



# Annual Report 2023-2024



**Prepared By**  
Mary Varr  
Timothy Brelsford

Our Public Report is easily available at <http://www.whscda.org/resources>

# Table of

# Contents

1	Vision & Mission	++
2	Financial Report	++
3	Head Start Demographics	++
4	Play and Learn	++
5	Family Engagement	
6	Kindergarten Readiness	
7	Child Outcomes	
8	Transition to Kindergarten	

# Mission & Vision

## Mission

*We build enduring partnerships with families and the community through Comprehensive Early Childhood Education that improves the lifelong outcomes for the children we serve.*

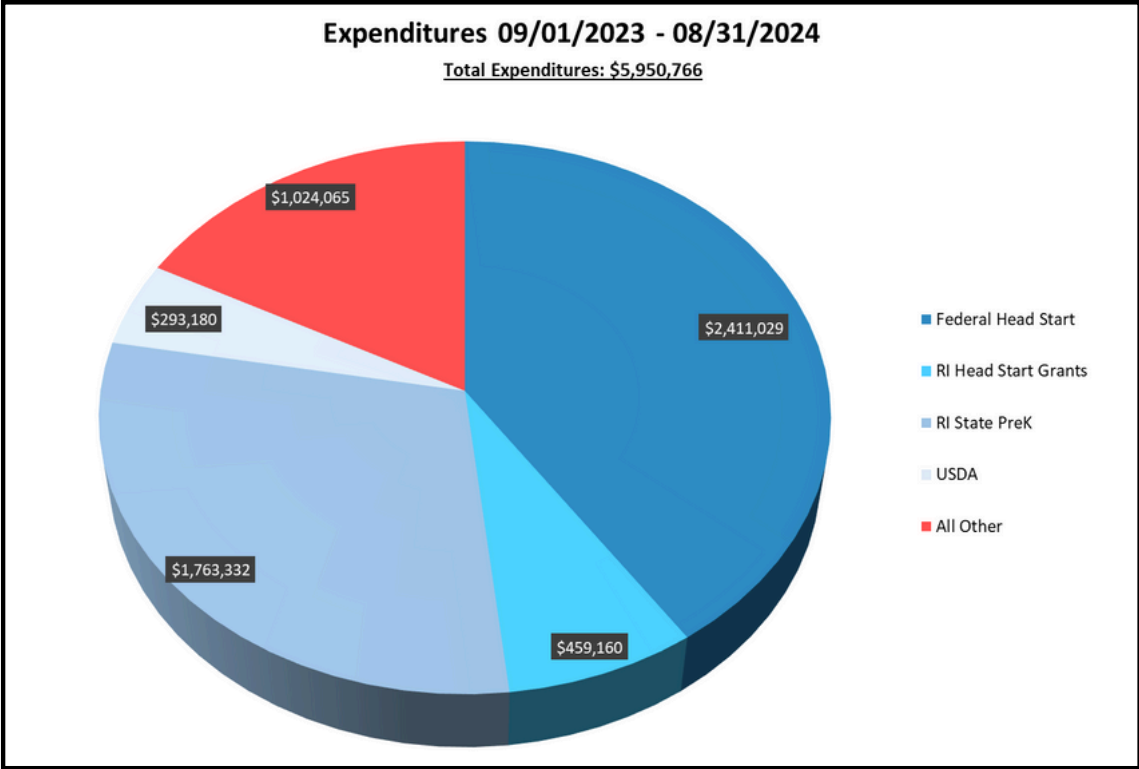
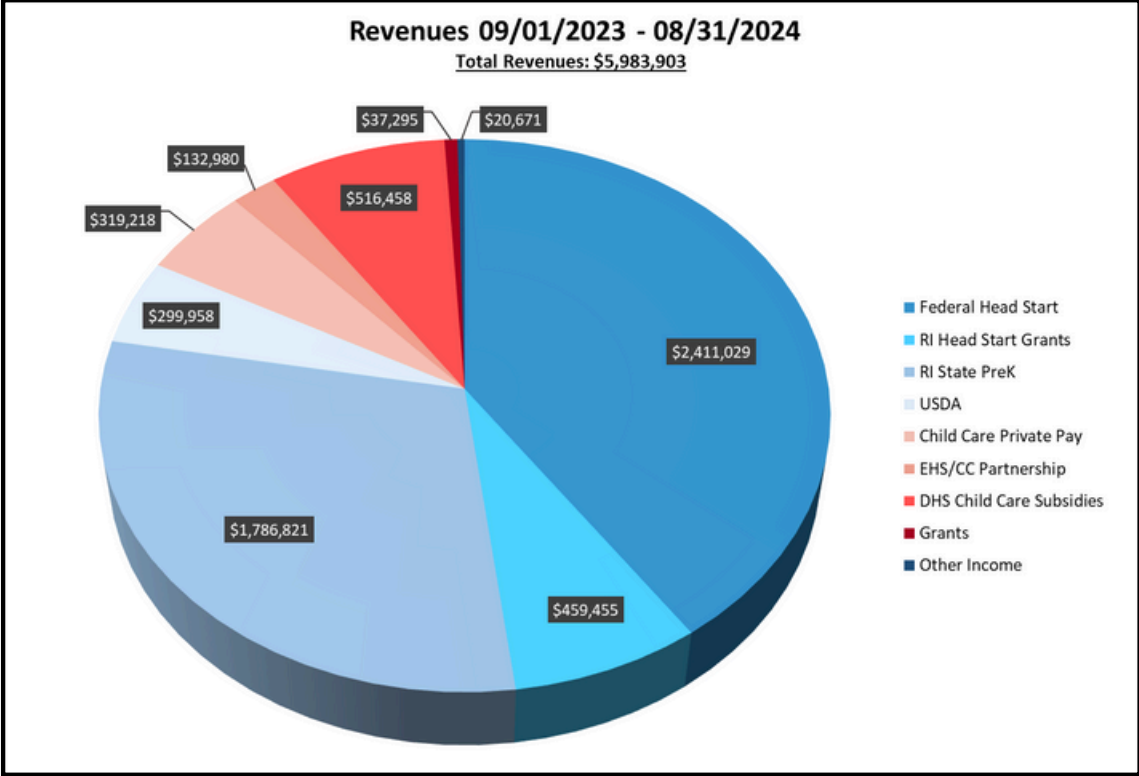
## Vision

*Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association, Inc. inspires families and children to build strong sustainable relationships that promote self-confidence, resiliency, and lifelong success.*



# Financial Report

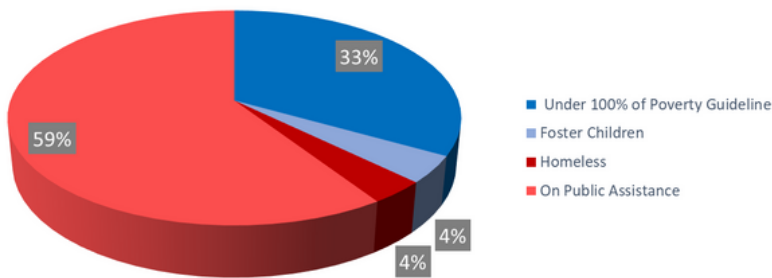
The figures below depict a comprehensive breakdown of WHSCDA's total Unaudited Revenue and Expenditures.



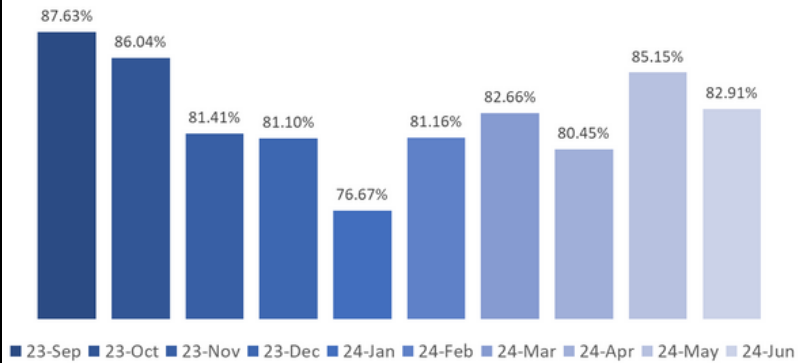
# Head Start Demographics

Eligibility, Enrollment, Race, Ethnicity, Medical, and Dental information for 173 Head Start Children

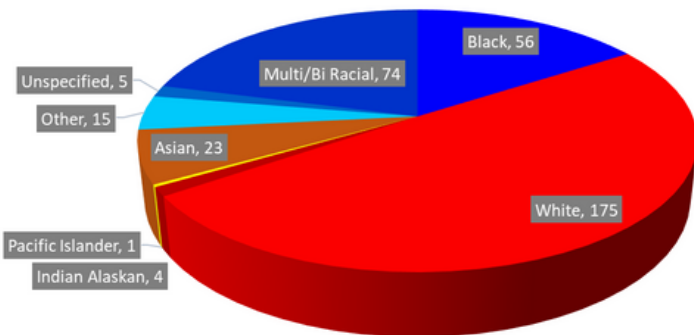
**Income Eligibility** 0% Under 130% of Poverty Guidelines



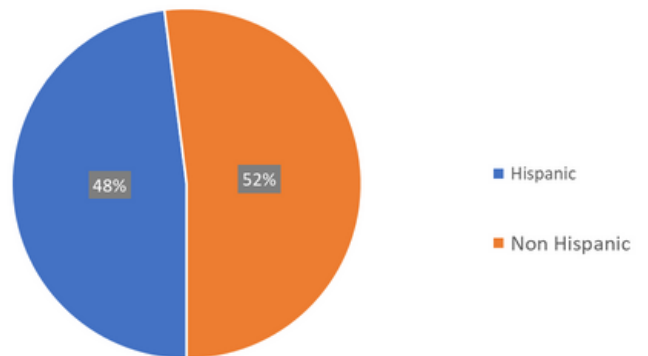
**Average Monthly Attendance**



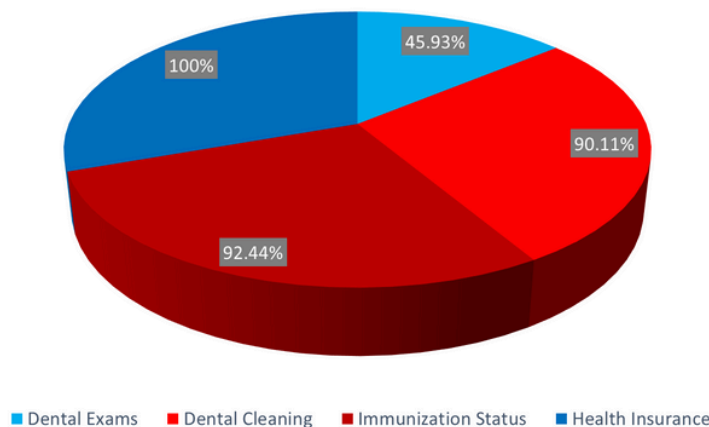
**Races of Head Start Children Served**



**Ethnicity of Head Start Children Served**



**Medical/Dental Data**

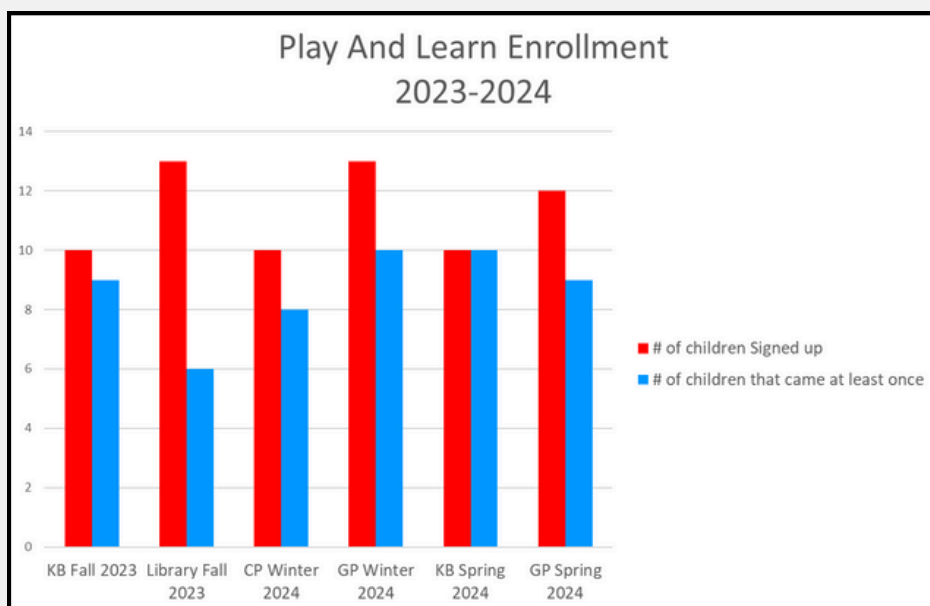


# Play and Learn

**2023-2024 marked the second year that WHSCDA, Inc. provided families with access to The Basics® app, in alignment with our community's First Ten Initiative. The Basics Principles (Maximize Love, Manage Stress; Talk, Sing and Point; Count, Group and Compare; Explore Through Movement and Play; Read and Discuss Stories) are science-based parenting themes that support the social, emotional and cognitive development of young children.**

**WHSCDA and Woonsocket Education Department partnered together to run a series of Play and Learn sessions that highlighted a Basic principle. Many of the participants were on the Head Start waiting list. These sessions allowed our Enrollment Specialist to engage/assess potential WHSCDA children firsthand, prior to enrollment. In addition, our Enrollment Specialist is able to offer referral supports and think of potential classroom placement.**

**The Play-and-Learn series entails 6-week sessions at different locations throughout the city with morning and afternoon sessions. To ensure the successful outcome of a session, weekly reminders are sent out via phone calls, in-person reminders, emails, and messaging through an agency database. While running these Play and Learn sessions, families who went onto enroll in our program already felt connected to our agency and other families.**



- The children who attended these sessions are enrolled currently.
- With these sessions, placement was more comfortable for the children due to being around familiar faces.

# Family Engagement

*Family Engagement has been a cornerstone of the Head Start program since its founding. Family Engagement honors parents and caregivers as children's first teachers and supports such relationships which are central to a child's wellbeing.*



*In 2023-2024, WHSCDA, Inc. offered a variety of family engagement opportunities for families, in person, virtual and hybrid. The majority of family engagement activities were held in person.* Topics included ways to improve parenting skills, supporting children's learning, economic mobility, mental health, nutrition, advocacy and health. **Parent participation in overall family engagement events was 85%, with the majority of families attending multiple events throughout the year.** In 2023-2024, our agency began using a new model for parent committee meetings which included grab and go options to meet the needs of our families with busy schedules. **We saw an increase of 28% participation in parent committee meetings compared to the year prior.**

**WHSCDA, Inc.'s strong partnership with Child and Family Services of RI and FCCP (Family Care Community Partnerships) continued as we hosted another year of Circle of Parents® programming.**

This program was parent lead and attended by a core group of parents who made connections with each other that extended beyond our centers. **95% of WHSCDA, Inc. families reported on our annual parent satisfaction survey that educational home activities aligned with the goals the families had for their child's development and learning. In 2023-2024, 63% of parents participated in home activities and lending library; a 25% increase from the previous program year.**

**WHSCDA, Inc. maintained an active and strong Policy Council in 2023-2024, offering members opportunities to attend conferences in New Hampshire, Washington DC, and Rhode Island. Several members demonstrated excellence in leadership through their visits with RI Senator Jack Reed, participation in RI Head Start Association meetings, planning our annual parent conference, and speaking to state leadership.**

**According to our annual parent satisfaction survey, 97% of families report that WHSCDA, Inc. gives families information to help their children have a smooth transition to kindergarten.**





---

# Kindergarten Readiness



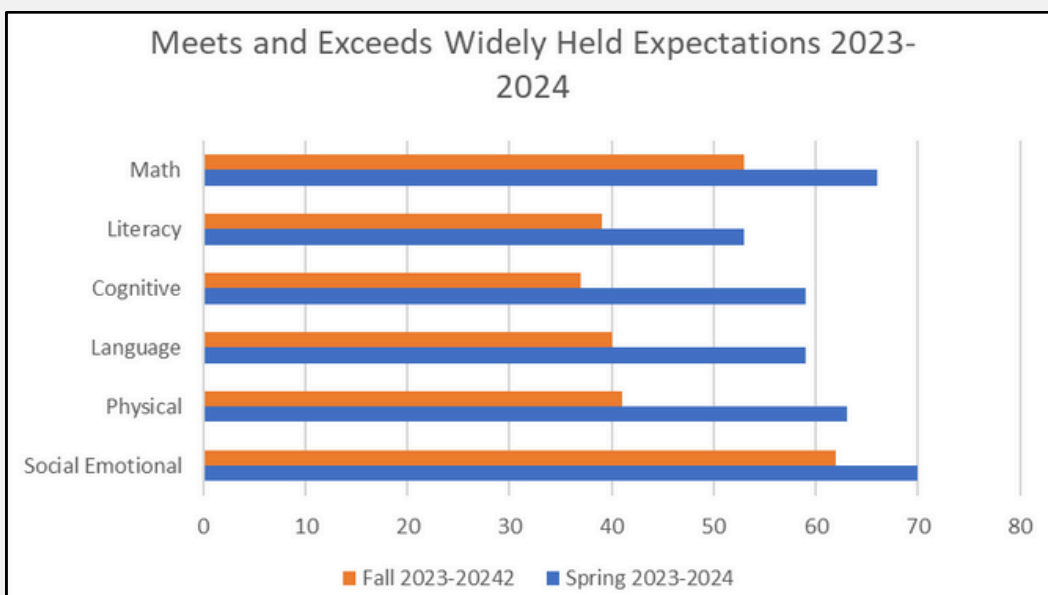
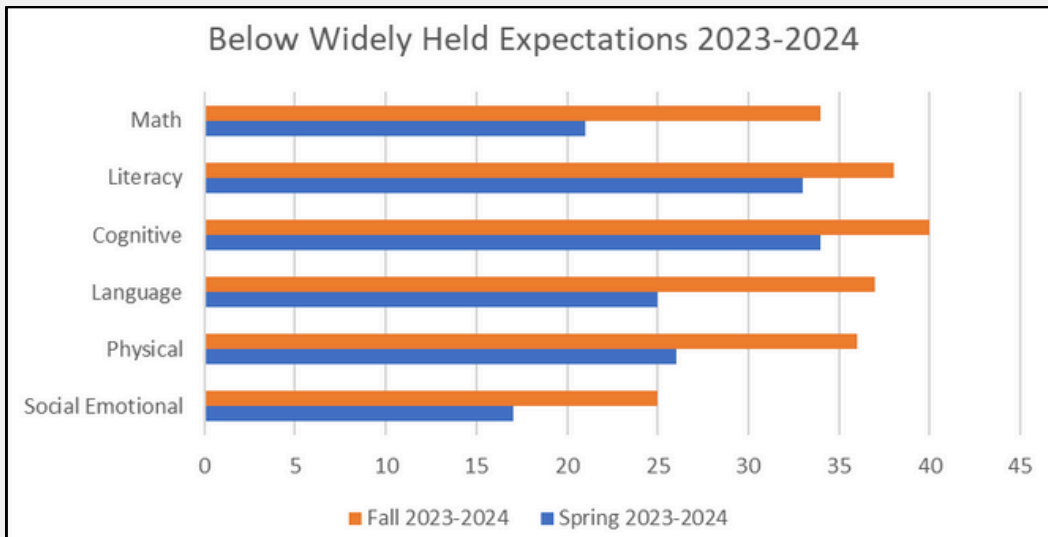
*We welcome all children and their families, including, but not limited to, those with developmental delays and disabilities, mental health diagnoses and behavioral challenges, into our program and ensure they fully participate in all aspects of the educational program.*

- WHSCDA works with Child Outreach to complete screening on all children within their 1st 45 days of school, ensuring any learning delay is discovered and addressed within a timely manner.
  - WHSCDA works closely with the Woonsocket Education Department to provide special education services in the classroom. Teachers and itinerants meet weekly to individualize plans for children with IEP's.
  - Creative Curriculum, the R.I. Early Learning and Development Standards and The Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework are used as a framework for implementing high-quality early childhood programs.
  - Teaching Strategies Gold is used as an assessment tool to inform planning and to help identify children that are falling below widely held expectations.
  - Teachers participate in a data day, providing the opportunity to analyze TSG data. This opportunity gives teachers the chance to create lesson plans specifically designed to move a majority of the children into widely held expectations along the TSG continuum.
  - Conscious Discipline was utilized to create classroom communities and improve the social emotional outcomes of all children.
-



# Child Outcomes

At the end of the 2023-2024 school year 87 Head Start Children were moving onto Kindergarten in the fall. Of those 87, 40 had an Individualized Education plan and 19 were English Language Learners. The graphs below show the Fall and Spring outcomes for the past school year. The first graph focuses on children who fell below widely held expectations in the Fall and in the Spring. Within each domain, the number of children who fell widely below expectations went down, which shows growth in all learning areas. The second graph focuses on children who fell within the meeting or exceeding benchmark. This graph shows more children in each domain were scored within the meeting and exceeding in the Spring than in the Fall, again showing growth among the children.



# Transition to Kindergarten

*WHSCDA collaborates closely with the Woonsocket Education Department and RISE Prep to ensure a seamless transition for both children and families as they prepare for Kindergarten.*

*WHSCDA invites the Director of Enrollment from RISE prep to present information about their program and application process during a monthly parent committee meeting at the center level. Beginning in February, WHSCDA staff assists families in registering their children for Kindergarten. From March to June, the Woonsocket Education Department and WHSCDA jointly organize two Passport to K events in all public schools, offering families the chance to familiarize themselves with their local school environment and gain insight into a typical Kindergarten day. Children enrolled at WHSCDA receive personalized postcards featuring their home school, inviting them to these events.*

*Starting in May, classroom teachers engage in transition activities, such as reading a specially created book featuring real pictures from public schools and viewing a video made by Kindergarten students, aimed at preparing incoming Kindergarteners for the upcoming school year. In addition, teachers complete transition forms highlighting each child's strengths and needs, which are then shared with their Kindergarten teachers. WHSCDA's Mental Health Specialists create additional folders for children requiring extra support throughout the year, aiding in their placement in public schools.*

*By late July, WED provides WHSCDA with a list of children still not registered, prompting a final push to assist these families in completing the registration process. At the beginning of the new school year WHSCDA teachers attend the first day of Kindergarten at all elementary schools, providing a familiar face to ease any anxieties for the children and families. Furthermore, WED and WHSCDA staff collaborated to identify the most vulnerable children entering Kindergarten in the 23/24 school year, enabling them to participate in a summer program aimed at preventing learning loss.*

*"Such a great event! Mikayla is excited to go to kindergarten." WHSCDA parent*