

**HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023**

**INNOVATE,
ELEVATE,
THRIVE:
NAVIGATING
THE PATH
TO EXCELLENCE**



Head Start



**Harris County
Department of
Education**





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TRUSTEES AND POLICY COUNCIL



HCDE Board of Trustees (Current)

Amy Flores Hinojosa, President
David W. Brown, First Vice President
Erica Davis, Second Vice President
Andrea Duhon, Member
Richard Cantu, Member
Eric Dick, Member
John McGee, Member

Policy Council Representatives (2022-23)

Ursula Williams | Barrett Station EHS / HS
Jana Goodner | Baytown EHS / HS
Brittany Perez | Channelview
Pamela Caligone | Compton
Lender Rogers | Dogan
America Pride | Fifth Ward
Sharon Moreno | Fonwood
Jamazecia Bowles | Humble EHS / HS
Jamie Chatman | JD Walker
Rosa Leal | La Porte EHS / HS
Sandra Cardenas | Pugh
Karisma Davis | Sheffield
Tia Glenn | Tidwell EHS / HS
Erika Rodriguez | Kool Kids
Taushell Davis | Purpose Kids
Esmeralda Monique Zamora | John G. Jones
Brizzick Williams | Successful Starters
Breeann Williams | Community Partners

Policy Council Alternates (2022-23)

Kayla Salyers | Barrett Station EHS / HS
Bianca Munoz | Baytown EHS / HS
Brenda Gonzalez | Channelview
Lakeda Cunningham | Compton
Kathy Smith | Dogan
Yenira Gomez Mena | Fonwood
Jade Thomas | Humble EHS / HS
Desiree Smith Merritt | JD Walker
Anel Hernandez | La Porte EHS / HS
Marlene Andrade | Pugh
Dora Martinez | Sheffield
Yaneibis Monterrey Guerra | Tidwell EHS / HS
Leticia Sara Gamez | Kool Kids
LaKeshia Boston | Purpose Kids
Quatanna Wright | John G. Jones
Jasmine Watkins | Successful Starters
Lenora Mannning | Community Partners

HOW WE LEARN

Lessons through Songs, Stories and Activities that Empower Children and Parents

Students enrolled in our EHS/HS programs benefit from learning opportunities enhanced by the Frog Street infant, toddler and pre-k curriculums. At our Houston ISD collaboration campuses, students utilize the SAVVAS Three Cheers for Pre-K curriculum. These involve parents as active partners in their child’s education and enhance language and literacy skills through songs and stories. They also empower staff to strengthen students’ abilities while reinforcing key concepts and skills. By accommodating diverse learning styles and providing individualized instruction, students remain engaged in meaningful learning experiences.

The inclusion of the Skill-Streaming supplemental curriculum enhances students’ social/emotional development and interpersonal interactions by building on the Conscious Discipline practices embedded in the Frog Street Curriculums.

Learning Outcomes for Early Head Start / Head Start Students

Child Assessment Elements for All Students:

- Observations
- Portfolio Collections

Child Assessment Elements for Early Head Start Students:

- Frog Street Developmental Checklist

Child Assessment Elements for Head Start Students:

- CLI Engage Circle Progress Monitoring Assessment

Overall Ongoing Assessment Summary for the 2022-2023 School Year

During the 2022-2023 school year, infants and toddlers were assessed using the CLI Developmental Checklist for beginning-of-year (BOY) assessment. Students were formally assessed during the middle-of-year (MOY) and end-of-year (EOY) assessment points using the Frog Street Developmental Checklist. A plan to utilize the Frog Street AIM assessment has been created for the 2023-2024 school year.

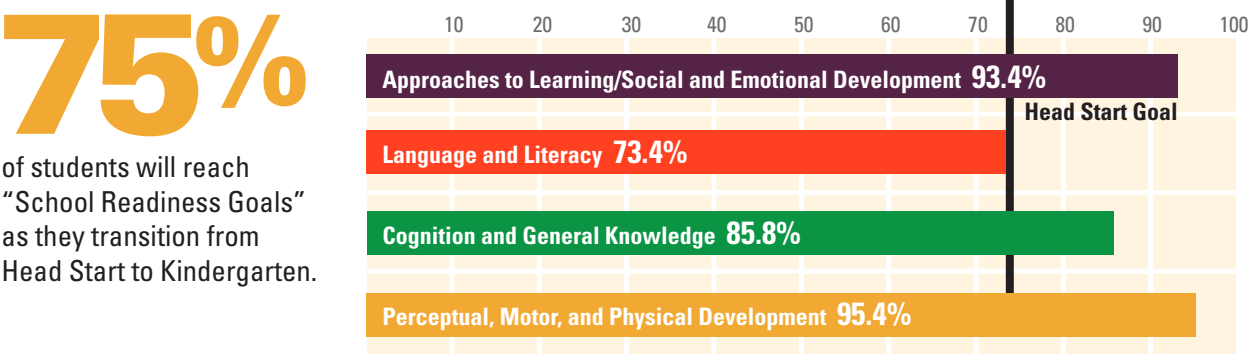
Our Head Start 3- and 4-year-old students were assessed using the CLI Engage Circle Progress Monitoring Assessment for BOY, MOY and EOY assessments. Staff also conducted informal observations of students to document progress.

HERE ARE SOME OBSERVATIONS:

- Students ages 0-36 months displayed eagerness for learning new concepts and ideas across all developmental domains.
- Upon transitioning from our program to kindergarten, students consistently meet objectives in Approaches to Learning & Social Emotional Development, Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development, and Cognition and General Knowledge.
- Bilingual students exhibited advancements in all assessment areas, in both English and Spanish assessments.
- End-of-year scores surpassed the beginning-of-year scores for both 3- and 4-year-old students, indicating that many students experienced improvements.

ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES

Mid-Year Assessment Results for Four-Year-Olds



75%

of students will reach “School Readiness Goals” as they transition from Head Start to Kindergarten.

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Head Start Community,

At Harris County Department of Education, we're proud to be a leader in early childhood learning and alternative education. Our services impact tens of thousands of students and families each year, supporting the ever-evolving needs of our school districts and community.

High-quality early childhood education is among those needs, and I'm pleased to present the 2022-2023 annual report for our Head Start program. This year's theme, "Innovate, Elevate, Thrive: Navigating the Path to Excellence," reflects the program's commitment to providing children with the foundation they need to succeed in school and beyond.

Our youngest learners are critical to our country's success. We're honored to play a role in shaping the future of our community, however, we recognize that we cannot do this work alone. Our community partners, teachers, teaching assistants and support staff help us assess the needs of every family and provide every child that comes into our care with a safe and nurturing learning environment. Together, we're making a difference in the lives of families, and we look forward to continuing that work in years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of our Head Start program. We remain committed to the advancement of early childhood learning in Harris County.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Colbert, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Colbert, Jr.

Superintendent, Harris County Department of Education

Message from the Senior Director

I'm excited to reflect on the 2022-2023 school year and share the incredible journey of Harris County Department of Education's Head Start program. The year commenced with a vibrant event themed "Back to Basics: Heading into the Future," setting the stage for embracing both foundational principles and innovative technologies. Our commitment to safety was evident with the return of the SuperMENTors program, ensuring compliance with vaccination requirements and COVID prevention protocols.



Our enthusiasm for personal connections soared as we transitioned from remote practices to pre-COVID norms midway through the year. Proudly, our Focus Area 2 Federal Review yielded a clean report, demonstrating our dedication to meeting federal standards. This positive outcome speaks to the collective effort and commitment to excellence.

Engaging events like the Parent/Child Food Science Fair, Week of the Young Child, and the Art Show brought us closer to children and families. Exciting developments at the Humble, Barrett Station and Coolwood sites signify a promising future for our program and a brighter 2023-2024 school year.

I want to give a special thanks to the Office of Head Start Region 6 Program Team; we couldn't have achieved all we did without their support. And of course, a heartfelt thank you to our Head Start staff, HCDE Board of Trustees and Leadership, Policy Council, parents and community partners. You showcased remarkable resilience and your support was instrumental in advancing our family and educational services during these unprecedented times.

Take a moment to enjoy this review of the 2022-2023 year.

Striving for Excellence,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Venetia L. Peacock".

Venetia L. Peacock
Senior Director of Head Start

Message from the Policy Council Chairperson

Greetings,

As a single mother of two with a full-time job, a major challenge I encountered was affordable childcare. When I heard there was a Head Start Program in my neighborhood, I quickly applied and was blessed to have both my children accepted.

My daughter started Early Head Start at only three months. It was a hard decision, however, the Head Start program opened doors to new opportunities and offered assistance. I quickly learned about the Policy Council, where local parents gathered every month to make the best campuses for their centers. Teachers at my campus asked me to participate since I was one of the few parents who spoke both English and Spanish.



I had the opportunity to participate on the Policy Council for two years. During my first year, COVID made a drastic impact on everything. That same year I attended the National Head Start Conference in Baltimore. Although that year was difficult, it was one of the best experiences I've ever had. In my second year, I was elected as the Parliamentarian Officer. In addition to my responsibilities as Parliamentarian Officer, I was occasionally asked to act on behalf of the Chairperson and preside over meetings.

I highly encourage other parents to become involved. My participation in the Policy Council made a real change at my campus. Together, we can provide a better future for our children. I greatly appreciate the Head Start program and staff for everything!

Best regards,

Sandra Cardenas
Policy Council Chairperson

WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

To improve school readiness for children, families and the community.

Our Vision

To create a learning environment of excellence dedicated to positively impacting our children, families, employees, community partners and society.

Our Values

Communication,
Honesty, Teamwork,
Respect and Integrity

Our History

Harris County Department of Education, or HCDE, is a separate and distinct entity from county agencies of Harris County, Texas. The Department's primary service area, geographically, covers 1,788 square miles. We offer services to 25 rural, suburban and urban school districts located either entirely or partially within Harris County; to neighboring school districts and governmental agencies in surrounding counties; and to schools, education services centers and other governmental agencies statewide.

In January 1999, HCDE became a Head Start grantee. Our Head Start service area covers approximately 600 square miles of the northeast and southeast portions of Harris County. Our borders extend north to Humble and Huffman. The eastern board of HCDE service delivery includes Crosby, Baytown and LaPorte. To the south, the area east of I-45 includes Clear Creek, Pasadena and Deer Park. We operate 13 campuses which are strategically located to serve over 1,250 children. Within the Early Child Care Partnership, we serve 100 additional children at four community child care centers in our service area.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Young Learner's Baytown Head Start Experience Prepares Him for Kindergarten

The impact of Head Start, its learning environment and growth in areas including literacy and social development is well documented through testimonials from students across Harris County school districts.

Even years later, those foundational building blocks resonate for students as they navigate middle school, high school and beyond.

For Axel Silva, that impact has been immediate. Silva is only in his kindergarten year at Harlem Elementary School in Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District, but he has already impressed others with the skills he learned at Baytown Head Start.

“
It is a really good social
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They really do teach a
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”

“By the time he attended kindergarten, he was very advanced in his reading,” said Alondra Silva, Axel’s mother. “I was very excited myself. Even his kindergarten teacher was very surprised he was able to read second grade books.”

Axel first enrolled in Head Start to fill a need. What soon followed were benefits his mother didn’t account for, but loves seeing in her son.

“It all started because Axel needed speech therapy,” Alondra said. “Ever since he was enrolled in Head Start, he started speaking a lot more but



also started eating different kind of foods. Some of the teachers would also teach sign language, which I thought was great.”

Being more confident in his speech allowed Axel to speak more for himself at medical appointments. Alondra jokingly calls him an “independent little man.”

Due to their own experience with Head Start, Alondra has already referred friends and others to the services. She said she worries less because Axel has less issues in the school environment. Even having a later birthday didn’t hinder his learning in kindergarten.

“It is a really good social experience for the kids. They really do teach a lot of things,” Alondra said of Head Start. “One of the things that makes you feel like your child is in good hands is when they ask if you have any concerns, they work with you to achieve a goal you might have and they work with the kids to achieve their goals.”

COMMUNITY PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT

Harris County Department of Education's (HCDE) Head Start changes lives and makes an impact in the community through strong relationships with community partners. During the 2022-23 school year, two community events provided needed resources and services to Head Start families.

Bates Collision Centers Blessed Two Head Start Families

HCDE Head Start's partnership with Bates Collision Centers provided two Head Start moms with refurbished vehicles as part of the 24th Annual Responsible Parenting Award. Moms Crystal Rios and Jasmine Delce were each presented with a rehabbed vehicle packed with wrapped presents for their children during special ceremonies.

The women, nominated by Head Start staff where their children are enrolled, were selected to receive this award for their grit and determination in supporting their families and prioritizing education, despite facing overwhelming challenges.

Bates Collision Centers owners Lee and Leila Bates have prioritized this annual giveaway because they recognize the sacrifices parents often make to provide for their children. They believe it brings their employees together for a cause that is often life-changing for the recipients.

"This is something that will help get them to the next level. It's not just a handout," said Leila Bates.





Baytown Event Celebrates Moms, Raised Mental Health Awareness

Baytown Early Head Start, in partnership with Babies in Baytown, celebrated Mental Health Awareness Month at a special event May 10, 2023 at the Baytown Community Center.

The event titled “If You’re Happy and You Know It, Meet Me in the Park,” was a way to bring the community together to support infants and toddlers’ physical, social and emotional development by actively engaging them in quality activities that

promote their well-being. The event provided a day for bonding, exploration and delight for little ones and their families through reading, art, music and movement activities.

The event was made possible by generous contributions from event partners including the City of Baytown Parks and Recreation, Legacy Community Health, City of Baytown Library, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Texas Children’s Hospital, UpWords Program, Raising Canes, Labatt Food Service, Lakeshore, Discount School Supply and Kaplan Early Learning Company.

PARENT SPOTLIGHT

Lifelong Education Advocate Kathy Smith Becomes Champion for Change

Growing up in the heart of the Fifth Ward neighborhood, Kathy Smith quickly recognized the disproportionate rate of equal opportunities between low- and high-income communities. She dedicated her life to ensuring young learners and their families have what they need and deserve.

“We are trying to get into the community and help students feel special despite their family’s income,” Smith said. “I want to rally around our young people and let them know they’re not in this thing alone.”

That philosophy starts at home, where Smith helps care for her 5-year-old granddaughter, Skeigh, who attends Dogan Head Start. As an active guardian and volunteer at the campus, Smith advocates for Harris County’s youngest learners as a member of Head Start’s Policy Council, a collection of formal and elected campus leaders who guide the overall direction of the division.

When Harris County Department of Education

(HCDE) leaders proposed upgrading the Coolwood Head Start campus in 2021, Smith voted “yes” on the \$650,000 project. She describes the opportunity to impact change on a grand scale as humbling.

“This facility will enhance the student’s experience and provide a space for HCDE, the parents and the grandparents to foster relationships within their community,” Smith said.

Smith brightens the atmosphere throughout Dogan Head Start during her weekly visits to the campus, which include having lunch with Skeigh, planning engaging activities for students or serving on the Principal’s Board which consults parents on campus policy and procedures.

Though Skeigh will be attending kindergarten next fall, Smith plans to stay active at the school, keeping a personal vow she made to her younger self.

“I didn’t get an opportunity to have a relationship with my grandmother, and I promised that would not be the case with my grandchildren,” Smith said. “I’m very hands-on with Skeigh, and it brings me joy because I love children and will do anything to ensure they are taken care of.”



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Head Start Continuation	Head Start Quality Improvement and COLA
\$12,711,551	\$1,014,679
Early Head Start Continuation	Early Head Start Quality Improvement and Cola
\$4,915,478	\$355,112

FROM PRIVATE FUNDERS

Dollar General Literacy Foundation
\$9,000 for Literacy Initiatives
National Head Start Association
\$5,000 for Head Start Gardens
Bank of Texas
\$8,100 for SuperMENtors
Babies in Baytown
\$3,000 for Early Head Start Event

OTHER PUBLIC SUPPORT

Houston Independent School District
\$1,317,559
La Porte Independent School District
\$64,460

TOP COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

- Assistance League of Houston
- Balint Charities
- Bates Collision Centers
- Bank of Texas
- Children’s Museum of Houston
- Legacy Community Health Services
- Texas Southern University
- Texas State University
- University of Texas Medical Branch

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

43 SuperMENtors

1,120 Head Start Volunteers

HEAD START CAMPUSES

HOUSTON

- 1. HCDE HEAD START OFFICES**
6300 Irvington Blvd.
Houston, TX 77022
O: 713-672-9343 F: 713-672-9363
- 2. COMPTON CAMPUS**
9720 Spaulding St.
Houston, TX 77016
O: 713-635-4142 F: 713-631-8598
- 3. COOLWOOD EHS & HS CAMPUS**
767 Coolwood Dr.
Houston, TX 77013
O: 713-451-9024 F: 713-451-8356
- 4. DOGAN CAMPUS**
4202 Liberty Rd.
Houston, TX 77026
O: 713-672-0207 F: 713-672-7838
- 5. FONWOOD CAMPUS**
9709 Mesa Dr.
Houston, TX 77078
O: 713-556-3830

GALENA PARK

- 6. SHEFFIELD CAMPUS**
14300 Wallisville Rd.
Houston, TX 77049
O: 713-450-3813 F: 713-450-0829

CROSBY

- 7. BARRETT STATION EHS & HS CAMPUS**
808 ½ Magnolia Ave.
Crosby, TX 77532
O: 713-696-3119 F: 713-696-3110

GOOSE CREEK

- 8. BAYTOWN EHS & HS CAMPUS**
317 Massey Tompkins Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521
O: 713-696-3120 F: 713-696-3111
- 9. J.D. WALKER CAMPUS**
7613A Wade Rd.
Baytown, TX 77521
O: 713-696-3122 F: 713-696-3113

CHANNELVIEW

- 10. CHANNELVIEW CAMPUS**
16102 Ridlon
Channelview, TX 77530
O: 713-696-1852 F: 281-452-4707

HUMBLE

- 11. HUMBLE EHS & HS CAMPUS**
130 Atascocita
Humble, TX 77396
O: 713-696-3121 F: 713-696-3112

LA PORTE

- 12. LA PORTE EHS & HS CAMPUS**
927 S. 1st St.
La Porte, TX 77571
O: 713-696-3123 F: 713-696-3114

SHELDON

- 13. TIDWELL EHS & HS CAMPUS**
8302 John Ralston Rd.
Houston, TX 77044
O: 713-696-3124 F: 281-459-4365

EARLY HEAD START CHILDCARE PARTNERS

CROSBY

- 14. JOHN G. JONES**
12406 Crosby Lynchburg Rd.
Crosby, TX 77532
O: 713-696-2150

PASADENA

- 15. PASADENA LEARNING CENTER**
1511 Allendale Rd.
Pasadena, TX 77502
O: 713-696-2150

HOUSTON

- 16. COMMUNITY PARTNERS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**
3917 Collingsworth
Houston, TX 77026
O: 713-696-2150
- 17. SUCCESSFUL STARTERS LEARNING ACADEMY II**
10635 Homestead Rd. #B
Houston, TX 77016
O: 713-696-2150



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Marcela Forero Breaks Down Barriers for Head Start Parents

For eight years, Family Services Provider Marcela Forero has been a guiding light for families in HCDE's Head Start program. Leveraging her Spanish-speaking skills and warm heart, she ably provides support services for our youngest learners and their families.

"My main job is helping families, enrolling them, seeing if the family qualifies for the program, and helping them complete the application," Forero said. "When the students are accepted, we start working with the students at the school and with their families at home."

Currently assigned to Pugh Head Start, the native Columbian identifies with the struggles of many Hispanic families in the local community and strives to give them the necessary tools to thrive in a new environment. By all accounts, she has been successful on this front.

"I love to work with families. I love to work with kids and help them to achieve goals," she says. "I tell my husband, if I go around this neighborhood, I know more people than in my own neighborhood."

One example of her effort to help families can be seen in Head Start's partnership with Bates Collision Centers and its annual Responsible Parenting Award. Forero has nominated and helped three families receive a refurbished car, including 2021 winner Alionuska Montalvo Perez, whose son attends Pugh Head Start.

Colleagues describe Forero as a team player who always rises to the occasion and has creative ideas. She often supports other campuses with family support services while maintaining her caseload at Pugh.

Forero and her husband moved to the United States in 2002 to provide a better life for her children,

a son and a daughter, who are now both engineers. In Colombia, she worked in human resources before opening a daycare center to spend more time with her children. She knew she wanted to work with children and families when they moved stateside.

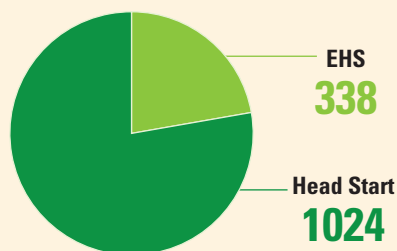
"HCDE gave me the opportunity to grow up here," Forero said. "I worked with another Head Start grantee, and it was good. But here it's better. I always feel like I have a family here."



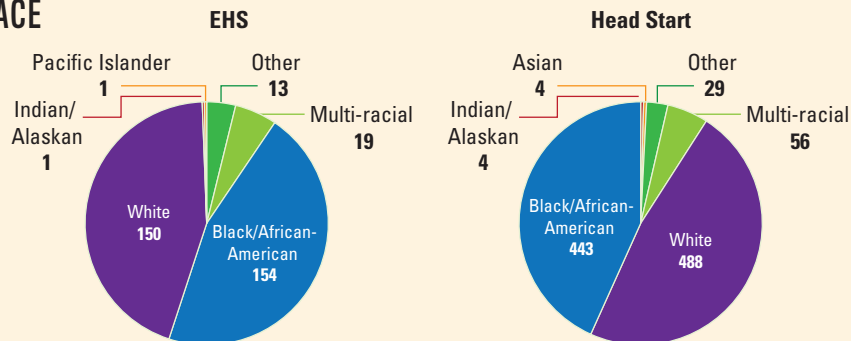
“
I love to work with families.
I love to work with kids and
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”

2022-2023 STATISTICS

CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT

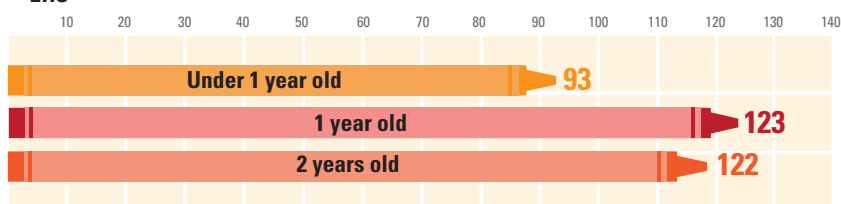


RACE

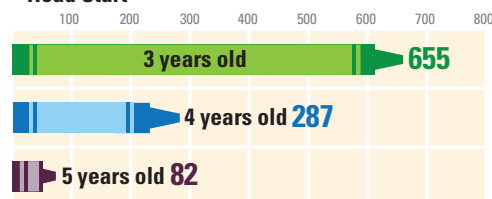


ENROLLMENT BY AGE

EHS

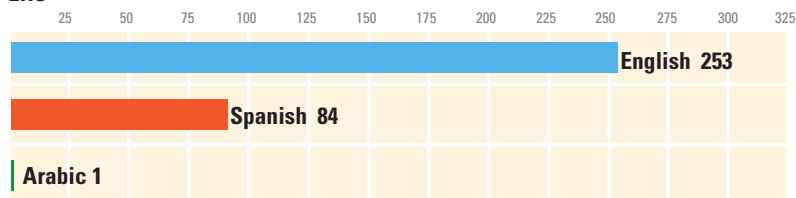


Head Start

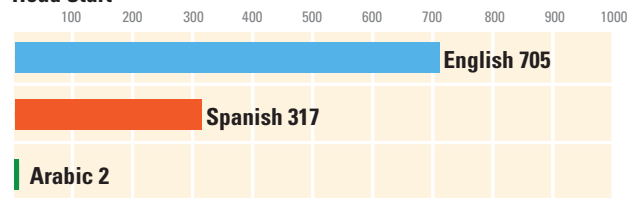


LANGUAGE

EHS

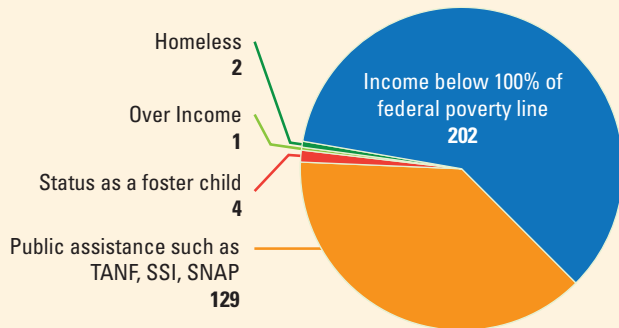


Head Start

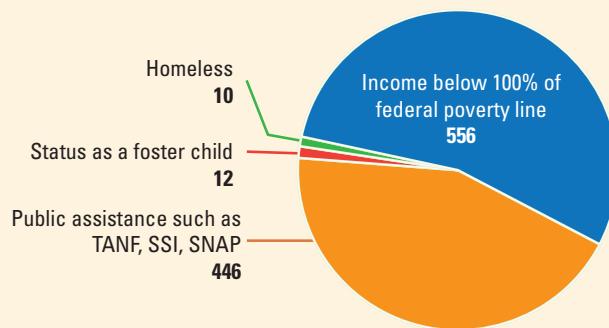


INCOME ELIGIBILITY

EHS



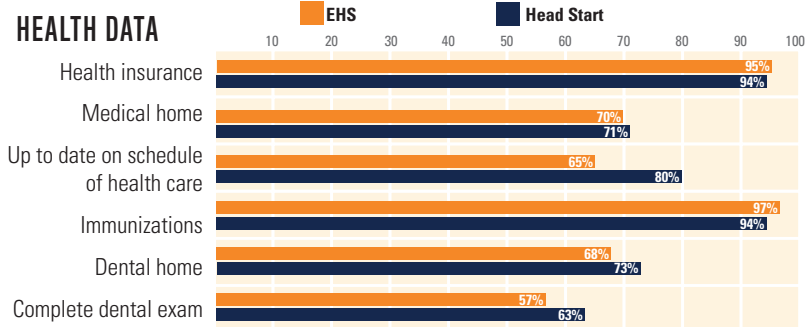
Head Start



TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

	EHS	Head Start
Associate	14	20
Bachelor's	5	26
Master's	0	1
Doctorate	0	1
Child Development Associate (CDA)	10	0

HEALTH DATA



EHS CCP SPOTLIGHT

Child Care Partnership Program Offers a Lifeline for Families

It's often said that it takes a village to raise a child, and Agnes Hearon is a vital piece of the puzzle for those in the Barrett Station community. The site director at John G. Jones Learning Center is situated within such a tight-knit and supportive community that she doesn't have to recruit families. Instead, they come by word of mouth.

Housed in a Masonic Lodge, the campus has been instrumental in providing childcare services for students from six weeks to five years old during the day and after school programs for students up to 12 years old since the 1980's.

"I would say we offer positive role models within a strong-knit community — it's like a home away from home," Hearon said.

When Hearon became a member of the Harris County Department of Education's Head Start Policy Council, she quickly began networking with division leaders about ideas to advance the Learning Center's program.

"They offered our center a chance to become the pilot center for their Child Care Partnership Program," Hearon said. "It enhanced our students' curriculum, and overall, HCDE is helping us meet the needs of the parents in our community as well."

As the first campus to partner with Head Start more than five years ago, the division sponsors 11 Early Head Start slots for infants and toddlers. Educators follow the Frog Street Press curriculum, a program approved by the Texas Education Agency, which supports students' transition from the John G. Jones Learning Center to HCDE Head Start locations across east Houston. Students can also explore outdoor learning on the campus' playground and portable garden.

Hearon describes feeling blessed to help provide a safe space for students to learn as their parents and guardians pursue higher education or work full-time jobs.

"It's gratifying to watch not only our students grow but their families as well because we are taking something off their plate,"

Hearon said. "I love it because it's like watching my family and grandkids succeed."

Since the program's inception, Head Start has partnered with four additional child care sites across north and east Houston.

“
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”



HCDE FINANCIAL REPORTS

MAJOR FUNDS					
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS					
	GENERAL	HEAD START PROGRAM	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
REVENUES					
Local Sources	\$52,956,604	\$50	\$772,381	\$6,320,227	\$60,049,262
State Program Revenues	3,825,207	-	-	-	3,549,744
Federal Program Revenues	2,501,746	11,845,469	-	21,284,017	35,631,232
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$59,283,557	\$11,845,519	\$772,381	\$27,604,244	\$99,505,701

PROPRIETARY FUNDS				
	CHOICE PARTNERS	WORKERS COMPENSATION	FACILITY CHARGES	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
Revenues - Local Sources	\$7,108,364	\$434,586	\$6,175,927	\$13,718,877

	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21
LOCAL SOURCES			
Charges for Services	\$22,888,414	\$20,489,236	\$20,441,828
Property Taxes, Levied for General Purposes	27,771,515	25,368,044	25,086,237
Local Grants	4,384,519	4,589,937	5,634,872
Miscellaneous	5,004,814	512,947	1,185,515
TOTAL LOCAL SOURCES:	60,049,262	50,960,164	52,348,452
STATE SOURCES			
Grants-Restricted to Specific Program	529,800	529,800	529,800
TRS On-Behalf Payments	3,295,407	3,019,944	2,815,070
TOTAL STATE SOURCES:	3,825,207	3,549,744	3,344,870
FEDERAL SOURCES			
Grants-Restricted to Specific Program	35,631,232	28,324,438	26,327,759
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$99,505,701	\$82,834,346	\$82,021,081

*Governmental Funds include the General Fund, Special Revenues Funds, Capital Projects Fund and Debt Service Fund.

The revenues for FY 2022-2023 as compared to FY 2021-2022 increased by \$16,671,355 or 20% mainly due to increase in federal sources.

ABOUT HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Harris County Department of Education is an educational service provider in the heart of Houston, supporting all 25 local school districts and thousands of students and educators each year. HCDE is dedicated to supporting public education in the county and region through high quality services including special schools, school safety training, teacher certification programs and adult education. HCDE also supports hundreds of regional government and non-profit agencies through other operational services including a national purchasing cooperative that funnels millions of dollars back into support for public education each year.

HCDE has the smallest tax on a Harris County property tax bill, costing the average homeowner less than \$10 a year for its services. Through fees-for-service and local, state and federal grants, HCDE leverages its revenue to turn every \$1 of property taxes into \$5 of services.

Special Schools: HCDE runs four special schools supporting students with profound special needs as well as those facing addiction and adjudicated youth. HCDE contracts with more than 40 regional school districts for seats in these schools each year. HCDE recently opened two new Academic and Behavior School campuses specifically designed to support students with multiple disabilities including inclusive playgrounds for students in wheelchairs.

School-Based Therapy: HCDE provides more than 54% of all school-based therapy in Harris County. Through the work of more than 150 occupational, physical and music therapists, HCDE provides essential support to students with special needs in their classroom and 100% of all therapy in Houston ISD, CyFair ISD, Spring Branch ISD, Katy ISD and Spring ISD. HCDE has been providing school-based therapy in Harris County for more than 40 years.

Afterschool Programs: HCDE's Center for AfterSchool Enrichment (CASE for Kids) program is a regional broker of afterschool programming, providing curriculum, training, resources and funding to hundreds of local childcare providers and school districts. CASE seeks to strengthen, support and sustain out-of-school time activities, connecting the community with opportunities for youth. CASE partners with the Houston Urban Debate League to provide debate coaches to area high schools, with several CASE debates teams winning at the national level in the last few years. CASE also operates a regional robotics tournament, the All-Earth Ecobot Challenge, at which hundreds of students showcase their STEM skills and knowledge.

Adult Education: HCDE runs a robust Adult Education program offering free high school equivalency diploma, English as a Second Language and workforce training courses to members of the community. Students can participate in citizenship classes and gain useful work skills through qualified certificate programs such as front office assistant and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

Center For Safe And Secure Schools: HCDE is a leader in school safety throughout the state, providing both physical and emotional safety support for local school districts. CSSS was born in 1999 at the request of local school superintendents in the wake of the Columbine tragedy. More than 20 years later, the Center continues to be a leader in school safety providing building safety audits, crisis preparedness training, reunification exercises, restorative circles for culture and climate building within schools and training on best practices for delivering quality trauma-informed instruction to students in need.

Center For Educator Success: In 2022, HCDE combined its Teaching and Learning Center and teacher alternative certification programs into the Center for Educator Success (CES). CES is dedicated to helping local school districts recruit and retain high quality teachers through certification coursework and test preparation as well as retention support throughout a teacher's first year on the job. CES contracts with local school districts to certify paraprofessionals and help those currently in certification programs achieve their goal of becoming a teacher in a Houston area school.

Records Management: HCDE's Records Management division stores both physical and digital records for local school districts and municipalities. Records Management provides safe and secure storage options through boxes in our local warehouse as well as in the digital realm through an online portal which allows clients immediate access to their electronic records.

Choice Partners Purchasing Cooperative: HCDE hosts a national purchasing cooperative dedicated to offering local government high quality, federally compliant contracts to save agencies more than \$100 million each year through streamlined procurement processes. Choice Partners is not only EDGAR and CFR-200 compliant, but also offers contracts with Amazon and Apple Inc., allowing governmental entities and non-profit organizations to use federal dollars for procurement of goods and services from these providers.





The Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) is dedicated to providing high-quality, cost-effective educational services to school districts, educators, government and non-profit organizations in Harris County.

Through schools for students with profound special needs, Head Start early childhood education, school-based therapy services and afterschool programs, HCDE supports all area school districts in meeting the needs of uniquely challenged learners while saving them millions of dollars each year through shared services. The Department is an innovative leader of literacy and workforce development programming for adult learners across the county. HCDE also provides various other educational support services including professional development for educators, school safety programs, educator certification, records management, and a national purchasing cooperative.

HCDE impacts an average of 150,000 students and educators each year. Using fees for service, grants, and the purchasing cooperative, HCDE turns one dollar of property taxes into five dollars of services.

HCDE is separate and distinct from other agencies of Harris County. The Department's primary service area covers 1,788 square miles but also provides support to school districts, education service centers and other governmental agencies across Texas and the nation.

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