



# HEAD START

## OF LANE COUNTY

### 2022-2023 Annual Report

Head Start (HS) Early Head Start (EHS)  
Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK)  
Maternal Infant Home Visiting (McV)

---



## *Letter from the Executive Director*

*I*N this transformative year, we proudly present our Annual Report, a testament to our unwavering commitment to rebuilding, fostering growth, and achieving success. As we embarked on a path of significant transitions, I have had the privilege of witnessing the remarkable evolution of our HSOLC agency. Their dedication, commitment, and passion laid the groundwork for our organization's resurgence.

*One of the most significant milestones we achieved was securing funding for the construction of Ollie Court, a state model for low-income housing and early learning center co-location. This partnership with Homes for Good represents a beacon of hope for families in our community, providing affordable housing options and access to high-quality early childhood education.*

*Head Start of Lane County, an organization dedicated to supporting young children and families, has been an innovator in addressing pressing community issues. Our unwavering commitment to helping those in need has led to several groundbreaking initiatives that have made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals.*

*One of Head Start's most notable achievements is the workaround for housing instability. Recognizing the devastating effects that homelessness can have on families, we have developed innovative programs and partnerships to provide safe and stable housing for those in need. Through collaboration with local organizations, Head Start has helped 294 families transition from homelessness to permanent housing.*

*Another area where Head Start has excelled is addressing food insecurity. The food box pantry partnership, established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has provided hundreds of families with access to nutritious meals. Head Start has helped to alleviate hunger and ensure that children have the nourishment they need to thrive.*

*The past year presented challenges in rebuilding, growth, and success as we grappled with finding staff and children to fill the classroom. Despite these challenges, I was so inspired by HSOLC employees and witnessed their commitment and flexibility in supporting families.*

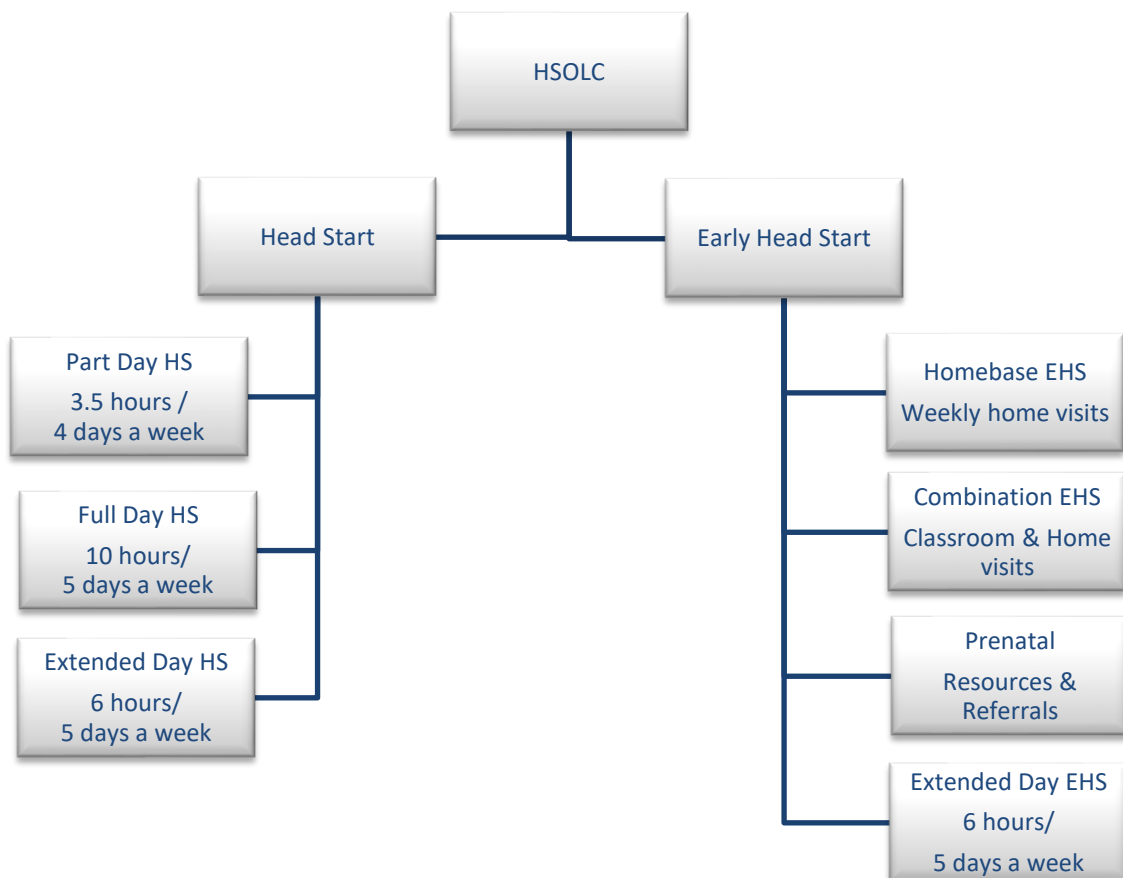
*Through dedication, passion, innovative initiatives, and unwavering commitment to the community, HSOLC continues to shine as a beacon of hope to families in need.*

*Thank you for your ongoing support and for being a champion for Head Start.*

*Charleen Strauch  
Executive Director*

**H**ead Start is a national program that provides comprehensive, year-long services to support infants, toddlers, and young children from low-income families across the United States. The program is overseen by the Office of Head Start within the Department of Health and Human Services and serves more than one million children and their families annually. Early Head Start (EHS) is a subset of the program that provides child development and family support services for low-income pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers up to age three. There are 1,027 EHS programs across the United States, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

HSOLC serves over 1,000 children throughout Lane County, Oregon. Services are offered in: Eugene/Springfield, Florence/Mapleton, Junction City and Oakridge. Early Head Start serves Eugene/Springfield, Oakridge, and South Lane County. HSOLC has several classroom options to address community needs.



To make an impact we must work together to build strong relationships that support information sharing and access to information that is understandable and meaningful to the caregiver. We must be knowledgeable of the person and family to avoid retraumatizing a person.



One parent families  
384 or 41.97%



Mother only  
320 or 36.87%



Father only  
47 or 5.41%



Two parent families  
531 or 58.03%

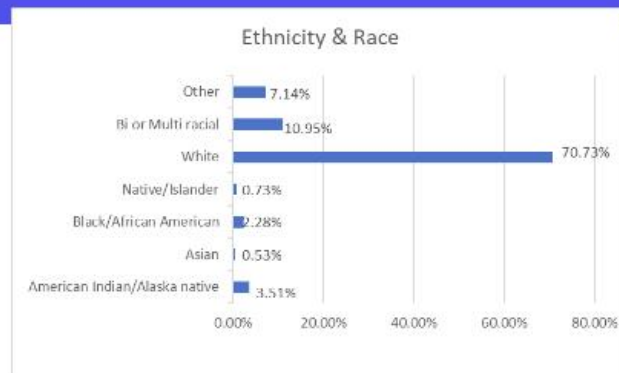


Grandparent or other  
7 or 0.77%

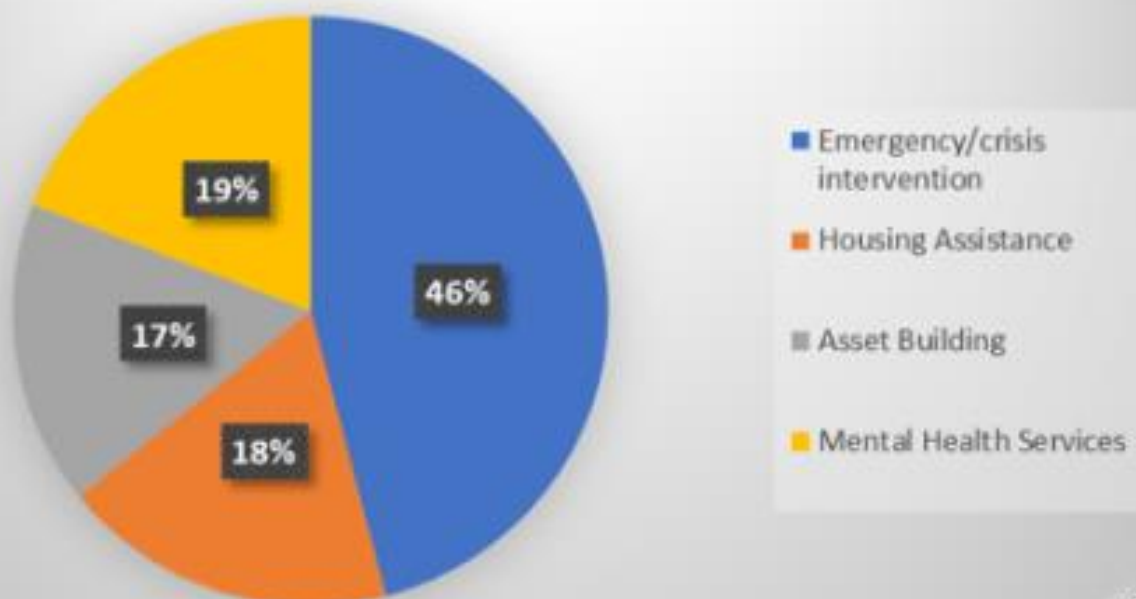


Resource Parents  
40 or 4.37%

## WHO WE WORK WITH



## Family Services

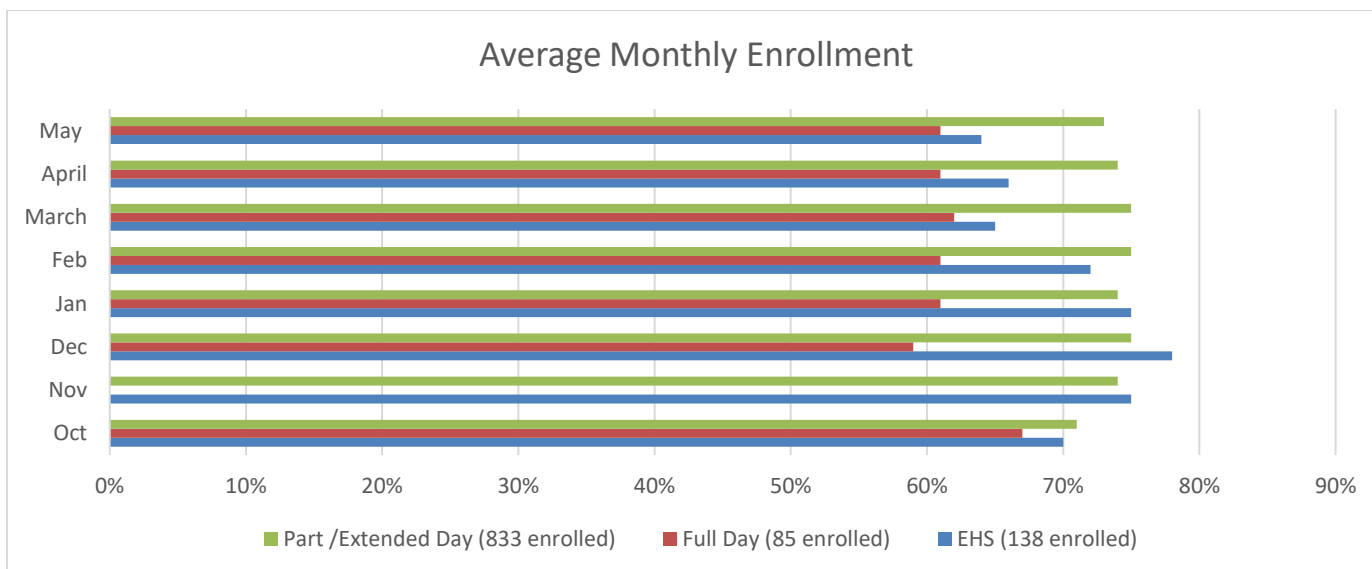
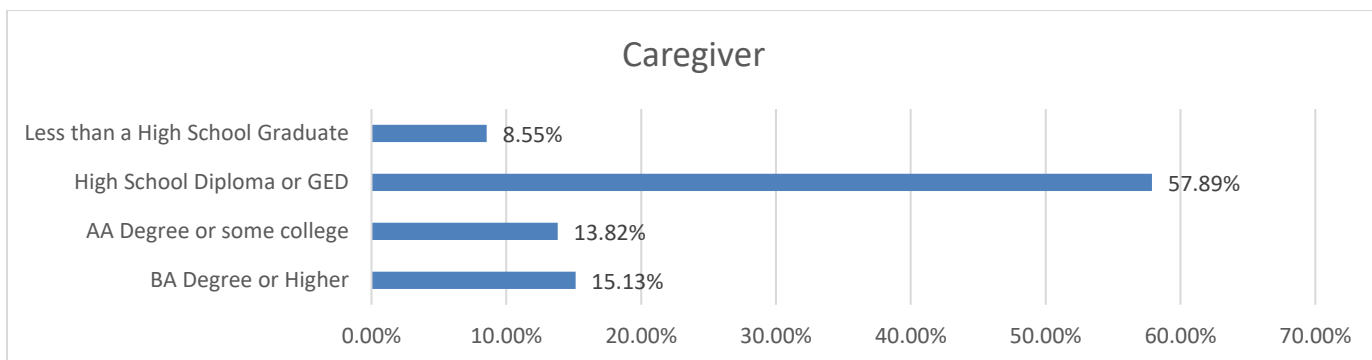




**H**SOLC views caregivers as critical partners in early childhood education. Using the 3 Ps approach: People, Purpose, and Process, HSOLC added a fourth “P” for Policy Council. Policy Council is an extension of the leadership in the form of real-time client experiences and expectations.

When a caregiver joins Policy Council, they go from being an involved caregiver to an engaged one. What is the difference? An involved caregiver attends activities offered to them. An engaged caregiver sits at the planning table, voicing their thoughts and feelings which ultimately leads to a better understanding of what is needed and wanted in our communities.

The *"Make Parenting a Pleasure"* curriculum is a 12-week program designed for adult education. The program focuses on five key factors to help caregivers provide better care and support for their families. These factors are parental resilience, social connections, access to concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children. By prioritizing their education, caregivers show their children the importance of lifelong learning, which can greatly impact their interest and engagement in their current and future education. Ten families completed the program.



**H**SOLC counters community needs by providing a variety of stopgaps from resources, referrals, a food plus pantry, and a career training program. All are free offerings of the highest quality.

## Resources

- Family service staff are well connected to community resources. They are the first responders for a family needing additional supports.

## Referrals

- A child, adult or family can be referred for additional services such as mental health, behavior supports, and housing.

## Food Plus

- The pantry is available to all families twice a month. Plus, families have access to cleaning supplies, laundry soap, clothing and coats.

*"I am thankful these services are open and willing to work with my family during this time. If it weren't for Head Start, I don't know where we would be. Super thankful to have you in our community."*

*HS Parent*

*"Everyone is knowledgeable, professional, helpful, and take helping my family very seriously."*

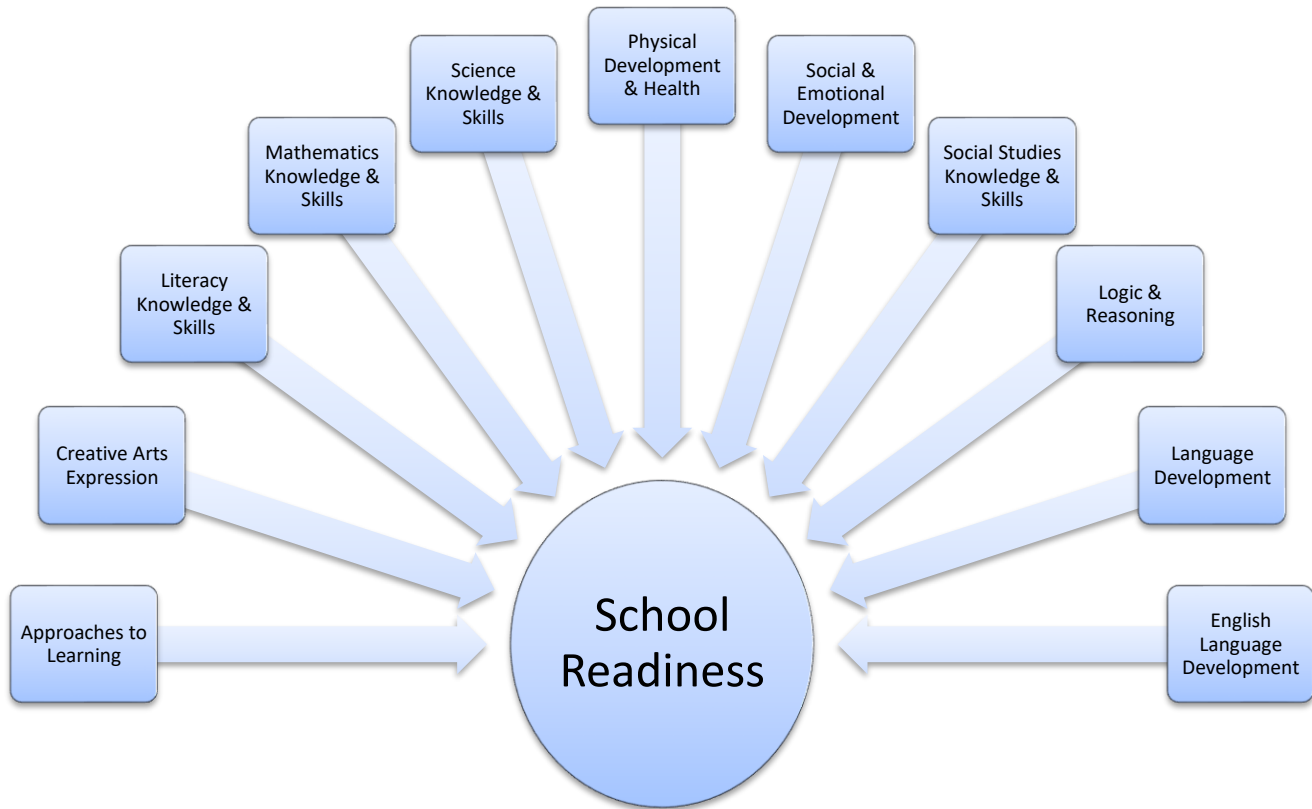
*HS Parent*

**S**EEKERS stands for "Specialized Employment Effort Keeps Education Running Smoothly" This free career training program focuses on early child education, child development, and HS practices. SEEKERS attend weekly classes, and volunteer 100+ hours in class for hands-on experience. This is a Dept of Human Services JOBS-approved training. Graduates can apply for a HS/EHS job they qualify for.

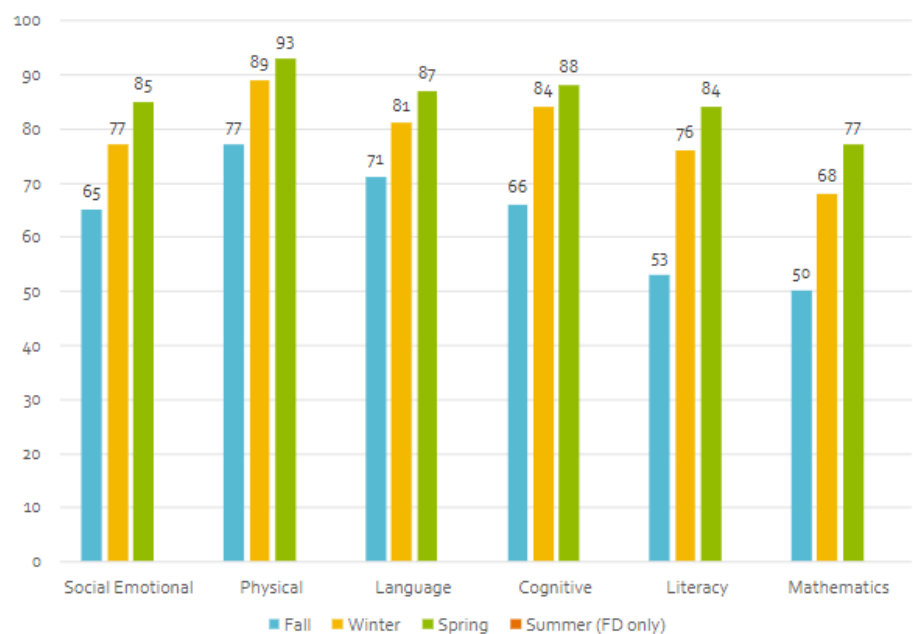
*"If you don't know what you want to be when you grow up, try SEEKERS. It's like free college, a test drive, a sample. It can be the career you didn't know you wanted."*

*SEEKER Graduate*

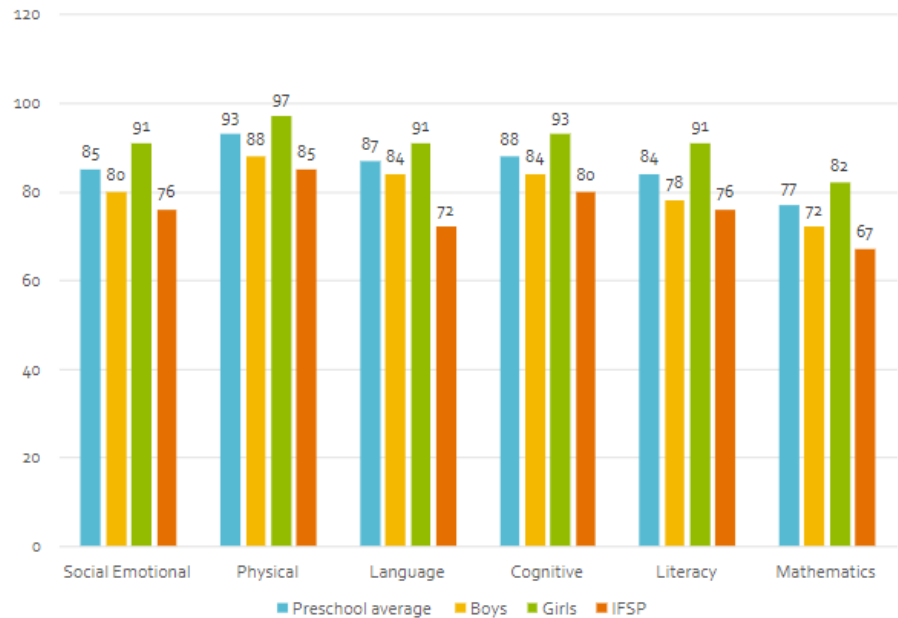
The success of each child is unique and influenced by their environment, temperament, and life experiences. Teachers develop curriculum plans that help children gain knowledge, skills, and confidence. The curriculum focuses on the 11 domains of learning while encouraging active involvement in the learning process by encouraging child-initiated pursuit in their own interest in their culture, community, and world around them.



Percentage of Preschoolers meeting or exceeding age expectations  
PY22-23

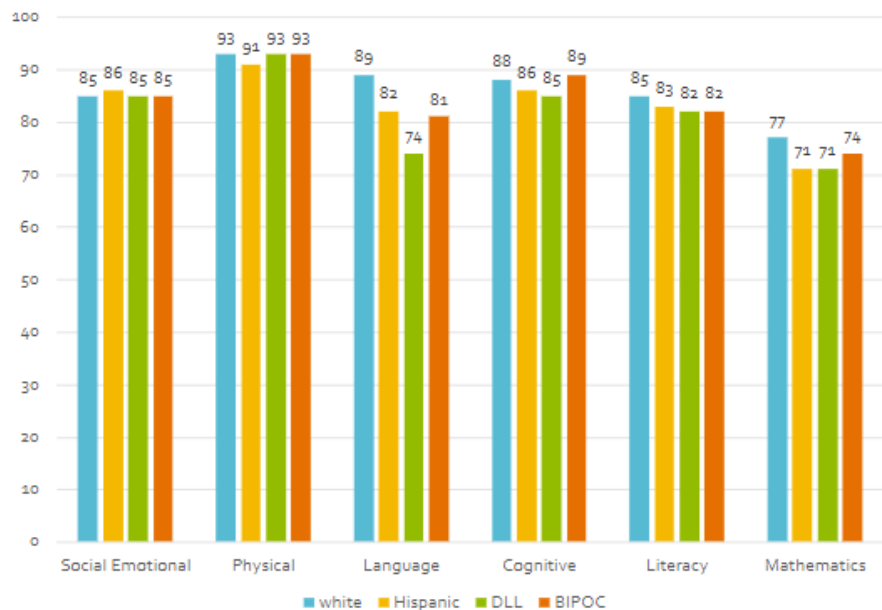


## Percentage of Preschoolers by Gender and special needs demographics meeting or exceeding age expectations Spring PY22-23



## Children Learn Through Play

## Percentage of Preschoolers by race, ethnicity, and Dual Language demographics meeting or exceeding age expectations Spring PY21-22

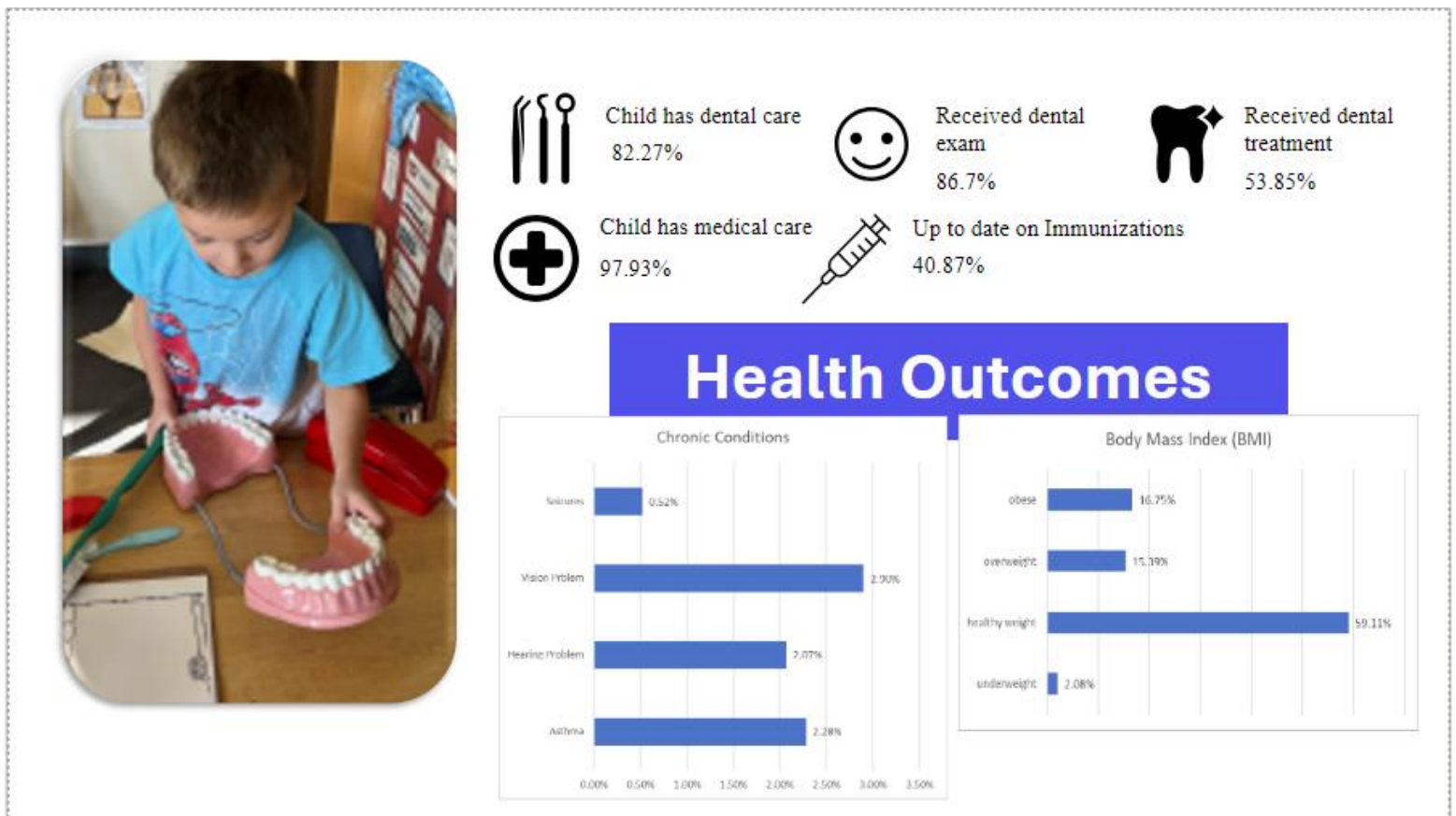








Our mission of ensuring a solid foundation for life includes laying a healthy foundation in the earliest years possible. The required 45-day screenings can expose the beginning signs of eye, dental, mental, and developmental concerns, or conditions that when addressed early alter the family's pathway to better health.



The saying “a healthy body equals a healthy mind” is a friendly reminder to create healthy habits. Using the CATCH (*Coordinated Approach to Child Health*) curriculum in classrooms, HSOLC continuously encourages movement, physical fitness, and good nutrition while instilling the importance of lifelong physical activity.



**V**olunteers enrich the classroom with their willingness to share their knowledge, to be readers, musicians, and extra eyes and ears in the classroom. Forty volunteers gave their time in 2022-2023. Many are returners, some are Smart Readers, gardeners, Kiwanis members, nursing students, and Active 20-30 Club members. Some volunteers specifically make knitted hats and scarves for HS/EHS child Each person is a treasure, and each activity is a valuable experience that a child may never have had if it weren't for the volunteer's willingness to give their time, talents, and energy. The value that volunteers bring to the classroom is priceless.

---



---

*PreK at PK Park – a Policy Council-approved fun-raiser brought HS/EHS families to the ballpark for an evening of fun and celebration. It was a memory maker for this child who gave her bus driver a pie in the face!*



**H**SOLC is Federally and State funded with small pockets of additional funding from Dept of Health & Human Services for ERDC (employment-related daycare), CACFP (child-adult care food program), and other miscellaneous small grant funds.

REVENUE	HS 22-23 budget	MIECHV	EHS FED//STATE	EHS 22-23 budget	Agency budget
Federal Grant Revenue	\$ 7,193,869		\$ 1,387,760	\$ 1,387,760	\$ 8,581,629
State Grant Revenue	\$ 7,879,613		\$ 769,500	\$ 769,500	\$ 8,649,113
DHS Revenue	\$ 710,000				\$ 710,000
CACFP Revenue	\$ 631,109		\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 676,109
Other Grant Revenue		\$ 240,000		\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000
Parent Pay					\$ 60,000
<b>total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 16,414,591</b>	<b>\$ 240,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,202,260</b>	<b>\$ 2,442,260</b>	<b>\$ 18,916,851</b>

**T**he Board approved the 2023-2024 budget at the February 2023 meeting. The agency submitted a change of scope application to achieve the federal requirement of having 54% of classes be the extended day model; to support the research of dose (hours) / duration (days) positive impact on child outcomes, and to address a large EHS waitlist.

REVENUE	HS Budget	MIECHV	EHS FED//S	EHS Budget	23-24 Total
Federal Grant Revenue	\$ 7,267,932		\$ 1,413,882	\$ 1,413,882	\$ 8,681,814
State Grant Revenue	\$ 7,879,613		\$ 769,500	\$ 769,500	\$ 8,649,113
DHS Revenue	\$ 710,000				\$ 710,000
CACFP Revenue	\$ 631,109		\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 676,109
Other Grant Revenue		\$ 240,000		\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000
Parent Pay					\$ 60,000
<b>total revenue</b>	<b>\$16,488,654</b>	<b>\$ 240,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,228,382</b>	<b>\$ 2,468,382</b>	<b>\$ 19,017,036</b>



**B**etween the Board of Directors, who have fiscal responsibility for the agency, and the Policy Council for their oversight of the services, HSOLC continues its progress in its strategic directions and priorities.

### 2020-2025 Strategic Direction Priorities

- Program design and offerings meet the needs of families in Lane County.
- Children thrive and learn in Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS).
- Families and community partners understand our guidelines and can easily access HS and EHS programs.
- HSOLC is a leader in advocating for policies that benefit our kids and families.
- Caregivers and families are connected to each other and to HS teachers and staff to increase social support.
- Adequate transportation options are available to the most vulnerable or hard-to-reach populations.
- Employees stay and grow with the Agency.
- HSOLC fully supports the health and wellbeing of staff.
- Create and fill key specialist positions to enhance and expand operations.
- Facilities keep pace with growth, offer flexibility, and provide a safe, comfortable learning environment.
- Staff, families, and facilities are prepared and equipped to handle emergencies and disasters
- Policies and Procedures are relevant to current operations and support compliance with all applicable regulations.
- Data collection, storage, and reporting is streamlined and simplified to maximize staff time while ensuring accurate recordkeeping.
- Increase grant income from non-federal sources.
- Diversify the funding mix with earned revenue.
- Explore donor opportunities.
- The community is aware of the value of HS and sees us as the go-to place for quality early childhood education.
- Internal communication is excellent, informative, and supportive.
- Increase fiscal literacy among staff.

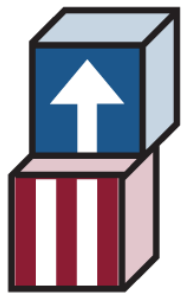
### Board of Directors

Heather Edge, Chair  
Chad Hamilton, Vice  
Ed Feil, Researcher  
Rebecca Castilla, Community (Rural)  
Lois Pribbles, ECE College Professor  
Lizz Rock, Policy Council Representative  
Nikki Bratton, Realtor

### Policy Council

Lizz Rock, Chair  
Ashley Zoll, State Parent Rep.  
Heather Andersen, State Parent Rep.  
Saydee Rambo  
John Parker  
Felicia Gee  
Cheryl Bouyoba-Tsogho  
Hannah Clover-Omeara  
Bonnie Middleton  
Sabrina Ross





**HEAD  
START**  
OF LANE COUNTY

221 B Street | Springfield | Oregon  
541-757-2425  
[www.hsolc.org](http://www.hsolc.org)

**Ensuring that Our Youngest Children Have a Solid Foundation for Life.  
Serving pregnant persons, infants, wobblers, and toddlers up to age 5.**

