



# Prekindergarten Services Annual Report 2009-2010

Beth Rawls, Director  
brawls@pasco.k12.fl.us  
727-774-2730, 813-794-2730, 352-524-2730



## Our Vision:

To create a community which works together so all Pasco County students will reach their highest potential.

## Our Mission :

To serve families so that all children can learn and grow in a healthy, nurturing environment.

# **Program Overview**

## **HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START**

The District School Board of Pasco County is a Head Start / Early Head Start grantee. Through this federally funded grant, high quality early childhood services promoting school readiness are offered to enrolled children and families from pre-birth through age 5.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Head Start program provides grants to local public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school. In FY 1995, the Early Head Start program was established to serve children from birth to three years of age in recognition of the mounting evidence that the earliest years matter a great deal to children's growth and development.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals. Significant emphasis is placed on the involvement of parents in the administration of local Head Start programs.

### **PROGRAM SERVICES**

#### **Early Childhood Development and Health**

Head Start's commitment to wellness embraces a comprehensive vision of health for children, families, and staff. The objective of Child Health and Development Services is to ensure that, through collaboration among families, staff, and health professionals, all child health and developmental concerns are identified, and children and families are linked to an ongoing source of continuous, accessible care to meet their basic health needs.

The objective of Education and Early Childhood Development is to provide all children with a safe, nurturing, engaging, enjoyable, and secure learning environment, in order to help them gain the awareness, skills, and confidence necessary to succeed in their present environment, and to deal with later responsibilities in school and in life. Each child is treated as an individual in an inclusive community that values, respects, and responds to diversity. The varied experiences provided by the program support the continuum of children's growth and development, which includes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of each child.

#### **Family and Community Partnerships**

Head Start offers parents opportunities and support for growth, so that they can identify their own strengths, needs and interests, and find their own solutions. The objective of Family Partnerships is to support parents as they identify and meet their own goals, nurture the development of their children in the context of their family and culture, and advocate for communities that are supportive of children and families of all cultures. The building of trusting, collaborative relationships between parents and staff allows them to share with and to learn from one another.

Head Start serves families within the context of the community, and recognizes that many other agencies and groups work with the same families. The objective of Community Partnerships is to ensure that grantee and delegate agencies collaborate with partners in their communities, in order to provide the highest level of services to children and families, to foster the development of a continuum of family centered services, and to advocate for a community that shares responsibility for the healthy development of children and families of all cultures.

## **VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN (VPK)**

VPK is a state funded early learning program designed to prepare children for success in kindergarten. Prekindergarten Services offers VPK during the school year to Head Start children as part of a blended funding model, which includes 540 hours of instruction. Eligible Pasco County children who do not participate in any school year VPK program have an opportunity to attend Summer VPK offered through Prekindergarten Services or private providers.



# Annual Performance Indicators

## 2009 - 2010

Head Start		Early Head Start	
Funded Enrollment	643	Funded enrollment	80
Funded Enrollment ARRA Expansion	53	Funded Enrollment ARRA Expansion	48
Total Number of Children/Families served	770	Total Number of Children/Families served	155
Average Monthly Enrollment (% funded enrollment)	100%	Average Monthly Enrollment (% funded enrollment)	100%
Children who received dental exams	96%	Children who received dental exams	92%
Children who received medical exams	99%	Children who received medical exams	100%
Children up-to-date on immunizations	100%	Children up-to-date on immunizations	102%
Children with Individual Education Plans (IEP)	11%	Children with Individual Education Plan or Individual Family Service Plan	17%
Volunteer & Meeting Hours	9,332	Volunteer & Meeting hours	499
Meals Served	252,360	Meals Served	17,280

## Who We Are & Who We Serve

### Highly Qualified Staff

- 100 % of prekindergarten teachers hold Florida State Teacher Certificates in Early Childhood Education
- 100% of prekindergarten teachers hold a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree
- 89% Teacher Retention
- 80% of prekindergarten instructional assistants have a Child Development Associate (CDA), AA, or BA degree. The remaining 20% are enrolled in programs to complete a CDA, AA, or BA.
- 100% Early Head Start Caregivers have a CDA, AA, or BA degree.

### The Families We Serve

- 36% Hispanic
- 11% African American
- .03% Multi Racial/Ethnicity
- 17% English Language Learners
- 11% Children with Disabilities
- 8% Families on Public Assistance
- 42% Unemployed
- 19% Homeless
- 4% Incarcerated family member
- 69% of families receive WIC
- 39% of parents have less education than high school diploma
- 48% single family homes

# Parent Survey Results 2010

- 98% of parents reported that their children are excited about learning.
- 97% of parents reported that their child likes to go to school.
- 99% of families were satisfied with the support and interactions of the staff.
- 93% of parents reported that their children made social and emotional progress.
- 91% of parents reported placing additional importance on education.
- 87% of parents participated in a least one parent involvement meeting.
- 90% of parents reported making progress towards their family's goals, as well as future goals.
- 86% of parents seek health care more regularly since enrollment.
- 89% of parents plan and prepare more nutritious meals since enrollment.
- 87% of parents know how to seek community resources since enrollment.

# Family Involvement

## **POLICY COUNCIL**

One of the unique characteristics of Head Start/Early Head Start is that parents are partners in leading the program. The Policy Council is designed to provide parents the opportunity to participate in the shared governance of our program. Annually parents elect other parents to participate on the Policy Council as their school site representative. In addition to monthly meetings, committees are created to work on special projects, review and approve policies & procedures.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

We welcome and encourage families to volunteer in the classrooms and participate in school activities with their child. Volunteers are celebrated at our annual volunteer appreciation luncheon.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Regularly scheduled parent meetings are conducted at each site throughout the program year. These meetings allow families an opportunity to attend presentations by educational and community guest speakers. Training is also offered as a component to these parent meetings based on the interest level and need of the parent group. At these parent meetings Policy Council representatives are elected and share information regarding the work of Policy Council and the needs of their school.

## **FAMILY RESOURCE NIGHTS**

Twice a year Prekindergarten Services invites families to attend a Family Resource Night. Activities include parent education training, community resource presentations and booths, dinner, childcare and a sing along. This event offers parents an opportunity to connect with community-based agencies, learn parenting techniques, and enjoy a family night out!

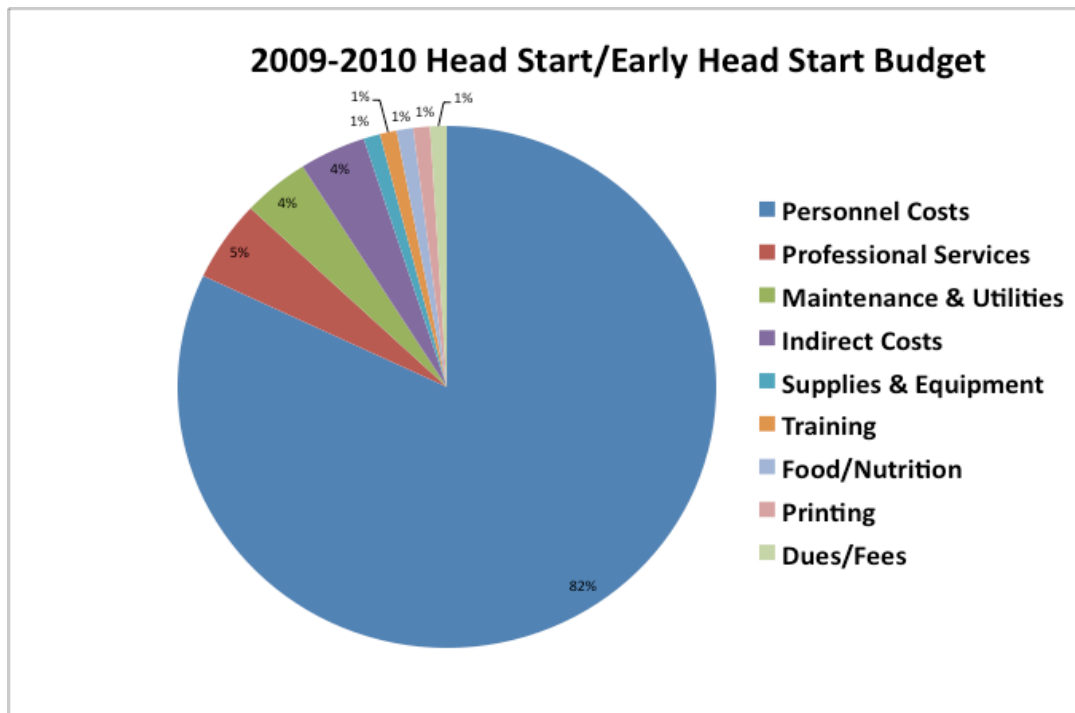






# Prekindergarten Services Funding

Head Start / Early Head Start Grant	\$5,341,421
Head Start Expansion (ARRA)	\$ 337,407
Early Head Start Expansion (ARRA)	\$ 927,550
Head Start/Early Head Start Supplemental (ARRA)	\$ 379,414
<b>Total Head Start Funding</b>	<b>\$6,985,792</b>
<b>Total Non-Federal Share of Matching Funds</b>	<b>\$1,746,448</b>
Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)	\$2,363,774



## Fiscal Reporting – Single Audit Findings 2009-2010

- None Reported

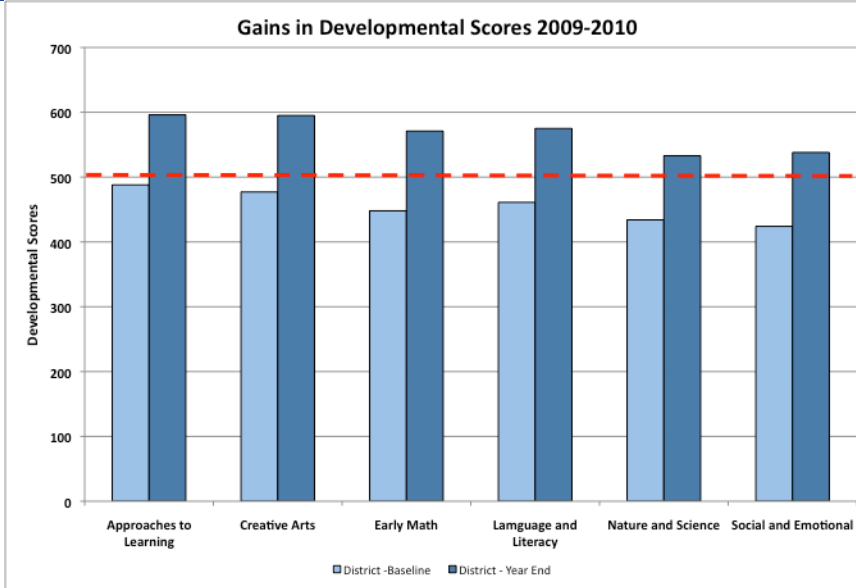
## Federal Monitoring Review Findings

A triennial Federal Monitoring Review was conducted in September 2008. The program was acknowledged for being in full compliance in the areas of Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, Disabilities, Family & Community Services, Transportation, Education & Early Childhood Development, Fiscal Management, and Program Design & Management. In the area of Facilities, Materials and Equipment a wooden ramp and handrail were found to be splintered. Corrective action was completed on October 10, 2008 and the program was identified as being in full compliance of all Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

# School Readiness Outcomes

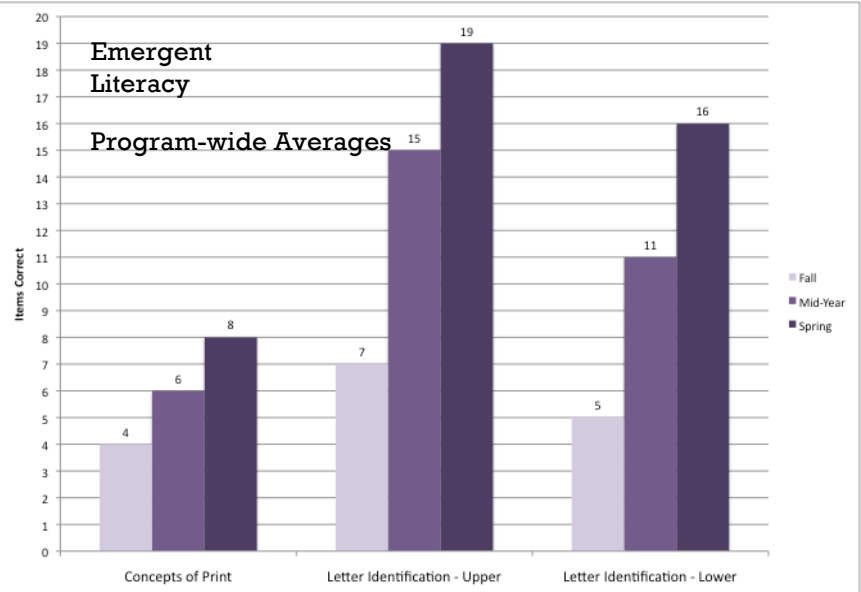
## Child Development

The Galileo Assessment System is utilized to measure children's growth in each readiness domain. The assessment system provides a comprehensive view of children's growth in the specific scales that are aligned with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework Domains. In the fall of each academic year, a four-year-old can be expected to earn a developmental score of 500 on each scale. Average growth of children over the year is 50 developmental level points. Children enrolled in our Head Start program met or exceeded this anticipated growth in all readiness domains.



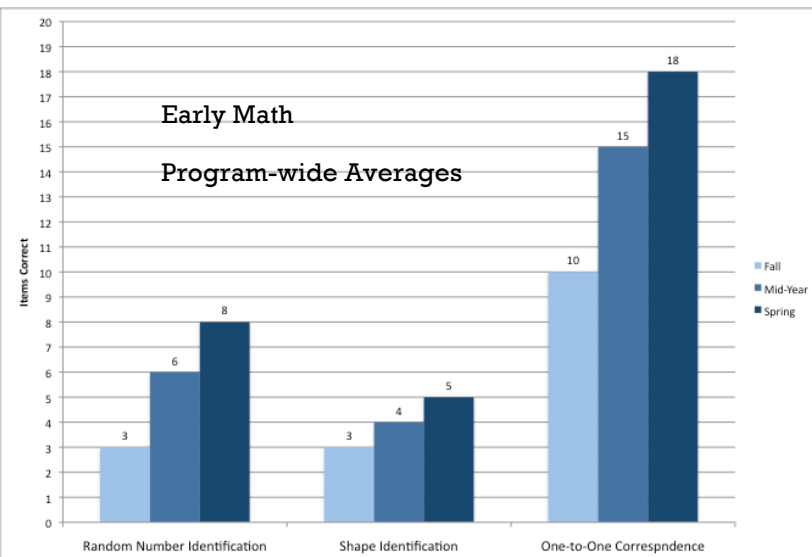
## Emergent Literacy

Emergent literacy skills are developed through many opportunities for children to interact with print in a natural, developmentally appropriate learning environment. Young learners acquire literacy concepts and skills through active engagement, constructing their understanding of how written language works. Specific skills are embedded into daily activities using music, read aloud, big books, songs, charts, chants, games and environmental print. Skills in young literacy learners begin to emerge as their experiences are enriched. The onset and growth of these skills are captured through periodic and ongoing observations assessments.



## Early Mathematics

Math experiences include a variety of opportunities for young learners that actively engage them in their physical and social world to explore and utilize ideas and concepts. With an emphasis on problem solving, mathematics concepts are purposefully introduced and embedded into daily activities. Opportunities for exploration include measurement, pattern building, sequencing, numeracy, sorting & classifying, comparing, estimating, predicting, and spatial relationships. Growth in these areas is captured through periodic and ongoing observations and assessments.





## **District School Board of Pasco County**

7227 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Land O' Lakes, FL 34683

Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent

Allen Altman, Chairman

Joanne Hurley, Vice Chairman

Cathi Martin

Kathryn Starkey

Frank Parker