



Orange County
Head Start, Inc.

Brilliant Beginnings.
Bright Futures.



Annual Report
2024-2025



Dear Friends, Families, and Community Partners,

It is my pleasure to share the Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) Annual Report and reflect on another year of service, growth, and impact. Thanks to the dedication of our staff, the trust of the families we serve, and the continued support of our community partners, OCHS remains a strong foundation for young children and their families.

This year, we continued our commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education, comprehensive family services, and inclusive, nurturing learning environments. Our programs supported children's school readiness while also strengthening family well-being through health services, parent engagement, and community connections. Each success highlighted in this report represents a child gaining confidence, a family achieving stability, or a classroom where learning and care came together.

We are especially proud of our staff, whose professionalism, compassion, and resilience made it possible to meet challenges and embrace new opportunities. Their work ensures that every child is seen, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

As we look ahead, Orange County Head Start, Inc. remains focused on continuous improvement, equity, and collaboration. We are committed to building on this year's accomplishments and to responding to the evolving needs of the families and communities we serve.

Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in the power of early childhood education. Together, we are shaping brighter futures for Orange County's children.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael C. Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Michael Patterson
Executive Director
Orange County Head Start

MISSION

We provide children and their families with quality childhood development programs and integrated support services.

VISION

Orange County Head Start is the catalyst that launches children and their families to a brighter future.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We **advocate** on behalf of the children we serve by providing access to resources and protection of their rights and interests.
- We provide the tools and environment to **empower** children and their families.
- We are an organization dedicated to **learning** at all levels, especially for the early childhood years.
- We deliver services through **partnerships** and collaboration.
- We ensure the **quality** of our programs through continuous improvement and outcome-based practices.
- We **respect** diversity and acknowledge the value it brings to our community.
- We are committed to the emotional and physical **well being** of our children, families, and staff.

Budget

2024-2025 Budget vs. Actual

	Budget	Actual
Revenue - Budget vs. Actual	\$48,533,704	\$57,933,644
Expenses - Budget vs. Actual	\$48,533,704	\$57,808,904

June 30, 2025

Revenue		Expenses	
Early Head Start/Head Start	\$53,123,320	Personnel	\$25,809,870
CACFP	\$1,268,762	Benefits	\$10,967,344
* In-Kind Contributions	\$3,331,266	Contractual	\$4,750,167
Other	\$210,296	Supplies	\$5,302,898
		Other HS/EHS	\$6,293,041
		CACFP	\$1,268,762
		In-Kind/Non-Federal Share	\$3,331,266
		Other	\$85,556
Total Revenue	\$57,933,644	Total Expenses	\$57,808,904

Increase in Net Assets \$124,740

June 30, 2024

Revenue		Expenses	
Early Head Start/Head Start	\$42,211,645	Personnel	\$20,743,607
CACFP	\$1,261,183	Benefits	\$6,789,440
* In-Kind Contributions	\$3,869,937	Contractual	\$4,595,905
Other	\$14,100	Supplies	\$2,709,620
		Other HS/EHS	\$7,400,800
		CACFP	\$1,261,183
		In-Kind/Non-Federal Share	\$3,869,937
		Other	\$250,445
Total Revenue	\$47,356,865	Total Expenses	\$47,620,937

Decrease in Net Assets (\$264,072)

* Note that some of the In-Kind Contributions reported here did not meet the Criteria for GAAP Reporting, but did meet the Criteria for Head Start Reporting.

It was determined that in the auditors opinion, Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year.

The OCHS full 2024-2025 Financial Audit Report is available upon request.

Leadership & Governance

Orange County Head Start operates under a federally mandated shared governance model that ensures strong oversight, accountability, and meaningful family engagement. Leadership is structured across three key groups: the Board of Directors, the Policy Council, and program management staff.



The Board of Directors provides strategic direction and fiscal oversight, ensuring compliance with all regulatory requirements. The Policy Council, composed primarily of parents and community representatives, plays an active role in decision-making by reviewing and approving key program policies and initiatives. Program management staff oversee daily operations, implementing services that support children and families across the community.

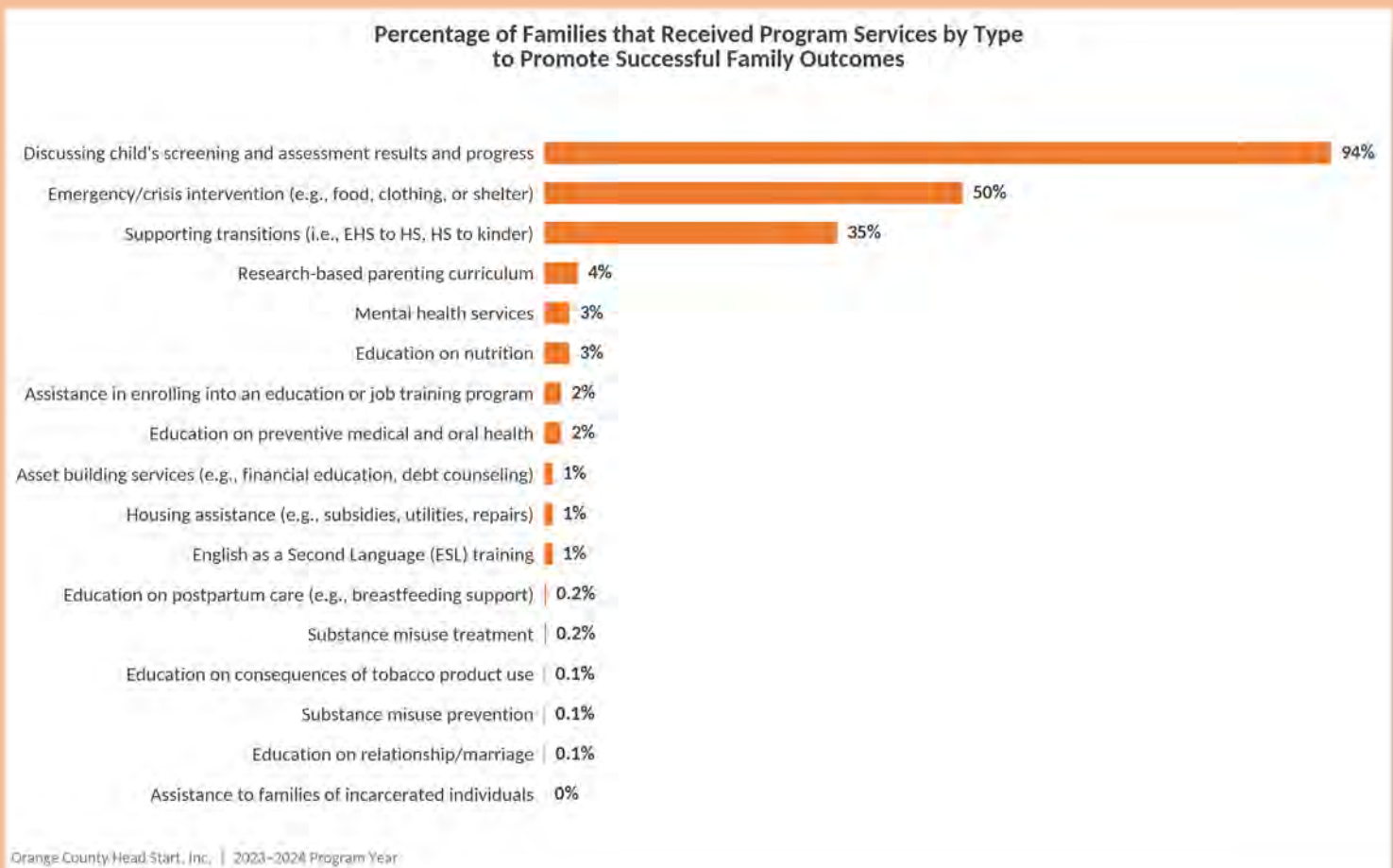
Together, these groups create a collaborative leadership framework that promotes transparency, shared decision-making, and continuous improvement. This structure ensures that OCHS remains responsive to community needs while maintaining the highest standards of quality and accountability.



Program Services

Comprehensive child and family services are the cornerstone of Head Start and Early Head Start programs. At Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS), these services are delivered directly by our dedicated staff or in partnership with trusted community agencies. This collaborative approach is essential for creating a supportive environment that fosters positive outcomes for children and families. In 2024-2025, families with children enrolled in our OCHS program benefited from a wide range of services, which were accessed either directly through our staff or through referrals to community programs. By providing comprehensive support, OCHS is committed to helping children and families thrive and reach their full potential.

Percentage of Families that Received Program Services by Type to Promote Successful Family Outcomes





Children & Families Served

The Total Number of Children and Families Served

In 2024-2025, Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) served 1,613 children and pregnant women throughout Orange County, California. This included 829 children aged three to five in the Head Start program, as well as 784 children from birth to age three, and pregnant women in the Early Head Start program.

Average Monthly Enrollment

The average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment) was 101% for the Head Start program and 96% for the Early Head Start program.

County's Eligible Children Served

Head Start: 12% (829 of 6,754)

Early Head Start: 8% (784 of 9,436)

Family Data
2024 – 2025



Family Engagement

At Orange County Head Start Inc. (OCHS), each family is partnered with a Family Services Worker who works closely with them to create a Family Success Plan (FSP). This plan, developed using the Transition to Success Map of My Dreams Workbook, outlines personalized goals based on each family's strengths, needs, and interests.

Family Services Workers build strong, supportive relationships with families. They help parents identify goals, strengthen skills, pursue education, and connect with community resources, supporting long-term success beyond their time with OCHS.

Tracking Family Progress

OCHS measures progress using a Family Outcomes Rating Scale across six key areas:

- Family well-being
- Parent-child relationships
- Families as lifelong educators
- Families as learners
- Community connections
- Family advocacy

Families are encouraged to set goals in areas where they need support, with a focus on building stability and independence. Parents are also supported in

becoming active participants in their child's education at home and in the classroom.



Family Engagement Opportunities

OCHS offers a variety of programs and leadership opportunities to strengthen parenting, advocacy, and community involvement such as Parent Committee meetings, Policy Council, Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) and Parent Programs and Workshops.

School Readiness

Preparing our Children for Kindergarten:

OCHS provides high quality early childhood programming for children birth to five years old in several program options to meet the needs of children and families. Center -based services offer full-day options for Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS). Both HS and EHS offer homebased services, which include weekly home visits and two group socialization experiences per month. OCHS facilities are licensed and staffed by qualified early childhood education professionals.

Over 300 child development staff were employed by OCHS this year, including center directors and education managers, teachers, teacher assistants and home visitors. All child development staff participates in a comprehensive system of professional development to support the delivery of high quality teaching practices, including effective teacher-child interactions. The professional development system includes the OCHS Teacher Coaching Academy, a peer coaching program which provides one-on-one



support for new teaching staff and existing staff needing more intensive coaching. Education Development Coaches provide additional coaching to improve and refine teaching practices to implement the High Scope curriculum with fidelity with a focus on high quality adult to child interactions throughout the day. In response to the effects of the pandemic on Social and Emotional wellness for children OCHS ramped up training on the Pyramid Model strategies for Education staff and coaches to enhance strategies to support children's social and emotional wellbeing.

School Readiness Goals

To ensure that children who participate in OCHS programs are successful in kindergarten and future education, OCHS has adopted School Readiness Goals for Head Start and Early Head Start.

Overall Early Head Start Goals: It is expected that at least 95% of the children transitioning to preschool at 36 months old will be Near, At or Above age expectations on the DRDP IT in all Domains and specific School Readiness Goals Measures.

Approaches to Learning – Self comforting and Attention Maintenance

Social Emotional Development – Interactions with Peers, Symbolic Play

Cognition - Classification

Language and Communication - Expressive Language, Interest in Literacy

Perceptual Motor and Physical Development – Eye hand coordination, Self Care/Healthy behaviors

Overall Head Start Goal: It is expected that 95% of children transitioning to Kindergarten will be Near At or Above age expectations in all Domains and in the specific School Readiness Goal Measures.

Approaches to Learning –Impulse Control, Symbolic Play

Social and Emotional Development – Social Interactions with Peers

Language and Literacy – Language and Communication – Expressive Language

Language and Literacy – Literacy - Phonological Awareness, Letter and Word Knowledge

Cognition – Scientific Reasoning – Cause and Effect, Knowledge of the Natural World

Cognition – Mathematics - Math Operations, Measurement

Perceptual Motor and Physical Development – Self Care - Dressing



School Readiness

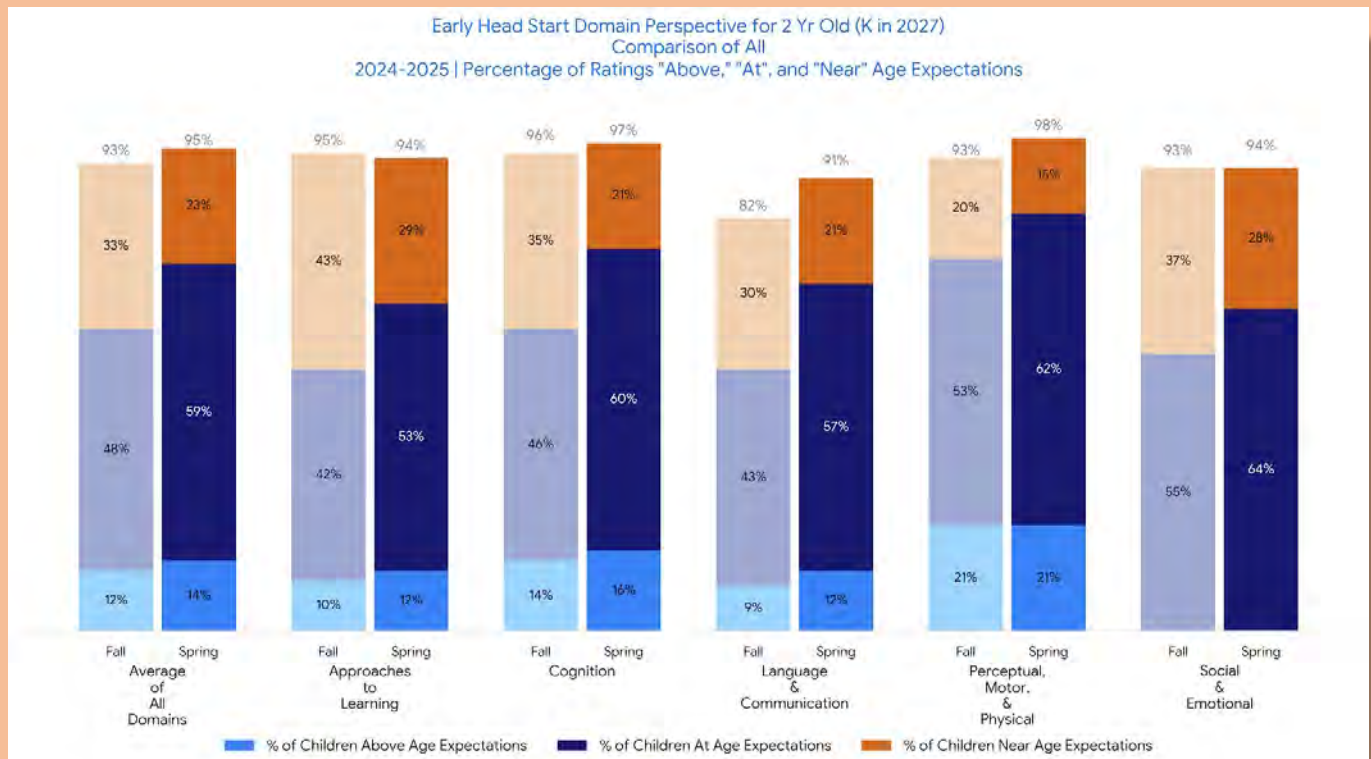
Children Progress School Readiness Goals

Early Head Start (Birth – 3 year olds)

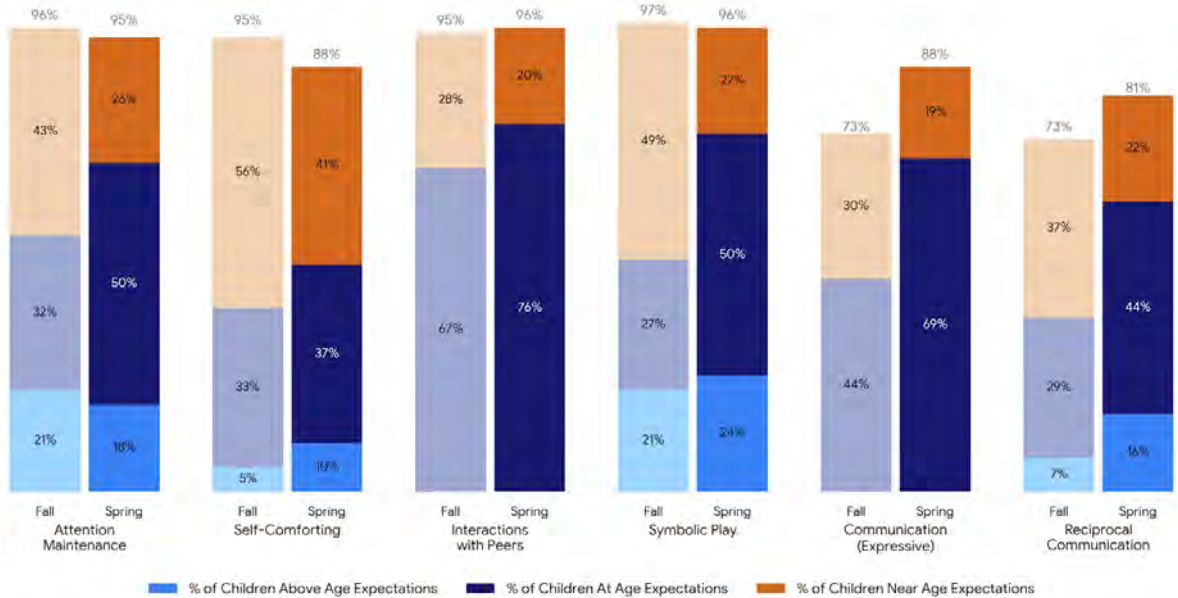
The Spring assessments revealed exciting progress for our Early Head Start children. On average, 95% of children met, exceeded, or were close to meeting expectations across all developmental domains. At the School Readiness goal-measure level, the results were just as strong, with 93% of children performing near, at, or above expectations. Every school readiness goal area showed improvement, and overall, more than 90% of children demonstrated performance at or above expected levels.

While the data is overwhelmingly positive, it also highlights opportunities for growth particularly in the areas of Expressive Language and Reciprocal Communication, where additional support and targeted strategies can help children continue to thrive.

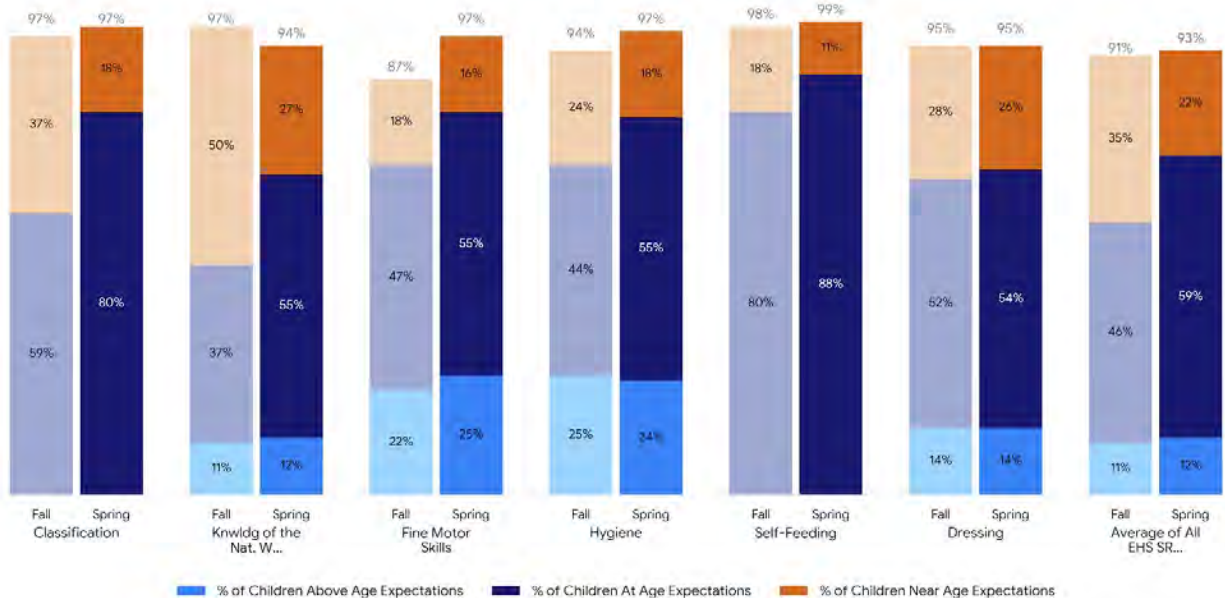
The figures below represent DRDP results for all EHS children who will be three years old by September 1, 2025.



Early Head Start School Readiness Goal Perspective for 2 Yr Old (K in 2027)
Comparison of All
2024-2025 | Percentage of Children "Above," "At", and "Near" Age Expectations



Early Head Start School Readiness Goal Perspective for 2 Yr Old (K in 2027)
Comparison of All
2024-2025 | Percentage of Children "Above," "At", and "Near" Age Expectations

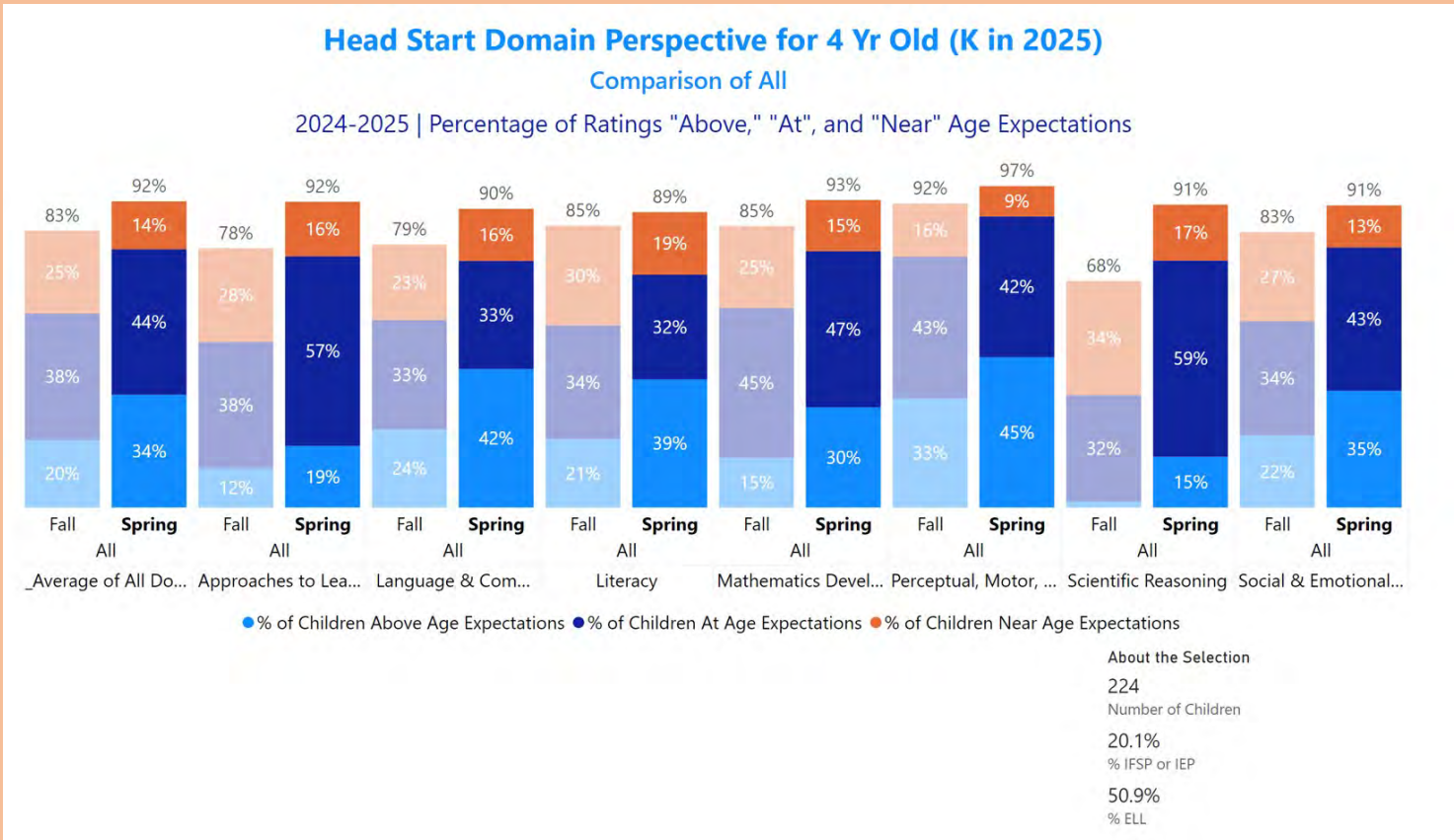


Head Start (3 – 5 year olds)

The Spring DRDP results paint a strong picture of progress for our Head Start children. Across all developmental domains, 92% of children performed near, at, or above expectations, demonstrating consistent growth. At the School Readiness goal–measure level, the results remain encouraging, with 86% of children meeting or approaching expectations across all measures.

While gains were evident in every domain and school readiness area, the data also highlights key opportunities for focused support. The greatest challenges continue to appear in the areas of Self-Control of Feelings and Behavior, Reciprocal Communication, Measurement and Knowledge of the Natural World—pointing to important targets for future instruction and intervention.

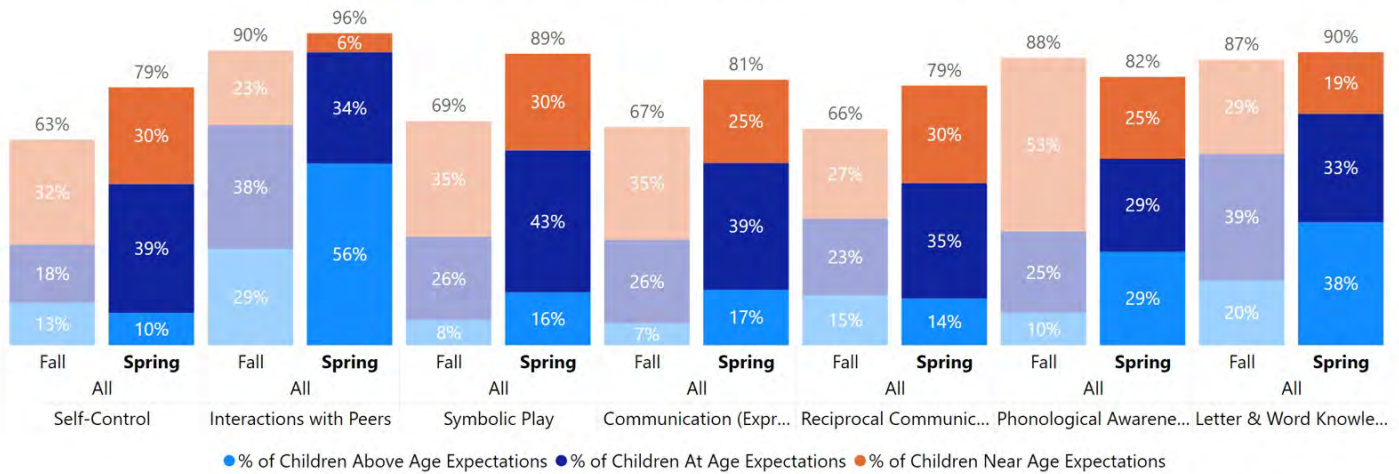
The figures below represent DRDP results for Fall, Winter and Spring assessment periods for all HS children who will be five years old by September 1, 2025.



Head Start School Readiness Goal Perspective for 4 Yr Old (K in 2025)

Comparison of All

2024-2025 | Percentage of Children "Above," "At", and "Near" Age Expectations



About the Selection

224

Number of Children

20.1%

% IFSP or IEP

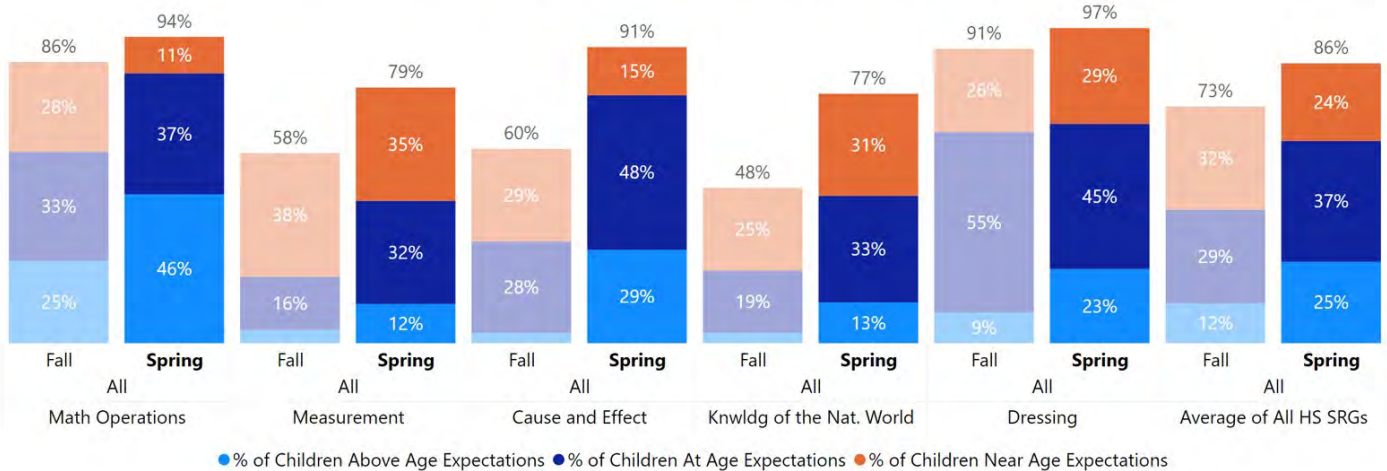
50.9%

% ELL

Head Start School Readiness Goal Perspective for 4 Yr Old (K in 2025)

Comparison of All

2024-2025 | Percentage of Children "Above," "At", and "Near" Age Expectations



About the Selection

224

Number of Children

20.1%

% IFSP or IEP

50.9%

% ELL

Health Services

During the 2024-2025 program year, Orange County Head Start (OCHS) strengthened its commitment to children's health by advancing vision, dental, and family wellness services.

OCHS partnered with the University of California, Irvine (UCI) Pediatric Vision Project and Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County (HSKOC) by AltaMed to provide health screenings directly in classrooms. UCI's mobile unit offered vision exams and free glasses, with 76 children receiving free glasses this year. HSKOC delivered dental screenings at all OCHS locations, providing education, treatment referrals, and follow-up care.



The Family Wellness Initiative re-introduced Dental Care Workshops and the What to Do When Your Child is Sick Workshop to help parents manage symptoms and support children's regular attendance, reducing absences due to illness.

OCHS also expanded academic partnerships. Initially, one West Coast University nursing rotation interned with OCHS; starting in 2025, a second rotation and a group from the Ontario campus were added to support more centers.

With guidance from the Health Services Advisory Committee, OCHS continues to implement best practices in health service delivery, ensuring families have access to medical, dental, and vision care.

To effectively monitor and improve health services, OCHS reviews annual Program Information Report (PIR) data.

End-of-enrollment percentages for key health indicators for the 2024-2025 school year include:

- 100% of children had health insurance
- 100% of children had an established medical home
- 74% of children were up-to-date on the State of California's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) exam schedule
- 94% of children needing medical treatment received medical treatment
- 98% of preschool children had a dental home
- 81% of preschool children were up-to-date on routine dental exams
- 85% of preschool children needing dental treatment received dental treatment
- 98% of children were up-to-date on immunizations

These outcomes reflect OCHS's ongoing dedication to the health and well-being of the children and families we serve, highlighting the important role of our community partnerships in providing high-quality, accessible care.

Nutrition & Food Services

Orange County Head Start, Inc. experienced an increase in the overall childhood obesity rate, rising from 17.7% in 2023–2024 to 19.06% in 2024–2025. This reflects a 1.36% increase in the obesity rate among preschool children, defined as a Body Mass Index at or above the 95th percentile.

Nutrition Educators continued to provide targeted nutritional support to families with children experiencing concerns such as picky eating, prolonged bottle use, underweight, and childhood obesity. The addition of a second Nutrition Educator allowed for an increase in nutrition workshops, cooking lessons, and classroom-based nutrition activities, expanding outreach and support to families and staff.

From September 2024 through March 2025, Orange County Head Start, Inc. continued its partnership with the Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAPOC). During this time, 1,112 families received food assistance, with a total of 27,800 pounds of food distributed. Unfortunately, the food trolley distribution program ended in March 2025 due to funding cuts impacting CAPOC.

The central kitchen continued to serve healthy, well-balanced meals and introduced new menu items, including birria tacos, beef lasagna, vegetarian chili, chicken mole, and lentil tacos. Children were offered meals that include whole grain-rich items, healthy protein sources, fresh fruits, and a wide variety of menu options that support both nutrition and enjoyment.

The number of children requiring diets based on religious or personal beliefs increased slightly from 57 in 2023–2024 to 58 in 2024–2025. There was a reduction in the number of children requiring milk substitutions, decreasing from 170 to 161.

Additionally, the number of children with documented food allergies declined from 135 to 106.



Community Assessment

Executive Summary: Community Needs Assessment Update

Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) completed its 2024-2025 Community Assessment Update, which incorporated document research, staff/family surveys, and data analysis to assess the organization's standing in relation to community trends. The assessment reveals strategic success in stabilizing operations, coupled with persistent and complex socioeconomic challenges facing OCHS families.

Key Findings and Next Steps

- **Workforce Stabilized:** The agency successfully navigated the nationwide Early Childhood Educator shortage. Key actions, including a significant increase in staff salaries to be comparable with or greater than those of the Orange County School Districts, and the introduction of enhanced benefits (e.g., fully paid family health insurance), led to a substantial decrease in teaching staff vacancies. This stability allowed OCHS to achieve rapid and sustained full enrollment. OCHS could continue to sustain workforce investment by regularly benchmarking salaries against those of other school districts to help maintain low vacancy rates and support staff retention.
- **Persistent Housing Instability:** OCHS families continue to face significant financial vulnerability. The high cost of living in Orange County remains a crisis, contributing to a significant rate of homelessness, with the majority of children identified as homeless residing in doubled-up or triple-up housing due to economic hardship. OCHS could enhance family support by continuing to provide practical assistance for food and housing, and by strengthening financial literacy and mental health support programs.
- **Top Family Needs:** The top identified need from family surveys, after financial concerns, was access to fun, affordable activities for children and families, suggesting a crucial need for social well-being and family cohesion. Practical support, such as assistance with diapers and housing assistance, was also highly requested. Exploring ways to expand access to free or low-cost

- **Programmatic Needs:** The number of Head Start-eligible children in Orange County has declined over the past decade, driven by falling birth rates, yet there is high demand for infant/toddler care. OCHS could consider optimizing its program model by prioritizing full-day programs and strategically expanding Early Head Start (infant/toddler) care options to better meet the needs of working families.

- **Overwhelming Parent Satisfaction:** Parent satisfaction with OCHS is exceptionally high, with virtually all surveyed families reporting high satisfaction and indicating they would refer a friend or family member to the program. OCHS could explore refining communication by leveraging families' preference for digital contact, prioritizing text messages, email, and the Learning Genie app to enhance outreach and engagement.



For more information on our Head Start & Early Head Start programs, please visit us at www.ochsinc.org, call us at (714) 241-8920, or use the QR code below.

Scan me to learn more!



Orange County Head Start, Inc. was established in 1979 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency. Orange County Head Start, Inc. is funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to provide Head Start and Early Head Start services throughout all of Orange County, CA.



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