



Dear Friends:

As the Director at Promise Early Education Center, I take tremendous pride in sharing the 2022-2023 Annual Report with our Head Start families and stakeholders. Thank you for your continued interest and investment in our program. We strive to be a model of excellence in early care and education, and this year marked an important step in achieving that goal with a successful review by the Office of Head Start that highlighted the accomplishments in all components of program systems which encourage innovation and ongoing efforts to improve.

Every member of our team is committed to providing a quality learning environment to children and support services to families. Our success in providing quality education and care for children is only possible due to the dedication of our staff and the support of our partners as well as our Board of Directors and Policy Council. Most of all, I want to recognize parents who are children's first and best teachers. We are humbled by the trust parents place in us to educate and care for their children.

This report is a snapshot of our efforts last year to engage parents, children, and the community in educational experiences that relate directly to our school readiness and program goals. The achievements of last year, most notably our ability to reach full enrollment occurred despite workforce challenges. We hope you find it an uplifting reflection of our commitment to nurturing positive learning environments for children in Androscoggin County.

Our mission statement “to educate, engage, and empower families, one child at a time” ensures we stay focused on our program goals. We are excited to share with you an overview of another successful year of services provided to children and families!

Sincerely,



Betsy Norcross Plourde, LMSW
Executive Director



Promise Early Education Center 2023

Average Daily Attendance:

HS: 85%
EHS: 85%

267 Children Served

Children aged 3-5: 209
Children aged 0-3: 58

Children enrolled at Promise for:

Two years: 40
Three+ years: 14

Families Experiencing Homelessness:

14

Children up to date on immunizations:
100%

Children & Families Served:

15 under the age of 1
1-Year-Olds: 25
2-Year-Olds: 21
3-Year-Olds: 61
4-Year-Olds: 141
5-Year-Olds: 4
Pregnant Parent: 2

Eligibility:

Income Eligible: 90
Public Assistance: 134
Foster Care: 7
Homeless: 7
Over Income: 29

Race/Ethnicity:

Black/African: 129
Caucasian: 107
Multi-Racial: 19
Other: 10

Family Status:

253 Families
Two parent: 124
Single Parent: 129

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 can help 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. In 2023, 230 families at Promise engaged in Family Partnerships with their Family Advocates.

Families set a total of 255 goals this year in the following areas:

Medical/Dental 26%
Housing 17%
Employment 12%
Basic needs 11%
Adult Education 10%
Transportation 4%
Budgeting 5%
Other 15%



“I value how much our child is cared for - it is very evident that Promise creates a safe and loving environment for our child. We are very satisfied with the service he receives!” - 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 FY23 the food pantry distributed 26,447.79 pounds of food equaling 22,039.83 meals *



Parents at each site are offered the opportunity to shop from a wide assortment of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, canned items, and cleaning supplies.

* Based on Feeding America’s calculation that 1.2 lbs. of food = 1 meal



Culturally Responsive Classroom Libraries

Children benefit from books that offer them windows into the lives of different people and books that act as mirrors, where they can see themselves positively reflected. Funding provided by the Nellie Mae Foundation allowed Promise to purchase 28 new books for each Head Start classroom. Each set of books included diverse characters and bilingual text.

Webster Street Community Garden

St. Mary's Nutrition Center & Lots to Gardens programming provided our Webster Head Start classroom access to the fenced-in garden across the street from our playground. The garden space includes a compost area, a shed for tools, seeds, seedlings, and water access for all gardeners. Children eagerly awaited the sprouting of their mystery flower seeds.

Nutrition

Healthy Androscoggin implements the Maine SNAP-Ed program which empowers community members to shop, cook, and eat healthy on a budget through group classes. Healthy Androscoggin provides cooking and nutrition sessions in Promise classrooms. Children have opportunities to try new foods, cook with their peers, and learn about healthy habits.

Health & Special Services

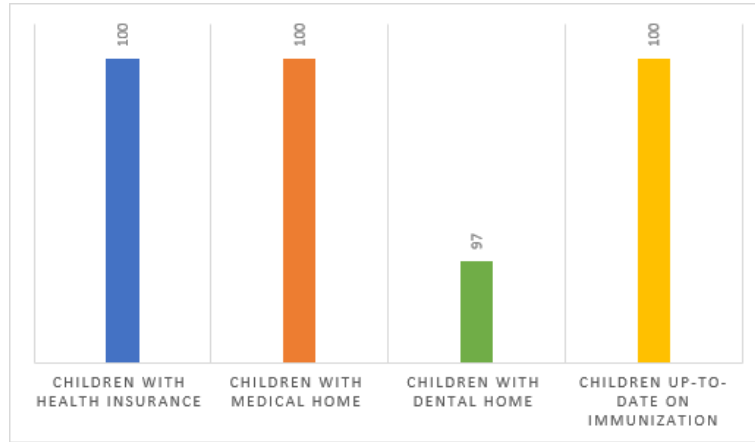
As a Head Start program, Promise Early Education Center has a Health Advisory Committee (HSAC) that supports children's healthy development. The HSAC is composed of local providers who represent a variety of social services agencies.

- Child Development Services**
- Community Clinical Services**
- Healthy Androscoggin**
- Optometric Association**
- Partners for Children's Oral Health**
- Pediatric Associates**
- Pine Tree Legal**
- Red Maple Audiology**
- Sandcastle**
- Lewiston Police Department**
- Auburn Police Department**
- Lewiston Fire Department**
- WIC**
- Lead Prevention**
- Maine CDC**

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

Promise Early Education Center works to ensure that all families enrolled in our program are educated on how Health and Wellness impact the growth and development of their child. With the help of local organizations like Healthy Androscoggin, Maine Oral Health Coalition, and our very own Nurse Consultant we are able to provide resources to families to meet a wide variety of Health and Wellness needs.

Health Data- Head Start and Early Head Start By end of 2022-2023 Program Year



Special Services 2022-2023

Early Head Start

- 9 IFSPs (Individual Family Service Plans)

Disability Categories

- 9 Developmental Delay

Head Start

- 64 IEPs (Individual Education Plans)

Disability Categories

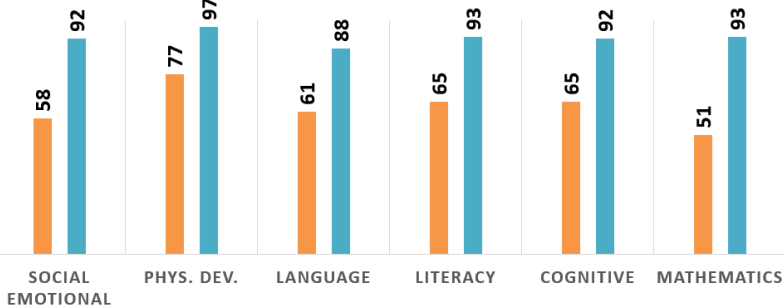
- 1 Developmental Delay
- 27 Speech & Language
- 15 Other Health Impairment (ADHD)
- 17 Autism
- 2 Intellectual Disability
- 2 Emotional Disturbance



HS Child Outcomes 2022-2023

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

■ Fall 2022 ■ Spring 2023

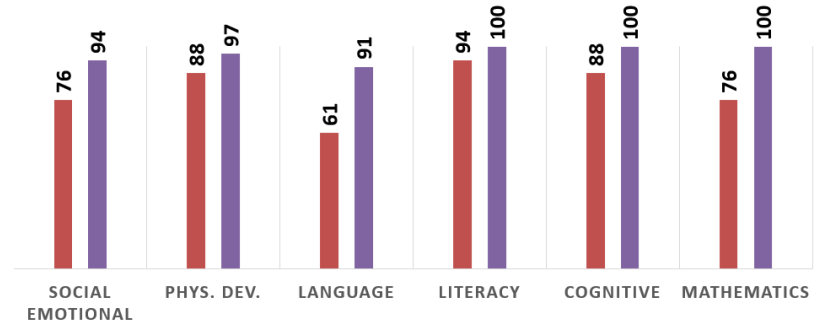


n=156

EHS Child Outcomes 2022-2023

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

■ Fall 2022 ■ Spring 2023



n=33

School Readiness Goals



Social and Emotional Development

Children will demonstrate an 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 and 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

Children will attend and engage in classroom activities
 Children will persist and follow activities through to completion
 Children will use creativity and imagination during play and routine task



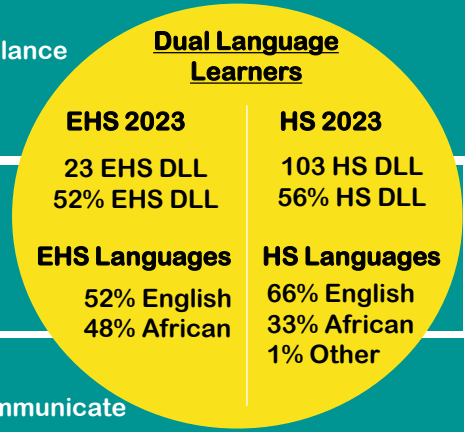
Language and Literacy

Children will develop increasing abilities to understand and use language to communicate
 Children will use an increasingly complex and varied spoken vocabulary
 Children will recognize matching sounds and rhymes in familiar words, games, songs, stories, and poems



Cognition and General Knowledge

Children will use mathematical skills to count, compare, relate, and identify patterns and problem solve
 Children will recognize and recall past experiences and apply knowledge to new experiences
 Children will use scientific inquiry skills (investigate, observe, predict, and draw new conclusions)



Financial Report

REVENUE

Federal	\$	3,834,887
State	\$	883,515
USDA Nutrition	\$	257,335
Client Fees	\$	533,412
Local	\$	551,395
Other	\$	119,271
In-Kind	\$	413,351
Total Revenue	\$	6,593,166

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$	3,460,856
Fringe	\$	754,238
Contract Services	\$	226,989
Train/Travel	\$	65,339
Occupancy	\$	311,170
Supplies	\$	502,506
Other	\$	92,117
Indirect	\$	564,485
In-Kind	\$	413,351
Total Expenses	\$	6,391,051

Audit Report

The Independent Audit Report was completed by Baker Newman Noyes, Certified Public Accountants. The most recent report was for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The audit report was an unmodified opinion in accordance with general accepted accounting in the United States of America (USGAAP).

Federal Monitoring Review

In May 2023, the Administration for Children and Families conducted a Focus Area Two (FA2) monitoring review. The report detailed information about our performance and compliance in all areas. We successfully met expectations in every program component (listed below):

- Program Management and Quality Improvement
- Quality Education and Child Development Services
- Quality Health Services
- Fiscal Infrastructure
- ERSEA: Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance

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 updated in 2023. For a full Community Assessment, please visit our website at www.promiseearlyeducation.org

Staff Recognition

**We Promise Award
Compassion**



Lydia Violette-Lee

**We Promise Award
Dedication**



Destiny Chretien

**The Dell Peterson
Award**



Brittany Virgin

Supporting Workforce Development



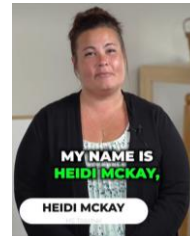
7 Practicum Students from Central Maine
Community College

2 Practicum Students from Lewiston Regional Tech
Center

1 Works Study Student from Bates



Check out some short clips of our staff at:
[facebook.com/StrengthenLA/reels/](https://www.facebook.com/StrengthenLA/reels/)



Promise Locations

Coburn Building

Administration 2nd floor
1 HS/Extended Care Room
Operating 7:00 am - 5:15 pm
1 EHS Classroom
1 HS/LPS Pre-K Room
1 HS Full Day Room

College Street

1 EHS/Extended Care Room
Classrooms Operate 7:00 am - 5:15 pm
2 EHS Rooms 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Connors Elementary School

Lewiston Public Schools
Pre-K Partnership
5 HS/Pre-K Classrooms
1 Special Education Room

FDC Head Start

1 HS Full Day Classroom

Hillview Head Start

1 HS/LPS Pre-K Room
1 HS Part Day Classroom
Offices for 3 Home Visitors serving children ages birth - 5

Spruce Mountain

RSU 73
Pre-K Partnership
2 Integrated
Classrooms

Webster EHS/HS Extended Care

1 EHS/Extended Care Room
1 HS/Extended Care Room
Operating 7:00 am-5:15 pm

FY22 Donor Recognition

Alfred & Martha Brodeur
Androscoggin Bank
Ann Ward
Anne McSweeney
Betsy Norcross Plourde & Rene Plourde
Bruce Allen
Budget Document
Technology/PRC Carol Mashaw
Carolyn Kasabian
Charles Morrison
Colleen Quint
Craig Saddlemire
David Das
Dr. Edward Walworth
Eileen Fair, LCSW
Elaine Makas
Elizabeth Ooi
Fidelity Charitable
Gary & Elaine Hemenway
Jim & Nancy Lamson
June Leahey
Karen White
L B Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Lewiston Budget Document
MacMahon Charitable
Marian & Ned Claxton
Mary & Richard Norcross
Mary & David MacMahon
Maura McSweeney
Ned & Marian Claxton
Nellie Mae Foundation
Payroll Management Inc.
Richard & Bridget Whiting
Robert Gardner
Sharon Bergeron
Spiller's Office Supplies & Equipment
Edward Walworth, MD
Theodore Case
Thomas Platz
Tom & Kathryn Tracy
Urquhart's Lawn & Landscape

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Engaged communities.



Empowered families.



School-ready kids.

Because every child has promise.



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