



CHOCTAW NATION HEAD START
ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023



Choctaw Nation

Head Start

ABOUT

Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

MISSION STATEMENT

We hold ourselves accountable to work in collaboration with our families and communities to provide a quality program committed to the wellness of the entire family.



CULTURE

The Head Start multi-cultural program continues to be updated and expanded to provide new materials for the teaching staff, who use their own creative ideas to expose the children to a wide variety of cultures. The teaching staff and parents working together provide Choctaw cultural experience in language, music, nutrition, dress, games and other activities. The Choctaw Nation Language Curriculum is integrated daily in each center to expose the children to traditional folk tales, correct pronunciation of Choctaw words and phrases and the culture. Choctaw language courses, presented by the Choctaw Language Department, have assisted the teachers and parents in learning the language.

LOCATIONS

- Antlers
- Atoka
- Bennington
- Broken Bow
- Coalgate
- Durant
- Hugo
- Idabel
- McAlester
- Poteau
- Stigler
- Wilburton
- Wright City



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Choctaw Nation Head Start encourages parent participation in the program. Opportunities for parental involvement within the program are provided during the year through:

- Parent Meetings
- Parent Training
- Community Events
- Cultural Events
- Home Visits
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Field Trips
- Parent Committees
- Policy Council
- Volunteering/Classroom

Fatherhood/Male Involvement Project, Good Guys, activities are determined at the center level by parent interest and have included:

- Soccer
- Race Car Kits
- Kite Flying
- End-of-Year Cook Out for Children and Families



SCHOOL READINESS

The educational services of the Choctaw Nation Head Start are focused on children's school readiness, exciting children about a lifetime of learning and supporting parent's engagement in their child's education journey.

The Choctaw Nation teaching staff is comprised of highly qualified, state-certified teachers in the field of Early Childhood. Choctaw Nation Head Start utilizes the Creative Curriculum for Preschool, which is a scientifically researched curriculum based on the sound and proven principles of developmentally appropriate practice.

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool is a comprehensive collection of knowledge-building and daily practice resources that explain the "what," "why" and "how" of teaching.

"What" and "why" are explained in The Foundation book of the curriculum. "How" is provided by way of step-by-step guidance found in the Daily Resources.

These include Teaching Guides and additional instructional tools that provide a wealth of ideas and detailed plans for filling each day with meaningful and engaging experiences designed for all children. The Teaching Guides feature studies, exciting and engaging first-hand explorations of topics relevant to children's everyday experiences.

The Study Approach is a method of integrating content learning through children's in-depth investigations of a meaningful topic. Learning activities are implemented through Indoor and Outdoor Interest Areas, Child-Initiated/Teacher-Directed Activities, Teachable Moments, Technology, and Field Trips.

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool supports and meets the requirements set forth by the Head Start Performance Standards-1302, Subpart C; Head Start Act-641-A, the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and the Oklahoma Academic Learning Standards for Pre-Kindergarten.

Providing comprehensive early childhood educational services is an important priority for our program. In addition to

our foundation curriculum, Creative Curriculum for Preschool Children, our program provides supplemental curricula to support our school readiness goals.

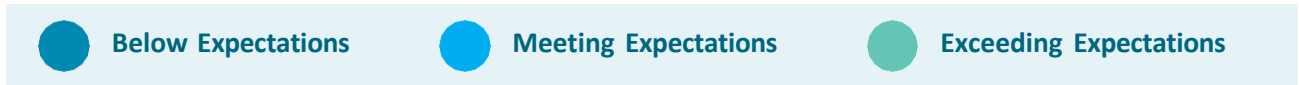
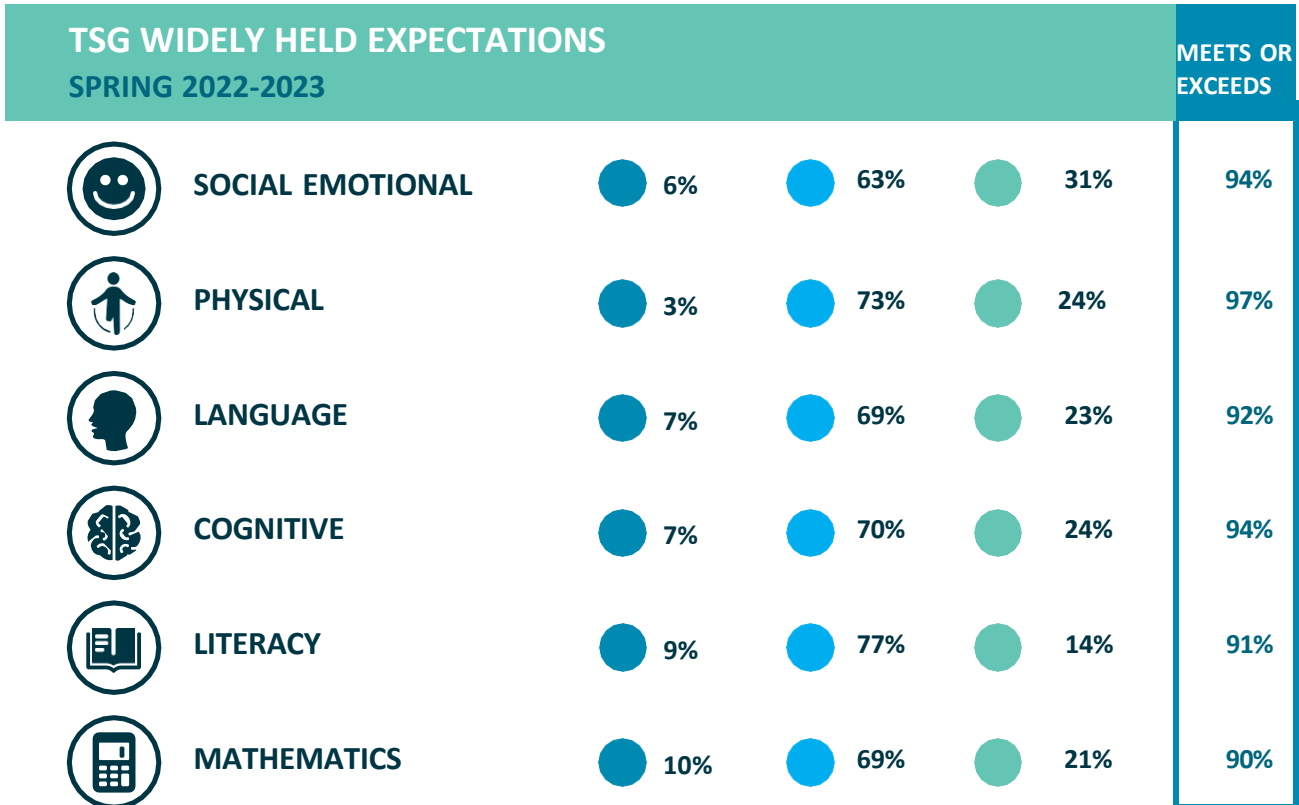
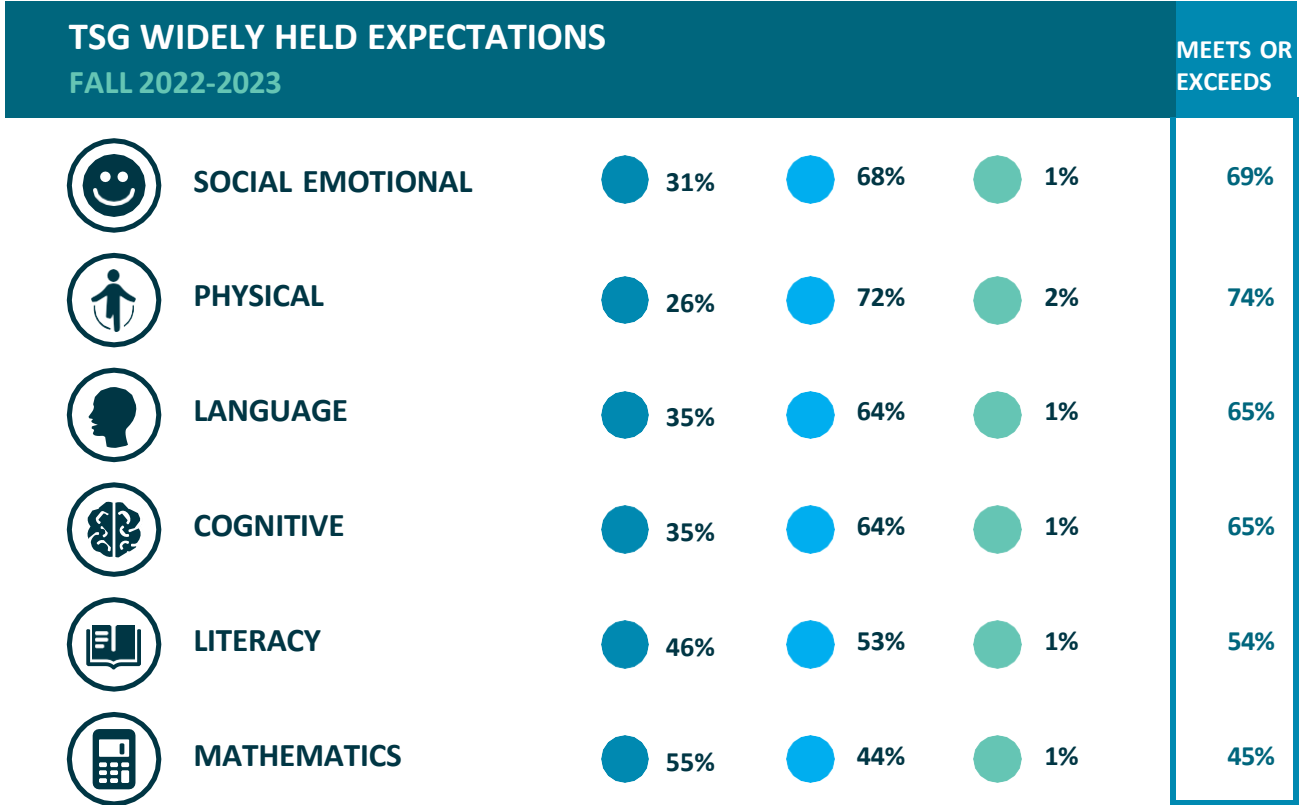
To comply with federal transportation mandates, Safety Sam Transportation Curriculum provides children and families training in pedestrian safety.

Phonics Dance provides teachers with engaging materials/activities designed to teach children phonics to build reading and writing skills.

The Choctaw Nation Head Start utilizes the Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment System as a tool to monitor the progress of children's learning. This assessment system aligns with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and State early learning standards. The information on the next page shows the percentages of children whose skill levels were Emerging or Accomplished at the beginning and end of the 2022-2023 school year according to the Five Central Domains as outlined by the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.



SCHOOL READINESS



STAFF QUALIFICATIONS



TEACHERS WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREES

- EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION **21%**
- EQUIVALENT OR RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION **74%**
- WORKING TOWARDS BACHELOR'S DEGREE **5%**

STATE CERTIFIED

74%

WORKING TOWARDS CERTIFICATION

21%

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Choctaw Nation operates a Head Start program within the reservation's boundaries with a funded enrollment of 310, including a total of 13 centers with 19 classrooms in the following ten counties: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, Pittsburg and Pushmataha.

The total number of children served during the 2022-2023 school year was 337. There were 325 families, 176 two-parent families and 149 single-parent families.

The percentage of income eligible children served was 65%. Of that 65%, 3% are children in foster care and 21% are children experiencing homelessness.

The program had an average monthly enrollment of 100%.

The number of enrolled children who received medical exams was 274 students, and the number that received dental exams was 258.

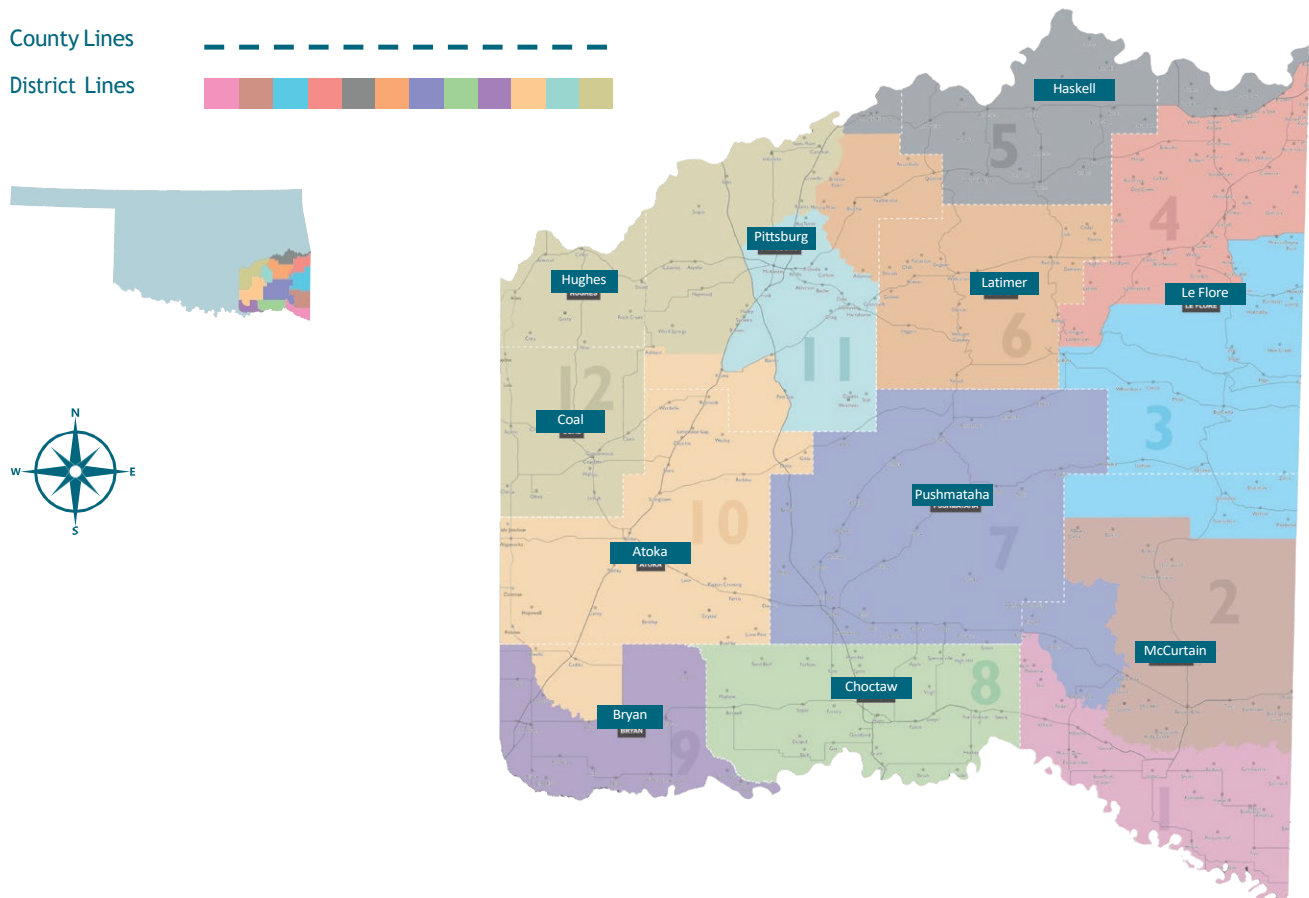


COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

For purposes of the community assessment, data was collected from counties within the reservation boundaries with tribal Head Start centers: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Latimer, Leflore, McCurtain, Pittsburg and Pushmataha. The southern half of Hughes County, while in the Choctaw Nation reservation area, does not have tribal Head Start services at this time. The southern part of the county is sparsely populated and is served by a non-tribal Head Start program.

Two out of every five Oklahoma children live in a rural area. A larger percentage of children living in rural areas fall below the poverty level than percentages in urban or mixed rural/urban counties. All of the counties in the Choctaw Nation service area are considered rural, with the exception of Le Flore County. Poverty is invariably linked with homelessness, food insecurity, lack of access to child care and health care and unsafe living environments.

Oklahoma has an Economic Well-Being Ranking for each of the 77 counties in the state. The ranking is based on parent unemployment, children living in 100% poverty, children living in 200% of poverty and the percentage of children in a family receiving Temporary Aid to a Needy Family (TANF). Ranking in the top 10% indicates families are living in better circumstances than counties ranked in the lowest 10%. Six of the 10 counties in Choctaw Nation's service area are ranked in the lowest 15%.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CHOCTAW NATION FINANCIAL AUDIT

The last fiscal audit completed and filed was for FY2019. There were no findings on the Head Start funds or any other federal funds.

RECENT MONITORING REVIEW

In March 2023, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area One monitoring review of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Head Start program. During the review, the program’s effectiveness in delivering services to children and families was monitored based on requirements set forth by the regulating agency. Based on the information gathered during the review, no area of noncompliance was found. Therefore, the program was deemed to be in full compliance with applicable Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES

Wages	\$5,774,297.65
Fringe	\$876,459.31
Travel	\$19,703.51
Supplies	\$823,683.69
Contractual	\$118,010.25
Communication	\$33,648.04
Training	\$28,300.35
Vehicle Expenses	\$89,037.42
Insurance	\$21,800.00
In-Kind Expense	\$672,340.00
Capital Outlay	\$12,484.00
Other	\$67,261.32
TOTAL	\$8,537,025.54

FUNDING

Federal	\$2,721,702.72
In-Kind Match	\$672,340.00
Supplemental	\$4,833,846.72
USDA Food	\$309,136.10
TOTAL	\$8,537,025.54



Choctaw Nation

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HEADSTART@CHOCTAWNATION.COM 800.522.6170

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