Duluth Preschool

Committee of the Whole Report for the 2025-26 program year

November 12, 2026

OUR MISSION

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

OUR VISION

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

Learning



Developing a love of learning through life-long inquiry.

Excellence



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

Equity



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

Belonging



Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

Federal Grant FY 27

We are waiting for the
Federal Recompetition Grant
to become available.

Funding Type	Federal Head Start
Program Operations	**$2,859,575**
Training and Technical Assistance	**$28,958**
Federal Funded Enrollment	**190**
Total Funding	**$2,888,533**

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26



Head Start

190 Head Start slots funded in the Duluth Preschool Program

- 74 3 year olds
- 128 4 year olds
- 0 5 year old

202 Head Start Children were served in the 2025-26 program year

113 children were projected to enter Kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26

DRPD (Desired Results Developmental Profile)

- Teacher observations and student portfolios
- Authentic Assessment completed 2 times per program year
- Observations in 8 developmental domains
  - approaches to learning
  - social/emotional development
  - language
  - literacy
  - math
  - physical development/health
  - science
  - cognition
- Creative Curriculum
- Pyramid Model Framework/Second Step

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26

Who is enrolled in Head Start?



- 18 dual language learners
- 20 children identify as hispanic/Latino

- 36 children identified as African American/Black
- 3 children identified as Asian
- 65 children identified as White
- 73 children identified as multi racialor biracial
- 25 children identified as American Indian or Alaska Native

- 54 children were referred to early intervention for assessment
- 35 children were determined to have a disability under IDEA

- 77 (38%) children were supported through early intervention and an IEP Individual Education Plan)

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26

Family Snapshot

195 families were served and supported by Head Start

- 34 families experienced homelessness
- 4 children were in foster care at some point during the program year
- 135 families received SNAP benefits
- 120 families reported that at least one parent was employed
- 14 parents had a baccalaureate degree
- 67 parents had an associate/vocational degree or some college

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26

Broad Grant Goals remain for the 2026-27 Program Year

1. **High Quality Inclusion: Navigating Trauma**
    a. Partnership with Early Childhood Special Education

2. **Meeting the Unique Needs of our Community**
    a. Oshki-Inwewin: A loop program that infuses curriculum with Ojibwe language and perspectives at a site where an Ojibwe Immersion School operates.
    b. Nature Based Programming at all sites
    c. Artist in Residence Program for full day classes

3. **Fostering Resilience with a Focus on Health and Wellness**
    a. YMCA Collaboration: Safety Around Water classes for 72 children annually;
        i. Family Day Passes for all Head Start families
        ii. Swim lessons for Head Start parents
    b. Health and Wellness Opportunities for Families and Staff

Duluth Head Start Program Information Report 2025-26

2026-27 Program Year

1. **High Quality Inclusion**
   a. Meeting weekly as an early childhood leadership team: ECFE/PreK/ECSE
   b. P-3 Initiative Membership, supported by the MN Department of Children, Youth and Families
   c. CLASS and Danielson Framework teacher evaluations

2. **Meeting the Unique Needs of our Community**
   a. Membership in Every Child Ready Duluth
   b. First Street Buildout Planning,was supported by the Community Education Leadership and Team

3. **Fostering Resilience with a Focus on Health and Wellness**
   a. Staff Wellness supported through Reflective Consultation
   b. Preschool Support Team assisting teachers and families in addressing challenging child behaviors



Questions?