2018-2019 School Year

MCOE Head Start Annual Report

1840 Wardrobe Ave. | Merced | CA | 95341
Overview

We are pleased to share the Merced County Office of Education Head Start program Report on the 2018-2019 School-year with our community.

Funded since 2005, Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) Head Start (HS) program serves 1157 low-income or at-risk children and their families by providing services, referrals & follow-up in the areas of education, nutrition, health & social services.

MCOE is the grantee for the Head Start program. The Superintendent, as a 'Board of One' serves as the governing body. The Head Start Policy Council serves as an additional oversight & decision-making council and is comprised of Head Start parents as well as representatives from a variety of community agencies.

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MCOE Early Education Department provides leadership to ensure quality early care & education services are provided throughout the community. In addition it is the home to federal & state funded early education programs.

**Head Start, Early Head Start & Early Head Start Child Care Partnership**
The Head Start Program provides a comprehensive child development program to children 0-5 years old from income eligible families & children with exceptional needs to prepare them intellectually, socially, emotionally & physically for school & life.

**Child Care Subsidy**
CalWORKs Stages 1, 2 & 3 and Alternative Payment programs purpose is to provide subsidized child care & education services to eligible parents in order to assist them in achieving their self-sufficiency goals. Child care is provided according to the need & eligibility of the parent. Parents choose the type of care and the provider of care. Parents may choose licensed care in centers or family child care homes and “exempt” care by eligible relatives.

**Child Care Resource & Referral**
Resource and Referral provides support & training for child care providers, along with child care referrals for families.

**Family Resource Council**
Provides parenting education and information to parents regarding community resources that are available to families to minimize involvement in the Probation/Court system.

**California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) Region 7**
CPIN provides consistent & high quality professional development for preschool administrators & teachers focusing on preparing children ages 3-5, including English learners and children with disabilities, for success in elementary school. MCOE is the lead agency for Region 7, which includes Merced, Madera, Mariposa, Fresno, Tulare and Kings county.

**Merced County Collaborative for Children and Families**
The primary mission of the Local Child Care & Development Planning Council is to plan for child care & development services based on the needs of families in the local community.
Head Start Programs
MCOE Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care Partnership centers are strategically placed across Merced County. In addition, we contract provide home-based services throughout Merced County and contract with 24 licensed family child care home providers located in the cities of Atwater, Le Grand, Los Banos, Merced, Planada and Winton.

Program options included:
• Center-based
  o Part-Day: 3-1/2 hours
  o School-Day: 6-1/2 hours
  o Full Day: 10 hours
• Home-based: 1-1/2 hour visits + socialization
• Family Child Care (hours vary per family need)

All are open 5 days per week, with the exception of Pioneer Head Start, which is open 4 days per week as a “double session.”

Enrollment
Within all Head Start programs for the 2018-2019 school year we served 100% of our funded enrollment. Waiting lists were maintained in nearly every community that the program serves. Head Start services are provided to approximately 1157 children each month throughout Merced County as follows:

### Head Start Eligibility
Families are eligible for Head Start services based on specific criteria. In 2018-2019 families were enrolled based on the following eligibility criteria:

- Receives Public Assistance (31%)
- Foster Child (2%)
- Homelessness (1%)
- Income Below 100% of Federal Poverty (57%)
- Income Between 100-130% of Federal Poverty (14%)
- Over Income (9%): These slots are generally reserved for children with disabilities, those living in a high risk environment & those transitioning from Early Head Start to Head Start

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head Start (Preschool)</th>
<th>Early Head Start (Infant/Toddler/Pregnant)</th>
<th>Early Head Start – CCP (Infant/Toddler)</th>
<th>Total Funded</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Home-Based</td>
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<tr>
<td>797</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>180</td>
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During the 2018-2019 School Year MCOE Head Start cumulatively served 1408 children & their families. Of the children served, 419 four year-olds transitioned to Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten at the end of the school year.

This last school year, 54% of our Head Start preschool children were 3 years old & 46% were 4 years old.
Special Education/Disabilities:

MCOE Head Start provides services to over 120 children with disabilities annually. Most are included in regular classrooms.

During the 2018-19 program year, 90 preschool-age children with confirmed disabilities were enrolled and received special services in MCOE Head Start; this was 11% of our funded enrollment.

The most frequently diagnosed disabilities of enrolled children was speech or language impairment (72%) followed by autism (11%), hearing impairment (1%), health impairment (<1%), intellectual disability (<1%), & orthopedic impairment (<1%).

In Early Head Start & Early Head Start Child Care Partnership, 35 children with confirmed disabilities were enrolled & received special services, which was 11% of our funded enrollment.

Staff receive extensive training to support children with special needs and every classroom is provided with equipment to ensure that any child with special needs can be fully included in all program activities.
Family Engagement

Family engagement is a central focus of MCOE Head Start. Family members have the opportunity to set goals for themselves & are included in the goal setting process for each child.

Each center offers a special activity to engage men in activities with children. This year options included a ‘Man Plays with Food’ workshop, “Silly Slimy Science”, and Men & Children Moving Together” providing opportunities for men and children to learn new approaches to communication while making fun & healthy snacks, exploring science concepts, or learning how to increase physical activity by moving to music together.

Most centers also provided educational family play days, where family members & children participated in fun physical activities in a festive atmosphere.

Race/Ethnicity

Hispanics continue to comprise a growing percentage of both Merced County’s population & children enrolled in our Head Start programs. During the 2018-2019 school year the race/ethnicity breakdown for children enrolled in our Head Start programs was as follows:

- Hispanic: 72.5%
- Asian: 5.8%
- Black or African American: 4.6%
- Biracial/Multi-Racial: 3.4%
- Other: 4.1%
- White: 9.6%
- Middle Eastern/South Asian: 1.1%
- East Asian: 2.4%
- European/Slavic: 1%

Home Language

Our Head Start child development staff meet the language needs of families within our community. In addition to English, 40% of our staff speak Spanish, 7% East Asian languages, 2% Middle Eastern/South Asian languages an 2% European languages. During the 2018-2019 school year the home language breakdown for families enrolled in our Head Start programs was as follows:

- English: 58.8%
- Spanish: 37.3%
- Other: 4.1%
Comprehensive Approach

MCOE Head Start approach to School Readiness means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children’s learning and schools are ready for children. Our approach includes:

- Physical, cognitive, social & emotional development are all essential ingredients of school readiness.
- Head Start views school readiness as children possessing the skills, knowledge & attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life.
- The Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) is utilized to measure children’s progress in key educational outcome areas. The assessment is completed on each enrolled child three times annually. Data is summarized & analyzed at the child, classroom & program level in these key areas:
  - Approaches to Learning
  - Social and Emotional Development
  - Language and Literacy
  - Cognition
  - Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
- Family engagement is critical! Head Start respects parents as their children’s primary nurturers, teachers & advocates; therefore, we consult with parents in establishing school readiness goals.
- As children transition to kindergarten, the Head Start program and schools work together to promote school readiness & engage families.

Curriculum

It is critical that curriculum interactions & activities result in positive child outcomes and achieve school readiness goals; therefore, our Head Start education staff are trained to implement curriculum responsively, intentionally & with fidelity. Various curricula have been adopted to support different age-groups & settings.

**FROG STREET CURRICULUM**
Frog Street is utilized in the preschool center-based option. Frog Street is research-based & helps children build knowledge and skills in math, language, science & the arts, while promoting cognitive, physical & socio-emotional development.

**CREATIVE CURRICULUM**
Creative Curriculum is used in the home-based option, in Family Child Care and throughout the Early Head Start program because it is relationship based and addresses the growth and development of infants and toddlers.

**FROG STREET LOVE & LEARN AND PARTNERS FOR A HEALTHY BABY**
The home-based program also supplements Creative Curriculum Learning Games with Love & Learn and Partners for a Healthy Baby, which provides a strong parent education and support component for Home-based Head Start & Early Head Start families.

There is a strong focus on learning through **physical activity** in all Head Start & Early Head Start program options. Resources from the *I am Moving I am Learning* initiative & *SPARK* curriculum are used in all preschool settings to help children & families learn & develop physical strength, as well as to combat obesity. Early Head Start staff utilize activities from the *Creative Curriculum, Head Start Body Start & Little Voices for Healthy Choices* to promote physical activity in an age-appropriate manner.
Health & Nutrition Services

Physical & Oral Health

Head Start staff complete hearing, vision & nutritional screenings on children who have not been screened by a primary care physician and work with families to provide resources & support if follow up is necessary.

Family services staff work with each family to ensure that every child has medical insurance and is up-to-date on all physicals, immunizations & dental exams.

In the 2018-2019 program year, 100% of families had health insurance & received a physical for their Head Start child. 89% of Head Start children received a dental exam or, in children under 1 year, appropriate early dental screening was completed.

Mental Health

MCOE Head Start is a mentor site for the Center for Emotional Foundations for Early Learning. Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is embedded in the curriculum at all age levels. It is not unusual to see children using PBS when a conflict occurs. Even toddlers frequently model the concepts!

During the 2018-2019 school year parents learned about PBS at parent meetings & through modeling in the classroom. Children learned about PBS through their daily routines at school. Conscious Discipline was also embedded in the curriculum.

Nutrition

Child wellness is promoted by providing nutrition services that meet the nutritional needs of infants & children while establishing good eating habits that nurture healthy development and life-long well-being.

Gardens at most Head Start & Early Head Start centers provided an outdoor classroom and also encouraged healthy eating. Families were invited to participate and create their own gardens with the expectation that this will increase accessibility to healthy seasonal foods.
Staff Qualifications

In accordance with Head Start Performance Standards all Head Start & Early Head Start teachers have a minimum of an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. Additionally teaching staff receive monthly training on curriculum implementation. Supervisors, along with two dedicated coaches provide coaching & professional learning community opportunities. Last school year, 39% of Head Start & Early Head Start teachers held a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Facilities & Construction

In 2018-2019, MCOE Head Start received over $7 million to expand Head Start program hours. This enabled MCOE Head Start to obtain, construct and or renovate facilities to expand the program hours. This grant was extended to fiscal year 2019-2020 and work is still in progress.

Review/Audit

The most recent Federal review of the MCOE Head Start program was conducted in 2015 and focused on Fiscal Integrity & ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance). MCOE Head Start was found to be compliant with all applicable regulations.

In addition, MCOE Head Start undergoes a fiscal audit each year. There were no out of compliance findings in the last completed financial audit.

Financials

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Please contact us to learn more about our Head Start programs

Merced County Office of Education
Head Start Administrative Office
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