



## **Head Start-Early Head Start**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**



## **Mission Statement**

East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP)

Head Start provides high quality comprehensive early childhood education services for eligible families and children from prenatal to age five. We partner with parents to teach children the skills and abilities needed for success in school and life. Together with our community, we support parents to keep children safe, healthy and well.

## **Guiding Principles**

Guiding principles have been fundamental to the Head Start program from its inception. They underlie EBCAP policies and practices that prepare young children for success in school and beyond. (Adapted from the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five, 2015.)

- Each child is unique and can succeed.
- Learning occurs within the context of relationships.
- Families are children's first and most important caregivers, teachers, and advocates.
- Children learn best when they are emotionally and physically safe and secure.
- Areas of development are integrated and children learn many concepts and skills at the same time.
- Teaching must be intentional and focused on how children learn and grow.
- Every child has diverse strengths rooted in their family's culture, background, language, and beliefs.

FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT, *Linda Laliberte*

I am pleased to present the EBCAP Head Start 2021-2022 annual report. Since 1971, EBCAP has served Rhode Island's most at-risk children and families in both Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) programs. It has been a challenging year and our employees and families continue to work together to provide a support system for our most vulnerable children. This year, EBCAP has provided Education, Health, Mental Health, Disabilities, Nutrition, and Social Services to a total number of 216\* Head Start children and 74\* EHS children and pregnant women living in the cities of East Providence, Newport and the towns of Barrington, Warren, Bristol, Tiverton, Little Compton, Portsmouth, Middletown and Jamestown. Average monthly enrollment for the year was less than the funded enrollment of 242 Head Start and 108 EHS seats.

*\*Head Start and Early Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) cumulative enrollment for the months, 9/1/21-8/31/22.*

The 2021 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook <https://www.rikidscount.org/Data-Publications/RI-Kids-Count-Factbook> estimates in the EBCAP catchment area, over 1,800 children aged birth to three are living in poverty with only 3.7% of low income children receiving Early Head Start services, however this is higher than the state average of 3% of eligible children enrolled in Early Head Start, (Table 34). Seventy-two percent (72%) of this group live in East Providence and Newport. The Factbook also reports 12% of infants/toddlers in Rhode Island benefited from Early Intervention services in 2020 (Table 33). During the same period, **EBCAP provided support to 27 children identified as having a special need, 38% of its cumulative EHS enrollment** (2021-2022 EBCAP Program Information Report) The Factbook also reports that over 1,200 low income three and four-year-old children live in the EBCAP catchment area with just under 64% of these children living in East Providence and Newport (Table 40). EBCAP provided services to just under 24% of the eligible 3 and 4 years olds in the east bay area (2021-2022 EBCAP Program Information Report and State Pre-K Report). **Over 18% of this group of children received special services from their local public school in partnership with EBCAP, more than double the 8% average of children in the state with an IEP** (Table 41).

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge our ability to fully enroll the program. Prior to the pandemic, EBCAP had successfully met its goal for full enrollment with a viable wait list. The 2021-2022 school year saw additional staff resignations. The dramatic change in the workforce and competing employment opportunities has affected the number of qualified applicants for posted positions. This is especially felt as Early Head Start teacher positions remain unfilled requiring EBCAP to withhold enrollment in its Newport and East Providence infant/toddler classrooms. It has become more challenging to fill teacher and paraprofessional positions as we continue to compete with school systems and commercial markets paying higher hourly wages for the same workforce.

The availability of comprehensive early learning and support services during a pandemic is more vital than ever for our children. A shout out to educators and parents who worked together to promote children's school readiness skills in the areas of motor/physical development; cognition; language/literacy and math skills; social/emotional development; and approaches to learning. We are delighted to report our employees and parents rose to the challenge and spring 2022 child development assessments show the growth of all preschool groups with our most at risk group of children making the largest gains. See pages 6-8 of this report.

Prior to the close of classrooms in March, all of our centers participated in the Rhode Island Bright Stars Quality Rating system with 5 out of 6 centers attaining a 4-STAR rating in the past year and our East Providence site located at 386 Willett Ave achieved the highest Bright Stars award, a 5-STAR rating. We are very proud of the employees who work at the Willett site, congratulations on this achievement!

We extend our sincere thanks to our staff, governing body, Policy Council, parents, agency leadership and community partners, you were all instrumental in supporting our early childhood education services in these unprecedented times. We thank our Head Start leaders who supported our accreditation with the National Head Start Association as a Program of Excellence. We also thank the Office of Head Start, Region I leadership who continue to provide support and guidance to all the programs in New England.



## The Percentage of Eligible Children Enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start/Pre-K

	Early Head Start	Head Start/Pre-K
Barrington*	20%	13%
Bristol/ Warren**	5%	66%
East Providence	3%	53%
Jamestown*	24%	0%
Little Compton*	0%	0%
Middletown	10%	29%
Newport	6%	23%
Portsmouth	5%	0%
Tiverton	0%	26%
Rhode Island	3%	33%

2021 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook, Table 34

\* Community reports less than 10 low income children age 3 & 4

\*\*Bristol/Warren Regional School District

## The Percentage of Children Who Received Medical and Dental Exams\*

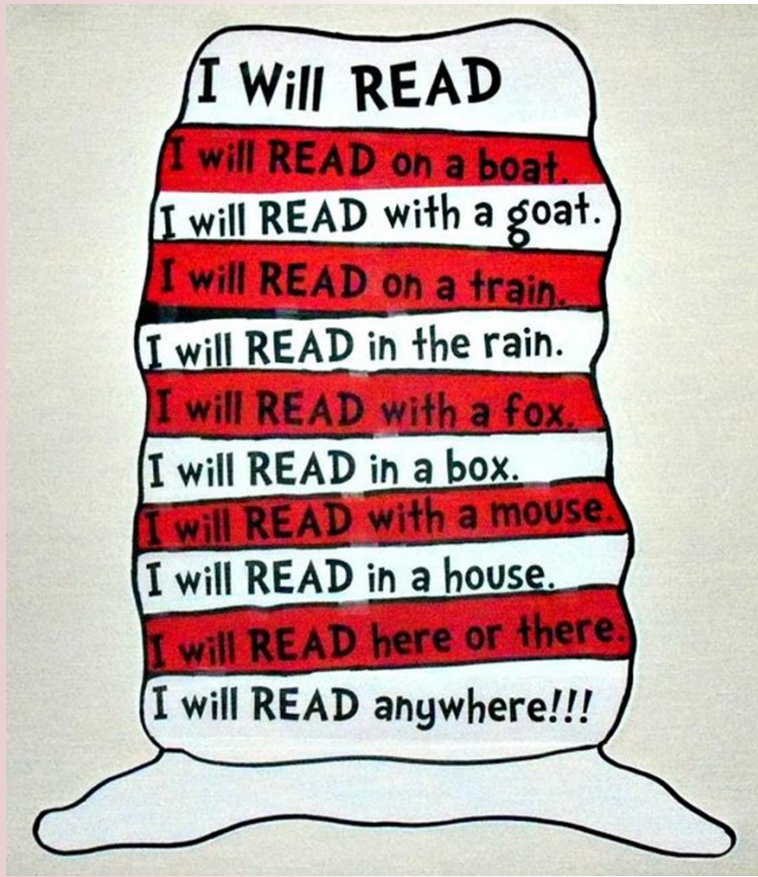
	Early Head Start	Head Start
Health Insurance	100%	96.3%
Up-to-Date on Preventative and Primary Care	59.2%	68.5%
Up-to-date on Immunizations	93%	98.6%
**Continuous/ Accessible Dental Care	29.6%	23.6%
Up-to-date on Preventative Oral Care	2.8%	5.1%

\*EBCAP Program Information Report 9/1/21-8/31/22

\*\*Access to dental care has been disrupted by the pandemic. A program improvement goal has been established to review community dental services and support for families to access care.



## School Readiness Goals



EBCAP provides high quality early childhood programming for children birth to five years old in several program options: full day preschool, extended day preschool and infant/toddler classrooms and home-based programs. Home-based services include weekly home visits and two group socialization experiences per month. Facilities are licensed and staffed by qualified early childhood professionals.

To ensure that children who participate in Head Start and Early Head Start are successful in future educational settings, EBCAP has adopted the following School Readiness Goals.

In 2019, the School Readiness Advisory Committee with the support and approval of the Policy Council, added two indicators to the language/literacy domain and added Math as a sixth domain to our school readiness goals.

### 1. PERCEPTUAL, PHYSICAL AND MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

Children will use senses to gather and understand information and respond to their environment.

### 2. COGNITION

Children will be able to connect ideas, develop logical and abstract thinking through curiosity and motivation.

### 3. LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Children will be able to use receptive and expressive skills to communicate.

### 4. SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Children will be able to express, manage, recognize and interpret their own emotions as well as respond appropriately to others' emotions.

### 5. APPROACHES TO LEARNING

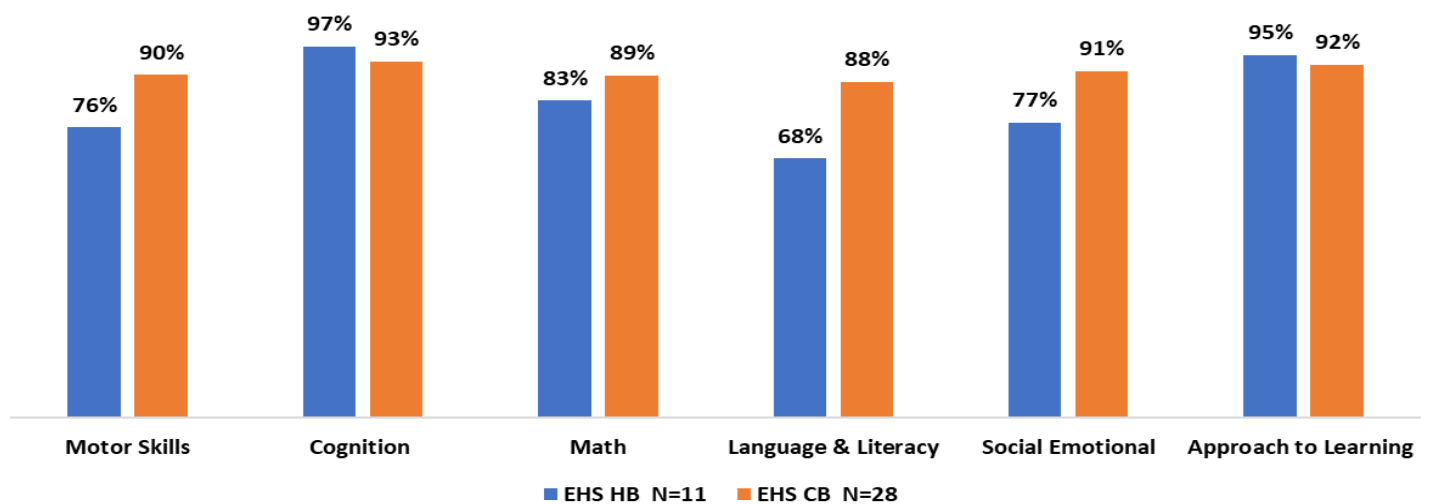
Children will possess skills to pay attention, control impulses and think flexibly.

### 6. MATH

Children will have the knowledge of basic math concepts and will be able to use them to solve everyday problems.

Data presented in the following graphs is based on Teaching Strategies GOLD child outcome measures. Numbers in the EHS group are based on spring data points, due to the small sample of children with a checkpoint in their age group in both the fall and spring , we are unable to compare gains of the two groups. Individual reports are shared with parents/ guardians at each checkpoint during the year and teachers plan classroom activities for each child based on their developmental profile.

**Percentage of EHS Who Meet/Exceed Age Expectations  
Home Based & Center Based  
Spring 2021-2022**

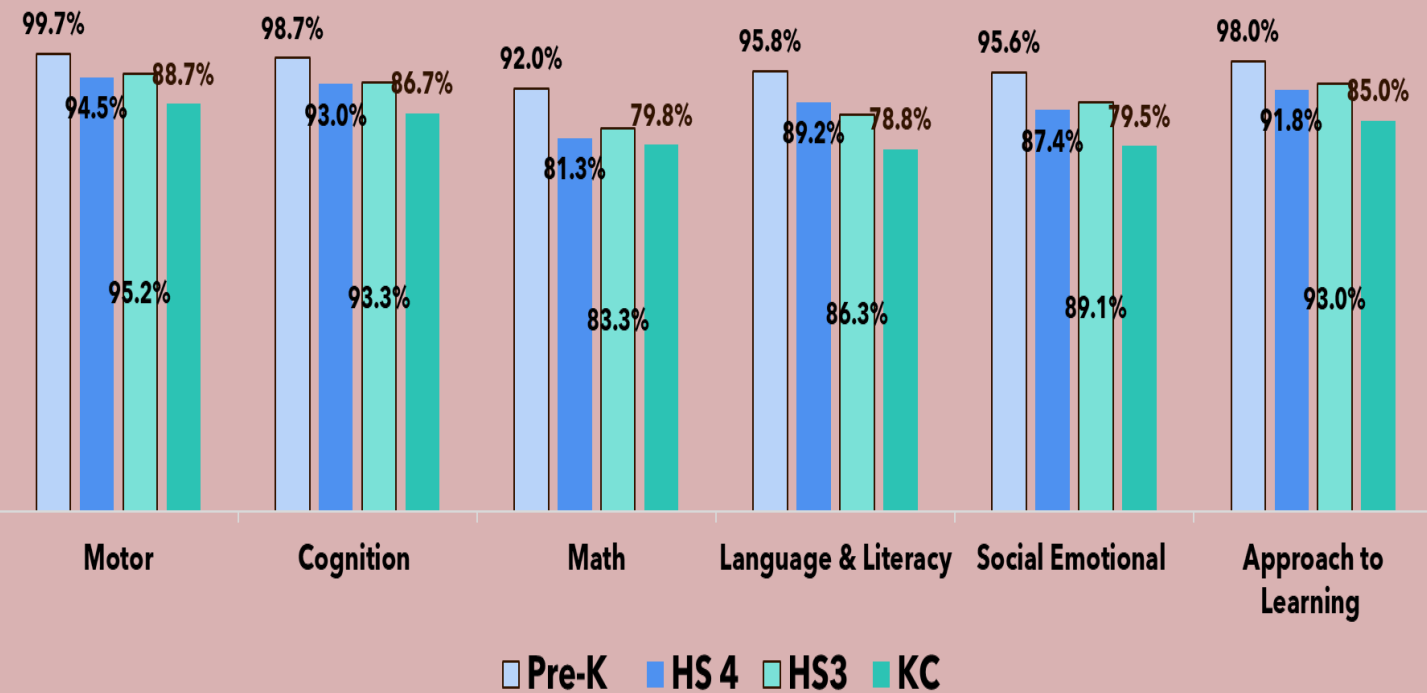


The graph below represents the Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) report for the spring checkpoint completed at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. To obtain a checkpoint, teachers conduct observations on each of the listed developmental domains. Using data based on these observations, teachers assign each child a “point” on the continuum of development indicated as below age expectations, meeting age expectations or exceeding age expectations. The spring report indicates the percentage of children who fall into each category.

The TSG checkpoint graph below identifies the children in four groups: Pre-K N= 95; Head Start 4 year olds N= 67; Head Start 3 year olds N= 102and children receiving Kids Connect services N=25 - a Medicaid supplemented program for children with a health, behavioral health or developmental need for support in the classroom. In aggregate, children in the Pre-K group scored the highest and children in the Kids Connect group scored the lowest at the end of the school year.

The graph on page 8 indicates the *gains* made by the children in each of the groups from fall 2021 to spring 2022. Children in all groups made gains across the school year. Children receiving Kids Connect services made substantial gains in all areas most notably, social/emotional development and approach to learning. Head Start 4 year olds also saw notable gains in cognition, language/literacy, social/emotional development and approach to learning.

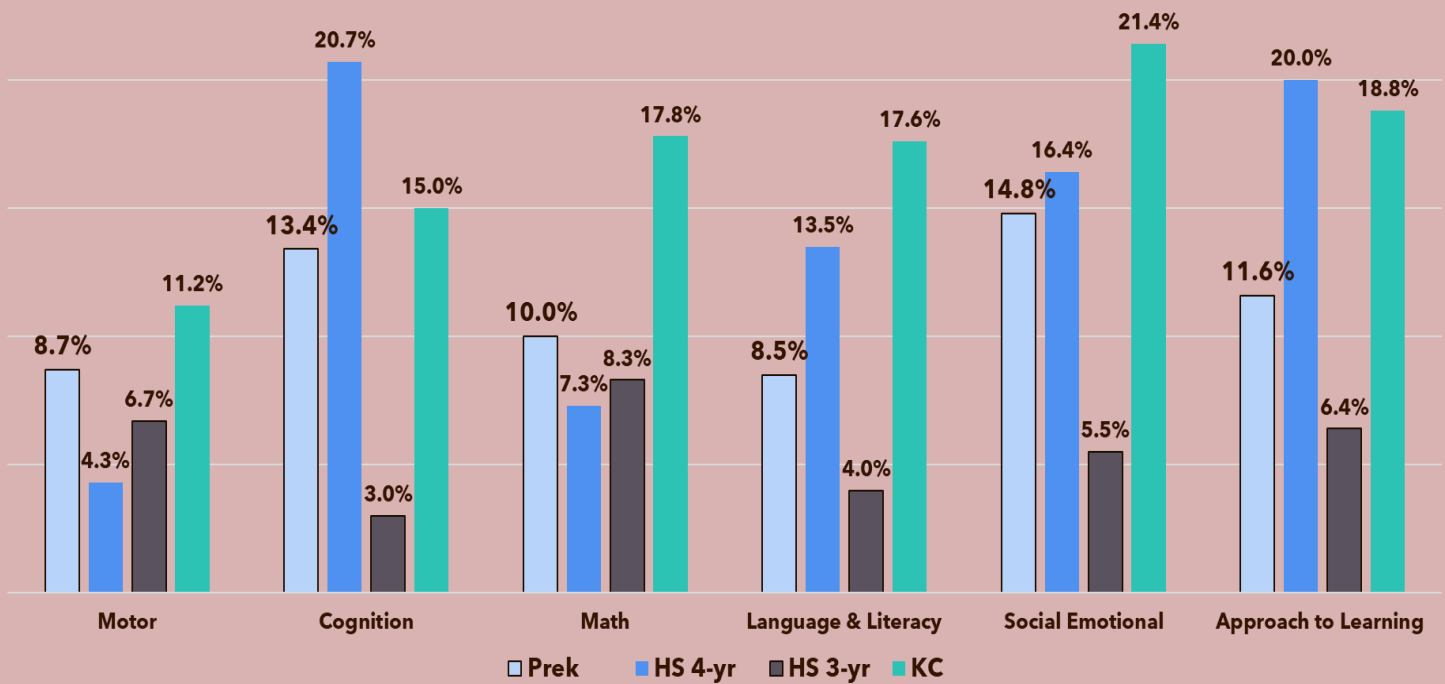
Spring Checkpoint  
Percentage of Children Who Meet or Exceed Age Expectations  
2021-2022







## Fall to Spring Gains Head Start/PREK/Kids Connect 2021-2022





## Financial Reports

EBCAP received the following sources of revenue in the grant year February 1, 2021—January 31, 2022 for a total of \$7,182,260 to operate Head Start, Early Head Start and Child Care programs. Federal funds include a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) in the amount of \$59,575 which supported a 2% salary increase and a carry-over balance of unobligated funds from the 2020-2021 grant year in the amount of \$543,065. Carry-over funds were budgeted to support salary increases for all positions, lowest wage positions increased to \$13.00 per hour to exceed the January 2022 RI state minimum wage of \$12.25 per hour and to attract applicants to entry level positions. This is the first step in reaching the RI minimum wage of \$15.00 by 2025. Salary and fringe benefits make up 63% of the total annual expenses. Other expenses budgeted in the carry-over request include facility and playground improvements/repairs and training and technical assistance to support teacher mentors and training technology.

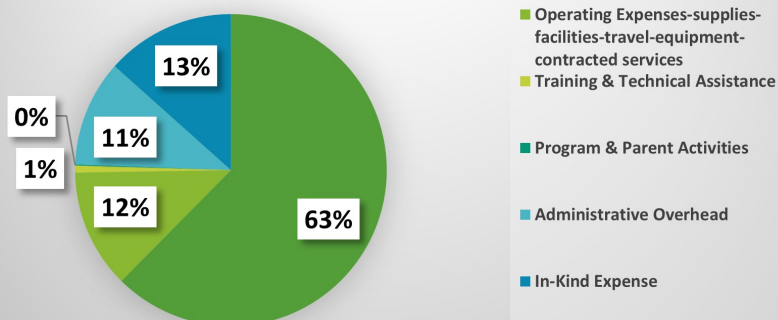
In-kind revenue is calculated as the value of goods, services, property value, donations and volunteer time needed to support program operations. EBCAP requested and received a waiver in the amount of \$516,454 of the required 20% match of federal funds.

EBCAP also received funding through federal coronavirus supplemental funding (CRRSA-\$102,330) and (ARP-\$406,810) to prevent, prepare for, respond to COVID-19 for the period of 4/1/2021 to 3/31/2023. Thirty-six percent of COVID funds are targeted to fund staffing for additional weeks of classroom hours over the summer months; 28% support minor facility/playground renovations; 17% supports additional supplies and 19% support administrative expenses including marketing and promotion of job vacancies and children's services. 14.4% federally approved indirect cost rate was also submitted as an administrative expense.

Results of the annual audit was reported to the Policy Council and the Board of Directors as an unqualified opinion-clean report.

Federal Funds (spent)	\$	4,869,544	<b>EXPENSES</b>	
State Funds	\$	139,019		
Medicaid (Kids Connect)	\$	190,374	Salaries & Fringe Benefits	4,482,233
USDA	\$	190,128		
DHS Child Care/Parent Payment	\$	781,356	Operating Expenses-supplies-facilities-travel-equipment-contracted services	886,205
Other grants, income, donations, E-Rate	\$	49,428		
In-kind Revenue	\$	962,412	Training & Technical Assistance	51,804

### 2021-2022 Expenses



Program & Parent Activities	7,587
Administrative Overhead	782,414
In-Kind Expense	962,412
Expense Totals	7,182,260



### **Proposed budget for Grant Year 2022-2023**

Revenue	
Federal/State/Private Grants	\$5,126,167
Program Income	\$1,788,000
Parent Payment /Donations/Misc. Income	\$259,250
Total Revenue	\$7,173,417
Expenses	
Salaries/Fringe/Contracted Services	\$5,204,809
Supplies	\$392,089
Facilities	\$554,083
Equipment	\$31,354
Training/Technical Assistance/Tuition	\$72,177
Travel	\$22,667
Parent Activities	\$15,000
General Administrative	\$881,238
Total Expenses	\$7,173,417

Proposed in-kind revenue and expenses for 2022-2023 is \$1,253,737.

### **Thank you to the members of our 2021-2022 Policy Council**

**Mark Simoes,**  
Chairperson  
Former Parent

**Connie Lake,**  
Vice Chairperson  
Community Representative

**Danielle Riley,** Parent

**Jessica Calabretta,** Parent

**Megan Hill,** Parent





**East Bay Community Action Program**

**Head Start and Early Head Start**

**For information about enrollment or employment opportunities,  
visit [www.ebcap.org](http://www.ebcap.org)**