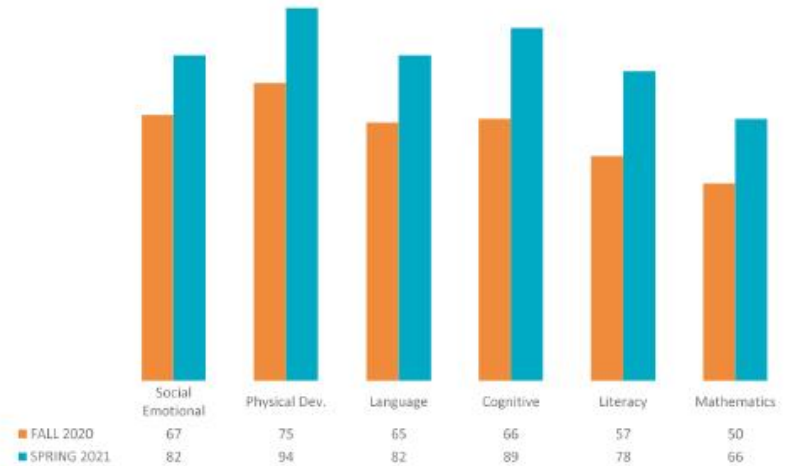
EHS Child Outcomes Fall 2020 & Spring 2021

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



HS Child Outcomes Fall 2020 & Spring 2021

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



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)

Community Impact

“Throughout my time at Bates, I volunteered in a Promise classroom and worked with the school on two separate projects. When I look back at my time volunteering, I realize how much I owe Promise and its teachers, who showed me what it means not only to be an impactful teacher, but a compassionate one. There is no way to describe the mentors I’ve had in classrooms [at] Promise, how in awe I am of their efforts to teach children not just academics, but confidence, kindness, and empathy. They have been some of my best teachers. Promise showed me what authentic community impact looks like. In turn, Promise fosters the kind of growth and empowerment I’ll spend my whole life seeking to inspire within my own students.”

- Emily Bass, Bates '21

Financial Report

REVENUE

Federal	\$	3,186,517
State	\$	450,205
USDA Nutrition	\$	258,281
Extended Childcare	\$	421,745
Local	\$	341,136
Other	\$	47,589
In-Kind	\$	436,148
Total Revenue	\$	5,141,621

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$	3,058,701
Fringe	\$	751,778
Contract	\$	264,731
Train / Travel	\$	66,211
Occupancy	\$	113,270
Supplies	\$	298,503
Other	\$	83,375
In-Kind	\$	436,148
Total Expenses	\$	5,072,717

Audit Report

The most recent Independent Audit Report was completed for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, and was an unmodified, clean opinion in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America (USA).

Federal Monitoring Review

In November 2020, the Administration for Children and Families conducted a Focus Area One (FA1) monitoring review. Based on information gathered, our program successfully met all requirements in each of the following areas:

- Program Design, Management, and Quality Improvement
- Designing Quality Education and Child Development Program Services
- Designing Quality Health Program Services
- Designing Quality Family and Community Engagement Services
- Developing Effective Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance Strategies and Fiscal Infrastructure.

Self Assessment

The Annual Self-Assessment provides Head Start programs with the ability to internally monitor our program. Promise's last annual self-assessment was completed in May 2021. For full Community Assessment please visit our website at promiseearlyeducation.org.

Staff Recognition



Amber Dawn Doiron
We Promise Award
Acceptance



Erica Russell
We Promise Award
Dedication



Kristyn Stebbins
We Promise Award
Compassion



Diana Smith
The Delle Peterson
Award

Supporting Workforce Development

Fall Semester 2020

- UMF Intern (1)
- Lewiston Regional Technical Center (LRTC) Students (4)

Spring Semester 2021

- UMF Interns (2)
- UMF Practicum Student (1)
- Lewiston Regional Technical Center (LRTC) Students (7)
- Bates Student Volunteer (1)



Supporting our Staff

Promise supports staff in furthering their education through a generous tuition assist program that pays for courses up front. During FY21, \$29,201.66 in tuition supported 11 employees in furthering their education.

A robust professional development program is also provided to enhance staff skills and knowledge. Training opportunities include: CPR and First Aid, Safety Care, Med 101, Active Supervision, Pyramid (supports children's emotional health), Child Abuse, Second Language Acquisition, Culturally Responsive Environments, Family Development Credential and Child Development Associate Credential.

Promise Locations

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

Coburn Building

Administration 2nd Floor
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

Connors Elementary School

Lewiston Public Schools
Pre-K Partnership
Five HS / Pre-K Classrooms
One Special Educ Room

FDC Head Start

One HS Full Day Classroom

Hillview Head Start

Two HS Classrooms
Offices for Three Home Visitors Serving 33
Children Age Birth-5 Years

Spruce Mountain

RSU 73 Pre-K Partnership
Two Integrated Classrooms

Webster EHS / HS Extended Care

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

Federal Enrollment

245 Federally Funded Slots
200 HS Slots
45 EHS Slots

FY21 Donor Recognition

Agren Appliance
Androscoggin Bank
Ann B. Ward
Auburn Savings Bank
Barbara Trafton
Betsy Norcross Plourde
& Rene Plourde Jr.
Brann & Isaacson
Bruce Damon & Marcia Baxter
Carol A. Mashaw
Carolyn & Stephen Kasabian
Central Maine Technology
Chip & Jane Morrison
Chris & Monica Miller
Colleen & Bruce Rioux
Colleen Quint
Craig Saddle mire
Cynthia J. Peters
Danny Danforth
David Das & Jane Costlow
Dorothy Crowley Noel
Drs. Edward & Candace Walworth
Eileen Fair
Elaine Makas, PH.D
Electrical Systems of Maine, Inc.
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Mary & David MacMahon
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Peter & Suzette Cyr
Peter Geiger
Philip & Michelle Doucette
Platz Associates
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Richard Whiting
Roger & Jacqueline Caron
Roopers Beverage & Redemption
Sam Boss
Sam's Italian Foods
Spiller's
Stern Consulting International
Steve Jørgensen
Susan Weiss
Thomas & Kathryn Tracy
Tia Zukowski
Urquart's Lawn & Landscape
Virgina Starbird
Wylie & Barbara Mitchell

Every effort has been made to ensure that this list of donors is correct. If your name is misspelled or omitted, please accept our sincere apologies, and inform us at 207-795-4040.

Because every child has promise.



Engaged
Communities.



Empowered
Families.



School-Ready
Kids.

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Promise
Early Education Center
The Head Start Program of Androscoggin County