



Every Child Counts

2018 Head Start Outcomes Report



LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
Helping People. Changing Lives.



Dear Friends,

At Lorain County Community Action Agency, we strive to serve and empower Lorain County residents in need. Nothing is more empowering than an education which is why our Head Start program has long been a flagship of the agency.

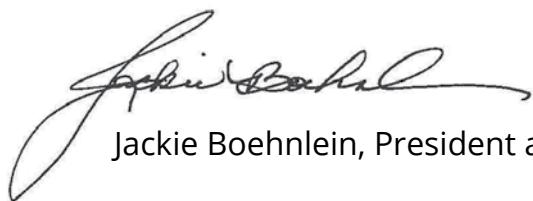
After more than 50 years of preparing children for school success, Head Start has touched millions of lives across the nation. You probably know at least one Head Start graduate or maybe you are one yourself.

We continue to respond to the changing needs of the parents and families we serve. We have added more full-day classrooms and optimized

instruction time. We have partnered with public schools and private institutions to place centers where they are needed the most.

Family engagement is crucial to the success of Head Start and we thank every parent, grandparent and volunteer who stepped up to make a difference during the 2017-18 school year. You made sure our students know **Every Child Counts.**

More than 500 youngsters are on their way to Kindergarten classes this fall, invigorated with a love of learning and ready to take advantage of their Head Start in life.



Jackie Boehlein, President and CEO



Shauna Matelski, Head Start Director



Five Star Centers

All of LCCAA's directly operated centers have earned the highest rating from Step Up to Quality: five stars. Many of our partner centers are also rated at five stars and none has fewer than three.

What is Step Up to Quality?

Ohio created its five-star rating system to recognize and promote early learning and development programs that meet quality standards over and above the minimum health and safety licensing requirements.

The program has been voluntary; however, beginning in 2020, all early childhood programs must be rated or they will be ineligible for public funds. LCCAA has been

fortunate to have partners who work hard to exceed minimum standards. All of LCCAA's partner centers are rated at three stars or higher.

Higher ratings are given to programs employing teachers with more specialized training as well as enhanced parent, family and community engagement, among other criteria.

For additional details on the program, visit www.earlychildhoodohio.org/sutq.php.

"True stars rise to the top, not by chance but through purpose and passion."

What is Head Start?

Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded programs focused on comprehensive child development. LCCAA has been Lorain County's only Head Start provider for more than 50 years. We offer center-based, school-based and home-based options.



Early Head Start supports pregnant women and monitors growing babies for unique needs.

Head Start students prepare for Kindergarten and become lifelong learners.

Full and part day options are available. Students receive as much as **40 hours** of instruction each week from teams of teachers.

Each child is unique and LCCAA Head Start's approach honors that uniqueness with a variety of teaching methods designed to prepare all of them for Kindergarten success.

Who is Served?



Head Start and Early Head Start serve low-income children ages 0 to 5 and pregnant women.

Head Start families must live at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL).

Families receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) are automatically eligible. Homeless children, children in foster care are also automatically eligible.

Head Start and Early Head Start also serve children with disabilities.

Head Start works with local school districts through screenings and referrals on a wide range of disabilities. LCCAA is deeply committed to early intervention.

Upon referral, school districts may create an Individual Education Plan with goals and specific services a child will need to reach those goals.

Ready for Kindergarten



Our teachers are lifelong learners who pass on their enthusiasm to their students.

LCCAA directly operates five Head Start centers where each classroom is led by two teachers with degrees.

They use the national Head Start framework and the Ohio Department of Education's standards for child development to meet kids where they are, build essential skills and defy expectations.

Head Start Framework

Approaches to Learning

Approaches to Learning
Creative Arts Expression

Cognition and General Knowledge

English Language Development
Logic and Reasoning
Mathematics Knowledge and Skills
Science Knowledge and Skills
Social Studies Knowledge and Skills

Language and Literacy

Language Development
Literacy Knowledge and Skills

Physical Development and Health

Social and Emotional Development

Head Start graduates are ready for Kindergarten. They are ready to learn to read and write and can confidently leave their parents and caregivers.

They are curious and creative, can care for their own basic needs and are beginning to reason and solve problems.



Partnering with Parents



Parents are encouraged to volunteer in classrooms and attend parent meetings. They're also invited for special events like Read to Me Daddy.



Working with parents and supporting children and families along positive developmental pathways really does give families a good Head Start.

Interventions delivered early in a child's life have a particularly powerful effect on child, parent and family outcomes as compared to interventions made later in childhood or during adolescence.

Head Start centers itself on strengthening parenting and supporting families so that children thrive and succeed.



**Thank you to the members of the
2017-18 Parent Policy Council!**

Reginald Cremeans, President
Tami Krugman, Vice President
Daniel Hunter, Assistant Secretary
Cierra Brady
Gina Gordon
Rebecka Hardwick
Amber Hilton
Jamie Jonke
Cara Kashmer
Felicia Randall
Candice Regal
Justin Smith
Monique West
Susan West

Growing and Learning

Widely Held Expectations are tasks and skills children of a certain age are expected to know and be able to perform. They apply to all children in an age group regardless of their household income.

Many preschoolers enter Head Start with little to no learning background. By the end of the year, the number of children exceeding expectations has skyrocketed and very few remain below average.

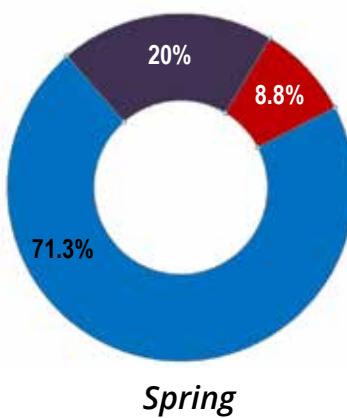
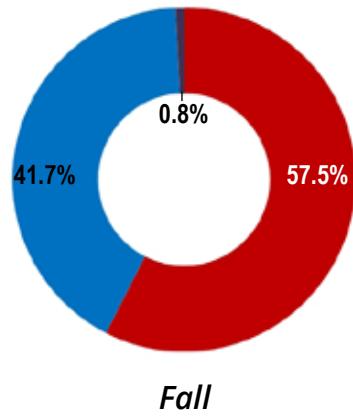
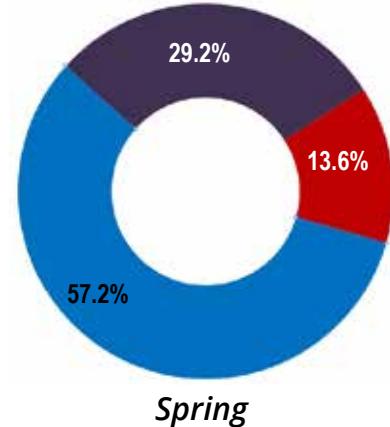
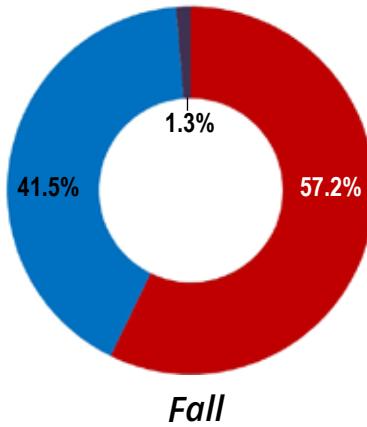
LCCAA's data from GOLD, shown here, consistently shows dramatic improvement from fall to spring. This data lets teachers and administrators know where children are relative to most children of the same age.

- Below
- Meeting
- Exceeding

Social Emotional Development

Children learn to control their behavior and emotions and get along with other children.

They make friends easily and can balance their needs against others' needs.



Physical Development

Physical skills include walking, running and skipping.

They also include gross motor skills such as throwing a ball and fine motor skills like holding a crayon to color a picture.

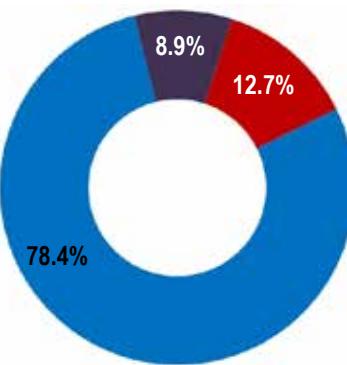
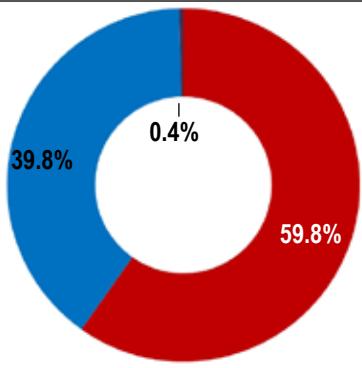
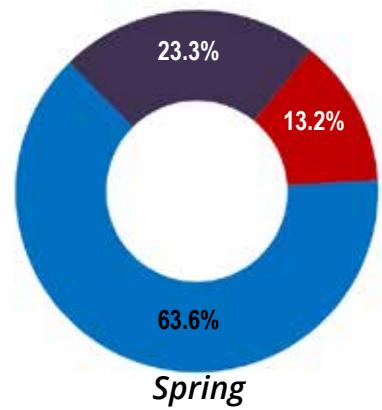
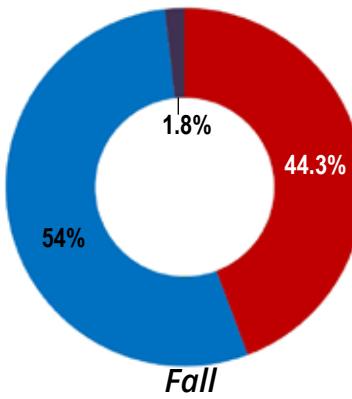
Fall data reflects assessments upon enrollment prior to receiving instruction or services.

Spring data is from June 2018 for four or five year olds moving to Kindergarten.

Exceeding Expectations

Language Development

Children learn to follow directions, hold conversations and use complete sentences - all with an ever-growing vocabulary. They begin to follow social and grammar rules.

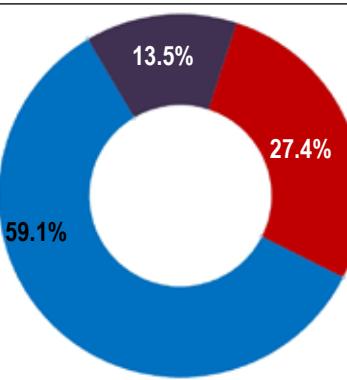
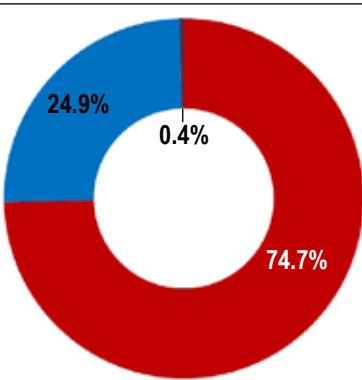
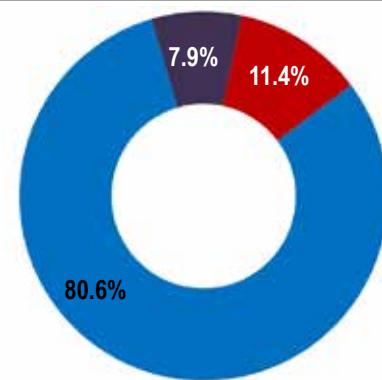
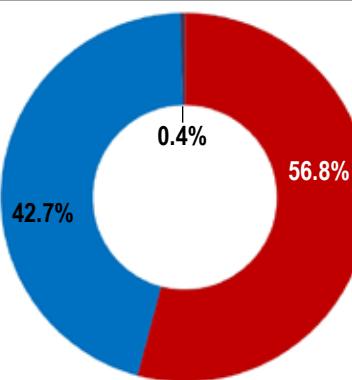


Cognitive Development

As attention spans lengthen, children are more persistent in solving problems. They remember experiences and can connect them and they learn to pretend.

Literacy

Children preparing to become readers are learning to identify letters and their sounds. They understand some basic print concepts such as books are read from left to right.



Mathematics

Counting, shapes, patterns and beginning measurements are all foundational math skills.

As children progress in their academic careers, this expands into scientific inquiry.

Every Child Succeeds

Once in a while, Terri Arriaga sees the results of her 21 years teaching Head Start at LCCAA.

Working side-by-side with her former student during the Wild About Nutrition event at Hopkins-Locke was one of those occasions.

Tatyana Willis finished the medical assistant program at Ohio Business College this May and had joined a group from the College to help with activities ranging from trying new foods to learning how to floss.

"I was so happy to see her," Arriaga said, grinning from ear to ear. "We always had a good relationship and the kids I've worked with have become like family to me."

Tatyana, who hopes to become a nurse someday, attributes some of her success – and her desire to serve - to Head Start and Arriaga.

"I have always been interested in help-



children, then watching them graduate and move along to kindergarten.

However, once in a while, a young scholar comes back to visit his teachers and shows them how much he has learned and developed under their care.

In January the staff at Lorain County Community Action Agency (LCCAA) Wellington Head Start was surprised by a visit from alumnus, Parker.



ing," she said. "I like taking care of people. Ms. Arriaga was just my favorite and I think people should bring their kids here because it's just a really good place."

Jenifer Bowen, Program Director of Medical Assisting at Ohio Business College, reaffirmed Tatyana's interest in helping her community "it's about giving back, not just about what you are going to school for, it's about community."

The lifelong friendship between teacher and student is an outgrowth of LCCAA's mission to serve and empower and proof that Head Start Works.

"Sometimes I see Tatyana at a grocery store or around town and I get so happy," Arriaga said.

Every Learner Grows

Early education teachers get used to teaching their

"He is now in Kindergarten and came back to show his teachers his talents," said Deanna Gregg, administrator of the site. "We cried."

Gregg said Parker started out shy in Head Start but had great attendance. The confidence he built is now helping him succeed in Kindergarten. Parker returned to thank his old teachers by reading a book to their current class.

"It was wonderful to see his success," Gregg added. "This is why we do what we do. To build kids into successful people at every stage of their lives."

Every Family Succeeds

It is no secret that having a father in a child's life is essential to the child's growth and development. Numerous studies show children with fathers in their lives have greater academic success, positive social behavior, fewer discipline problems and better self-esteem. For Head Start parent Daniel Hunter, knowing this is what gets him out of bed in the morning.

"My kids get me going," he said. "My day doesn't really start until I drop my daughter off at high school."

Daniel's four daughters are all Head Start alumni. Mya, whom Daniel raised on his own, is currently in college studying to be a veterinarian. Cheleah recently graduated high school. Nya is a high school Honor Roll student with hopes of being a doctor or lawyer one day. The youngest, Da'nisha, bridged to Kindergarten from LCCAA Head Start just this year.

Daniel was recently married to Lilly.

"As a single dad...it was tough for me to get help, Lilly has been such a help and plays a big role in our lives," Daniel said.

The newlyweds beam with pride at Head Start events, including Policy Council in which Daniel plays an active role.

"Head Start has had a major, major, major impact on our lives!" he said. "I can't stress it enough. Sometimes, as a single father, we didn't have money. The best thing about that time of their lives was Head Start."

Daniel attributes a lot of his success as a father to Head Start including a trip to the Annual Families and Fathers National Conference.

"Head Start sent me to a program about 'How to Be a Dad.' It was the best experience I could have had, he said."



Something he heard at the event stuck with him: "It doesn't have to be about money. It's about just being there. Just taking time to walk to the park, play basketball or coloring can change a kid's life. Start there to get a relationship."

Daniel spends his time raising children with his wife and running his own business, Hunter's Cleaning. He has plans to start a group to help fathers be a more integral part of their kids' lives.

"I'm trying to get fathers into schools," he said. "I don't see a lot of dads and I want to see more dads. We want to do stuff with dads that Head Start does with dads."

Head Start's fatherhood initiatives created success for Daniel's family by building naturally on his love for his girls.

"I love my kids. I made them," he said. "They are my responsibility. They didn't ask to be here, we brought them here. No way I leave them unless I leave this Earth."

Serving All of Lorain

Lorain County Community Action Head Start meets children and families where they are by taking care to locate its Head Start Centers and Collaborative Partners where needs are the greatest.

LCCAA also considers pockets of poverty in

- ◆ 5 directly operated centers
- ◆ 13 collaborative centers
- ◆ 925 enrolled in Head Start
- ◆ 40 enrolled in Early Head Start
- ◆ 24 classrooms staffed with teams of two teachers
- ◆ Early Head Start children receive up to 40 hours a week of instruction and care
- ◆ Head Start includes full and part day options
- ◆ Head Start includes 4 and 5 day program options
- ◆ Head Start students receive 14 to 30 hours of instruction each week
- ◆ Average Daily Attendance is 77 percent.
- ◆ Online enrollment available at www.lccaa.net



areas that are harder to reach due to lack of public transit and conducts a community needs assessment annually.

LCCAA has relationships with all 21 school districts in Lorain County. These and other collaborations extend the reach of Head Start.

Directly Operated

(denoted by  on facing map)

LCCAA Head Start @ Cascade
233 Bond Street, Elyria

LCCAA Head Start @ Elyria
631 Griswold Road, Elyria

LCCAA Head Start @ Firelands
10779 Vermilion Road, Oberlin

LCCAA Head Start @ Hopkins-Locke
1050 Reid Avenue, Lorain

LCCAA Head Start @ Wellington
305 Union Street, Wellington

Partners

Elyria Early Childhood Village
42101 Griswold Road, Elyria

Horizon Educational Centers
2500 Colorado Avenue, Lorain
4911 Grove Avenue, Lorain
10347 Dewhurst Road, Lorain
104 Louden Court, Elyria

Little Lighthouse Learning Center
1715 Meister Avenue, Lorain

Lorain City Schools
Seven locations in Lorain

County



Our largest directly operated center continues to be Hopkins-Locke.



LCCA's newest Head Start partnership opens at Firelands Elementary School this fall.



In October 2017, Hamilton Head Start students and teachers relocated to our new Elyria center at Griswold Road and Route 57. The new center serves approximately 175 children. The location we opened near Cascade Park in Elyria in 2016 remains in operation. Many families choosing Cascade live close enough to walk each day.



LCCA has been operating its Wellington Head Start Center for four years & has made quite an impression on Lisa Thompson. "Head Start is so wonderful for our community, we've never had that before. Now I know we are not forgotten."

"Early Childhood Education is an extremely important step in the development of the whole child," said Superintendent Mike Von Gunten. "We look forward to partnering with LCCA to bring Head Start to our youngest Falcons."



Lorain County Community Action Agency Head Start

It's never too early for a Head Start.

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