

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT MURRAY HEAD START



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CINDY GRAVES, DIRECTOR

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Cindy Graves, Director

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Murray Head Start completed its 54th year of providing high-quality comprehensive services since 1965 to children and families in western Kentucky. Head Start children were provided services in a successful blended model with school district partners across our eight-county service area through federal Office of Head Start funds in two grants—direct program services and a Delegate partnership with Western Kentucky University (WKU). Early Head Start services for ages 0-3 were conducted in either center-based or home-based models in nine counties, including a Delegate partnership for services on the WKU campus.

Murray Head Start received new supplemental funds to provide full-day services to 125 students, bringing the total Head Start students served in full-day up to 200 of our 401 funded slots. One or more full-day classrooms are now located in Calloway County, Carlisle County, Fulton County, Fulton Independent, Graves County, Hickman County, Marshall County, Murray Independent, and Scholar House in McCracken County. In addition, Murray Head Start collaborated with school districts on Preschool Partnership Grants through the Kentucky Department of Education to serve children eligible for the child care assistance program in full-day classrooms.

Collaborations with community agency partners strengthen the resources available to our children, parents and staff, many of whom are described throughout this report in the relevant areas of service. Ongoing professional development opportunities enhance the leadership capacities of our management team and field staff, including the Calloway County Early Childhood Regional Training Center, the Kentucky Head Start Association, the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood, and the Training & Technical Assistance Services at Western Kentucky University.

Throughout our communities, we value the many individual volunteers and community partners who support program efforts to truly give our most vulnerable children the "head start" that leads to school success.

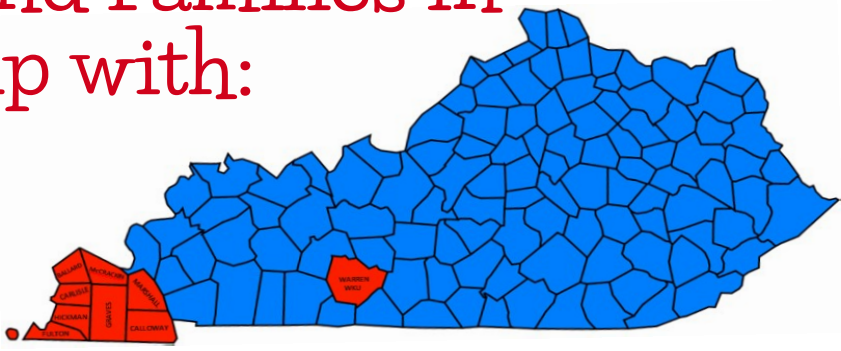


THROUGH INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS, QUALIFIED
STAFF ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING FOR EACH CHILD AND
FAMILY, COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY





Serving Children and Families in Partnership with:



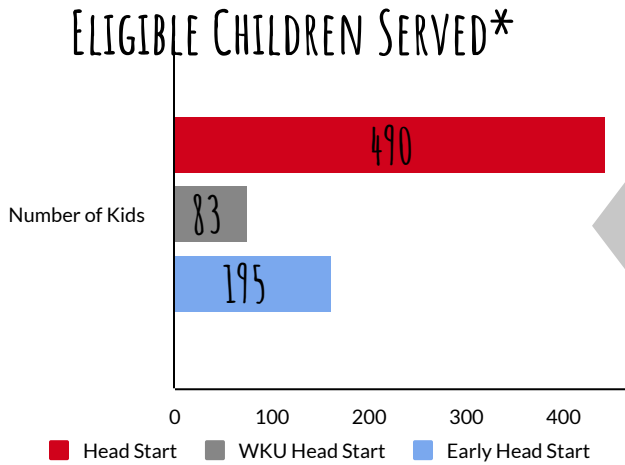
BALLARD COUNTY SCHOOLS
 CALLOWAY COUNTY SCHOOLS
 CARLISLE COUNTY SCHOOLS
 FULTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
 FULTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
 GRAVES COUNTY SCHOOLS
 HICKMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS
 MARSHALL COUNTY SCHOOLS
 MAYFIELD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
 MURRAY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
 WEST KENTUCKY COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
 WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
 HOUSING AUTHORITY OF FULTON
 HOUSING AUTHORITY OF MURRAY
 HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PADUCAH
 SCHOLAR HOUSE OF PADUCAH



ENROLLMENT:

A total of 1,623 children and 1,558 families were served in our blended Preschool/Head Start and Early Head Start program. The estimated number of eligible 0-4 year-olds in the service area was 2,880, according to 2019 Kentucky Kids Count data. Murray Head Start partnered with local school districts to serve 56% of eligible children. The average monthly enrollment was 92% for Head Start, WKU and Early Head Start.

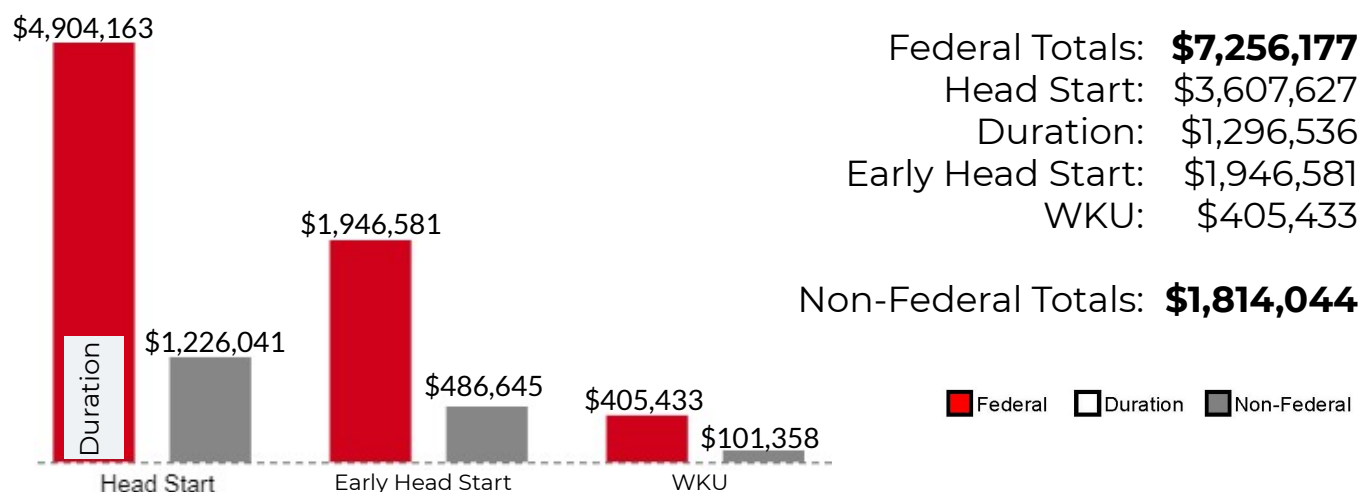


*exceeds maximum number due to withdrawals

CLASSROOM COUNTS:

EARLY HEAD START 10
 PRESCHOOL/HEAD START 83
 HOME-BASED GROUPS 5

2018-19 Program Funding:



Expenditures:

Head Start	Early Head Start	WKU
Personnel \$1,475,265	Personnel \$896,418	Personnel \$105,412
Fringe \$674,560	Fringe \$504,774	Fringe \$56,620
Travel \$4,547	Travel \$10,134	Travel \$499
Equipment \$82,320	Equipment \$39,000	Equipment \$0
Supplies \$473,453	Supplies \$111,623	Supplies \$26,157
Contractural \$1,151,400	Contractural \$227,850	Contractural \$197,346
Other \$161,690	Other \$120,333	Other \$14,195
Training \$46,925	Training \$36,449	Training \$5,204
Total: \$4,070,160	Total: \$1,946,581	Total: \$405,433

Unliquidated Balance: \$379,705
 Carryover Balance: \$454,298

TOTAL FUNDING FOR 2018-19: \$7,256,177

USDA Reimbursement: \$141,027
 Administrative Costs: \$626,267

Financial Audit & Federal Review

The most recent financial audit was for year ending June 30, 2019, resulting in an unmodified opinion and no findings.

The most recent federal reviews were conducted by the Office of Head Start in 2015-16. The following reviews were completed for both Murray Head Start and our Delegate agency at Western Kentucky University; Environmental Health and Safety; Fiscal Integrity and Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance. Each of these reviews resulted in no areas of non-compliance. In addition, the federal review of teacher-child interactions using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) resulted in program-wide CLASS scores above the national threshold in all three domains for Emotional Support, Classroom Organization and Instructional Support.

Family Services:

The Family Partnership agreement process was completed with 99% of our families this school year setting family goals and working towards meeting those goals. Ninety-nine percent of families received some type of family service such as job training, assistance with adult education programs, basic need referrals, parenting education and health education services. Crisis intervention services were provided by our Family Service staff to 291 of our enrolled families.

Homelessness is an issue that affected 92/12% of our families this year, with 22/18% of them acquiring permanent housing.

PARENTING CURRICULUM

The parenting curriculum chosen for the Murray Head Start Program is “Your Journey Together: Building the Resilience of Children and Families (YJT).” This curriculum is a strength-based program designed to promote the social and emotional well-being and resilience of vulnerable children and families. This curriculum uses everyday routines, activities, and interactions to help parents promote resilience in their children and themselves and better cope with life’s challenges.

Districts offered opportunities for parenting classes in various ways. Some opted for the *Your Journey Together* curriculum while other districts partnered with local Extension Offices for *Active Parenting* or with *Toyota Born Learning*. All parents were provided the choice to attend classes for whatever strength-based curriculum their district chose.

Family Engagement:

Murray Head Start implements an approach to family engagement centered around the *Parent, Family, Community Engagement Framework* and embraces Head Start’s historical emphasis on involving parents as their child’s first and most important teacher as well as leaders in the program. New research in the field of family engagement further defines the importance of the parent’s role and how staff and parents can work together to support child outcomes in the area of school readiness. Our program’s approach supports family well-being, strong relationships between parents and their children, and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children.

Parents are actively engaged on all levels of the program. Parents attend parent meetings, trainings, social events, and participate in advisory councils as well as Policy Council. Parent training material is designed to meet a variety of adult learning styles and is accessed at parent meetings, trainings, newsletters, and informational flyers.

Parents were surveyed to determine their satisfaction with the program’s services. Of the respondents, 94% rated the program’s overall success as satisfactory to excellent. Parents responded positively to questions about how the program had helped them nurture their child’s growth and development, engage in their child’s education, and in preparing their child for school readiness and later success. 99% of parents reported that they enjoyed and celebrated their child’s learning and accomplishments. 91% of parents reported that they learned new ways to understand and respond to their child, thus supporting positive parent-child relationships.



Health Services:

Assessment of children's current health status as well as screening for any developmental concerns enables individualized planning for each child to ensure school readiness success. For both Early Head Start and Head Start children, 92% received medical services and 95% received dental services. With increased knowledge of our collaboration with the Kentucky Oral Health Network (KOHN), more children are registering to receive KOHN's services, which include dental exams in the classroom, cleaning and fluoride varnishes. Additionally, we maintain partnerships with local physicians, health departments, and dentists in each community as well as the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs, which assists in providing medical and dental care to children.



The 2018-19 health focus for Murray Head Start was *Expecting Great Things*. In conjunction with the focus, several training events were conducted in partnership with local extension offices. Through this health focus, Murray Head Start also collaborated with the KY-Moms MATR (Maternal Assistance Toward Recovery) Program so that information on the Early Head Start Pregnant Mom Program could be included at regional Baby Shower trainings. Finally, Murray Head Start participated as a vendor in the Western Kentucky Bluegrass Baby Expo in order to raise awareness of Early Head Start/Head Start services offered from pregnancy through preschool ages.

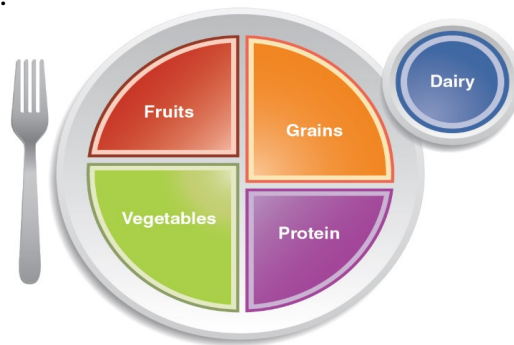
In addition, Murray Head Start continued its collaboration with the Mayfield, Murray and Marshall Counties Kidsight Programs (MKP) through the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation (KLEF) and Lion's Club District 43-Kentucky. So that services offered to Early Head Start and Head Start children and families are further enhanced, The Lion's Club maintains the most up-to-date PediaVision technology that evaluates for a number of visual concerns—misaligned eyes, drooping eyelids and early-onset cataracts to name a few. The SPOT camera is capable of screening eyes in ages ranging from infant up to 110 years and gives immediate feedback with minimal screening time for each child. Additionally, the SPOT camera screens for conditions such as: amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (crossed eyes), obstructions that can interfere with light passage through the eye (cataracts or tumors), nearsightedness/farsightedness, and other refractive errors (need for glasses). Through a statewide partnership formed between KLEF and the Kentucky Head Start Association, Murray Head Start received a SPOT camera that has been utilized at EHS health clinics and to screen either newly enrolled children or those who were absent on a regularly scheduled screening day within their district.



Nutrition Services:

Murray Head Start employs a full time Nutrition Specialist and two Nutrition Family Advocates who help manage the newly implemented preschool snack program. Our Nutrition Specialist is a Registered Dietitian and along with completing nutrition assessments, reviewing growth assessments, assisting staff with nutrition-related issues, providing counseling, nutritional information, and programs for families, she oversees meals and snacks provided by Head Start. Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, Murray Head Start is partnering with the Child and Adult Care Food Program to provide healthy snacks to over 700 preschool students within our eight-county service area. The program focuses on providing whole grains, lower sugar content yogurts and cereals, and whole fruits.

Murray Head Start continues to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food program for its licensed centers at Fulton, Graves, and Hickman Counties, Murray Independent, and Scholar House of Paducah. Breakfast and lunch meals are provided via contract with school districts or West Kentucky Community & Technical College Food Services and snacks are prepared on-site at the centers.



Preschool / Head Start meals continue to be provided by school district Food Services that are based upon guidelines set by Head Start Program Performance Standards, as well as those that pertain to Child Care Regulations.

Disability and Behavioral Health Services:

DISABILITY

During the 2018-19 school year, children with special needs comprised between 12-15% of our enrollment. All of these children received special education and/or related services as listed on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in partnership with 11 school districts.

In addition, between 12-14% of infants and toddlers being served through Early Head Start were identified as having special needs. In partnership with Kentucky's Part C agency First Steps, these children received specialized services in accordance with their Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Head Start maintains a commitment that all children with special needs will be educated alongside typically developing peers in the least restrictive (natural) environment.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Murray Head Start provides access to high-quality behavioral health services that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate, to support each child's growth and school readiness.

During the 2018-19 school year, Murray head Start partnered with 6 agencies to provide 164 days of services in the 11 districts we serve. Consultants conducted a total of 168 consultations with staff, 15 parent consultations, 52 individual behavioral health assessments, and facilitation of 13 referrals for additional services outside of Head Start.

2018-2019 Community Needs Assessment Summary

Federal regulations require that all Head Start grantees conduct a Community Needs Assessment every five years and complete an update in the intervening years. The 2018-19 information was used to establish priorities for enrollment, to identify strengths and gaps in program and community resources, and to develop program plans for service delivery. The full Community Assessment is available in the Murray Head Start Central Office.

Across our service area, the last five years of data on population ages 0-4 shows that all counties have a slight increase or are holding steady in the number of births, which indicates a continuously stable need for early childhood services in our communities. A review of the numbers of children ages 0-4 in poverty have shown a significant increase in Fulton County and Graves County, while the other counties have remained steady, also indicating a slight overall increase in the need for Head Start and Early Head Start eligible services. In 2018-19, Head Start served 40% of the eligible low-income children, maintaining 100% full enrollment of the federally-funded slots. In addition, our program continues to maintain waiting lists of eligible children. Income eligible four-year-olds that do not get a Head Start slot are offered the Kentucky Preschool program as an alternative. Murray Head Start works with our partner school districts to serve children identified per regulations as homeless and those in foster care. Our selection criteria addresses the issues of the child's age, suspected disability family income, parental status or in the custody of someone other than parents along with any other family concerns, and targets the neediest families. We are able to provide quality services to children with disabilities through our partnerships with local school districts and the First Steps program.

A crucial figure shows that only 4% (131 of 2,931) of the low-income infants and toddlers were served in Early Head Start across our service area. This is due to the critically low number of funded slots available to Murray Head Start. Our program continues to seek additional funding to increase the availability of Early Head Start in our communities.

The following data is pertinent across our service area in identifying potential barriers to and supports needed for family success and self-sufficiency:

- Slightly over 13% of the population aged 25 and older in our service area have not completed a high school diploma or equivalent
- 13% of the population received SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits
- 6.79% of households have no motor vehicle
- Unemployment rate averaged 4.2% for the general population, yet averaged 40.5% for enrolled families
- Over 6% of persons age 16-19 were not in school and were not employed
- Four of our very rural counties have two or fewer dentists
- Four rural counties have no resident mental health providers
- Three counties have two or fewer primary care physicians and no local hospital for emergency treatment
- Within the service area, 128,491 people live in 28 designated Food Desert census tracts.

Murray Head Start staff work with families to address the above barriers and assist with solutions. We partner with the Adult Learning Centers and transportation services to support parents who want to work on obtaining their GED. We work with community social service agencies to help families sign up for the support benefits available, such as SNAP and WIC. Our staff assist families with job searches, employment applications, and developing their resume. We share local job fair information and notices of employment vacancies.

Across our service area, there are a number of health concerns in rural communities, including limited numbers of general physicians, pediatric dentists, and mental health providers. The rural counties have no resident mental health providers, so our program has to contract with providers from other counties to travel to these locations to serve our children and families. The lack of health providers in our smaller communities poses a significant challenge for some families. Families appreciate the assistance of the Head Start program in referrals and transportation to providers.

We rely heavily on partnership agreements with providers who are willing to go across multiple counties so that all of our children and families have access to services.

Teen pregnancy continues to be a concern for our program. Teen mothers face barriers to completing high school and getting sustainable paying jobs. Access to adequate health care and quality child care affect our teen moms. Currently, the national teen pregnancy rate is 36.6 teen births per 1,000 girls ages 15-19. The average for our service area is 38, with Ballard, Fulton, Graves, McCracken, and Marshall Counties all being above the program-wide average.

For those parents who do work or are enrolled in school, finding quality affordable child care remains a challenge. Some of our more rural communities are identified as child care deserts, having very limited child care options for families and use the Head Start/Early Head Start program to provide the majority of their child care.

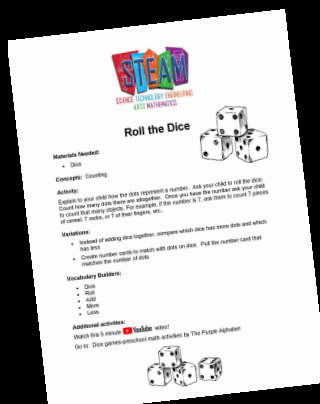
In order to provide services to the greatest number of children within limited space available, most of our centers are blended with local school district preschool programs and open part-day with families using local child care providers or extended family and friends to supplement the hours we are not open. In our service area, parents and community members view our program as providing the best quality early childhood services in the area, which is verified by our state's quality All-STARS ratings.

The strength of program resources, partnerships and collaborations is highly recognized by families, staff, Policy Council representatives, and community stakeholders. The support of local service organizations and community agencies offered to our families and children is a benefit of small rural communities coming together for the common good and meeting the needs of families, friends, and neighbors. Head Start staff meet regularly with and participate in joint service initiatives throughout our local communities.

STEAM Packets

A school readiness initiative was started in the 2017-18 school year. The initiative began with a collaboration between our School Readiness Coordinator and Family Engagement Coordinator to offer a variety of STEAM packets that families could request and do as a family at home. The reason for the initiative was to meet the needs of families who cannot attend events. A School Readiness Action Committee was formed that consisted of Family Service staff, Education staff, and parents. The initial committee determined that unless the packets supplied the materials needed, families would likely not complete the activities. Committee members chose the activities which included Sink or Float, Ramp Race, Roll the Dice, and Overflowing. Along with directions, a survey was also added to the packet. Requests were sent to all parents and were available in English and Spanish. There were 140 surveys returned with 96% of people requesting a second packet.

A total of 606 packets were distributed between our 8 counties.



School Readiness:

The Murray Head Start Approach to School Readiness means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children. Head Start has long defined school readiness as children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. Head Start is built on the principle that the areas of children's development and learning are all important and interrelated. The program's long history of attention to children's physical and mental health, social and emotional well-being is embraced by our program. However, our program is equally committed to support children's cognitive development, especially to significantly boost language development and to help preschoolers acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that predict later success in reading, writing and math. As a tribute to the history of this program and the War on Poverty, we recognize the ultimate goal of Head Start.

School Readiness Goals, as a means of supporting the ultimate goal of Head Start have been identified and are included in this report. These goals have been generated from a variety of sources and are reflective of families, communities, school district partners and others with whom we collaborate.

School Readiness Goals

Approaches to Learning

- Children will demonstrate flexibility, inventiveness, curiosity, motivation, persistence and engagement in learning.

Social and Emotional Development

- Children will develop and demonstrate positive interactions and a sense of belonging through relationships with adults and peers.
- Children will develop and demonstrate the ability to recognize and regulate emotions, attention, impulses and behavior.
- Children will develop and demonstrate the ability to recognize the emotions of others and respond positively.

Language and Literacy

- Children will be able to verbally/non-verbally express their wants and needs.
- Children will engage in conversations, follow directions and comprehend language.
- Children will be able to demonstrate age appropriate emergent literacy skills that lead to print knowledge and awareness that print conveys meaning.
- Children who are dual language learners will demonstrate competency in their home language while acquiring beginning proficiency in English.

Cognition

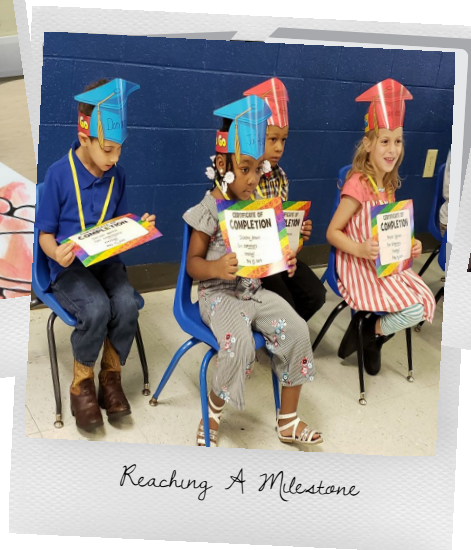
- Logic and Reason – Children will find multiple solutions utilizing symbolic representation to questions, tasks, problems and challenges by using reasoning skills.
- Mathematics Knowledge and Skills – Children will use math in everyday routines to count, compare, relate, pattern and problem solve.
- Science Knowledge and Skills – Children will engage in exploring their environments through observations, manipulation, asking questions, making predictions and developing hypotheses.

Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development

- Children will demonstrate control, strength and coordination of large muscles.
- Children will demonstrate increasing control, strength and coordination of small muscles.
- Children and families will practice healthy and safe habits.
- Creative Arts Expression – Children will demonstrate an interest in and participate in a variety of visual arts, dance, music and dramatic experiences.



Making A Masterpiece



Reaching A Milestone

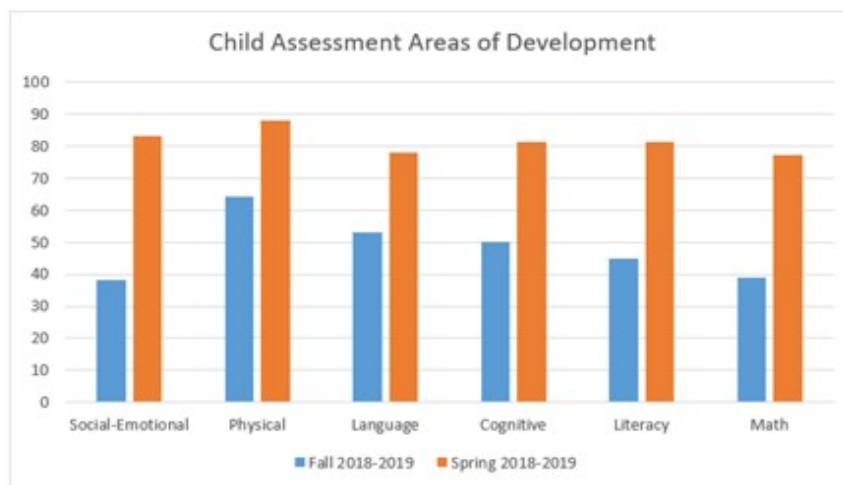


A Visit From A Community Partner

Child Assessment

Teaching Strategies GOLD® was used to assess children across a progression of levels on objectives that are most predictive of school success and are aligned with our school readiness goals. The progressions, known as widely held expectations, are based on standard developmental and learning expectations for the age range.

The table below lists the areas of development and the percentage of children who scored within the widely held expectations for their age in the fall and in the spring.



Governance & Administration:

Murray Board of Education, Dr. Richard Crouch, Chairperson

Murray Head Start Policy Council (elected annually)

Coy D. Samons, Executive Director and Superintendent, Murray Independent School District

Sarah Kaegi, Chief Financial Officer

Cindy Graves, Head Start/Early Head Start Director

Central Office Management Team:

Education Services

Debbie Steiner, Early Care & Education Services Program Administrator

Karmel Stewart, School Readiness Coordinator

Marne Carter, Disabilities & Behavioral Health Services Coordinator

Althia Caldwell, ECE Quality Services Coordinator

Susan Bodell, ECE Mentor Coach Specialist

Athena Payne, ECE Mentor Coach Specialist

Tabatha Addison, ECE Mentor Coach Specialist

Kelly Davis, ECE Mentor Coach Specialist

Family, Health & Nutrition Services

Dana Martin, Family & Community Partnership Services Program Administrator

Whitney Pile, RN, Health Services Coordinator

Crystal Williams, ERSEA Coordinator (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance)

Linda Thompson, Family Engagement Services Coordinator

Amy Vaughn, RD, Nutrition Services Specialist

Reagan Newnum, Family Advocate/Nutrition

Debra Jones, Family Advocate/Nutrition

Brittany Lockhart, Family Services/Health Specialist

Tiffany Pitman, Family Services Specialist/Mentor Coach

Support Services

Tammy Saxon, Fiscal Operations Specialist

Hilary Cunningham, Procurement/AP Processing Specialist

Heather Newsome, Human Resources/Payroll Specialist

Penny Green, AP/Payroll Specialist

Trish Pickett, Data Systems Specialist

Annette Torsak, Support Services Manager

Alicia Stallings, Support Services Manager

Beth Carrico, Support Services Manager

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