



The Annual Report Sequatchie Valley Educational Development Agency

Published May 2021



Sequatchie Valley
Educational Development Agency

501 Westfield Place, Jasper, TN 37347

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www.svheadstart.info

CONTENTS

3	OUR COMMITMENT
4	OUR CORE VALUES
5	OUR LOCATIONS
6	CENTER LOCATIONS
8	OUR SERVICES
10	BUDGET & FINANCIALS
12	ENROLLMENT 2019-2020
13	THE AUDIT & REVIEWS
14	FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
15	MEDICAL & DENTAL CARE
16	SCHOOL READINESS GOALS
19	CLASS SCORES
20	COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT
21	COVID-19 RESPONSE
22	SUCCESS STORIES



Our Commitment

Giving children from at-risk backgrounds the skills they need to be successful in school and in life



WORKING closely with the local communities to adapt to what each area needs



ENGAGING parents as equal partners with their child's teacher



HELPING children build the abilities they need to be successful in school and life

We are dedicated to supporting more children, families, and communities on their paths to success!



Our Core Values

Who We Are & What We Do

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Establish a **SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** for children, parents, and staff in which the processes of enhancing awareness, refining skills, and increasing understanding are valued and promoted.

A
B
C

Recognize that members of the Head Start community - children, families, and staff - have roots in **MANY CULTURES AND LANGUAGES**. Head Start families and staff, working together as a team, can effectively promote respectful, sensitive, and proactive approaches to diversity.



Understand the **EMPOWERMENT OF FAMILIES** occurs when program governance is a collaborative effort among families, governing bodies, and staff, and when the ideas and opinions of families are heard and respected.



Embrace a **COMPREHENSIVE VISION** of health for children, families, and staff that ensures basic health needs are met; encourages practices that prevent future illnesses and injuries; and promotes positive, culturally relevant health behaviors that enhance life-long well-being.



Respect the importance of all aspects of an **INDIVIDUAL'S DEVELOPMENT**, including social, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth.

Build a community in which each child and adult is **TREATED AS AN INDIVIDUAL**, while at the same time reinforcing a sense of belonging to the group.



Foster a relationship with the **LARGER COMMUNITY** so families and staff are respected and served by a network of community agencies that work in partnership with one another.



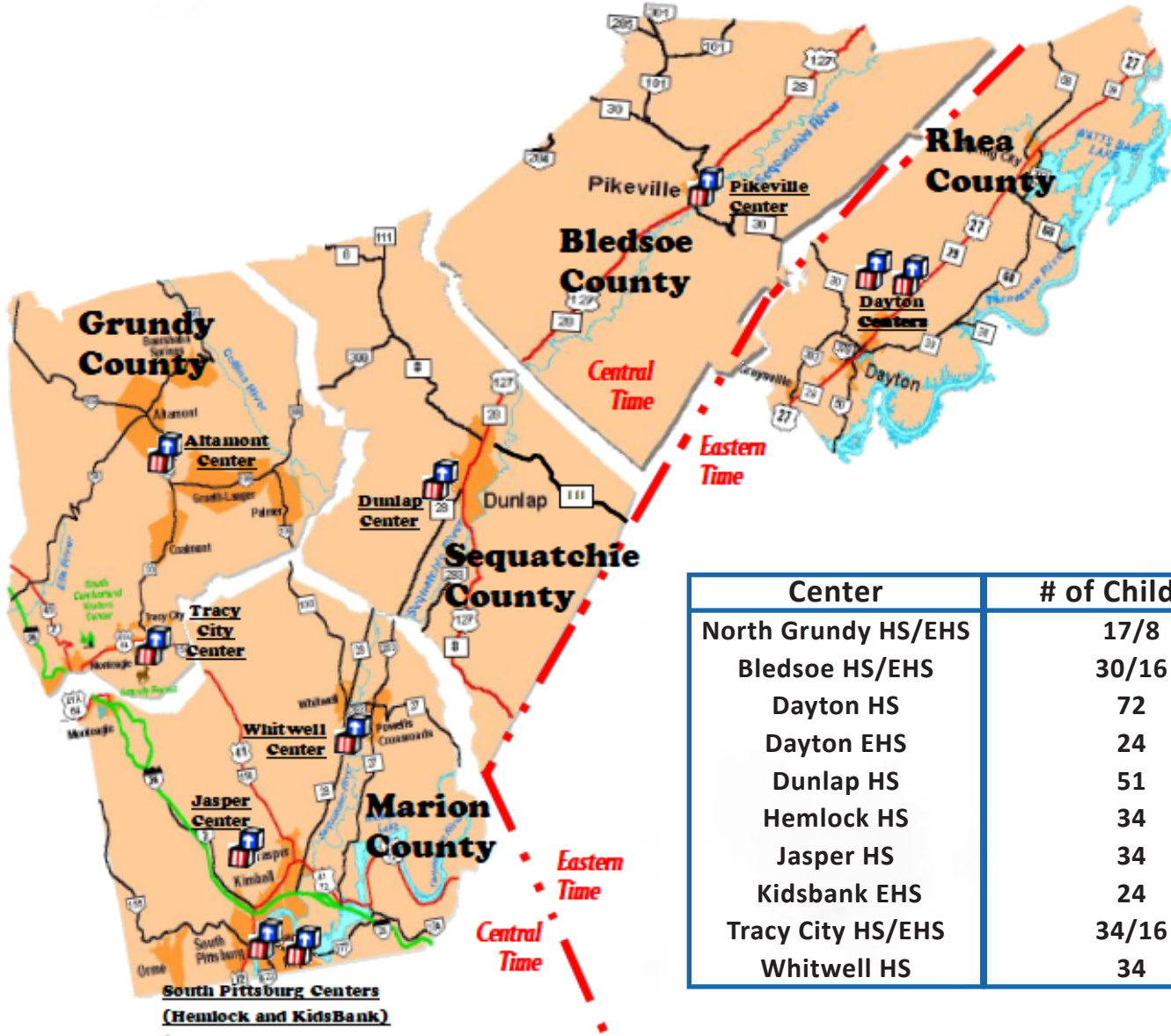
Develop a **CONTINUUM OF CARE**, education, and other services that allow stable, uninterrupted support to families and children during and after their Head Start experience.



Our Locations

The Administrative Office is located at 501 Westfield Place, Jasper, TN 37347. Our service area in southeast Tennessee includes Marion, Grundy, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, and Rhea counties.

Our governmental agency is part of the Tennessee River Basin Authority.





Our Center Locations



Hemlock Head Start
907 Hemlock Circle
South Pittsburg, TN 37380
(423) 837-1101



Jasper Head Start
3706 Main Street
Jasper, TN 37347
(423) 942-9451



KidsBank Early Head Start
650 Cedar Avenue
South Pittsburg, TN 37380
(423) 837-8212



Whitwell Head Start
11057 Highway 28
Whitwell, TN 37313
(423) 658-7544



North Grundy Head Start / Early Head Start
67 Community Center Rd
Coalmont, TN 37313
(931) 692-3079



We proudly serve Marion, Grundy, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, and Rhea Counties

Pikeville Head Start / Early Head Start

2531 Main Street
Pikeville, TN 37367
(423) 447-2459



Dayton Head Start

1655 Blythes Ferry Rd
Dayton, TN
(423) 775-7723

Dayton Early Head Start

585 Richland Street
Dayton, TN 37321
(423) 428-9698



Tracy City Head Start / Early Head Start

13764 US Highway 41
Tracy City, TN 37387
(913) 592-2311

Dunlap Head Start

173 Jones Drive
Dunlap, TN 37327
(423) 949-5015



Our Services



Adult Education

Head Start assists parents and guardians who would like to go back to school to apply for financial aid.

Job Counseling

Head Start connects families to job training and job counseling and helps them locate and secure steady work.



Parenting Support

Head Start hosts Active Parenting workshops to provide research-based strategies to help families.



In addition to the academic and social services provided to children, Head Start also provides many services to families, nearly half of whom are headed by a single parent.

Food & Shelter

Head Start connects families with other community resources such as food banks, homeless services, utility help, credit counseling, budgeting, and referrals to programs treating substance abuse disorders.



Child Support & Custody

Head Start provides education and support for families who are working through child support issues and grandparents and family members who are securing custody or are working to return children to their parents.

Medical & Dental Services

Head Start helps parents find medical and dental homes for children and may assist in making appointments and arranging for transportation. Family service workers also help parents find low cost dental and medical help for themselves.



Budget & Financials

Where the Money Comes From

Sequatchie Valley Educational Development Agency receives federal funding from the **Administration for Children and Families** (Department of Health and Human Services) to operate our Early Head Start and Head Start early childhood education programs.

Most federal grants require a **20% non-federal match** from our local communities. We also receive funding from the Department of Agriculture's **CACFP** food program, whose pass-through entity is the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

\$4,120,080
Head Start

\$1,220,896
Early Head Start

\$204,594
CACFP Food

\$42,940
Misc. Income

+ **\$750,504**
Inkind Donations

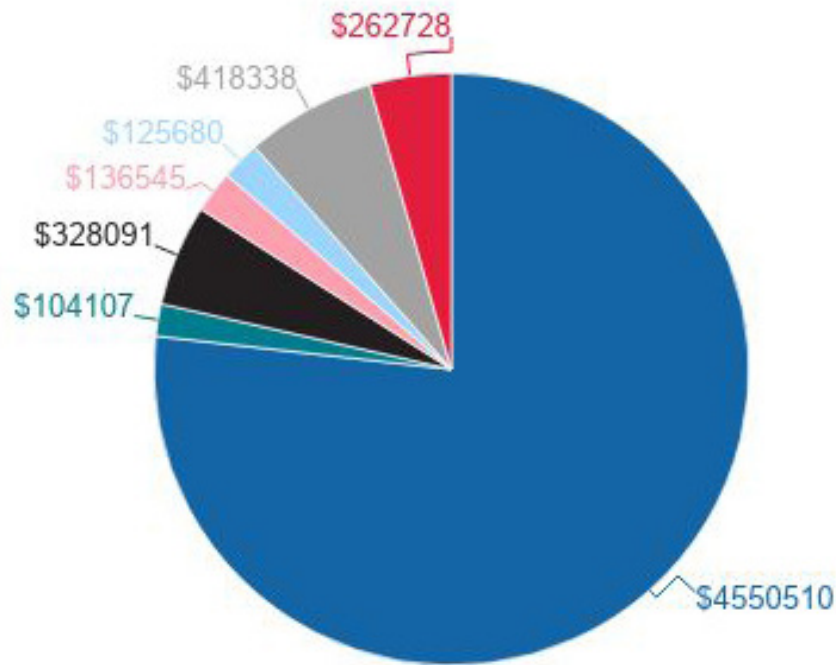
= **\$6,339,014**
Total Revenue

Taken from the audited FY2020 Financial Statements



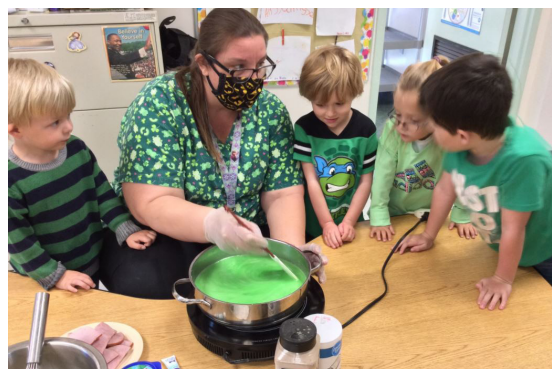
Budget & Financials

Where the Money Goes

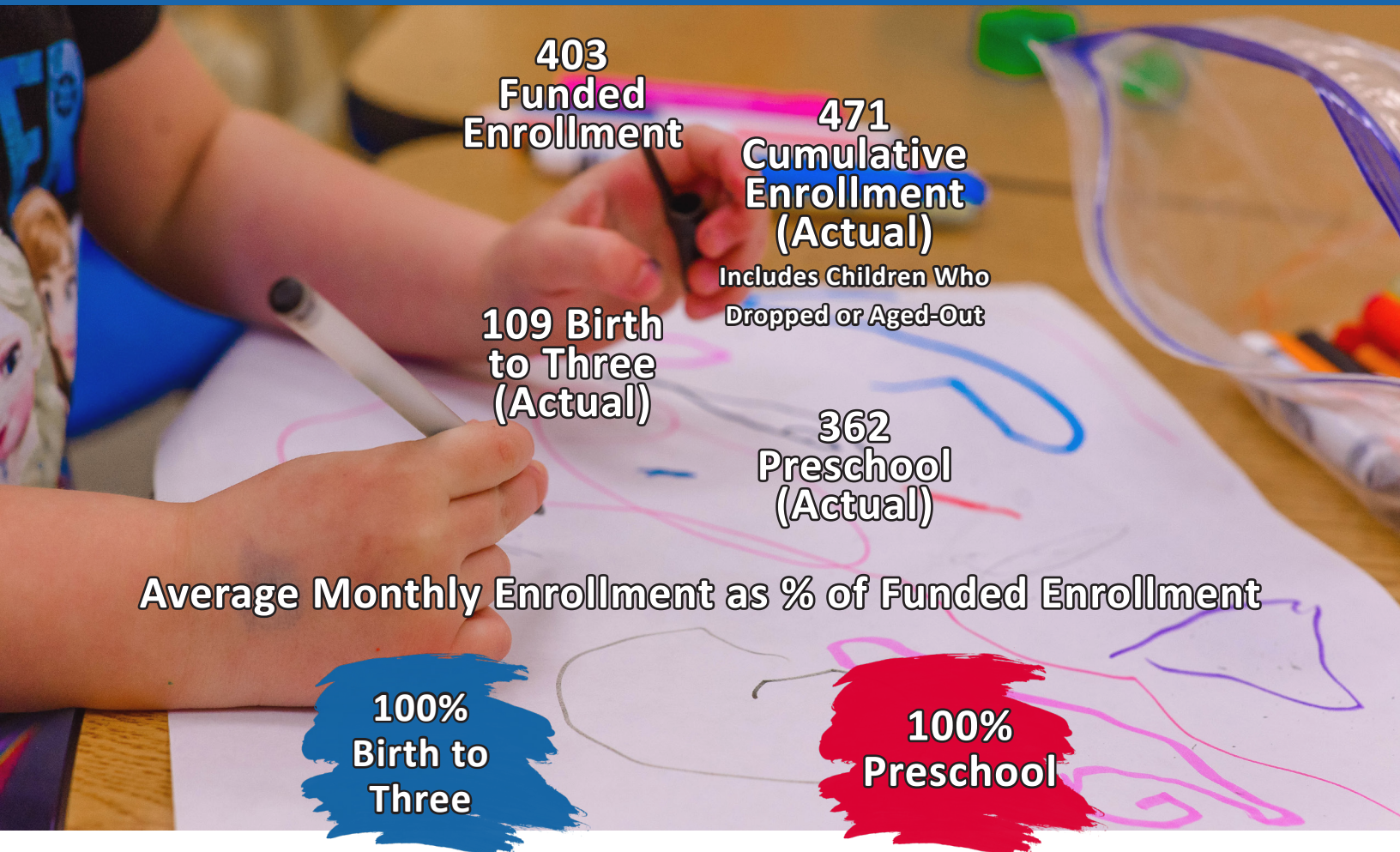


- Salary and Fringe
- Utilities and Communication
- Supplies
- Maintenance
- Food
- Occupancy and Other
- Administrative

We are committed to offering all employees a **competitive, living wage**, supplemented with fringe benefits, including participation in the state retirement system and access to an Employee Assistance Program, regardless of part-time or full-time status. This commitment translates into **78%** of our annual budgets being allocated toward **salary and fringe**. We employ 140 professionals and equip them with the **training and resources** to provide **research-based, multi-generational** child development services to over **400** children and families.



Enrollment 2019-2020



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) of 100% is the lowest level used by federal programs. A family of four can only earn \$26,200 annually. Public assistance includes TANF and SSI recipients.



The Audit & Reviews

Fiscal Year 2020

No findings and No Questioned Costs

A. SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' RESULTS

1. The independent auditors' report expresses an unmodified opinion on whether the financial statements of the Sequatchie Valley Planning and Development Agency were prepared in accordance with GAAP.
2. No material weaknesses were identified during the audit of the financial statements.
3. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of Sequatchie Valley Planning and Development Agency were disclosed by the audit.
4. No material weaknesses were identified during the audit of the major federal awards program.
5. The auditors' report on the major federal awards program for Sequatchie Valley Planning and Development Agency expresses an unmodified opinion.
6. Audit findings that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR Section 200.516(a) are reported in this schedule.
7. The programs tested as Major Programs:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Head Start Program – CFDA #93.600
8. The threshold for distinguishing Type A and Type B programs was \$750,000.
9. The Sequatchie Valley Planning and Development Agency was determined to be a low-risk auditee.

Office of Head Start Reviews



No Area of Noncompliance

2016 Environment and Safety
2016 Head Start Key Indicator - Compliant
2017 Early Head Start
2020 Focus Area One



2017 CLASS Assessment (Federal Monitoring)

Domain	Score
Emotional Support	6.5074
Classroom Organization	6.4314
Instructional Support	3.9804



Family Engagement



843 Parents Volunteered

306 Parents have received at least one of our **Head Start Services**

299 Parents received information from our **Active Parenting Workshops**

123 Fathers participated in **Home Visits and/or Parent Conferences**

Other Parent Activities:

Kindergartend Visits (transition meetings)

Policy Council and Parent Committees

Book-A-Night Reading Program

Share a Hobby, Job Skill, or Talent Days

Center Clean Up Days

Goal Setting with Follow-Up

Fatherhood Events (Ex. Kite Flying)



Medical & Dental Care

82.7%

of our Children received age-appropriate, preventive, and primary **oral health care/dental exams** as recommended on the state's EPSDT schedule

79%

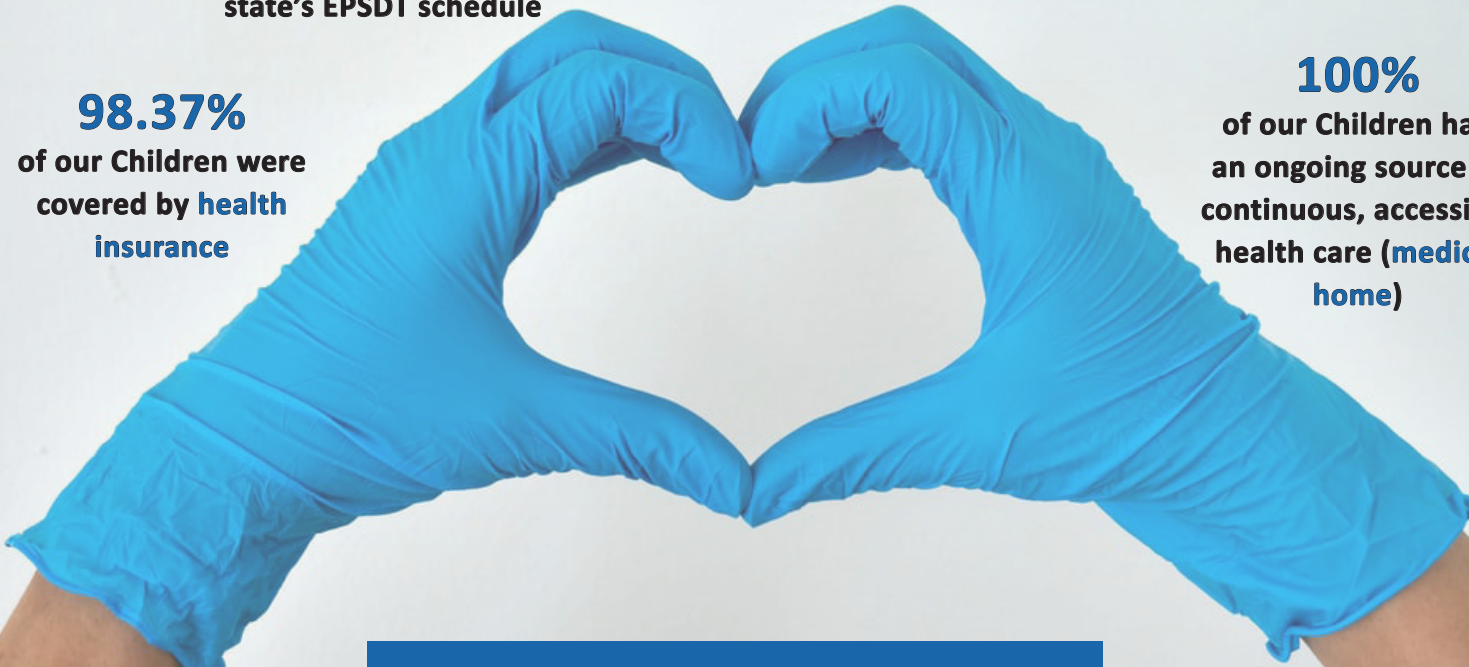
of our Children received age-appropriate preventive **medical exams** as recommended on the state's EPSDT schedule

98.37%

of our Children were covered by **health insurance**

100%

of our Children had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care (**medical home**)



Classes closed on March 16, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Dentists and physicians restricted office visits and preventive care was postponed.



School Readiness Goals

In 2019-2020, we began the process of revising our school readiness goals to better align with the Tennessee Early Learning Standards (TN-ELDS), Creative Curriculum, our assessment system, and Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) the Head Start Early Learning Framework (HSELOF).

We began conversations with our local school system partners to make sure that our children are arriving at kindergarten **ready to learn and grow**.

We conducted **parent surveys** and had **focus group discussions** with our education staff to form these goals. We are sharing the goals with our board members and plan to have the goals finalized by the 2021-2022 school year.

Physical Well-Being and Motor Development, Safe and Healthy Learners (PD-HLTH)
Children will demonstrate fine-motor and gross-motor development through play and develop routines related to personal care, safety, and nutrition. Families will work with Head Start staff to make sure their children stay up to date on EPSDT schedules and dental appointments.

Social and Emotional Development (SED)
Children will develop resilience and empathy in ways to make and maintain healthy relationships. Children will demonstrate positive social and emotional skills, including increasingly confident and cooperative interactions with peers and adults, and an increasing ability to recognize and regulate their own behaviors and emotions, becoming less reliant on adults over time.

Approaches to Learning (ALT-REG)
Children will demonstrate persistence, sustained attention, and interest in a variety of settings. Children will demonstrate the ability to share and properly use materials with limited adult support.

Engagement (Family Goal Setting, CCR Surveys, Conference Materials)
Schools and teachers will engage families as partners in a child's physical and mental health while working to support parents as lifelong educators. Families will develop the capacity to advocate for their child's academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs.

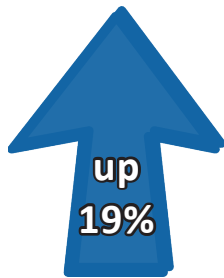
Cognition and General Knowledge (COG, HHS, and VPA)
Children will demonstrate an understanding of math, science, and social studies.

Language and Literacy (LLD and ELD)
Children will develop language and literacy skills. Dual Language Learners will show progress in learning to communicate in English while retaining use and knowledge of their home language.



SVHS 2019-2020 School Readiness Outcomes

The Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) Assessment data for the 2019-2020 school year showed an increase in the number of children scoring in the Building Middle and Integrating Early levels of the assessment. Overall, SVHS saw the following gains for the 2019-2020 school year.



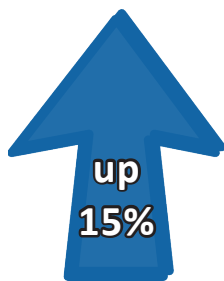
Approaches to Learning



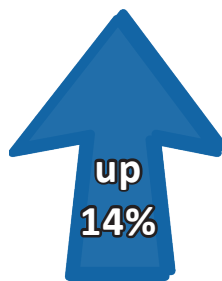
*Cognitive & Mathematics



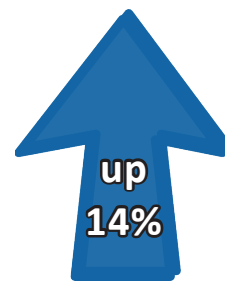
Language & Literacy



Physical Development & Health



Science & Social Studies



Social-Emotional Development

*For the Cognitive & Mathematics Domain, the majority of the gains were in the level of Build Middle.

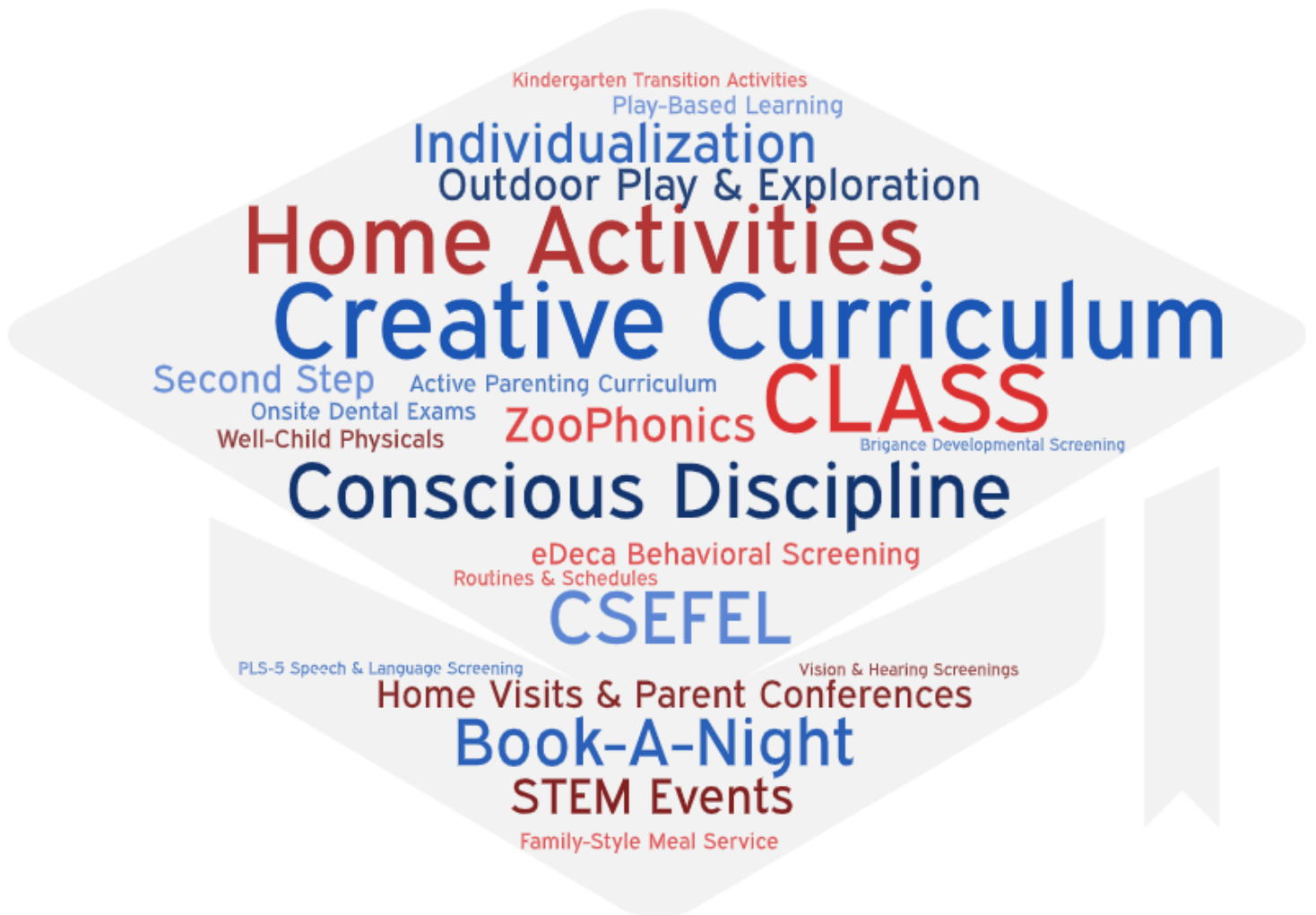
To increase the gains for children scoring in the Integrating Early level, SVHS purchased **math kits** for each family to use at home to support early cognition and math skills.

SVHS is also utilizing the Head Start resource *High Five Mathematize High* to promote teaching math concepts through **children's play** and **everyday experiences** by bringing out the math in what they are doing.

The resource uses professional development resources and tools to promote **high-quality education** and provides home and classroom activities for staff who work with children birth to five and their families.



Approaches to Achieving School Readiness Goals



SVHS School Readiness Goals are aligned to the **Head Start Early Learning Framework**, the **Tennessee Early Learning Development Standards**, and the **expectations of the seven local education agencies** into which our children transition.



CLASS Scores

Sequatchie Valley Head Start consistently scores well above the National Average across all domains and has been commended for ranking in the top 10% in the country.



CLASS measures the effectiveness of interactions in the classroom setting. Staff certified to conduct the assessment score in every classroom three times



CLASS assessments produce a score from 1 to 7 across three domains. A low score in Negative Climate is desirable. Scores help develop priorities for staff development.



Each domain is separated into different dimensions which are outlined in the graph.

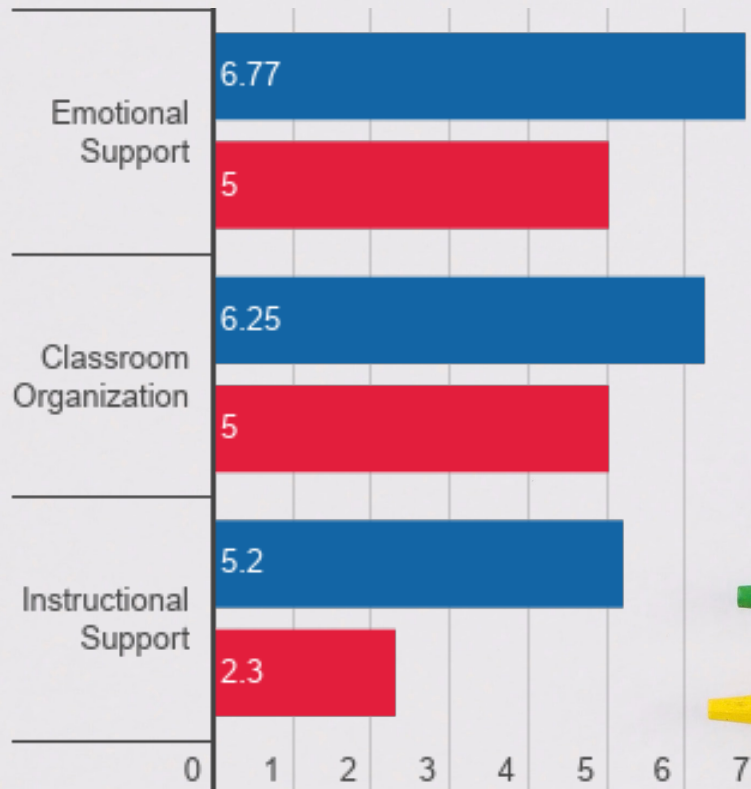
The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) is an observation instrument that assesses the **quality of teacher-child interactions** in center-based preschool classrooms.

CLASS® includes three domains or categories of teacher-child interactions that support children's learning and development: **Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.**

In the program's last two onsite Federal reviews, SVHS scored in the top 10% of programs in the nation observed using the CLASS®.

During the 2019-20 school year, **SVHS exceeded the CLASS® national threshold** set by the Head Start Performance Standards.

The graph shows SVHS exceeding the national threshold in Emotional Support by **1.77 points**, Classroom Organization by **1.25 points**, and Instructional Support by **2.9 points**.



● SVHS ● National



Community Assessment

What We Have Learned



Employment

Younger workers are leaving rural areas and manufacturers want to be closer to major metropolitan areas with access to quality healthcare and educational systems.

Wages

Wages in rural areas are declining, but the cost of home ownership and rent is on the rise.



Housing

A parent earning minimum wage would need to work 66-90 hours per week to afford a 2-bedroom home at fair market value.

Grandparents

Almost 1 in 5 children under the age of 18 live with a grandparent householder in Grundy, Marion, and Rhea counties.



Dental

TennCare doesn't provide dental insurance for adults. There is limited access to dental care due to the high cost of services.

Opioid Abuse

Families fear the impact and consequences of opioid abuse, especially given the lack of comprehensive services that support mental health, youth education, and medical services to the uninsured.



Community Assessment & COVID-19 Response

How Will We Respond

Community Assessment Response

SVHS will continue to update its **Community Resource Guide** to include the most responsive agencies in the areas of employment, job training, housing assistance, relative-caregiver services, free dental clinics, and addiction recovery and treatment.

Please visit svheadstart.info/community-resource-guide/ to explore links to community resources.



COVID-19 Response

We will also continue implementing **COVID-19 guidelines** encouraged by our local government officials, federal guidelines, and CDC recommendations. Some of these recommendations include increased cleaning and sanitizing efforts before, between, and after classes, as well as continued social distancing where necessary.

Please visit cdc.gov/coronavirus and tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov for the most recent COVID-19 guidelines and information.



Success Stories

Kelly Barrett, Mentor Coach & ECE Supervisor



Kelly Barrett is the Mentor Coach and ECE Supervisor at our Head Start Central Office in Jasper, TN. Barrett began her SVHS journey as a child at the Altamont Head Start.

“I really loved my time there and my teachers, Ms. Gloria and Ms. Cookie. I remember riding on the little bus with the blue seats and trying to think of ways to unbuckle my seatbelt without anyone noticing,” Barrett said.

Barrett loved her time there so much that after

receiving her bachelor’s degree and teaching Kindergarten for a year, she began working at the Altamont Head Start as an assistant teacher in 2010.

Working with passion and heart, Barrett soon moved up the ranks at SVHS. She took a teaching position the following year and eventually became a team leader at Altamont Head Start.

In 2017, she was promoted to Mentor Coach and moved to the Head Start Central Office, where she continues to serve our communities in everything she does.

“SVHS gave me a place to start out in school, and a stable place to make friends when I was young,” Barrett said. **“SVHS has also given me a place to thrive as an educator. The support of my supervisors throughout my career**

with the agency has been integral to my success as a teacher and now as a coach and supervisor myself.”

In the future, Barrett hopes to see SVHS reach every family possible and to help those families in substantial ways. She also hopes to be around to see it all happen.

“I will be forever grateful to Head Start for the opportunity to grow with them in my career,” Barrett said.

When asked if she could tell the world one thing about SVHS, Barrett enthusiastically replied, **“I would tell the world that we are a great early childhood program, and probably the best around. And there’s data to back that up!”**



Success Stories

Zina Robarge, Dayton Head Start Teacher



After befriending an SVHS family service worker, Zina Robarge was encouraged to leave her job at a local restaurant to apply for a cook position with Dayton Head Start.

“The only job I’d ever known was in fast food, and it was a scary move for me,” Robarge said. “It was a move into a whole new world, but it was also a move I do not regret after 15 years.”

Robarge started her Head Start journey as a cook in 2006. In her eight years

cooking for the children, families, and staff, she was consistently encouraged by fellow staff to continue pursuing her education and enter the classroom. It seems everyone at SVHS saw in Robarge unlimited potential and worked hard to help her achieve it.

She soon completed TECTA training, graduated college, and received her CDA. She was hired as an assistant teacher in one of the Dayton classrooms, where she worked to improve the lives of children and families for 6 years.

While there, she obtained her AS in Early Childhood Education and is going on her second year as a full-time teacher in her own classroom at Dayton Head Start!

“The staff is the best part of working with SVHS, from my coworkers at the

center, to my team leader, to the office management,” Robarge said. “I have felt like I’ve belonged since day one.”

Robarge’s own children and grandchild have also benefitted from SVHS.

“During their time at SVHS, they helped me obtain speech services for my girls, pointed me in the direction of an eye specialist who later performed surgery that I had no idea they needed,” Robarge said. “SVHS got involved in my children’s health and I appreciate it after all these years.”

As instrumental SVHS has been in Robarge’s life, it’s clear she’s also been a valued asset to our Dayton team.

“I hope to see SVHS grow in class size and for them to keep bringing on their A-game. It’s hard to top what is already great!”





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Sequatchie Valley Educational Development Agency
is an equal opportunity employer.

We do not and shall not discriminate on the basis
of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender
expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability,
marital status, sexual orientation, or military status,
in any of its activities or operations.

