

Berkshire County Head Start Annual Report 2018-19



Mission Statement:

It is our goal to work with families and assist children to develop socially, cognitively, physically and emotionally while fostering a positive self-image and love for learning that will help them succeed in our program, in public school and later in life.

Governance:

Board Members:

Sue Doucette,
[President](#)

Richard Grillon,
[Vice President](#)

Diane Johnson,
[Secretary](#)

Deb McMahon,
[Treasurer](#)

Lori Kays,
[Community at Large](#)

Missy Tarjick,
[Community at Large](#)

Francine Germaine,
[Community at Large](#)

Janis Broderick,
[Community at Large](#)

Dan Dillon,
[Community at Large](#)

Kathy Millard,
[Community at Large](#)

Carrie Love,
[Community at Large](#)

Amanda Bleier,
[Community at Large](#)

Policy Council:

April Candee

Sue Doucette

Kate Fitzpatrick

David Hughes

Katie Jones

Alicia Jost

Callie Kobus

Bethany Mishk

Melanie Moran

Kylie Nestle

Vayola Nicolas

Christine Staley

Sheena Strong

Ken Van Bramer

A message from our Executive Director:



As a community-oriented individual and a certified parent educator, I have dedicated the past 13 years of my career to supporting children and families in both classroom and community settings. I believe in strength-based practice that focuses on building strong relationships in order to empower families and strengthen community work. I value the holistic approach that addresses physical, mental,

and emotional aspects in mission-driven work with families, which aligns with my role and responsibilities at Berkshire County Head Start.

As someone who celebrates collaborative work with families and enjoys working in a learning-centered environment, I am excited in the potential of Berkshire County Head Start. I look forward to partnering with families and community partners to advance our agency's mission and vision.

Brett Westbrook, Executive Director
Berkshire County Head Start

Meet the Senior Team:



Doug Anzalone, CFO



Donna Denning,
Childcare Manager



Penny Evans,
Compliance Manager



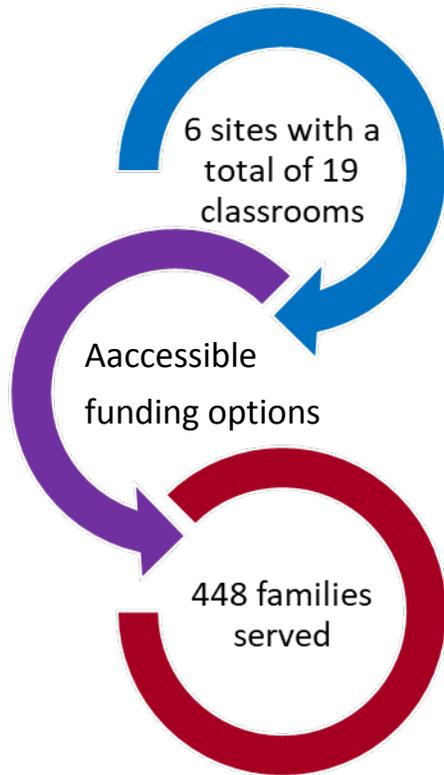
Lorie Harrington,
Health and Safety Manager



Maggie Steele,
PFCE Manager

Head Start Funded Enrollment Fiscal Year 2019-20

Our program serves nearly 450 children and their families. Of these children, 317 attend through Head Start funding and an additional 55 children attend through state childcare funding.



- 12 out of the 19 classrooms that we operate have children who utilize our full day option
- We have 6 sites located throughout Berkshire County with one in Becket, one in North Adams, one in Lee, one in Great Barrington, and two in Pittsfield.

We put Families First.

At Berkshire County Head Start, we know that family members are the first and most important teachers in our children's lives. We include families in every step of their child's progression through our program. We also host a variety of family-friendly events and invite parents to join Policy Council (PC), our governing body that makes decisions that impact the families involved in our program.

In the past year, we had:

- More than 60 family engagement events
- New family style dinners and a Chili Cook-off!!
- Valentine's Day craft day. These Valentines were presented to Rep Tricia Farley-Bouvier, image right.
- The creation of PC and Board of Directors fundraiser committee



Kindergarten Readiness



At BCHS, we believe that a child’s school readiness is directly related to a family’s well-being. At Head Start, we recognize the parent as their child’s “first teacher”. Kindergarten readiness does not only include gaining academic skills, but also includes a variety of other benchmarks, including consistent attendance at school, recognition and regulation of emotion, and independence.

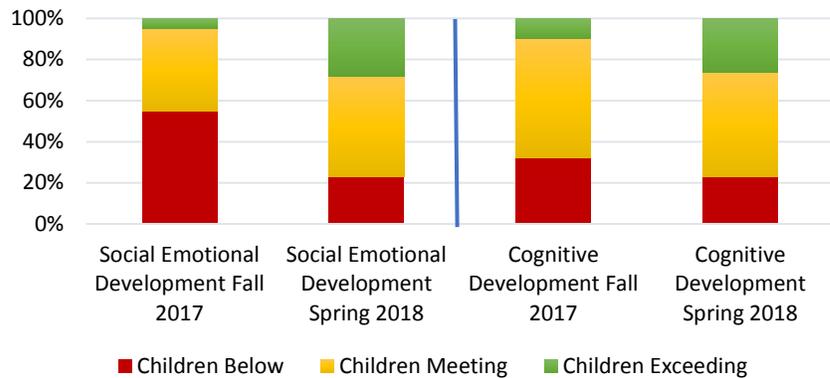
In the classroom, our teachers implement the researched-based Creative Curriculum model, which promotes quality environments for learning. Every day, teachers are busy engaging children in activities that develop skill development in six domains:

- Social/Emotional Development
- Language Literacy
- Physical (large & small muscles)
- Cognitive (science, technology, engineering, art, math)

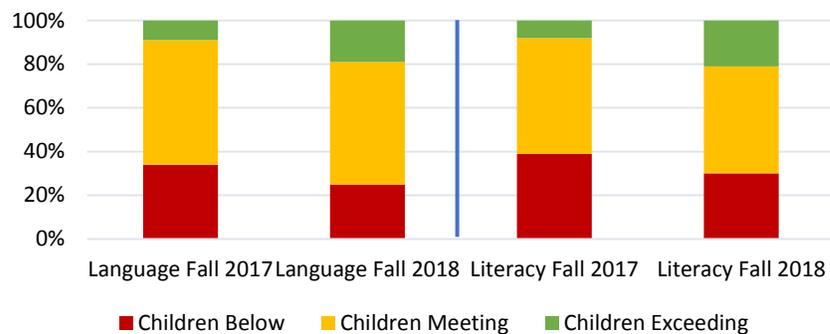
Approaches to learning all of the learning objectives within these domains are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, the Massachusetts Common Core, and the Massachusetts Guidelines for Early Learning Standards.

Berkshire County Head Start Fall 2017- Spring 2018 Positive Outcomes

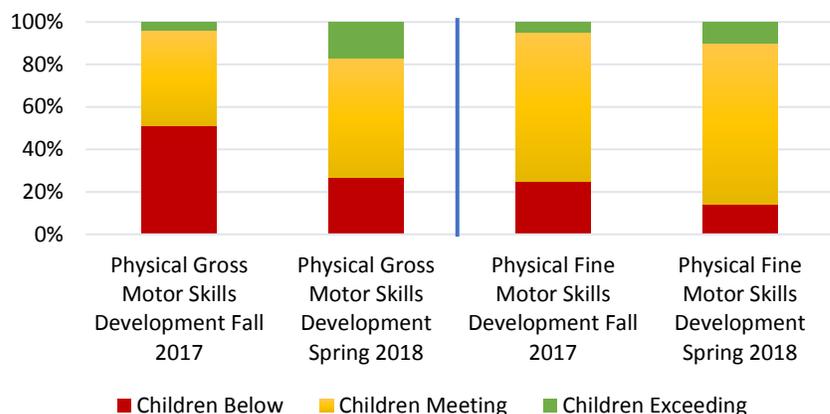
Social/Emotional & Cognitive Development Fall 2017/Spring 2018



Language & Literacy Skills Development Fall 2017/Spring 2018



Physical Gross Motor & Fine Motor Skills Development Fall 2017/Spring 2018



Portrait of a Healthy Child: School Readiness Begins with Health

Berkshire County Head Start's health and safety focus encompasses early detection, screening and preventive health education and assists children and families with obtaining a primary medical and dental home. Head Start and EEC requires that all children have an ongoing source of continuous medical and dental care.



Our Approach is holistic, and addresses the mental, emotional and physical health, including the dental, vision, hearing and nutritional needs of the child. Our health supervisor, onsite RN and registered dietitian work with community doctors, health services and parents to ensure optimal health.

Our objective is to ensure that through collaboration and teamwork with families, staff, and health professionals, all child health and development concerns are identified and children are linked to an ongoing source of continuous, accessible care to meet their basic health needs.

Our commitment to health and safety ensures that children and families have the supports and services necessary to achieve health and wellness. Wellness helps to ensure school readiness and success for families and children well beyond the preschool years. If children are healthy and well, they are better able to learn.

Through our program in 2018-19:

85%

of children completed their dental and comprehensive health exams

400+

children completed their vision and hearing screening

10

Children received eyeglasses based on our exams

PROGRAM FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

Our extended day program continues to be an integral part of our options offered to the community and the families and children whom we serve. These services are located at Meadow Lane, Johnson and Muddy Brook. Presently, 12 out of the 19 classrooms that we operate have children who utilize our full day option. Children from our Conte classrooms also participate in Meadow Lane’s programming before and after their day there. With this service, parents are able to continue working, further their education and work towards their future goals.

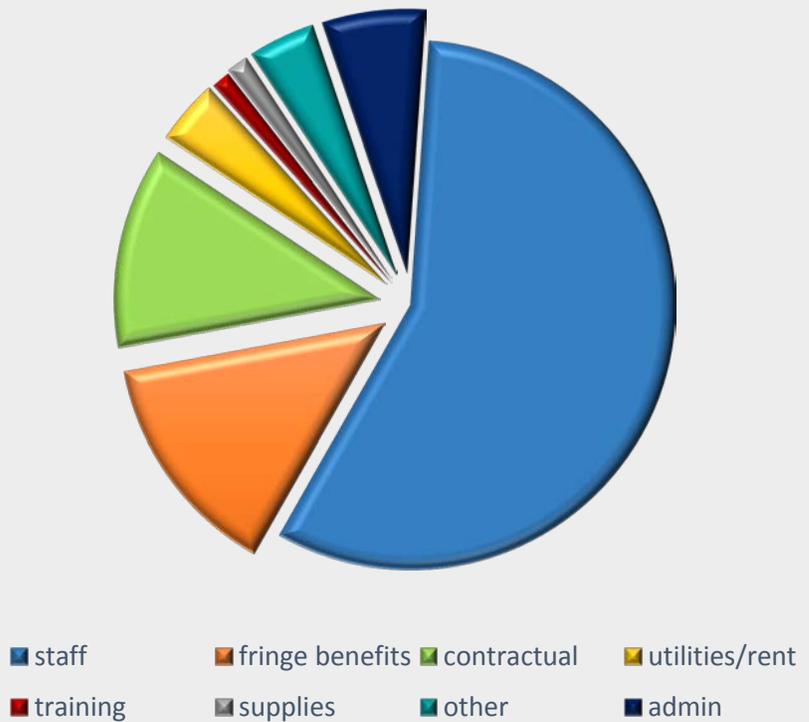
We spent more than \$61,000 on training and education programs for staff to make sure all of our teachers are up-to-date with certifications and standards

Accessible childcare is an essential element to economic development. Because we provide a full and extended day childcare options, we reportedly have helped 5 parents complete their education and obtain employment in their chosen field this fiscal year.

In Kind Donations: ❤️

In Kind Rent: \$714,738
 In Kind Volunteer: \$17,311
 Total In Kind: \$732,049

State and Federal Total Fiscal Year 2018-19



	STATE	FEDERAL	TOTAL
Staff salary	1,492,130	1,527,274	3,019,404
fringe	396,864	334,776	731,640
contractual	427,399	221,349	648,748
utilities/rent	136,614	74,143	210,757
training	47,865	13,135	61,000
supplies	39,266	30,496	69,762
other	134,508	79,749	214,257
admin	184,308	146,467	330,775
TOTALS	2,858,954	2,427,389	5,286,343

Thank you to our 2018-19 Community Partners!



At **BCHS**, We continue to have strong community relationships with agencies and programs in Berkshire County that ensure our families and children have access to financial services, education, literacy and training programs, and healthcare.

Community partners include...

The Pittsfield Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Programs (CFCE), which are locally based programs supported by funds provided by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. The grant promotes parent education, family engagement, child development, and early literacy. Through the CFCE:

-  87% of parents who attend CFCE Playgroups reported an increase in their knowledge of child development because of their participation
-  In FY18, 110 families participated in Parent Educational opportunities
-  From FY17 to FY18, there was a 27% increase in children attending literacy activities at low income housing community rooms at Dower Square and Berkshire Peaks



As well as...

The New England Farm Workers Council, Department of Children and Families, Service Net and Louison House. Because of these relationships, we are able to help parents and caregivers navigate the process and obtain childcare funding if they are eligible. These agencies work with our income-eligible, transitioning and homeless families to acquire subsidies through the Massachusetts Early Education and Care.

And...

The Brien Center and Berkshire Health Systems, who work with our families to obtain and maintain mental and physical health.