



North Early Learning Center

Head Start 2013 - 2014 Annual Report



~Sherry Hardin, Principal/HS Director

North Early Learning Center's Head Start program exists to help prepare some of the youngest members of our community for school while offering support services to the entire family. We provide a strong early childhood curriculum that prepares our students for kindergarten while building a solid foundation for life success. In addition we offer services to help families with medical, dental, and nutritional needs. We also provide social and emotional support to families through our parent engagement and involvement activities and counseling services.



West Orange Cove CISD Mission:

West Orange-Cove CISD believes in high academic achievement for all, grounded in a tradition of excellence. Our staff ensures that students learn, graduate, and become productive citizens. This is our commitment to our community.

North Early Learning Mission Statement:

The mission of North Early Learning Center is to empower all families in school readiness, focusing on the areas of socialization, health, and academics. With mutual respect and a collaborative effort, children and families become self-reliant, productive members of our community.

Vision Statement

North Early Learning Center believes in providing rigorous yet developmentally appropriate instruction in a positive collaborative environment.

School Motto

Learning as we grow, growing as we learn.

Efforts to Prepare Our Children for Children for Kindergarten:

Efforts to prepare children for kindergarten begin as soon as the child is enrolled in our program. The center staff, along with the parents, reviews the child's health and nutrition history and completes the required developmental screening within the first 45 days of enrollment. Our program encourages parent participation in the screening process by using the DIAL 4 (Developmental Indicators of Assessment of Learning, Fourth Edition) as our developmental and behavior screening tool and the Davis Observational Checklist for Texas (DOCT) as our speech screening tool. Throughout the program year, our teaching staff implements the research-based early childhood curriculum Opening the World of Learning (OWL) program. This curriculum promotes school readiness in the areas of language and cognitive development, early reading and math skills, science and social studies, social/emotional development, and physical development. Children receive instruction in small groups, individualization, and through the use of learning centers.

FUNDED ENROLLMENT:

For the 2013-14 program year, there were 239 children. Total number of actual children served was 269, including drops and new enrollees. There were 10 children on the waiting list as of August 2013. We were able to serve all qualifying children and families during the 2013-14 program year.

Early Childhood Education:

The classroom environment is guided by the Texas OWL (Opening the World to Learning) curriculum, which promotes children's emotional, social, cognitive, and physical growth. Children are involved in exploring and manipulating a variety of materials in a developmentally-appropriate environment. Teachers work in partnership with parents, who are invited to volunteer in the classroom, on field trips, and in parent engagement activities.

Certified Teachers are in all classrooms in addition to a paraprofessional that assist teachers. The curriculum is supported by strong technology resources such as SmartBoard, iPads, Texas OWL online resources, supplemental online resources and Waterford Literacy that is the primer for the Kindergarten literacy program. Zoophonics helps children develop phonological awareness skills. Small group instruction and focused individualization turn challenges into strengths, and prepares students for Kindergarten. Student performance is tracked and instruction is modified to maximize their potential. This information is shared at least four times a year during home visits and conferences.

Our goal is to prepare students for future success. As of August 2014, Head Start students transitioning to West Orange Stark Elementary kindergarten performed on DIAL 4 as follows:

66% of students scored 81% - 100%

18% of students scored 60% - 80%

16% of students scored 0% - 59%.

North's 3 Year Olds and 4 Year Olds scored 80% and above on 8 out of 10 school readiness goals.

Family and Community Engagement:

North Early Learning Center staff strives to promote family engagement by developing a positive rapport, establishing mutually respectful collaborative formal and informal partnerships with parents, community organizations and agencies. We recognize and embrace parents as their child's first teacher and offer various training and workshop opportunities to promote this relationship.

The goal of family services is to ensure that parents and families are safe, healthy, and has increased financial security and resources and services necessary for their success and to meet their goals. Families participate in leadership development, decision-making, program policy development, health counseling, career counseling, and other workshops of interest. Families participate in local community and statewide committees to organize activities to improve children's development and learning experiences. Volunteers are welcome in the classroom.

Health & Wellness:

Head Start embraces a comprehensive vision of health for children, families, and staff. We assure basic health needs are met, encourage practices that prevent future illness and injuries, and promote positive, culturally-relevant health behaviors that enhance life-long well-being. As of August 2014:

98.51% of children completed their well-child exams

98.51% completed dental care

100% completed both hearing and vision screenings

99.62% completed their immunizations

Mental Health & Disabilities:

Head Start staff, in collaboration, with the Local Education Agency staff, work toward children's independence, so they will be able to advance in achieving their goals. We ensure responsive and sensitive environments that identify, prevent, and reduce the impact of disabilities and mental health problems among children and their families. As of June 2014, 25 Head Start children and 88 families received Intervention Support Services.

Nutrition:

The Health Manager utilizes each child's Nutrition Assessment data (such as height, weight, and any available information from doctors, staff, and parents) in order to determine which children are at nutritional risk. The Health Manager, in collaboration with the contracted registered dietician then provides appropriate information to the parent and staff, along with ongoing support and consultation services. As of August 31, 2014, 16 children were determined to be at nutritional risk and were given informational packets, special diets or referrals.

Transition:

Quality early childhood education assists in laying the foundation for a child's academic, social, and economic success. Benefits include, but are not limited to, stronger cognitive skills, enhanced language development, and an improved readiness for school. Longer term benefits include higher high school graduation rates, reduced rates for teen pregnancy, increased job success and lower rates of incarceration. Children who enter kindergarten with a solid foundation of skills, knowledge and abilities are more likely to experience success in school and life. Head Start, we strive to make each child's transition into his or her local school as smooth as possible. At the end of the 2013-2014 program year, 133 children were transitioned into local school districts.

Funding:

The majority of funds received are awarded from the Office of Head Start (OHS) through the Department of Human Services-Administration for Children and Families. The in-kind match (non-federal share) is matched annually through WOCCISD and volunteer time.

HEAD START	\$1,403,673
T/TA	\$24,542
NFS	\$357,054
TOTAL FUNDING	\$1,785,269.00

Monitoring Report:

As a result of the monitoring review in 2014, the North Early Head Start program had three minor areas of non-compliance. These findings have been corrected and we were issued a letter stating the previously identified findings had been corrected and that no corrective action was required. You may review the report at the Center.

Goal: Graduation and Life Success!

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