

# 2023 Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Head Start Annual Report to the Public

Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Head start operates 6 Head Start centers in three counties and provides Early Head Start services from 5 sites in three counties.

In 2023 the Head Start program received funding allocations from the following sources

- \$6,006,541 in federal funding from HHS
- \$150,443 in USDA funding
- \$1,017,500 in in-kind donations of goods or services

These funds are used to pay for salaries, fringe and indirect for staff, rent, utilities, maintenance and supplies for centers, support costs for staff, food and transportation costs for services to children, training costs for staff and support costs for families. Proposed federal funding for 2024 is estimated at \$5,815,660 with an additional \$1,163,701 estimated as in-kind match requirement. USDA funding for 2024 is estimated at \$155,000.

In January 2023, HAPCAP Head Start was funded to serve 260 Head Start children and 106 Early Head Start children and pregnant women. The program provided services to a total of 659 children or pregnant women during the school year 6/1/2022-5/31/2023. This number includes children who dropped from the program at any time during the year. Those served were broken out by the following age categories.

Actual

Enrollment by age

Pregnant Women	15
less than 1 year old	36
1 year old	30
2 years old	73
3 years old	150
4 years old	153
5 or older	93

TOTAL SERVED 550

	Actual enrollment at end of month as reported to Federal Monitors	Percentage of Funded Enrollment
January 2023	66	62.3%
February 2023	65	61.3%
March 2023	63	59.4%
April 2023	66	62.3%
May 2023	65	61.3%
June 2023	66	62.3%
July 2023	68	64.2%
August 2023	72	67.9%
September 2023	64	60.4%
October 2023	65	61.3%
November 2023	59	55.7%
December 2023	63	59.4%

#### Head Start

	Actual enrollment at end of month as reported to Federal Monitors	Percentage of funded Enrollment
January 2023	207	79.6%
February 2023	206	79.2%
March 2023	215	82.7%
April 2023	210	80.8%
May 2023*	12	100.0%
June 2023*	12	100.0%
July 2023*	12	100.0%
August 2023	173	66.5%
September 2023	177	68.1%
October 2023	180	69.2%
November 2023	176	67.7%
December 2023	175	67.3%

- Regular center-based classes ended before the last day of May. The program served a small number of additional children from the end of May through July with a full year home based program. The numbers reported are end of month actual enrollment.

The program struggled with enrollment for a variety of reasons but was most impacted by a lack of staffing and an increase in the number of public preschool slots. For most of the year we only had four Early Head Start Home Visitors instead of the nine that we had funded. We were able

to serve children beyond the 48 that were served by the staff on board by using other staff and Coordinators to provide those services. Once we had a family enrolled, we did everything within our power to continue to provide services to them, even when an Early Head Start employee left. We faced similar issues with our Head Start enrollment made similar accommodations. We had two center based classrooms that we were unable to open at all due to a lack of staff and other classrooms that had to operate on a modified schedule in order to keep services open.

The program served approximately 53% of eligible children ages three to five and approximately 28% of eligible infants and toddlers. Details regarding enrollment for each month were highlighted above.

The program was placed on the full enrollment initiative for both Head Start and Early Head Start in the spring of 2023 due to under enrollment. The program made all efforts to reach full enrollment but as described above a lack of staff made it impossible to achieve full enrollment. The program was given 12 months to achieve full enrollment, or other steps could be taken, including a loss of funding. The program developed an application to submit in January of 2024 that requested a slot reduction and reallocation of those funds to improve staff salaries.

An important part of the service provided to our families is the medical and dental screening. All children follow the EPSDT guidelines for medical screenings. In addition, all Head Start children receive an annual dental screening. In both cases referrals for conditions needing treatment are made and follow-up is provided, as necessary. We continued to struggle with Early Head Start children getting their physicals in a timely manner and with our Head Start children getting their dental exams completed on time. Early Head Start children must obtain many physical screenings during the first two years of their life. If a child is ill these exams cannot take place, which can mean multiple appointments are delayed when there is illness.

All children in the program received medical services but not all were up to date at the end of the program year. At the end of the program year 59% of Early Head Start children enrolled for more than 45 days were up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care. This is a 3% improvement from last year. In Head Start 267 children entered the program up to date and 98% of children enrolled in the program for more than 30 days were up to date at the end of the program year. This was also a 3% increase from last year. We continue to work with families to increase these numbers.

Dental services in Head Start can be problematic due to a lack of available pediatric dentists. Families must often wait several months for an appointment. This year 89% of our children enrolled for at least 90 days had a dental exam completed within our expected time frame, (90 days). All of the remaining children either had an exam that was expired, (19), or had appointments scheduled after 90 days, (20).

The Early Head Start and Head Start program work to identify children who may be in need of specialized developmental services. We work closely with local Help Me Grow Programs and local School Districts to provide the best possible service to children in need of support. We were able to meet the requirement that the program provide services to 56 children who have either an IFSP or IEP.

Child outcomes are measured using the COR Advantage, a child assessment system that is aligned to our curriculum (HighScope), Ohio Early Learning Standards and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Birth to Five. We assess children in the five Head Start essential domains. The domains align to our school readiness goals and are as follows:

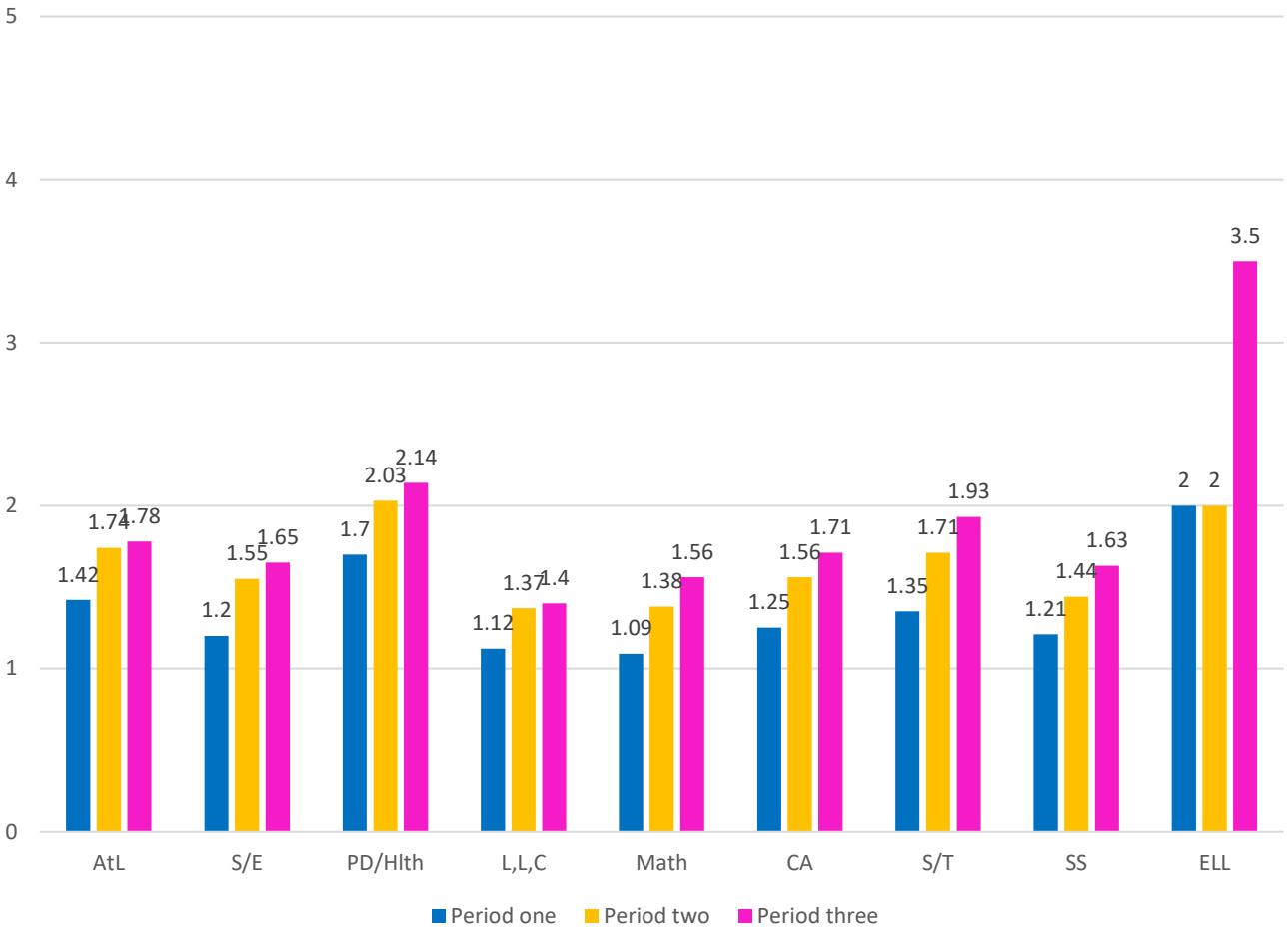
- Physical Development and Health
- Social Emotional Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Language and Literacy
- Cognition and General Knowledge (includes math, science and social studies)

The assessment is on a 1 to 7 scale and assesses children 6 weeks old through kindergarten. Our goals include that

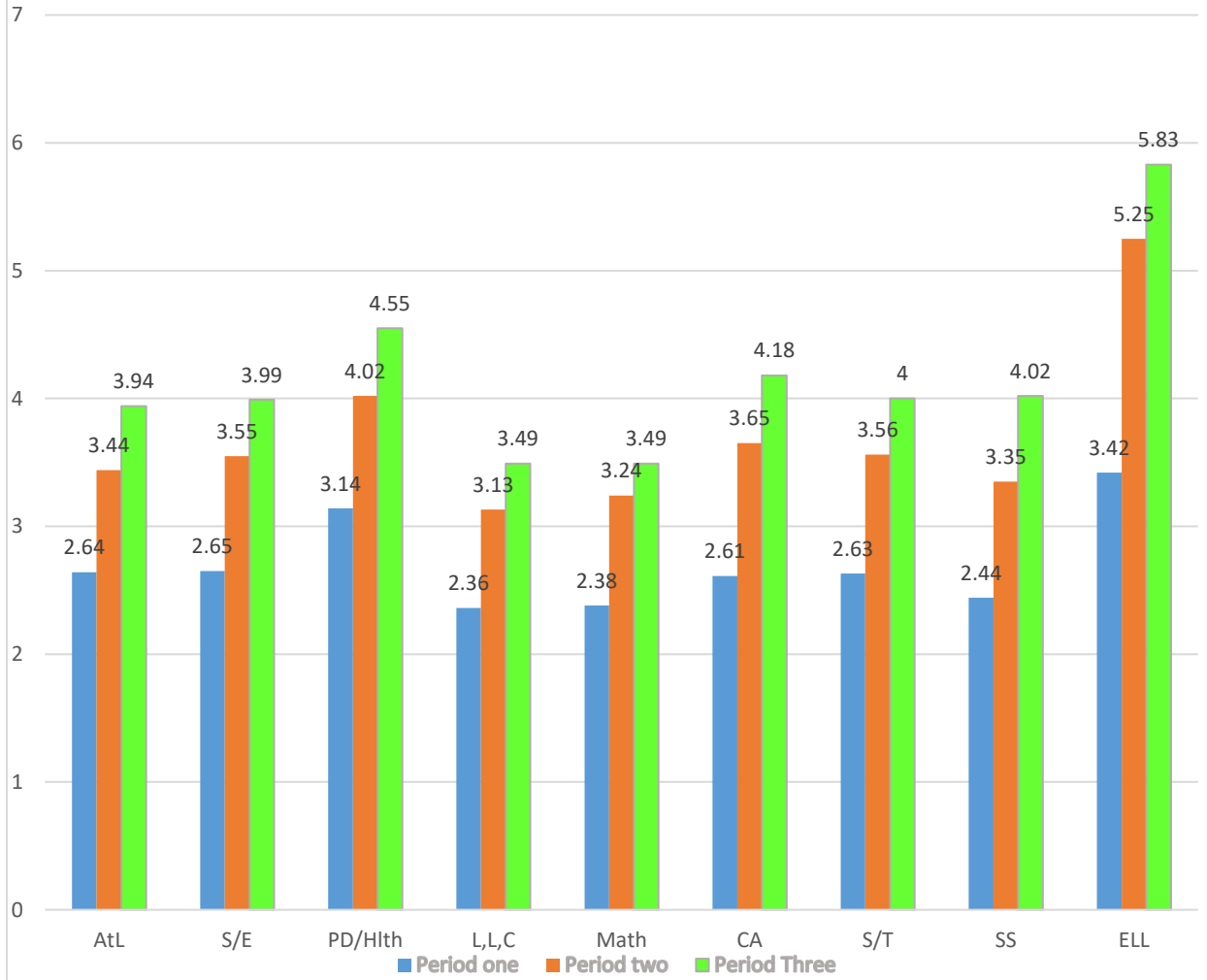
1. Early Head Start children make progress in the five essential domains (Early Head Start COR Periods 1-4).
2. Returning Head Start children achieve an average of level three (3) in the five essential domains (HS 3 – Returners - COR Periods 1-4).
3. Children entering kindergarten achieve an average of level four (4) in the five essential domains (HS Kindergarten Eligible, COR Periods 1-4)

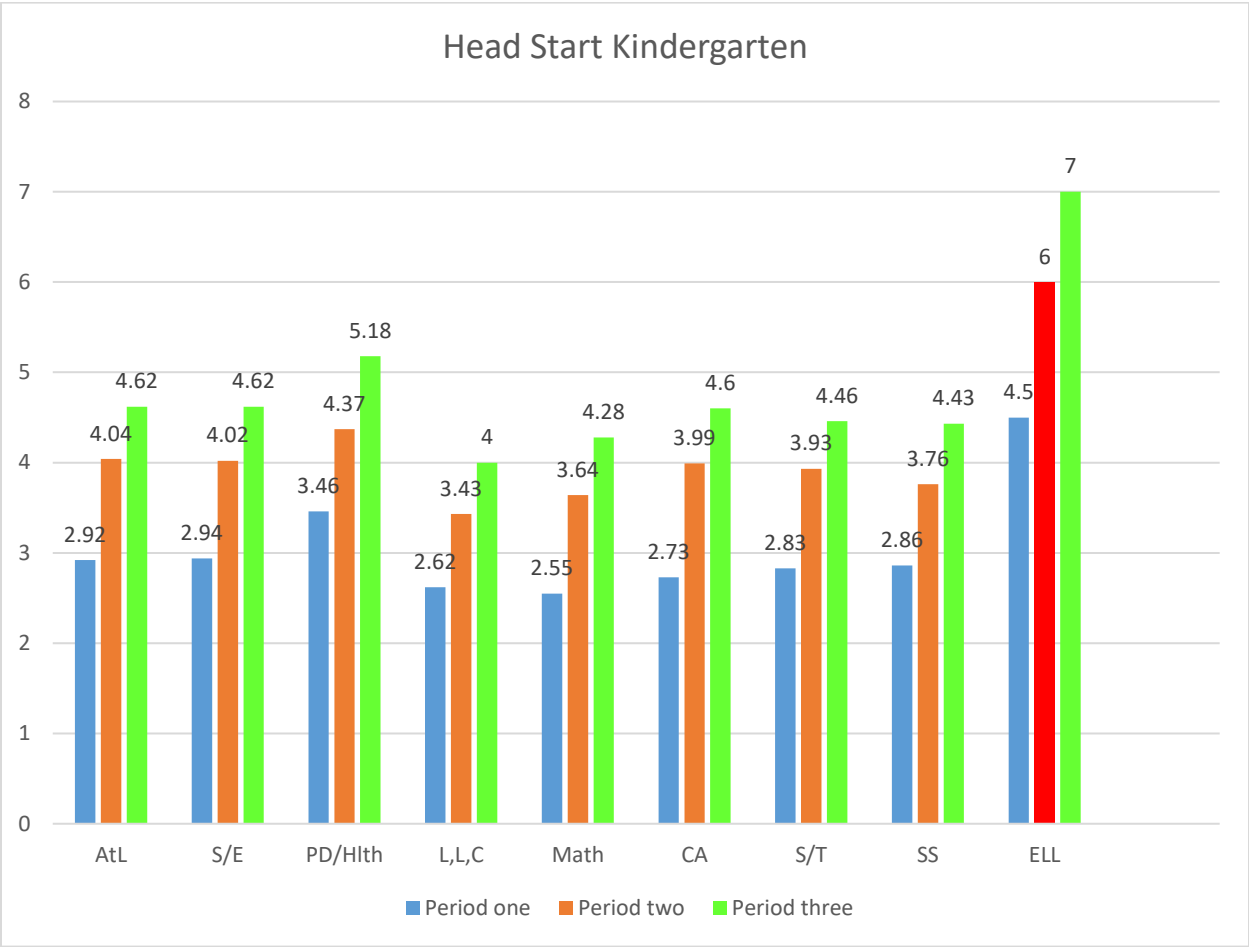
The following charts illustrate COR outcomes by age and program option.

# Early Head Start COR



# Head Start Returners





**Key:**

- AtL** – Approaches to Learning
- S/E** – Social and Emotional Development
- PD/Hlth** – Physical Development and Health
- L,L,C** – Language, Literacy, and Communication
- Math** – Mathematics
- CA** – Creative Arts
- S/T** – Science and Technology
- SS** – Social Studies
- ELL** – English Language Learners

**Typical developmental ranges for children within the COR framework:**

- Infants 0-2
- Toddlers 0-3
- Preschool – 2-5
- Kindergarten – 4-7

## **COR Data Analysis:**

Early Head Start made progress between period one and period three across all categories. Children who are returning age met our school readiness level of three across all the categories. Children who are kindergarten age met our school readiness level of four across all the categories.

Children receiving IEP services met our school readiness levels for each of the age groups analyzed. Dual Language Learners also met school readiness levels.

Our score in the area of Phonological awareness increased from period one level of 1.94 to period three level of 3.34. Language and literacy area continues to be the area with greatest opportunities for growth, but made substantial progress this year.

Parent involvement is a key component of the program. Parents of currently enrolled children comprised 80% of the Parent Policy Council. The Parent Policy Council must review and approve the hiring of all program staff; participate in the annual self-assessment of the program, participate in budget development and program goals. They approve all grant applications and provide oversight and guidance to the program. The opportunity to participate in program governance through Parent Policy Council provides experience that translates into the workplace and through volunteer efforts in other community organizations.

The program strives to involve all parents in the Head Start learning process. Activities at the centers are developmentally appropriate and individualized for optimal educational benefit. All enrolled families receive regular visits from staff to help establish family goals and keep families apprised of their child's progress. All Head Start Centers offer many opportunities for parent involvement including parent meetings and trainings and family fun events. Parents are always encouraged to volunteer in the centers and be a full partner in their child's education. The program uses a curriculum that is fully aligned with State preschool educational standards and works closely with local school districts to ensure a smooth transition to the public school setting.

The 2023 agency audit had no findings. A full copy of the latest financial audit and all program reports and further information are available at the agency main office in Glouster, Ohio. Please contact the Director of Child Development Programs at 740-767-4500 for further information.