

You Can't
Stop A Star
From Shining



Lorain County
Community
Action Agency



Head Start Annual
Outcomes Report

2018-2019

Friends,

LCCAA Head Start completed another school year with literally stellar results — hence our theme referring to our unstoppable stars. Children, parents, caregivers, teachers, family service workers, partners and volunteers all co-star in our program. Working together, everyone shines.

The success of our program was made clear in February in an incredible review issued by meticulous representatives of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These thorough reviewers reported that LCCAA meets all the stringent requirements, federal performance standards, laws and regulations demanded of the funding. Everyone who touches our program deserves credit for this achievement.

We also experienced a fantastic first year at Firelands Elementary School and are thrilled to add LaGrange Head Start to our constellation of centers beginning this fall. The future of Lorain County continues to grow brighter with each life touched by Head Start.

Year after year, we draw inspiration and energy from every family we serve — and from you. Thank you for your support.



Jackie Boehlein, President & CEO



Shauna Matelski, Ed.D., Head Start Director



Special thanks to Elyria artist David Spencer for our cover art and artwork throughout this report. Learn more about David at www.mischief-factory.com.



Who is Served?

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

Head Start families 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 and children in foster care are also automatically eligible.

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

What is Head Start?

Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded programs focused on comprehensive child development. LCCAA is Lorain County's only Head Start provider. 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.

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

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.



Five-Star Centers

All of LCCAA's directly operated centers have earned the highest rating from Step Up to Quality: five stars. Most 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.





Ready for

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. 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. Head Start LaGrange opens this fall.

Teachers 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.

LCCAA Head Start teachers assess all students within 45 days of enrollment — no matter what time of year it is. LCCAA uses an assessment tool aligned to both sets of standards and focused on widely held expectations.

Classroom environments are evaluated using CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) which offers teachers feedback on how they interact with students.

"Our teachers are very intentional about how their classroom becomes a learning environment," said Head Start Director Shauna Matelski, Ed.D.

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

Gross and Fine Motor Skills

Social and Emotional Development

Mental and Behavioral Health



Congratulations, Dr. M!

Head Start Director Shauna Matelski earned a doctorate in education leadership from Capella University.

Matelski has been with LCCAA since 1991 and director of Head Start since 2011.



Kindergarten

All tools are grounded in years of research on what children should know and be able to do as three and four year olds.

LCCAA's Head Start teachers are enthusiastically dedicated to preparing students for academic success. Their credentials support them.

More than 50 percent of LCCAA employed teachers have a bachelor's or master's degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field. LCCAA goes beyond the national requirement for associate's degrees set when Congress reauthorized Head Start in 2007.

To further strengthen classroom instruction, LCCAA uses a team teaching model at directly operated centers and emphasizes full-day classrooms.

"What makes Head Start teachers different is that they bring so much wealth of knowledge and skills," said Education and Disabilities Specialist Jennifer Bartlebaugh.

"They have the compassion to make sure they're providing high quality services for our students and families."





Dreaming Big to Defy Expectations

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.

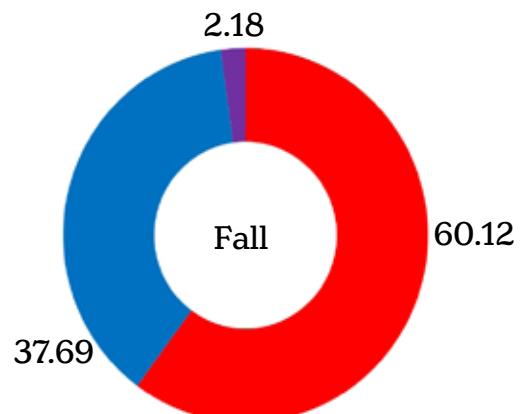
Head Start students make tremendous progress over the course of the school year. By the end of the year, many exceed expectations for their age group.

LCCAA's data, shown below and on pages 8 and 9, consistently illustrates dramatic improvement from fall to spring. This data lets teachers and administrators know where children are relative to most children of the same age.

Social Emotional Development

Social Emotional objectives focus on how children are learning to control their behavior and emotions as well as how they are getting along with other children.

At this age, children make friends easily, manage feelings, recognize clues to other people's feelings and can balance their needs against other children's needs.

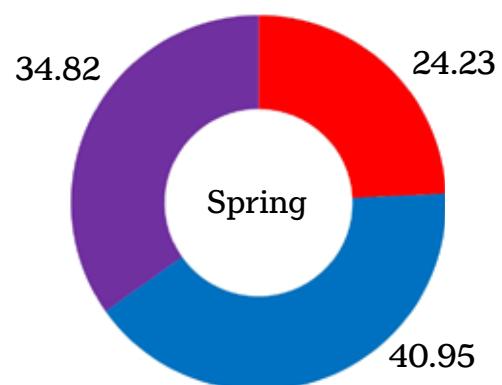


How to Read the Data

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

Spring data is from June 2019 for four or five year olds moving to kindergarten.

■ Below ■ Meeting ■ Exceeding



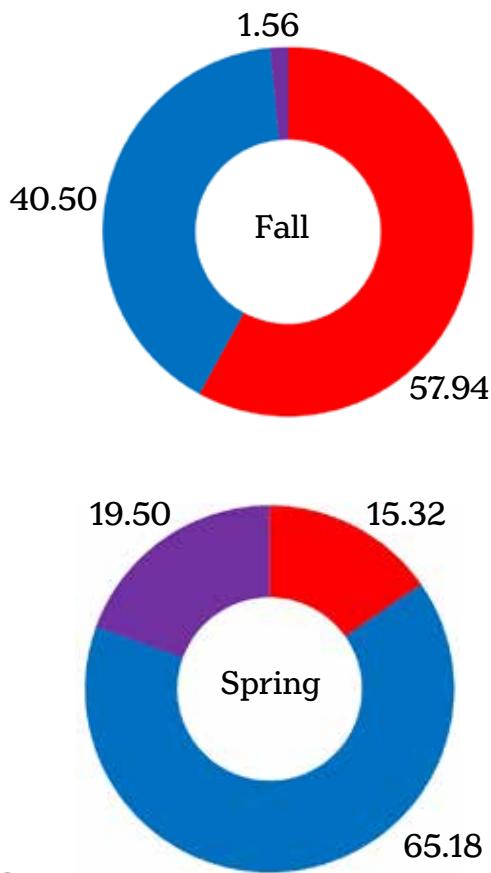
Physical Development

Physical skills include things that adults take for granted such as 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. Head Start also provides special interventions for students with disabilities.



Literacy

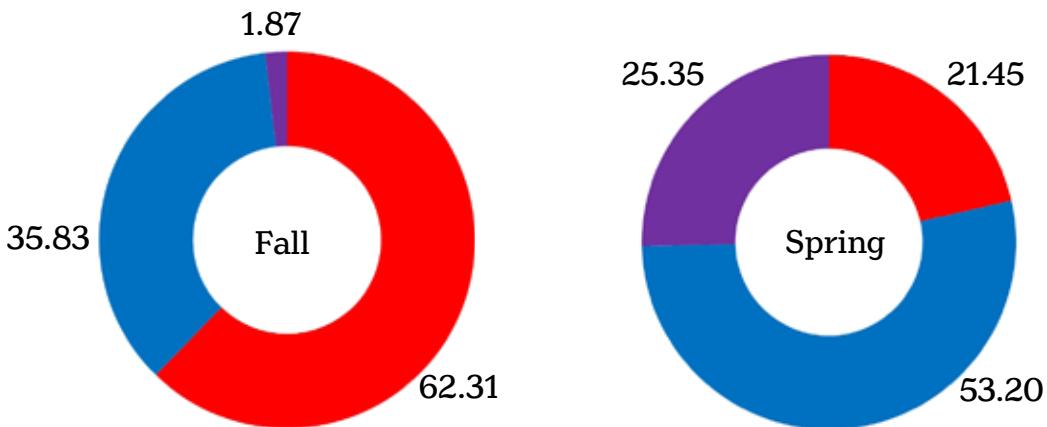
Children preparing to become readers are learning to identify letters and their sounds. They recognize rhymes and hold books right side up. They understand some basic print concepts such as books are read from left to right. They can retell a familiar story and they are learning to write their names.



LCCAA Head Start was honored by a visit from Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose who read to the children.

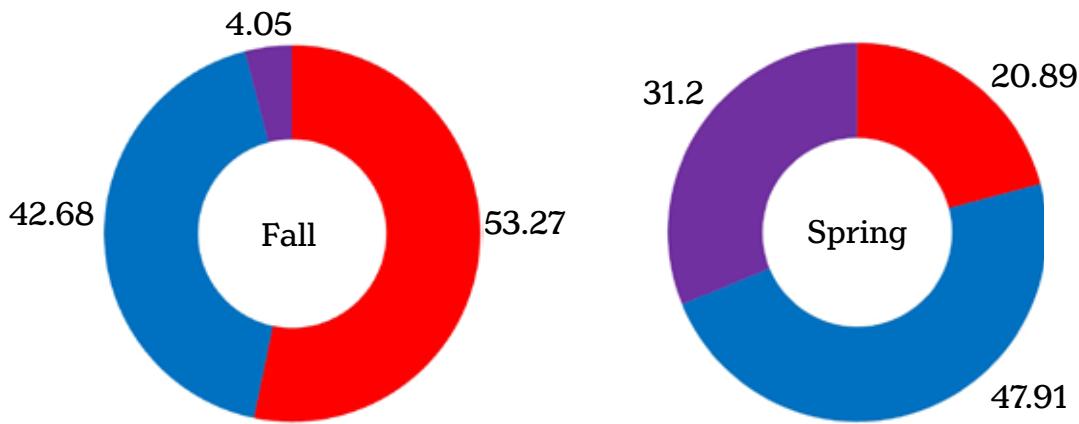
Cognitive Development

Young children enjoy learning because they are curious. As their attention spans lengthen, they are more persistent in trying to solve problems. They remember experiences and can connect them to each other. They learn to pretend and start to understand symbolic thought.



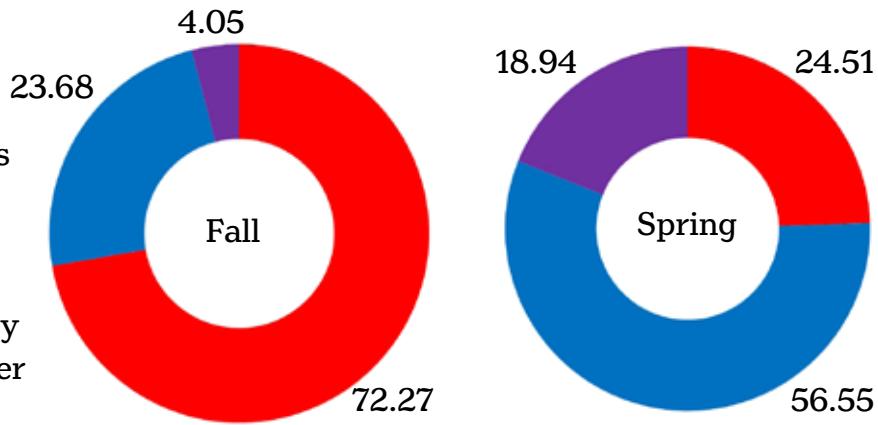
Language Development

Speaking and understanding words are skills that rapidly expand in the preschool years. Children learn to follow directions, hold a two-way conversation, and use complete sentences — all with an ever-growing vocabulary. They regularly use conventional grammar and other social rules of language.



Mathematics

Counting, shapes, patterns and beginning measurements are all foundational math skills. As children progress in their academic career, this expands into scientific inquiry as well as geography and other concepts of social studies.





Connected to Support

Family Service Workers walk with Head Start families on every step of their journey. They work to build positive, trusting relationships and respond to each unique need. They are the front-line for families in making sure needs are met.

LCCAA's Family Service Workers help parents set realistic and challenging goals to move their families forward, addressing both their needs and their strengths. As children grow, family dynamics change and these key staff members encourage and support positive parent-child relationships.

Family Service Workers serve as a bridge between parents and Head Start teachers and then between parents and schools or community programs. Their work means children are ready for school and families are ready to support their children's learning.



Other assistance available to Head Start families through LCCAA and its partners includes: health screenings, dental and vision screenings, job and computer skills training, housing and utility assistance, and emergency food, clothing and shelter.

Family Service Workers stay informed about what is available in the community. As a team, they share their knowledge so all families can benefit.

Family Service Workers are also the best connection to LCCAA's popular Community Resource Directory which lists everything from local dentists to how to get help paying rent.

Serving the Whole Child

LCCAA Head Start addresses health and nutrition every day. Head Start serves breakfast, lunch and snacks to hundreds of kids daily while managing dozens of food allergies.

Quality, balanced meals are often made from scratch and meet strict USDA standards.

Nutrition staff offer new food experiences with “try days” so students taste items as various as chick peas and butternut squash. Special events include parents and recipe sharing too.



Annually, Head Start also conducts screenings of vision, hearing, lead exposure, dental health and more. All these work together to make sure children are ready to continue learning in kindergarten, said Health and Nutrition Manager Rebecca Rodriguez.

“If you’re not getting the nutrition you need, if you can’t see, you can’t hear and no one knows until you get to kindergarten, you’re already behind,” she said. “These are the opportunities we have in Head Start.”





David
Spalter

Home-Based Services

LCCAA offers a home-based setting as an option for Head Start students. For the 2018-19 school year, 48 families took advantage of this option due to personal preference, transportation restraints, work flexibility for a parent and other qualifying factors.

Not only is this option growing in popularity, more than two decades of evidence-based studies associate it with high academic achievement, healthy social, psychological, and emotional development, as well as success later in life according to a Galloway & Sutton study.

Stephanie Drew, LCCAA Family, Health and Community Services Specialist, said the teaching staff help to spark meaningful connections with the

community, while focusing on family outcomes and engagement.

"Looking at the whole child to provide support and services that go beyond education to include nutrition and dental health is what sets us apart," she said. "It has been the agency's service foundation."

Home-based teachers use the *Growing Great Kids* curriculum which follows the same framework that the center-based program uses to promote school readiness. In addition to the private instruction — once a week for 32 weeks — parents bring their children to the Hopkins-Locke Head Start facility, where other home-based children gather to enjoy activities and families can socialize with each other.

Early Head Start

Early Head Start (EHS) services are tailored to the unique needs of infants and toddlers. LCCAA EHS promotes the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of children age 0 to 3, preparing them for continued growth and success.

Like Head Start, EHS serves the whole family, supporting mothers and fathers in their roles as primary caregivers and teachers of their children. Parents don't

usually think of themselves as teachers, said Head Start Director Shauna Matelski, Ed.D., and when they realize they are teachers, something shifts.

"It's almost a magical moment," Matelski said. "Parents feel empowered and engaged and become part of their child's learning."

LCCAA EHS includes home-based and center-based options. EHS also serves pregnant women.

Charting a Course

One sunny day this past spring “pirate Vincent” was navigating dangerous waters on his quest for hidden treasure. In the process, he charted a course to kindergarten as one of 48 children participating in LCCAA Head Start in a home setting.

A dramatic play module was the teaching focus for 23-year agency veteran Sabrina Osborne, as she visited Vincent’s Elyria residence, where he lives with his parents, older brother, three dogs and a family cat.

Vincent greeted Osborne in pirate gear fashioned from cardboard, construction paper and aluminum foil. His “pirate ship,” (converted from a space capsule that had been used for a previous dramatic play curriculum) set sail on a treasure hunt that afternoon. The family cat looked on curiously.

During the hour and a half visit, Vincent hunted for and found treasure pieces that he then counted out, surpassing kindergarten entrance requirements. The young pirate also practiced the alphabet and retold stories he had read with his mother.



Throughout the school year, home-based teachers make 32 weekly visits.

The *Growing Great Kids* curriculum covers all the school readiness goals and the same domains of child development that the center-based Head Start students receive.

“I love the curriculum because you can tailor it to the child’s interests and needs,” Osborne said.

“The program enables you to get personal with the families. That’s what I like about it. The families are more apt to open up to you than in a school setting.”

The one-on-one attention elevated Vincent’s learning skills according to his mother Chrystal, whose work as a customer service representative provides her flexible time with her son.

“The personalized program helped him with speech, sounding letters and pronunciation,” she said adding, “I’m glad we did this. I got to see Vincent’s aha moments and I was able to work with him based on his attention span.”

Vincent, whose favorite subjects are math and science, seconded his mom’s enthusiasm by adding, “I like to find out stuff. I love you guys.” The proud pirate is now off to kindergarten!

to Lifelong Success



Dana Daniels joined the LCCAA staff in 1998 as a Family Advocate, today known as a Family Service Worker. A few years later, she knew exactly what to do when her daughter Madisyn was ready for preschool.

"I knew she would be engaged in an education as well as learning the concepts of socializing," Dana said. "Head Start inspired her desire to learn and take pride in her education."

Today, Madisyn is a proud graduate of Elyria High School who earned several awards including being in the top 10 percent of her class. After fielding offers from around the state, she is headed to The University of Akron as a pre-med major. Her goal is to become a child psychologist. She remembers her Head Start days fondly, including going to school where her mom worked.

"I cherish every moment that I was able to spend with powerful early influencers like my teachers, and mother, because without them I would not be where I am today," Madisyn said.

Madisyn remembers her enthusiastic teacher Beverly Jones (pictured below) well and quotes her often.

"She always embraced my classmates and me whenever we accomplished a task that we were given," Madisyn said. "Her favorite quote was 'okay, now kiss your brain' and I will always remember that."

A National Honor Society member, Madisyn received the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, the President's Award for Academic Excellence and was also recognized at the Vision of Beauty: Masterpiece of Greatness Cotillion by the Lorain County Section of National Council of Negro Women Incorporated.

Her community services work includes volunteering for Camp Invention, Link Crew and Special Olympics. She is also an active member of Faith Ministries Christian Center in Lorain. She also served as clarinet section leader for the Elyria High School Pioneer Marching Band.



Dana Daniels is understandably proud of her daughter saying, "Not only has she excelled in her academics, but she also has grown into a determined young woman who achieves success."

And Madisyn doesn't hesitate to give credit to Head Start:

"This program is truly a blessing to kids and really opens up the windows of success for all of those enrolled."

Overcoming Obstacles

In the fall, teachers would bring a tearful Lou-Emma into her classroom at the new LCCAA Head Start Center at Firelands Elementary School.

"She was not ready to separate from her mother," said site administrator Pam Caruso. "She did not talk to or play with the other students."

Lou-Emma stuck close to teacher Jennifer Ketcham who worked with her mother, Danielle, to maximize the optimal instruction time for Lou-Emma.

After several months experiencing patience from teachers and a regular routine, Lou-Emma became comfortable interacting with her peers and made many friends. The teachers found that she enjoyed completing jobs she had been given. Her communication also improved over time.

"She is always smiling," Caruso said. "Most days, she isn't ready for school to be over and her writing and drawing skills have blossomed."

Lou-Emma's mother has opted to reenroll her in Head Start for this fall, with her teachers' support. Everyone is excited to see her continued growth, Caruso added.

"It is wonderful how the staff has gone beyond to help put her on the right path," Danielle said. "The teachers are amazing at helping Lou-Emma feel comfortable and safe at school."



Emotions can be overwhelming for adults, so it doesn't surprise Head Start teachers that three-year-olds need some help learning to manage their frustrations and other emotions.

For Solomon, Hopkins-Locke Head Start's partnership with Ohio Guidestone's Dinosaur School program made a difference. The program uses specially trained social workers who visit classrooms with puppets to illustrate emotions and teach kids how to manage them.

and Growing Strong



Jaxson will be taking kindergarten on at full speed this fall thanks to the services he received at Wellington Head Start.

“Everybody loves Jaxson!” his mom Kathy says, and teachers recognized his uniqueness and provided assistance in specific areas.

“Now, he’s actually verbalizing a lot more,” said Kathy. “It’s gotten easier to do things like get him a haircut or go to the doctor.”

Jaxson also had a tendency to walk on his tiptoes. Thanks to the interventions he received, Jaxson wears squeaky shoes to encourage him to walk on his heels so his leg muscles will develop properly. Taking it a step further, teachers incorporated these exercises into classroom activities so Jaxson would not feel singled out, Kathy said.

“Through Head Start he has gained social skills and his peers in his class show compassion for him,” said Jennifer Bartlebaugh, Education and Disabilities Specialist for LCCAA Head Start.

Kathy serves on the Head Start Policy Council and has been an active volunteer at Wellington Head Start. She constantly sings the praises of Head Start, to the point of recruiting fellow parents during her recent yard sale.

Jaxson, who also shows signs of being a gifted artist, has already visited the kindergarten rooms where he will be this fall. It helps that his Head Start classroom was also at Wellington’s Westwood Elementary, his mother said.

“He’s progressed so much,” Kathy said. “He’s not afraid of large groups and loves going places.”

Developing empathy for others has made Solomon a happier child who cares about others. He’s a talkative child who loves music, according to his mother.

“He loves school,” his mother Savannah said. “He asks every day ‘can I go back to school?’ He’s a quick learner. He’s just so lovable.”

Solomon will attend a second year of preschool at Garfield Elementary School where his older brother will be in third grade this fall.

Powerful Parents

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 2018-19 Parent Policy Council!

Reginald Cremeans, President
Crystal Bey, Vice President
Susan West, Vice President
Tabatha Smith, Secretary
Cierra Brady, Asst. Secretary
Kathryn Brenner
Kathy Byrnes
Abigail Ferry
Gina Gordon

Daniel Hunter
Sara Irvan
Cara Kashmer
Tami Krugman-Smith
Isha Merrell
Evelia Palafox-Ramirez
Brittany Sartin
Justin Smith
Monique West

Serving the Whole County

LCCAA Head Start meets children and families where they are by taking care to locate its centers and collaborative partners where needs are the greatest.

LCCAA also considers pockets of poverty in areas that are harder to reach due to lack of public transit — just one reason for offering a home-based option.

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

Directly Operated

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

LCCAA Head Start @ LaGrange
12079 LaGrange Road, LaGrange

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- Eight locations in Lorain



By the Numbers

- ◆ 6 directly operated centers
- ◆ 13 collaborative centers
- ◆ 891 enrolled in Head Start
- ◆ 40 enrolled in Early Head Start
- ◆ 27 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 4 and 5 day program options
- ◆ Head Start students receive 14 to 30 hours of instruction each week
- ◆ Average Daily Attendance is 80 percent
- ◆ Online enrollment available at www.lccaa.net



It's never too early for a Head Start.



Lorain County Community Action Agency
936 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Ohio 44052
440-245-2009 • 1-888-245-2009 • www.lccaa.net

David
Spener