



**Promise**  
Early Education Center

**Annual Report** FY 2024

## Dear Friends:

We are very pleased to share with you our FY 2024 Annual Report which highlights Promise's many achievements in the past year. Since the early days of Head Start Promise Early Education Center formerly known in our community as Androscoggin Head Start has been and continues to be committed to providing high-quality early learning opportunities for young children. Every member of our team is committed to ensuring children receive the best education in nurturing environments that are well-organized with age-appropriate equipment and materials. We also engage with parents providing support services for the whole family.

Over the past year we provided early learning at seven locations in eighteen classrooms, six of which were pre-k collaboration classrooms along with offering families home-based services. In addition, Promise supported over 50 Family Child Care Homes in central and southern Maine through the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program.

We are honored by the trust and partnership of parents, awed by the daily commitment of staff, and fortunate to have such strong community partners supporting us to provide the best services to children and families in our community.

We are committed to educating, engaging, and empowering families, one child at a time. Agencywide our efforts for all our work rest on the foundation of safety, best practice, and consistency.

We are happy to share with you the following information and data which reflects another successful year of services to children and families!

Sincerely,



Betsy Norcross Plourde, LMSW  
Executive Director



# Promise Early Education Center 2024

## Average Daily Attendance:

HS: 89%  
EHS: 84%

## 283 Children Served

Children aged 3-5: 227  
Children aged 0-3: 56

## Children enrolled at Promise for:

Two years: 69  
Three+ years: 15

## Families Experiencing Homelessness:

16

## Children up to date on immunizations:

100%



## Children & Families Served:

5 under the age of 1  
1-Year-Olds: 19  
2-Year-Olds: 28  
3-Year-Olds: 75  
4-Year-Olds: 146  
5-Year-Olds: 8

## Eligibility:

Income Eligible: 55  
Public Assistance: 178  
Foster Care: 10  
Homeless: 16  
Over Income: 23

## Race/Ethnicity:

Black/African: 140  
Caucasian: 108  
Multi-Racial: 21  
Other: 14

## Family Status:

Families 272  
Two parent 165  
Single Parent 107

## Family Services

The Family Assessment is a tool used by the parent and Family Advocate to identify strengths and needs of families. Parents and Family Advocates use the information gathered in the assessments to identify goals and steps to complete these goals .

Family Advocates meet with families throughout the year following up on needs, to share resources and celebrate family gains

The Family Assessment is comprised into the following categories: family well-being, positive parent child relationships, families as lifelong educators, families as learners, family engagement in transitions, family connections to peers and community and families as advocates and leaders. Scores range from 0 (crisis) to 5 (thriving) in each category, leading to an overall assessment score of 0 to 100. This year families averaged a 13-point growth!



### ParentPowered 2024

ParentPowered is an evidence-based parenting curriculum to families at no cost that meets the highest level of evidence by the Office of National Head Start's Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement. Parents receive weekly text messages with fun facts and easy tips to help their children learn and grow. This year 269 parents participated in this curriculum, receiving a total of 19,000 messages! We have had a great response from parents

- 100% of parents surveyed reported that ParentPowered has helped them to understand how their children are growing and learning.
- 100% of parents surveyed reported that ParentPowered has helped them to understand their children's behavior.
- 100% of parents surveyed reported that they do ParentPowered self-care activities.

### What parents say about Promise? (121 parents responded to annual survey)

99% of families state staff keep them informed of their child's learning

99% of families state staff have supported them in meeting the health needs of their child

98% of families stated staff have helped connect them to community resources

100% of families state staff are welcoming and respectful

99% of families stated staff are caring and work well with my child

*"Promise gives hope when circumstances take it away. So much help with resources." – Promise Parent*

## Nutrition

Healthy Androscoggin partners with Promise Early Education Center to provide families and children with Maine SNAP- ED benefits the opportunity to learn how to shop, cook and eat healthy food items on a budget through free community based class options.

Healthy Androscoggin provides cooking and nutrition sessions that empower community members and our families to cook and learn about different healthy food options that are provided in our classrooms and how to recreate these delicious healthy meals on a budget at home!



## Maine Diaper Project

The Maine Diaper Project, a pilot program funded by the Office of Community Resources in the Administration for Children and Families, aims to strengthen and expand diaper distribution through a network of community partners including Promise! We were able to provide 125 free diapers and two packages of wipes per month to 63 families this year!

## CLASS Data 2023 & 2024

CLASS is scored on a 7-point scale *(except for Negative Climate)*

CLASS Domain	PROMISE Scores 2023* <small>*OHS Video N=13</small>	PROMISE Scores 2024 <small>Internal N=12</small>	OHS Quality Threshold	OHS Competitive Threshold
Emotional Support	5.97	6.26	6	5
Classroom Organization	5.97	5.92	6	5
Instructional Support	3.64	3.77	3	2.3

- Emotional Support** assesses the degree to which teachers establish and promote a positive climate in their classroom through their everyday interactions.
- Classroom Organization** assesses classroom routines and procedures related to the organization and management of children's behavior, time, and attention in the classroom.
- Instructional Support** assesses the ways in which teachers implement the curriculum to effectively promote cognitive and language development

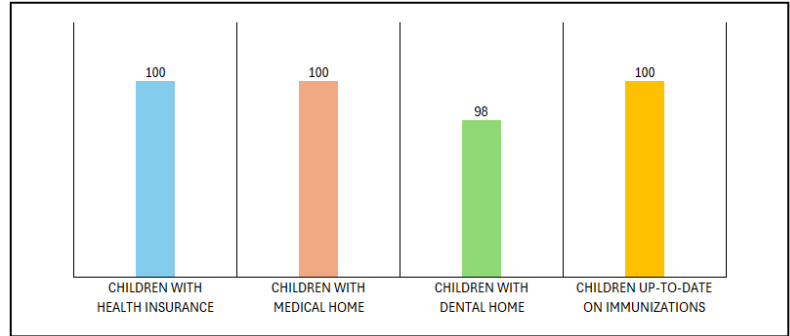
# Health & Special Services

As a Head Start program, Promise Early Education Center has a Health Advisory Committee that supports children's healthy development. It is composed of local providers representing a variety of 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
- Lewiston Police Department
- Auburn Police Department
- Lewiston Fire Department
- WIC
- Maine Lead Prevention
- Maine CDC
- Andwell
- Eat Play Grow
- Growing Minds Therapy



Health Data- Head Start and Early Head Start By end of 2023-2024 Program Year



## Early Intervention July 2023-June 2024

59 IEPs

7 IFSPs

### SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRALS:

- 66 referrals for special education to date
- 21 children still in Child Find Process

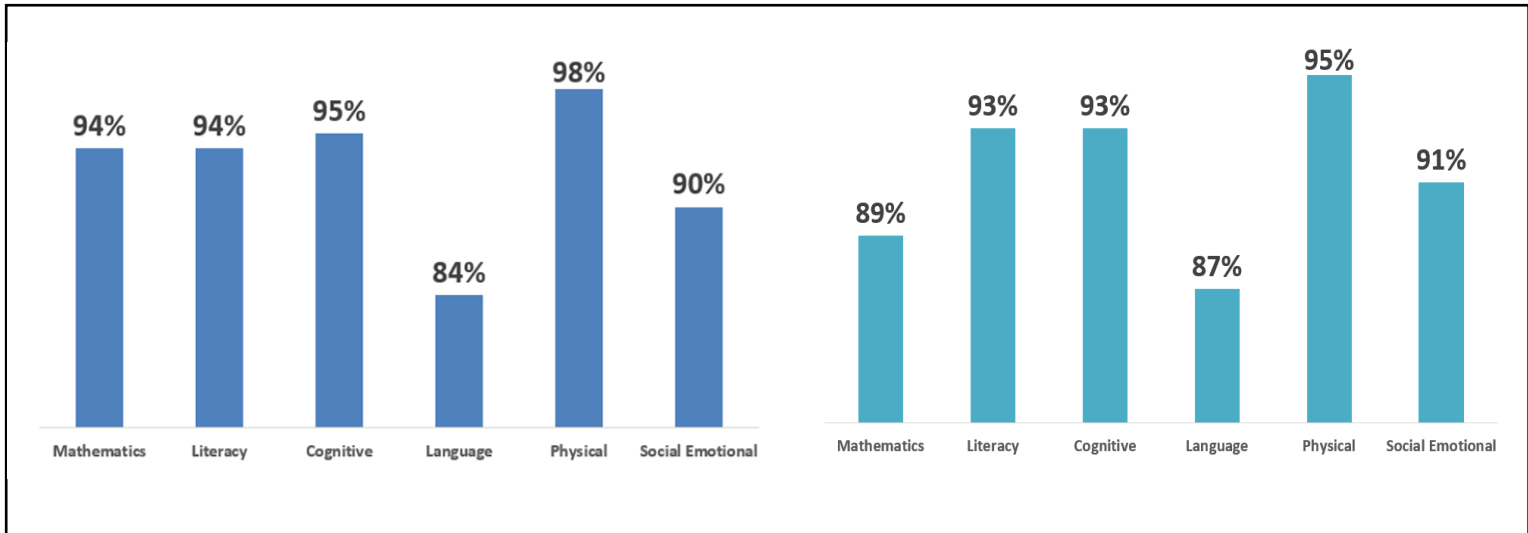
### DISABILITY CATEGORY

- 30 Speech & Language
- 16 Health Impairment (ADHD)
- 15 Autism
- 6 Developmental Delay
- 2 Intellectual Disability

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.

## EHS Child Outcome Data Spring 2024\*

## HS Child Outcome Data Spring 2024\*



Data represents % of children who meet or exceed developmental expectations.

Assessments are completed by inter-rater reliable teaching staff using the *Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System*.

\*All data is reflective of children who have been in the program for all checkpoints.

# School Readiness Goals

## Social & Emotional Development

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

Manages feelings

Responds to emotional cues

## Approaches to Learning

*During play, children will manage their actions, words, emotions & behavior with increasing independence.*

Follows limits and expectations

Interacts with peers

Balances needs and rights of self and others

## Perceptual, Motor & Physical Development

*Children will demonstrate control of large and small muscles for movement*

Demonstrates gross-motor manipulative skills

Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination

## Language and Literacy

*Children will attend to and understand increasingly complex communication and language from others.*

Listens to and understands increasingly complex language a. Comprehends language

Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills a. Engages in conversations

Uses language to express thoughts and needs

## Cognition

*Children will increase their ability to reason logically and use strategies to solve challenging problems.*

Demonstrates positive approaches to learning

## Dual Language Learners

**57% EHS DLL    47% HS DLL**

### EHS Languages    HS Languages

**52% English    66% English**  
**48% African    33% African**  
**1% Other**

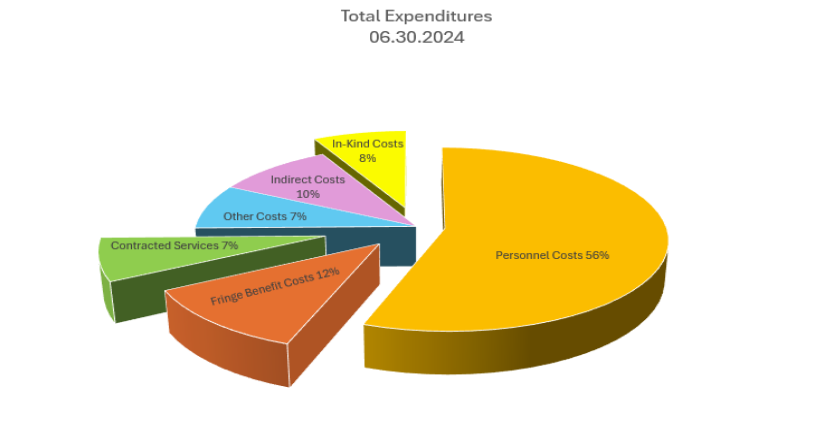
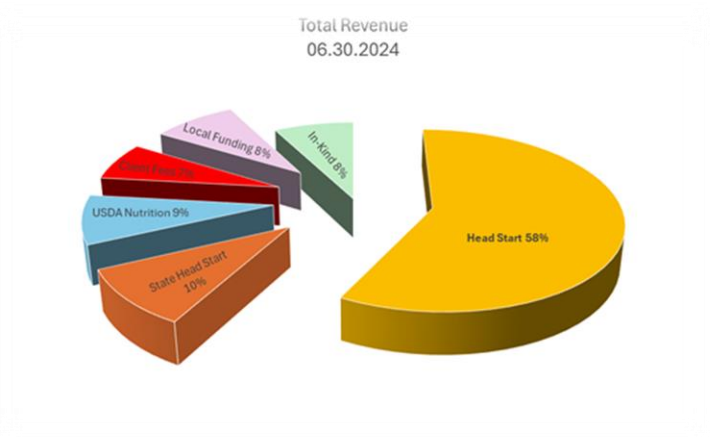


***“The teachers are doing great with my daughter. She did not know English entering school and she has learned so much!” – Promise Parent***

***“My experience at Promise has been wonderful. Anything I need they help me accomplish!” – Promise Parent***



# Financial Report – Total Revenue/Expenditures \$6,569,300



## 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, 2023 to June 30, 2024. The audit report was an unmodified clean opinion in accordance with general accepted accounting in the United States of America (USGAAP). The Financial Report was adjusted after GAAP to the Federal Expenditures and does not tie to the Statement of Financial Position (Agency Balance Sheet).

The Annual Self-Assessment provides Head Start programs with the ability the internally monitor our program. Promise's last annual self-assessment was updated in 2024. For a full Community Assessment, please visit our website at [www.promisearlyeducation.org](http://www.promisearlyeducation.org).

## 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

# Staff Recognition

## We Promise Award



**Acceptance:**  
Kaitlyn Knight

**Dedication:**  
Abi Doyle

**Marcia Lovell:**  
Crystal Kirk

**Compassion:**  
Vicky Parks



## The Dell Peterson Award



**Sam Blanchette & Michele Gagnon**

## Workforce Development and Community Connections 2023-2024



Central Maine Community College ECE Practicum Students: **10**

Lewiston Regional Technical Center ECE students: **9**

Bates College Volunteer: **1**

Auburn Librarian- **1**

Lewiston Library Book Reach Volunteers: **2**

# Promise Locations

## Coburn Building

Administration 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
1 HS/Extended Care Room  
1 EHS/Extended Care Classroom  
Extended Care Classrooms Operate 7:00 am - 5:15 pm  
1 HS/LPS Pre-K Room

## College Street

1 EHS/Extended Care Room  
Extended Care 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  
4 HS/Pre-K Classrooms  
1 Special Education Room

## FDC Head Start

1 HS 6 hour/day Classroom

## Hillview Head Start

1 HS/LPS Pre-K Room  
1 HS 6-hour/day Classroom  
Home Visitor serving pregnant women and children 0 - 5

## Spruce Mountain

RSU 73  
Pre-K Partnership Classroom

## Webster EHS/HS Extended Care

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

# FY24 Donor Recognition

Betsy Norcross Plourde &  
Rene Plourde  
Carson Dellossa Foundation  
Catherine & Mike Cary  
Charles Morrison  
Colleen Quint  
Cynthia Peters  
David & Mary MacMahon  
David Das  
Dr. Edward Walworth  
Eileen Fair, LCSW  
Elwood Trask  
Emory Thoren  
Estelle Rubenstein

Good Shephard Food Bank  
Karen White  
L B Electrical Contractors,  
Inc.  
Mary Ann & Richard Norcross  
Michael Carey  
Michael Lajoie  
Monica Miller  
Ned & Marian Claxton  
Nellie Mae Foundation  
PayPals Giving Fund  
Payroll Management Inc.  
Shaw's  
Stephen & Carolyn Kaisben  
Urquhart's Lawn & Landscape

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

**“Very grateful for the support both with education and health and community support. I love how much my child loves school and their teachers” – Promise Parent**



Engaged communities.



Empowered families.



School-ready kids.

# Because every child has promise.



[Facebook.com/promiseeec](https://www.facebook.com/promiseeec)



[Instagram.com/promiseearlyeducationcenter](https://www.instagram.com/promiseearlyeducationcenter)



[Twitter.com/promiseeec](https://www.twitter.com/promiseeec)