

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATION { X } ACTION { } CLOSED MEETING { }

SUBJECT: SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATION

Shenandoah Valley Head Start 2014-2015 Annual Report

BACKGROUND: The Shenandoah Valley Head Start 2014-2015 Annual Report is provided for your information. Bath County has participated in this regional program since 1995.

Mrs. Hall will provide brief comments regarding our partnership with the Shenandoah Valley Head Start consortium.



Grantee

Shenandoah Valley Head Start Consortium & Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships

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May 19, 2016

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Dear Community Partner,

In times where the impact of poverty on educational outcomes is a frequent topic of conversation, it's important to remember that an investment in early childhood can be a method for creating positive change. I count myself fortunate to work in communities that demonstrate this investment.

In order to continue to foster your support of your local Head Start program, please find enclosed the 2015-2016 Shenandoah Valley Head Start program Annual Report. Shenandoah Valley Head Start serves children and families living in the communities of Augusta, Bath, Harrisonburg, Highland, Rockingham, Staunton, and Waynesboro.

Shenandoah Valley Head Start continues to emphasize and provide services that produce measurable outcomes for children and their families. All aspects of our program are designed to promote school readiness to maximize early educational opportunities for every child. The program also promotes meaningful parent, family, and community engagement, knowing that the lasting family relationships support children long after the preschool year(s).

In March of 2015, we were awarded an Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant. This program is funded to serve 32 very young children (ages birth through three) in partnership with a locally owned licensed child care centers. Currently our program's partnership sites are in Augusta County. Next year's Annual Report will share data gathered from this new program.

On behalf of the Shenandoah Valley Head Start program, let me say a sincere "thank you" for your continued support of quality comprehensive early childhood development services for children and their families. It's exciting to work among individuals who are dedicated to changing the future.

Sincerely,

Ashley S. Rhodenizer

Hope you are doing
well, Sue. Thanks for
your partnership.
-Ashley



2014-2015

ANNUAL REPORT

Providing quality comprehensive services to

families and children in:

- *Augusta County*
- *Bath County*
- *Harrisonburg City*
- *Highland County*
- *Rockingham County*
- *Staunton City*
- *Waynesboro City*

Program Overview

What is Head Start?

Created in 1965 as a comprehensive program to serve impoverished children and families, Head Start is the longest-running, federally-funded school readiness preschool program in the United States.



Highland County Public Schools

What Head Start does....

Head Start program services strive to enhance children's cognitive, social, and emotional development both at school and at home. Research-based strategies and service delivery models enhance a child's ability to grow in language, literacy, mathematics, science, social and emotional functioning, creative arts, and physical skills. Head Start also provides comprehensive health, mental health, and nutritional services to children and their families.

Student Demographics

In the 2014-2015 school year, the Shenandoah Valley Head Start Program was funded to serve 278 children. When a child moves from an area and can no longer be enrolled for services another child is enrolled. SVHS provided services to 294 children throughout the year.

Family Enrollment Eligibility:

- ⇒ 32 families received TANF and/or SSI public assistance
- ⇒ 215 families were at or below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines
- ⇒ 10 children were in foster care
- ⇒ 4 children experienced homelessness
- ⇒ 18 children were from over-income families
- ⇒ 15 children were between 101-130% of the federal poverty guidelines

Class age of children served:

- ⇒ 220 four-year-olds
- ⇒ 74 three-year-olds

Race/Ethnicity of children served:

- ⇒ 36 African American
- ⇒ 51 Biracial
- ⇒ 2 Mexican
- ⇒ 202 White, Non-Hispanic
- ⇒ 2 Hispanic
- ⇒ 1 Asian

Language of children served:

- ⇒ 236 English
- ⇒ 49 Spanish
- ⇒ 3 South Asian Languages
- ⇒ 2 East Asian Languages
- ⇒ 3 African Languages
- ⇒ 1 American Sign Language

Waitlist:

412 children are listed on the Single Point of Entry Waitlist. This includes Head Start, Virginia Preschool Initiative (state), Title I, ECSE and local funding sources. Applications are collected, scored, and maintained by the Shenandoah Valley Head Start Office for all localities served.

Meeting the Needs of the Whole Child

Percentage of children who were up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care according to the Virginia EPSDT* schedule for well child care:

⇒ 51% (out of 294)

Percentage of children who were up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age:

⇒ 94% (out of 294)

Percentage of children who received preventive dental care:

⇒ 58% (out of 294)

Percentage of children who had health insurance by the end of the year:

⇒ 97% (out of 294)



Bath County Public Schools

Comprehensive Family Services: 291 Families Served

Our comprehensive family service mission for the preschool program is the establishment of partnerships between the family, the school, and the community. These partnerships and the resulting relationships will enable families to help their children mature appropriately in the areas of social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. All partners in the preschool program are committed to providing a continuity of care to the child and family during the preschool years of early childhood development.

Family Service Goals:

Goal #1

To recognize and promote the family's role as the primary educator and decision-maker for our preschool children. Parents will establish and influence policies/procedures using educational opportunities available to them to support the implementation of the Performance Standards.

Goal #2

To complete Family Assessments and Family Partnership Agreements with all families in order to meet families' specific needs and to encourage empowerment through establishing strength-based goals.

Goal #3

To facilitate parent engagement during center meetings, program committees, governance opportunities, and other forums related to preparing parents as advocates for their children's school readiness needs.

Demographics of families served for 2014-2015

- ⇒ 130 two-parent families
- ⇒ 161 single-parent families
- ⇒ 185 families with at least one parent employed
- ⇒ 106 families with one or both parents unemployed
- ⇒ 105 parents with less than a high school degree
- ⇒ 116 parents with a high school diploma or GED
- ⇒ 55 parents with associate's degree, or some college education
- ⇒ 15 parents with bachelor's or advanced degree

Family Partnership Process

294 families participated in a family goal-setting process which resulted in an individualized Family Partnership Agreement

Head Start Supports Families: Comprehensive Services Received	Number of Families That Received Service
Emergency/Crisis Intervention: addressing immediate need for food, clothing, or shelter	137
Housing Assistance: subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.	12
Substance Abuse prevention or treatment	3
Mental Health Services	29
English as a Second Language (ESL) Training	35
Adult Education: GED programs, college selection, etc.	23
Job Training	5
Child Abuse and Neglect Services	160
Domestic Violence Services	5
Child Support Assistance	1
Health Education: including prenatal education	149
Assistance to Families of Incarcerated Individuals	6
Parenting Education	288
Marriage Education Services	4

Parent Involvement



Staunton City Public Schools

**79 Fathers
Participated in
Male
Involvement
Activities**



Bath County Parent Engagement

**292
Head Start
parents
volunteered in
the program**

Curriculum & Assessment

The **Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning** are the comprehensive standards for four-year-olds. These standards are integrated throughout the curriculum.

- ⇒ The ***Creative Curriculum*** provides a curriculum framework for the following areas of development: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language. This curriculum is aligned with the Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework.
- ⇒ ***Blueprint for Early Literacy*** recognizes that all children need experience with books and structured support to build language and vocabulary skills. *Blueprint* is based on National Reading Panel and Early Reading First recommendations and is designed to meet state and national standards for reading, writing, and oral language development.
- ⇒ ***"I am Moving, I am Learning"*** is a proactive approach for addressing childhood obesity. This OHS initiative brings health, physical activity, and nutrition education to the classroom.
- ⇒ ***Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS Pre-K)*** is an assessment used to identify each 4 year-old's knowledge of important literacy fundamentals. Knowledge of these fundamentals is predictive of future reading success. Assessment occurs three times a year. Instructional staff adjust teaching strategies to support the needs of children as indicated by assessment results.
- ⇒ ***English Language Acquisition*** for children who are English Language Learners is a focus of the program. Teaching Strategies GOLD, an ongoing assessment database which is correlated with Creative Curriculum and all curricular supplements, is used to measure outcomes in all areas, including English Language Acquisition.

Pre-K numeracy is a focus of the program

Class Instruction & Environment

Virginia's Star Quality Initiative:

The **Virginia Star Quality Initiative (VSQI)** is a voluntary quality rating and improvement system for early childhood services. This rating system defines standards and creates a framework for accountability. Two components used for part of the rating are: CLASS and ECERS-R. Some classrooms in the Shenandoah Valley Head Start Consortium are rated by the VSQI system.

CLASS: The **Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)** is a valid and reliable measure of quality teacher-child interactions in three major domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. The CLASS is an observational tool based on research suggesting that "interactions between students and adults are the primary mechanism of student development and learning". This framework has been developed by the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning from the University of Virginia and is embraced by OHS.

ECERS-R: The **Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales—Revised Edition** is a set of standards that reliably rates the quality of space and furnishings, personal care routines, language-reasoning, activities, interactions, program structure, and parent engagement in a preschool classroom.

Specialists and teaching staff are receiving ongoing professional development for

both of these tools to promote quality in the preschool classrooms.

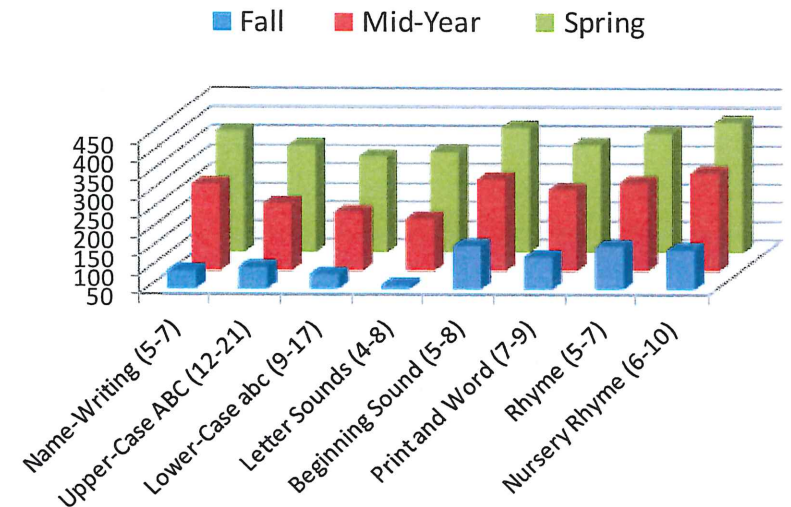


Harrisonburg City Public Schools

PALS-PreK

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening for Preschool

2014-2015 School Year - PALS-PreK Results



PALS PreK measures many emergent literacy skills that research indicates are predictive of later reading achievement. This graph shows the areas assessed by the PALS-PreK. The numerical reference in parentheses is the score range identified for a child to be in the Spring Developmental Zone for that area. The data includes all children regardless of length of time they were enrolled. Growth is noted in all areas. These numbers include the children in Head Start classrooms and all children where funding sources are blended (Virginia Preschool Initiative, Early Childhood Special Education, Title 1, and Local Funding). There were 430 four-year-olds assessed this year throughout the region. Many of the classrooms are inclusive, serving children with identified disabilities. Dual Language Learners make up many of these learners as well. All four year old children are screened with the PALS PreK.

When we see the results of this assessment, we celebrate the accomplishments of our children, their families, and the teaching staff!

Teacher Mentoring

Early Childhood Development Coordinator

Mentoring for continuous improvement is provided for teachers by Head Start and school division content area specialists on a regular basis. Regional training is provided annually on relevant topics.

Transition to Kindergarten Process

The Shenandoah Valley Head Start Preschool Program is a school-based program; therefore, enrolled children begin from day one preparing for kindergarten and the public school experience. Transitioning children to kindergarten successfully is a critical goal of the program. The following transition steps took place during the 14-15 school year:

- Family Service Advocates registered families and provided school readiness information during the summer prior to the start of the preschool year.
- Families were informed that physicals and immunizations are required for children to attend preschool and kindergarten. Family Service Advocates assisted families in accessing these services to meet school division requirements.
- During the preschool summer orientation, families visited the schools and met school staff, including teachers and principals.
- Teachers discussed individual progress with each child's parent during home visits and parent conferences. Celebrations and concerns were addressed, and together teacher and parents developed strategies to prepare for the child's transition to kindergarten.
- Throughout the preschool year, children and parents were familiarized with school routines, schedules, and policies.
- In the spring, families were provided with transition to kindergarten information and materials. Transition workshops were held for parents.
- Preschool children visited kindergarten classrooms.
- Preschool children had an opportunity to eat lunch cafeteria style with the other elementary school age children.
- Parents played an active role by taking responsibility for providing requested documents and registering for kindergarten.

Disabilities

The Head Start Act requires that actual enrollment will include at least 10% of children with identified disabilities. At the end of the 2014-2015 program year Head Start had provided services to 48 children with identified disabilities. This represents 16% across the regional enrollment which exceeds the 10% national requirement.

The Head Start Program partners with the Local Education Agency (LEA) for provision of all special education and related services. Head Start ensures that children with an identified disability are receiving the additional services they need by a formal monthly tracking system.

Shenandoah Valley Head Start actively partners with school and community professionals to recruit those children identified with disabilities through parents, school systems, doctors, and other community professionals. Head Start recruitment and enrollment plans include the process by which the LEA and Head Start program place those children identified with a disability into preschool classrooms.

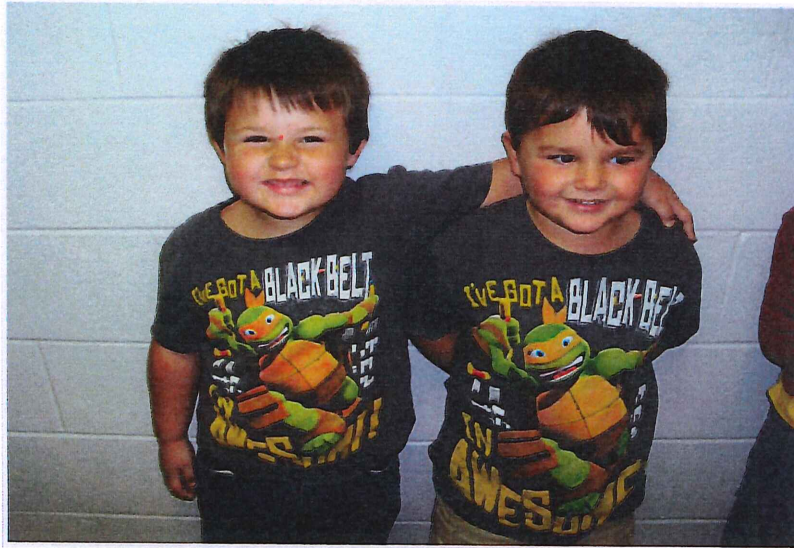
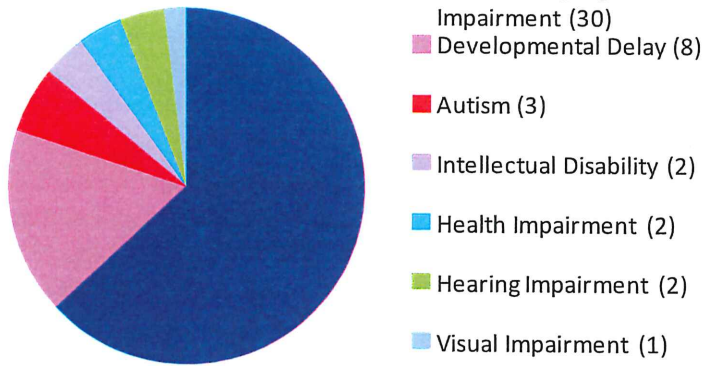


Waynesboro City Public Schools

Types of Disabilities Served

In 2014-2015 Head Start served **48 children (16% of enrollment)** with disabilities.

Breakdown of Disabilities by Eligibility Category



Rockingham County Public Schools

Budget

	<i>Federal Funding</i>		Proposed
	Budgeted		
	12/01/2014-11/30/2015		12/01/2015-11/30/2016
	<i>Federal</i>		<i>Federal</i>
Personnel	\$ 1,322,341		\$ 1,305,280
Fringe Benefits	\$ 596,637		\$ 572,877
Travel	\$ -		\$ -
Equipment	\$ -		\$ -
Supplies	\$ 36,668		\$ 36,143
Contractual	\$ 56,587		\$ 97,203
Other	\$ 60,457		\$ 61,187
Direct Costs	\$ 2,072,690		\$ 2,072,690
Indirect Costs	\$ 39,936		\$ 39,936
TTA Costs	\$ 29,196		\$ 29,196
<i>Total approved budget</i>	\$ 2,141,822		\$ 2,141,822
<i>Non-federal Match</i>	\$ 535,456		\$ 535,456

Program Mission & Goals

Program Mission 2014-2015

The Shenandoah Valley Head Start Program's mission is to provide a quality preschool program that forms partnerships among families, school sites, and the served communities. The program will emphasize the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development that is age appropriate for children. Using comprehensive school readiness goals and the Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework, the program will prepare children for success throughout their school years. Our goal is to encourage lifelong learning while empowering families to reach their full potential through parent engagement opportunities with their children.

Goals and Objectives 2014-2015

1. Shenandoah Valley Head Start will offer services to eligible families residing in Augusta County, Bath County, Harrisonburg City, Highland County, Rockingham County, Staunton City, and Waynesboro City.
 - ⇒ Recruitment of families will take place year round.
 - ⇒ As funds become available, additional classrooms and staff will be added in the areas where a greater need is evident.
2. Shenandoah Valley Head Start will establish a partnership among the families, the school sites served, and the community in order to provide a quality Head Start program.
 - ⇒ The Shenandoah Valley Head Start program will use the Head Start Approach to School Readiness that recognizes that parents are their children's primary teachers and advocates. Using this approach, the program will provide opportunities for parent engagement which will support children in school readiness skills and prepare the children and families for the transition to kindergarten.
 - ⇒ The Shenandoah Valley Head Start program will recognize and promote the family's role as the primary educator and decision-maker for their children. Parents will establish and influence policies/procedures using educational opportunities available to them through the program to support the implementation of the Performance Standards and school readiness goals.

Program Goals

Goals and Objectives continued -

- ⇒ The Shenandoah Valley Head Start Consortium will participate in the decision making process and promote the implementation of the Performance Standards and school readiness goals.
 - ⇒ The Shenandoah Valley Head Start program will utilize community resources to establish and influence policies/procedures, provide training to staff and families, serve on policy council and connect families to available services.
 - ⇒ The Shenandoah Valley Head Start program will collaborate with community agencies to identify barriers to services.
3. Shenandoah Valley Head Start will provide children with a learning environment and varied experiences to help them develop physically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively, in a manner appropriate to their age and state of development, as part of the overall goal of social competence and school readiness. Utilizing school readiness goals for intentional planning, the program will support children's skill development, knowledge, and attitudes to guide their success in school and encourage lifelong learning.
 - ⇒ Children will work in an environment that fosters independence and small group learning.
 - ⇒ The children will work through disputes and learn skills in problem solving with peers.
 - ⇒ The children will learn self-regulation skills by having choices and making decisions.
 - ⇒ The children will be actively involved in the learning process and will develop a genuine pleasure in learning and a sense of self-confidence in their ability to learn and accomplish tasks.
 - ⇒ The staff will make learning a positive experience by providing a welcoming supportive, and nurturing environment for both children and families.
 - ⇒ Children will leave the program with developmentally appropriate school readiness skills for entry into public schools.
 4. Shenandoah Valley Head Start will establish a Parent Engagement Committee annually.

Program Goals

Goals and Objectives continued -

- ⇒ The Shenandoah Valley Head Start program will facilitate parent engagement in the classroom, center meetings, program committees, and Policy Council business, and in their community.
- ⇒ The Shenandoah Valley Head Start program will facilitate parent understanding of the family's role in making an investment in their child's development by encouraging active parent engagement.
- ⇒ The Shenandoah Valley Head Start program will facilitate parent knowledge of programs and utilization of services available in each community.



Augusta County Public Schools



Shenandoah Valley Head Start
A Part of the
Regional School-Based Preschool Network
59 John Lewis Road, Suite 101
Fishersville, VA 22939
1-800-405-8069

Augusta County Public Schools—Grantee
Head Start Grant # 03CH3383

Funding provided by a grant from the U.S. Department of HHS-ACF-OHS.

Non-Discrimination Notice

The Augusta County School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, or gender in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

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