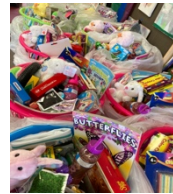


**EARLY CHILDHOOD  
LEARNING CENTER**



**HI-SET**



**ĀISSPŌŌMMŌŌTSIIY  
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# Parent Community Outreach Program

## BPS Early Childhood Learning Center~

The Child Care center still only has 10 children enrolled with many new parents inquiring for the Fall 2022 enrollment. Our enrollment capacity is entirely dependent on our staffing capacity due to the need to maintain a certain staff to child ratio for state licensing. Currently, we have two full time providers which essentially means we are at capacity. If we are unable to recruit for our (3) open positions, we will not be able to enroll any new children in the fall. In fact, whenever even one staff member needs to be gone, we must close the center for safety and supervision concerns. Each time we do this, the ripple effect is that teachers must miss work (many are out of leave), and their students are split between classes (due to the shortage of subs).

Across the state, childcare facilities are experiencing the same staffing shortages. This is largely in response to the pandemic, as well as the fact that childcare workers are not compensated adequately for the important work they do. In some smaller communities that are struggling to recruit teachers, childcares are being developed as an incentive to hire on with those districts.

*We would like to propose that our childcare staffing shortages be made a priority so that we can become fully staffed prior to August 2022.* We need to recruit high-quality providers so that our childcare facility can reach its full potential. Once fully staffed, the district can use childcare as a recruiting tool to attract new teachers to the district. With lack of available childcare being an issue everywhere, we have the potential to offer something very valuable that other districts may not have the ability to provide.



*For the District Wellness Day, Childcare staff opted to remain open so that district staff could participate in their building's wellness activities. We decided to try out some baby yoga for our own health & wellness. The children absolutely loved it!*

## HI-SET &

## Adult Basic Education~

### HiSET

We are hoping to have (6) students pass their HiSET test and be allowed to march in the commencement ceremonies for BHS at the end of May 2022. We are seeing a very young cohort of students emerging from the pandemic. We are deliberately trying to identify and recruit those students who dropped out in the 2019-2020 academic year as potential HiSET students. These students meet eligibility for recruitment in consideration of their age relevant to their current credit status. Students we locate who have the potential to graduate, even as 5<sup>th</sup> year seniors, are being referred to either Browning High School or William Buffalo Hide Academy.

Unfortunately, the majority of dropped students we have identified are too credit deficient and, in the interest of their time and energy, have more potential to complete a HiSET than a high school diploma.

### GRG/Kinship (a program within āiss□oōmmoōtsiiyō•□)

For our Easter baskets this year, we prioritized students who are in kinship care, or experiencing homelessness, who also had poor attendance. In doing so, we were able to assist at least (8) students in re-enrolling in school. One of the students has had perfect attendance since she re-enrolled!

We continue to reach out to families to provide resources so that students have what they need to attend school regularly. To date, we have identified:

173 Kinship Families

531 Kinship Children

## āiss□oōmmoōtsiiyō•□ ~

*McKinney Vento Data update:*

*We have currently identified #313 students as experiencing homelessness.*

### School-based Clothing Closets

At this point in the school year, we are focusing on clearing out clothing that hasn't been appealing to students. We hope to have a community giveaway soon. This will create more space for new donations more appropriate for student wear and hopefully provide a resource to the community.

The Prom pop-up boutique was not as well-utilized as we had hoped it would be. We are hoping that the dresses will be more accessible to high school students if they are displayed at BHS for Prom season 2023. All dresses have been delivered to the BHS clothing closet for future use.

The annual Prom event sponsored by PCOP was a success. Approximately 30 students were assisted with either prom apparel, tickets, hair/nails/makeup, and corsages/boutonnieres.







**School-based Food Pantry**

As the school year winds down, many sites are making food boxes to send home with students for the summer. We encourage this so that the food doesn't near expiration, and so that families have a little extra support going into the summer months. We will continue to encourage families to utilize the Oyop food pantry, and to participate in any summer food programs offered by BPS.

PCOP provided #30 Easter dinner baskets to students experiencing homelessness or in Kinship care.



**BPS YHDP**

***#53\* unaccompanied homeless youth***

April and May have been an extremely busy time for the YHDP program. The referrals seem to be pouring in, and the seniors are gearing up to graduate.

*\*This number is included in the #313 posted above.*

## Foster Care

The Blackfeet Family Services recently acquired a new acting director. PCOP is trying to get another meeting to recalibrate and hopefully see some progress in our working relationship with BFS. At this point, it's critical that we work together to ensure the safety of students currently dropped out. We have significant concerns and the list of children in potentially harmful environments seems to be growing, either due to our own awareness, the state of the community, or a combination of both.

### ***Soles4Souls has delivered our 4EveryKid shoe donation!***

We recently received our donation in April of #250 shoes and #500 socks. We have already been distributing the shoes to students at the Boarding Dorm, the Nurturing Center, and to those students in kinship care or experiencing homelessness. We have also reached out to the PE/Health teachers to refer students in need as well.

