

# 23-24 ANNUAL REPORT



**growing futures**  
early education center

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## A letter from the **Executive Director**

As we reflect on the recent achievements of Growing Futures, it is with great pride that I share with you the significant milestones we've reached together, all of which reinforce our ongoing commitment to our mission and the communities we serve.

First, I want to highlight the progress we've made in reaching our organizational goals. Through the collective dedication of our team, volunteers, and supporters, we've successfully advanced key initiatives, improving our programs and services in ways that will have a lasting impact for years to come.

In addition to this, we are excited to introduce several new faces who have recently joined our organization and board. Their unique expertise and passion will undoubtedly strengthen our ability to achieve our mission and bring fresh perspectives to our work. We are thrilled to welcome them into our family.

I would also like to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to our volunteers. Your time, energy, and unwavering support have been invaluable to our success. You have been instrumental in helping us create a positive impact, and for that, we are sincerely thankful.

Our fundraising efforts have been another area of significant success. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, sponsors, and supporters, we've exceeded our goals, ensuring that our programs and services can continue to thrive and grow. Your contributions have made a real difference in the lives of those we serve. We also introduced our newest event this year "Run for the Roses"! Thanks to the incredible support from our partner Leadership Overland Park, donors, volunteers, and participants, it exceeded our expectations and made a meaningful impact.

We look forward to building on this success of this event next year!

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the expansive renovations to our playground that couldn't have been without the support and financial backing of PNC Bank. With the hard work of our dedicated volunteers and team, we've created a safe, engaging, and inclusive environment for children and families to enjoy. This project has been a labor of love, and it's heartening to see the children and families embrace the new space.

While all that we've achieved this year is something to celebrate, we are especially proud of our school readiness rate. With a steady performance and a remarkable 30-point above average, it's a true testament to the hard work, commitment, and impact of our programs and everyone involved in supporting our children's growth and development. This milestone reflects the progress we've made in preparing children for success and highlights the difference we're making in their lives. We look forward to continuing this positive momentum!

Next year, we are proud to celebrate 60 years of service to our community, helping the children and families who need us most, and we look forward to each of you joining us in celebration. This milestone is a reflection of the dedication, support, and collaboration from everyone involved, and we're excited for the future and look forward to continuing our mission for many more years to come!

Looking ahead, I am optimistic about the future of Growing Futures. We are entering an exciting phase of growth, with new initiatives and opportunities on the horizon. Together, we will continue to drive positive changes, expand our reach, and enhance the lives of those who depend on our services.

Thank you once again for your support, dedication, and commitment to our shared vision. I am confident that with your continued involvement, we will achieve even greater things in the months and years to come.



*Larry Lewis*



## A letter from the **Board President**



What an incredible year for Growing Futures! We continue to focus on our mission to nurture children and strengthen families and educate stakeholders about the need for our services in what is typically viewed as a very prosperous community.

We are proud of the milestones we reached throughout the year, including the inaugural “Run for the Roses”. This Kentucky Derby fundraiser was very successful and will return in 2025. Our biggest annual fundraiser, Harvesting Hope, is now in its fourth year and continues to raise more money each year.

Our first nature –based outdoor classroom was an incredible addition courtesy of support from PNC Grow Up Great. This playground allows our Early Head Start teachers to engage their students in a variety of subjects, creative thinking and group play. We have a beautiful new library filled to the brim with books and have completed our Adopt-a-Classroom campaign, with all classrooms sporting a fresh new look.

Each year, we raise our fundraising goal and surpass it, bringing in many new donors and supporters. We gained six new board members in July who have brought fresh ideas and perspectives. Our students graduated with a 90 percent kindergarten-readiness rate, which was far above the national average.

We have a lot to look forward to with the 60th anniversary of Growing Futures in 2025. We hope that you will connect with us to volunteer, donate, and spread the word about the great work that the team is doing to support children and their families in our community.

*Debra Peterson*



## Our Mission

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To nurture children and strengthen families to enrich our community.

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## Strategic Initiatives

Excellence in Education  
Support for Whole Child & Family  
Excellence in People & Organizational Culture  
Community Awareness & Partnerships  
Long-Term Sustainability

## Our Vision

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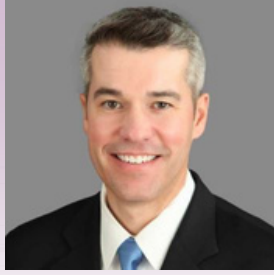
Growing Futures Early Education Center will be a leading center of excellence in the growth and development of young children and support of their families.



# Board Members



**Debra Peterson**  
Comm365  
*President*



**Jake Barnes**  
FAS Wealth Partners  
*Past President*



**Marc Shaffer**  
Searcy Financial Services  
*Vice President*



**Kendall Burr**  
Blue Valley School District  
*Secretary*



**Paul Stephens**  
Propio  
*Treasurer*



**Kate Allen**  
Johnson County Community College  
*At Large*



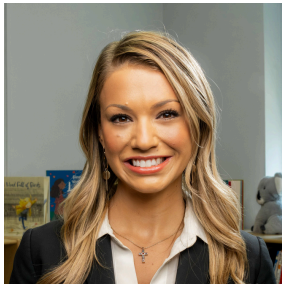
**Brian Zickefoose**  
Husch Blackwell  
*At Large*



**Antoinette Redmond**  
Dairy Farmers of America



**Beauty Henecke**  
Goering & Granatino, P.A.



**Becca Fowler**  
Real Estate & Hospitality Investment Advisors



**Brian Savoy**  
AltCap



**Chris Davis**  
PGAV Architects



**Deanna Ferrante**  
Ferrante Consulting



**Jennifer Miller**  
Henderson Engineers



**Jessica Nollett**  
Enterprise Bank



**Joe Follett**  
Verbena



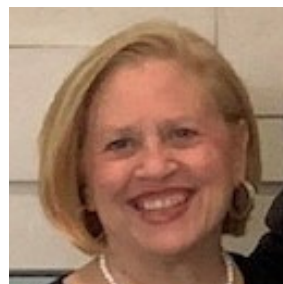
**Justin Calhoun**  
Turner Construction Company



**Moira Holland**  
AL Huber



**Tarena Terry**  
Academy Bank



**Leeanne Smith**  
JCYM Liaison



**Carol Gonzales**  
MARC Advisory Committee  
Chair

# Senior Leadership



**Larry Lewis**  
Executive Director



**Suzanne Handlin**  
Human Resource  
Director



**Tanesha Thompspon**  
Program Director



**Jessica Hoffman**  
Director of Development &  
Community Relations



**Tama Byrnes**  
Finance Director

## Policy Council

**President:** Guadalupe Mullett **Vice President:** Juliana Liu  
**Secretary:** Destiny Aguilar **Treasurer:** Lidia Reyes Olvera

### Members:

Jennifer Cardwell	Guadalupe Mullett	Chaumia Jackson	Madison Todd
Destiny Aguilar	Lidia Reyes Olvera	Cynthia Rubio	Lizabeth Arita
Joseph Dulex	Rebecca Blankenship	Mary Marara	Samantha Bien-Aime
Kathy Ward	Maria Fernanda Bazurto	Danielle Doty	Shelby Stoneking
Rhonda Gould	Julisa Aldana	Sandra Diaz	Claudia Lopez
Farah Al-Dulaimi	Sarah Garcia	Ethan Price	Anette Lopez
Maria Luz	Selamawit Gebremaria	Shelby Walter	Makenzie Kinsella
Lidia Chavarria	Jordan Randle	Jar Lasi	Khalid Algburi
Juliana Liu	Veronica Hollinger	Belen Villegas	Laurel Assignon
			Samantha McCune

## Advisory Council

Betsy Allen | Betty Barton | Susan Brown | Scott Campbell | Allison Coulson | Erika Cundiff | Caitlin Dale | Holly Douglas | Cheryl Entzminger | Mark Falls | Mary Fugate | Amy Goosetree | Lillian Hall | Gale Hansen | Margie Harden | Carol Heil | Scott Holsoppie | Cheryl Hunt | Michelle Hunter | Sherry Hutchison | Ann Kenney | Jim Lisson | Matt McCaffree | Caroline McKnight | Patricia McMahan | Anne Mills | Jyoti Mukharji | Larry Oleksa | Art Ruby | Melissa Ryan | Jennifer Sawyer | Laura Scott | Anne Sheehan | Stephanie Sheehy | Paul Stephens | Skip Tichenor | John Tongier | Nancy Wallerstein | Sara Whalen | Leslie Whitaker | Edward Wilson | Gene Wilson



# Who We Are

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Located in the Downtown Overland Park District, Growing Futures Early Education Center is a non-profit Head Start organization that provides quality early education opportunities and family support services to 223 children, ages 0-5 and their families, living in Johnson County, Kansas. All of our families live at or below 100% of the federal poverty threshold, are in foster care or are experiencing homelessness. That means, for a family of three, they make no more than \$25,820 a year. Enrolled families also have access to a variety of comprehensive support services, including health and nutrition services, onsite play therapy, parent education, mental health, medical and dental health, family support, social services and engagement opportunities. Our education programs are:

**Early Head Start Home-Based**  
**Early Head Start Center-Based**  
**Head Start Extended Day**  
**Head Start Wrap-Around Care**

These programs focus on developing a child's academic readiness with an emphasis on social and emotional development. In addition, we use the following teaching curriculums:

**Parents-As-Teachers**  
**HighScope's Tender Care and Early Learning**  
**HighScope Preschool**  
**Second Steps**  
**Conscious Discipline**  
**Early Childhood Hands On Science (ECHOS)**



# Early Head Start Home-Based

This program option serves pregnant women and children, ages birth to three years of age. In this program, Family Educators (FEs) work with families in the home, performing 90-minute home visits that utilize the Parents as Teachers Evidence Based Model™ Curriculum. This program also provides monthly socialization opportunities and access to family engagement events plus other resources provided by Growing Futures. This program option is provided at no cost to qualifying families. With COVID-19, some home visits were performed virtually or outdoors. Families must reside within Johnson County, Kansas. There are a total of 77 slots available in this program.



# Early Head Start Center-Based

This program option serves children six weeks to three years of age at Growing Futures, and in one classroom at Growing Futures' partnering site Kids At Heart (KAH). Services for this program option are offered for up to 9.25 hours a day, Monday through Friday, year round. These classrooms implement HighScope's Tender Care and Early Learning curriculum. Families must reside within the current Shawnee Mission School District boundaries. There are 38 total slots in this program.





# Head Start Extended Day

This program option serves children three to five years of age at Growing Futures. Services for this program option are offered 6 hours a day, Monday through Thursday, year round. This program option is provided at no cost to qualifying families. This program option utilizes HighScope Preschool, Second Steps, Conscious Discipline, and Early Childhood Hands On Science (ECHOS) curriculum. Families must reside within the current Shawnee Mission School District boundaries. There are 80 total slots in the Head Start Extended Day Program.

# Head Start Wrap Around Care

This program option serves children, ages three to five years, at Growing Futures. Services for this program option are offered for up to 9.25 hours a day, Monday through Friday, year-round. Families must be working or attending school at least 30 hours a week to qualify for this program. This program also utilizes HighScope Preschool, Second Steps, Conscious Discipline, and Early Childhood Hands On Science (ECHOS) curriculum. Families must reside within the current Shawnee Mission School District boundaries. There are 28 total slots in the Head Start Wrap Around Care Program.



# Critical Notes & Numbers

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED AS REQUIRED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES, OFFICE OF HEAD START**



## **A NOTE REGARDING RECENT REVIEW BY THE SECRETARY...**

The Office of Head Start (OHS) implemented a new monitoring system, called Aligned Monitoring in the fall of 2014. Previously, grantees operated under an indefinite grant period with a review every three years to ensure compliance with Head Start regulations. The OHS transitioned to a 5 year grant cycle with monitoring reviews carried out over the first three years of a grant. Each review focused on particular content areas. Growing Futures received a 5-year federal grant award in July of 2018.

**GROWING FUTURES IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT REGULATIONS.**

## **A NOTE REGARDING FINANCIAL AUDIT...**

Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements. Financial statements presented fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Growing Futures Early Education Center, Inc., and we were issued an unmodified opinion.



## **MONITORING REVIEWS...**

Aligned Monitoring Focus Area One was completed April 2020. The report consisted of program highlights with no areas of non-compliance. Aligned Monitoring Focus Area Two occurred in 2021 with no areas of concern or non-compliance.



# Disabilities

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## PROACTIVE ACTIONS



### Screening

Screening assesses vision, hearing, problem-solving, personal-social development, gross/fine motor skills, and speech/language skills.



### Inclusive Experience

Growing Futures will provide an inclusive environment for full participation of children with disabilities enrolled.



### Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County

ITS-JC provides services to infants and toddlers eligible for special education. If delays are suspected, we will setup a discussion with the parent(s) and evaluation of the child. ITS-JC then provides a multi-disciplinary team evaluation.



### Shawnee Mission School District

Growing Futures partners with the Shawnee Mission School District to serve children, ages 3 to 5 years old that have suspected delays. We determine the appropriate educational plan and placement of Growing Futures' children.





90%

## KINDERGARTEN READY

*Compared to 33% at the nationwide level.*

### ***Period 1***

7/11/23-10/05/23

### ***Period 2***

10/06/23-1/19/24

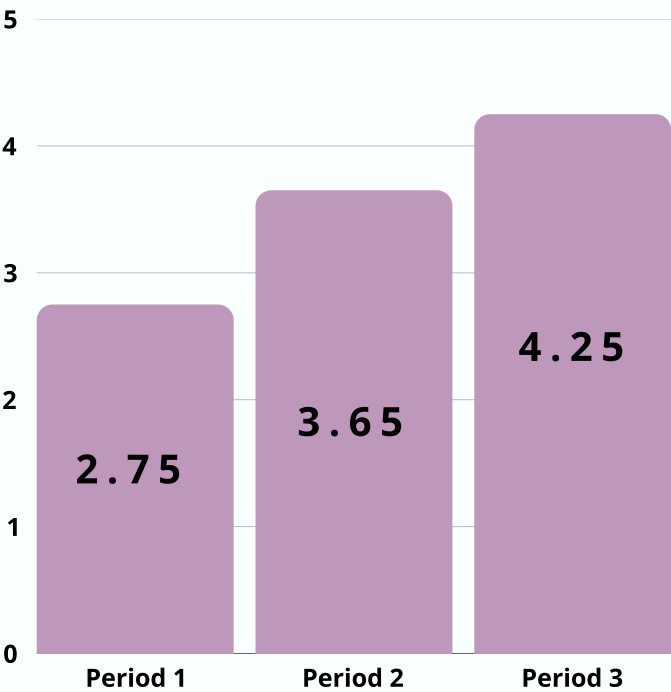
### ***Period 3***

1/22/24-4/09/24

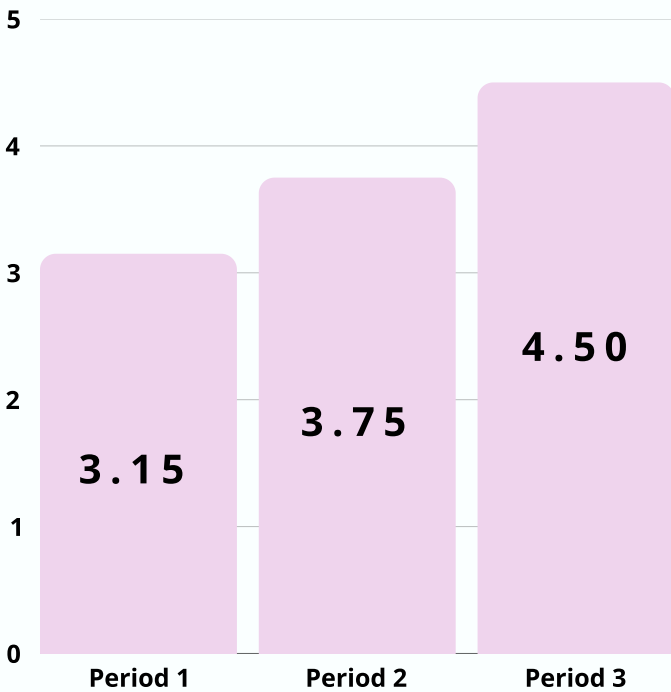
# KINDERGARTEN READINESS

## COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

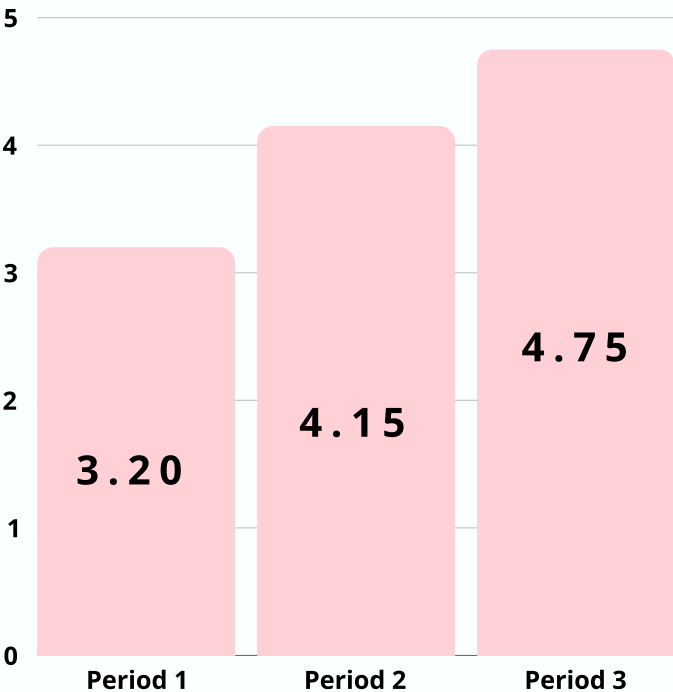
Approaches to Learning



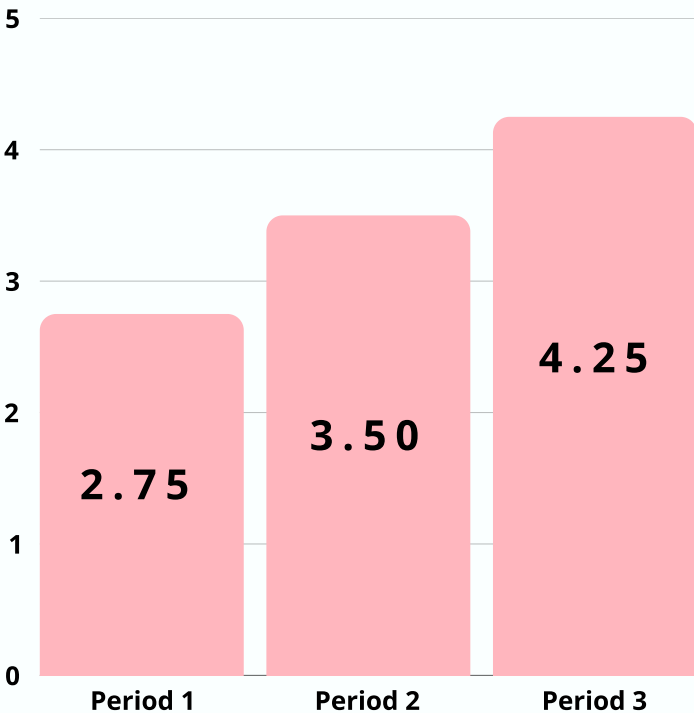
Social & Emotional Development



Physical Development & Health

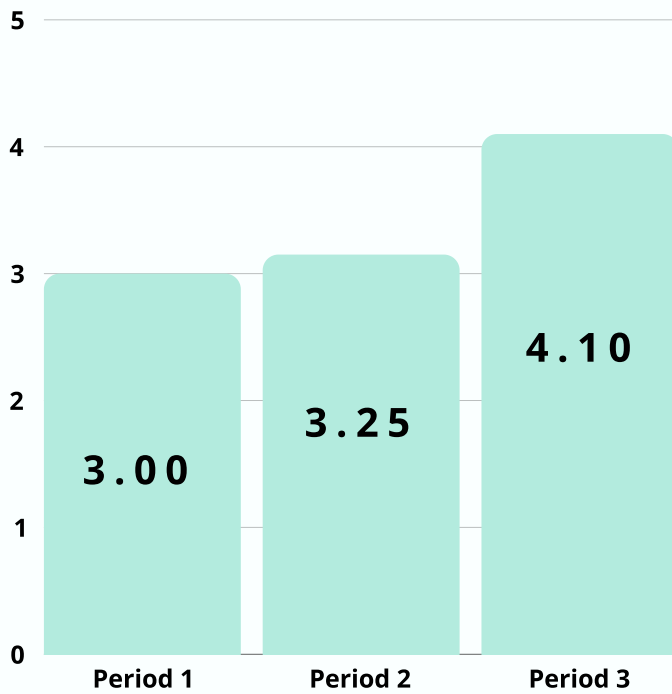


Language & Literacy

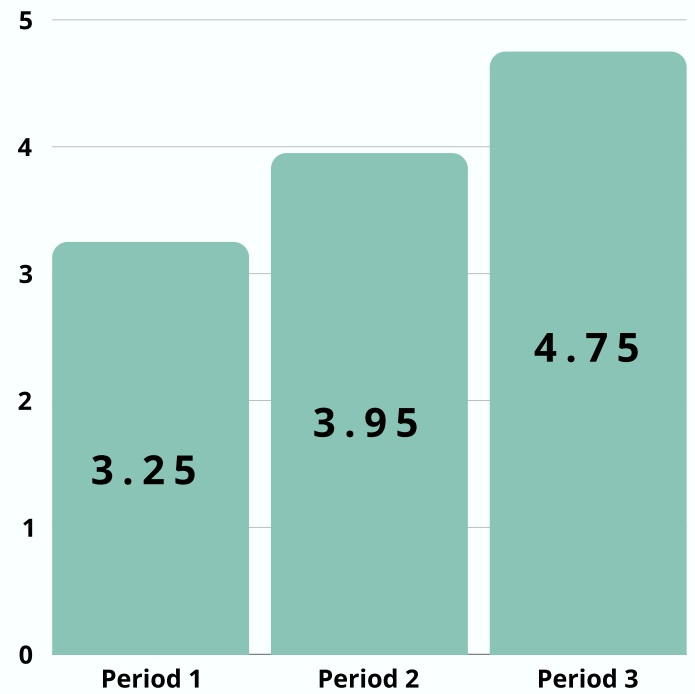




## Mathematics



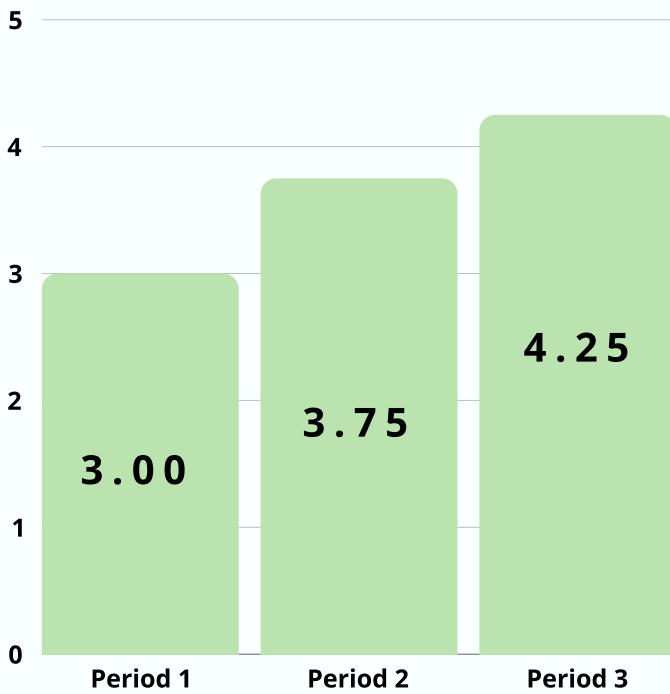
## Creative Arts



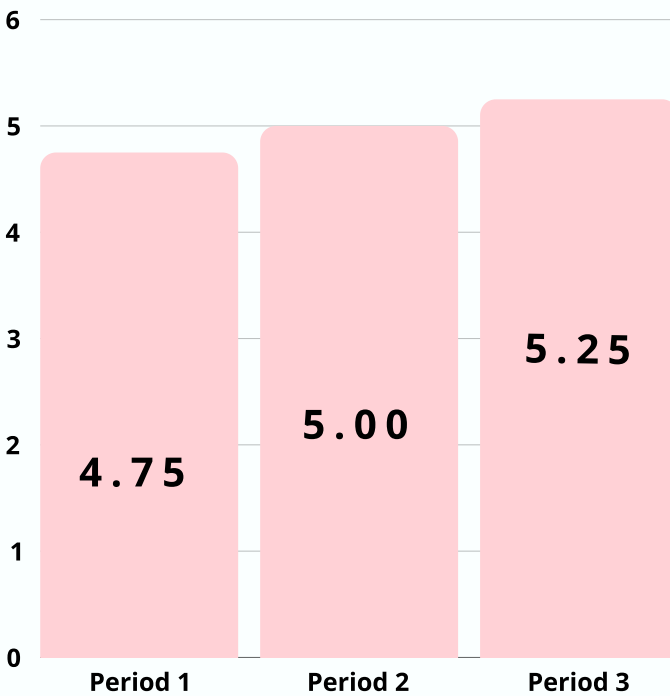
## Science & Technology



## Social Studies



## English Language Learners





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## Immunizations

97%

Early Head Start

100%

Head Start

82%

Home-Based

## Dental Home

97%

Early Head Start

100%

Head Start

74%

Home-Based

## Preventative Care

91%

Early Head Start

81%

Head Start

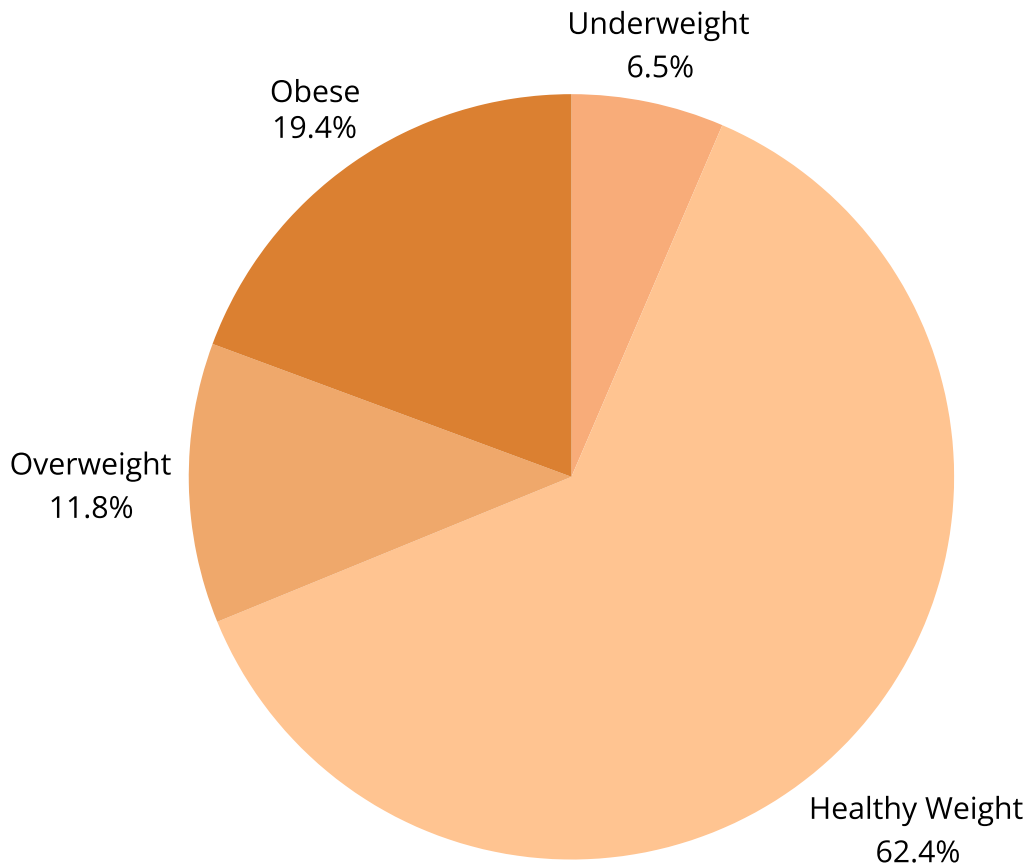
71%

Home-Based

The health and nutrition specialist tracks immunization records and provides referrals as needed. In a normal year, each child would receive regular growth assessments, hearing and vision screenings, brush their teeth daily onsite after being provided a family-style meal to assist with socio-emotional development.

We continued to serve daily meals for the children we served in the center-based programs. Children who are hungry are not prepared to learn. At Growing Futures, we accommodate a variety of dietary needs and restrictions. We also continued our partnership with After the Harvest that supplied our families with fresh produce throughout much of the year.

# Body Mass Index



## Meals Served

21,332

Breakfast

21,791

Lunch

9,494

Snack

**Total: 45,116**





# Mental Health Services

## COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

As a Head Start Program, Growing Futures provides comprehensive services to children and families. A key piece in this is supporting the mental health and wellness for children, caregivers and staff. Growing Futures supports this need by having a mental health specialist on staff who consults with teachers, parents and staff regarding the support they might need. The mental health specialist receives referrals from teachers, family support advocates, family educators and the disabilities and school readiness specialist. When a child has concerns on an ASQ SE screening, is exhibiting persistent challenging behaviors in the classroom or needs additional social-emotional/mental health support, the mental health specialist connects parents to agencies that provide mental health services when needed. During the last program year, the mental health specialist worked with 39 children by either meeting with the teachers and parents, completing classroom observations, sending information home for the parents, brainstorming strategies, or providing referrals for additional services.

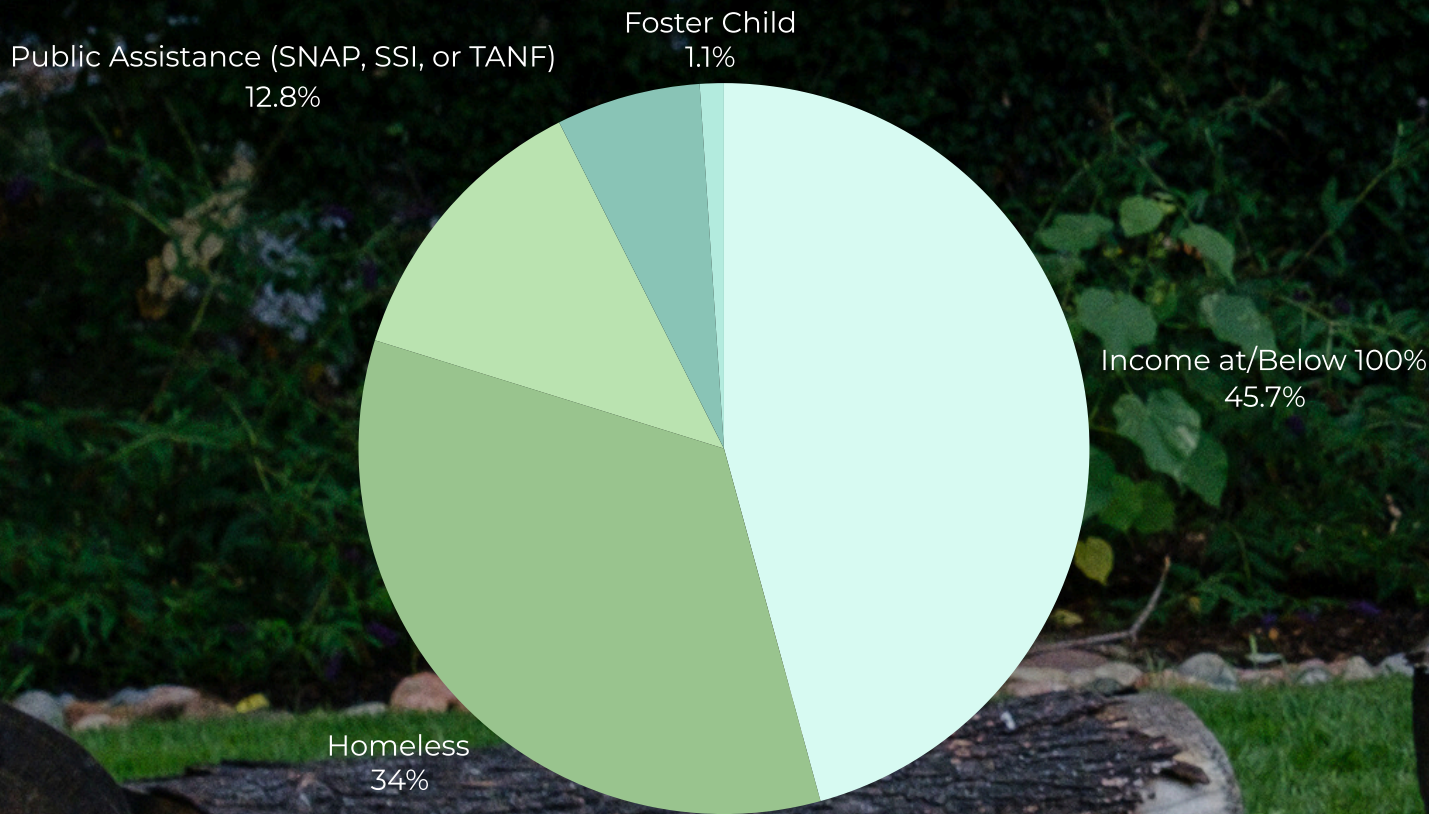
In addition, the mental health specialist also completes mental health check-ins with prenatal and postpartum (newborn-9 mo) parents in the program. During check-ins, the MHS provides information about signs and symptoms of prenatal mood disorders, resources on support services in community for postpartum mental health challenges, and monitors all Edinburgh Screens that are completed.

This program year, the mental health specialist provided prenatal mental health check-ins to 12 pregnant parents, and postpartum mental health check-ins to 18 postpartum parents. The mental health specialist coordinates positive parenting classes offered to all families enrolled at Growing Futures every Fall and Spring. In the Fall of 2022, The Family Conservancy provided a five-week Conscious Discipline class for parents, which was available both in person and on zoom. A total of 18 Families attended at least 1 session either in person or on zoom. In the Spring of 2023, the mental health specialist provided a five-week parent class on zoom utilizing the Positive Solutions for Families curriculum. A total of 5 families attended at least one session. In May of 2023, an additional one-day session on Trauma informed practices was offered to parents provided by a TIC grant. A total of 7 families attended the session.

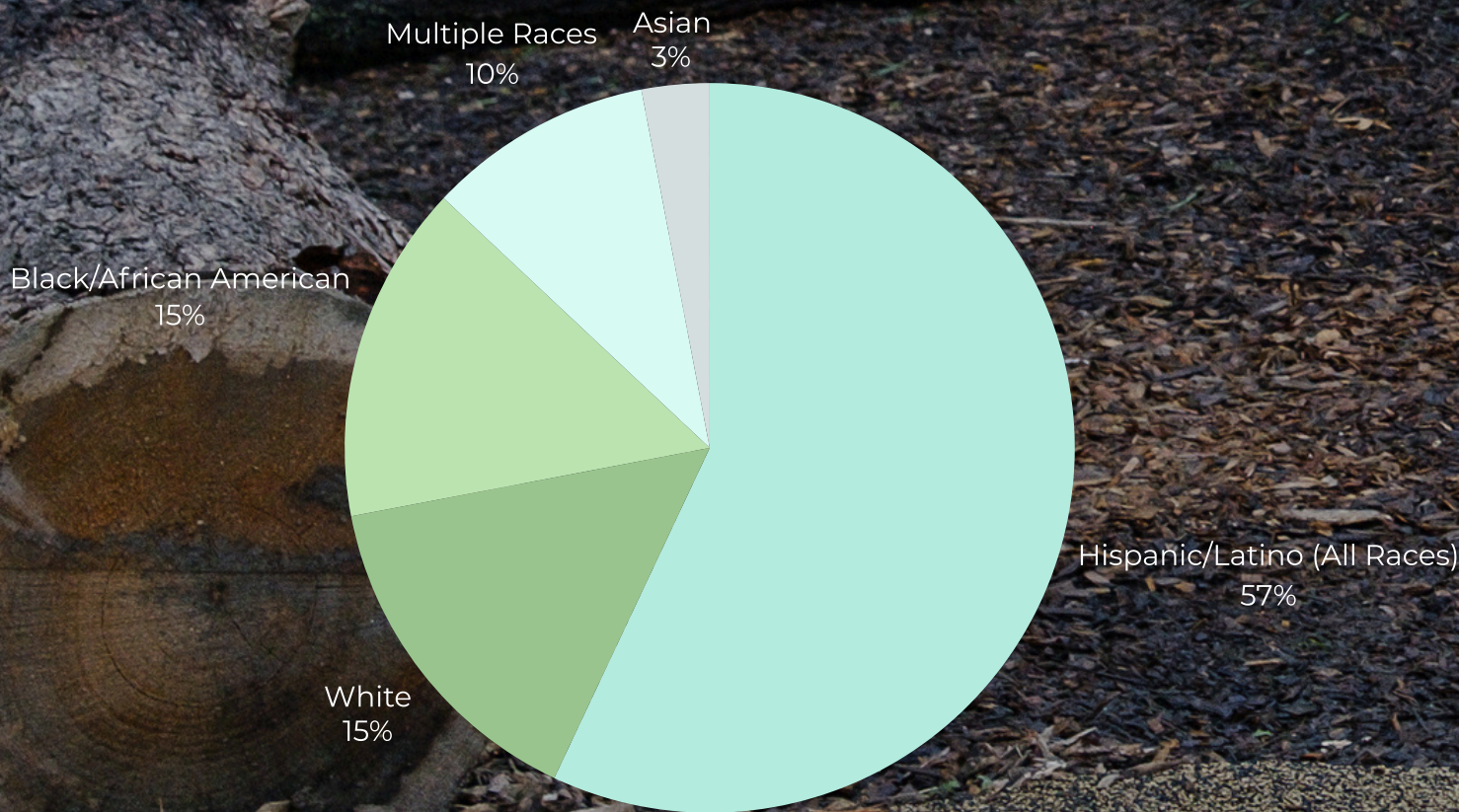




Family Eligibility Incomes



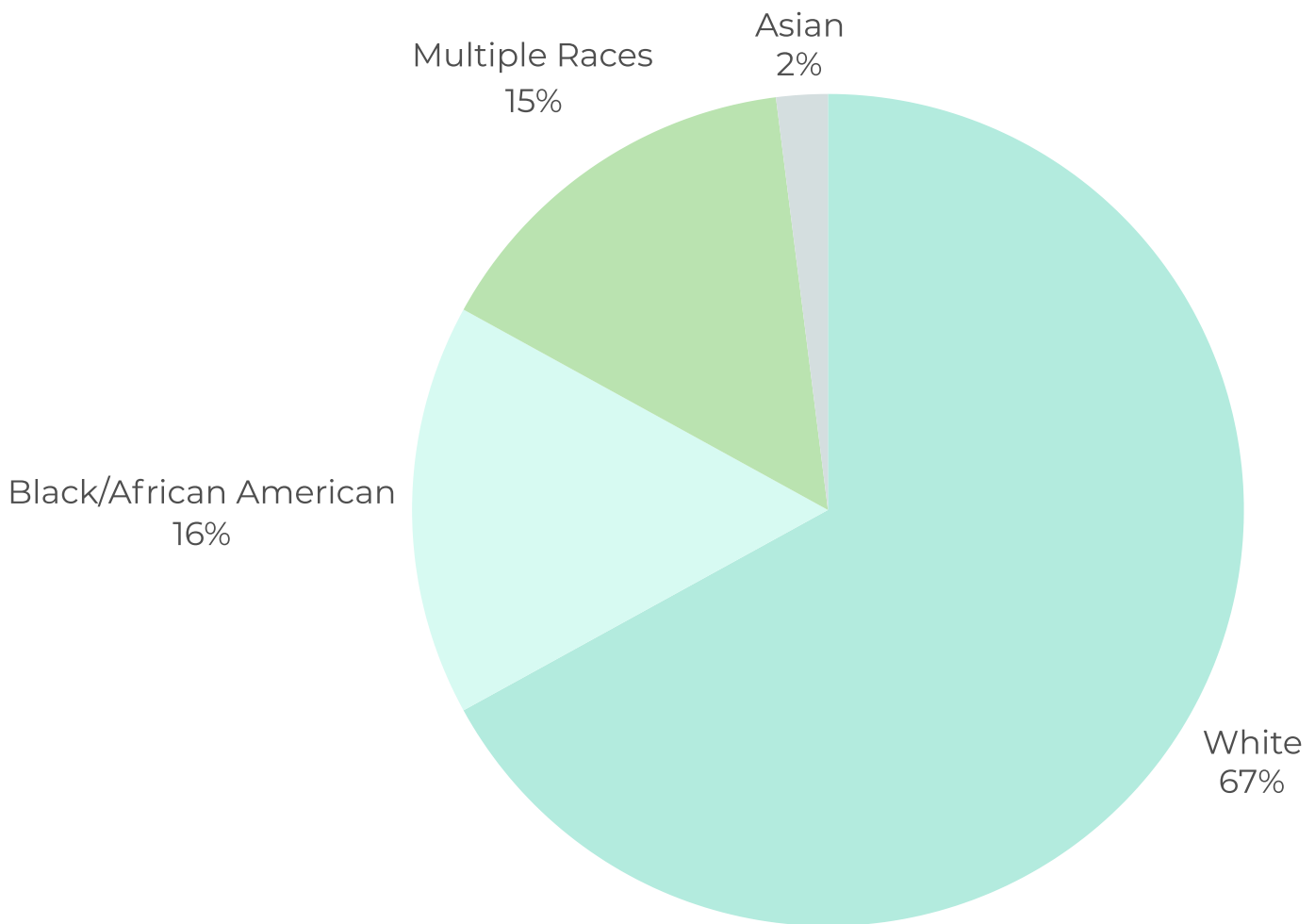
Race & Ethnicity



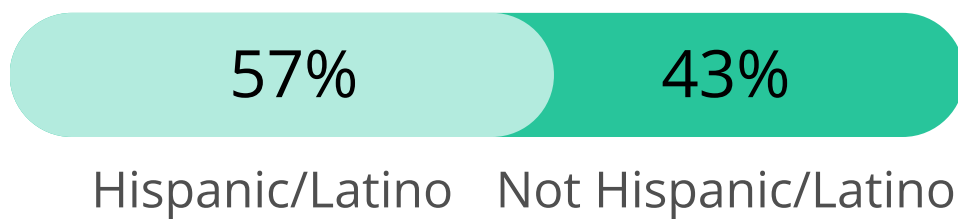


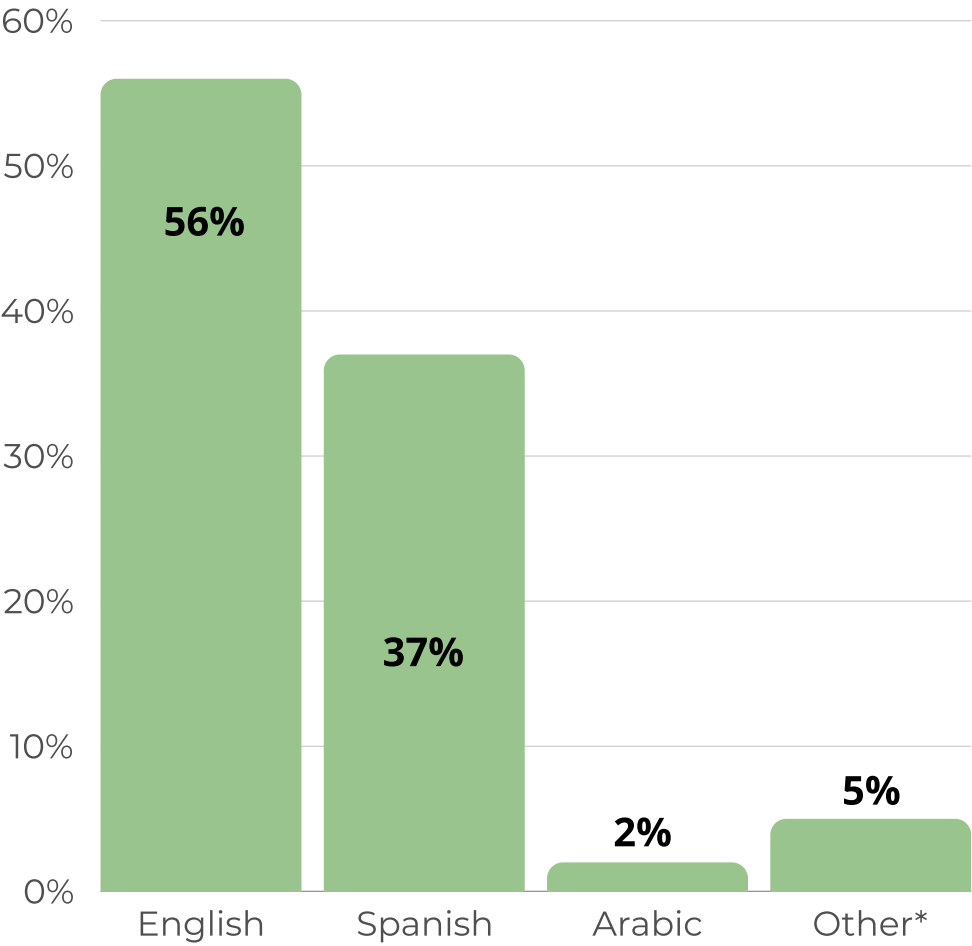
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### Participant Race



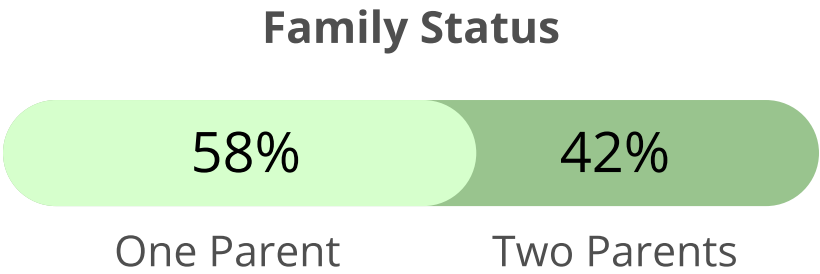
### Participant Ethnicity





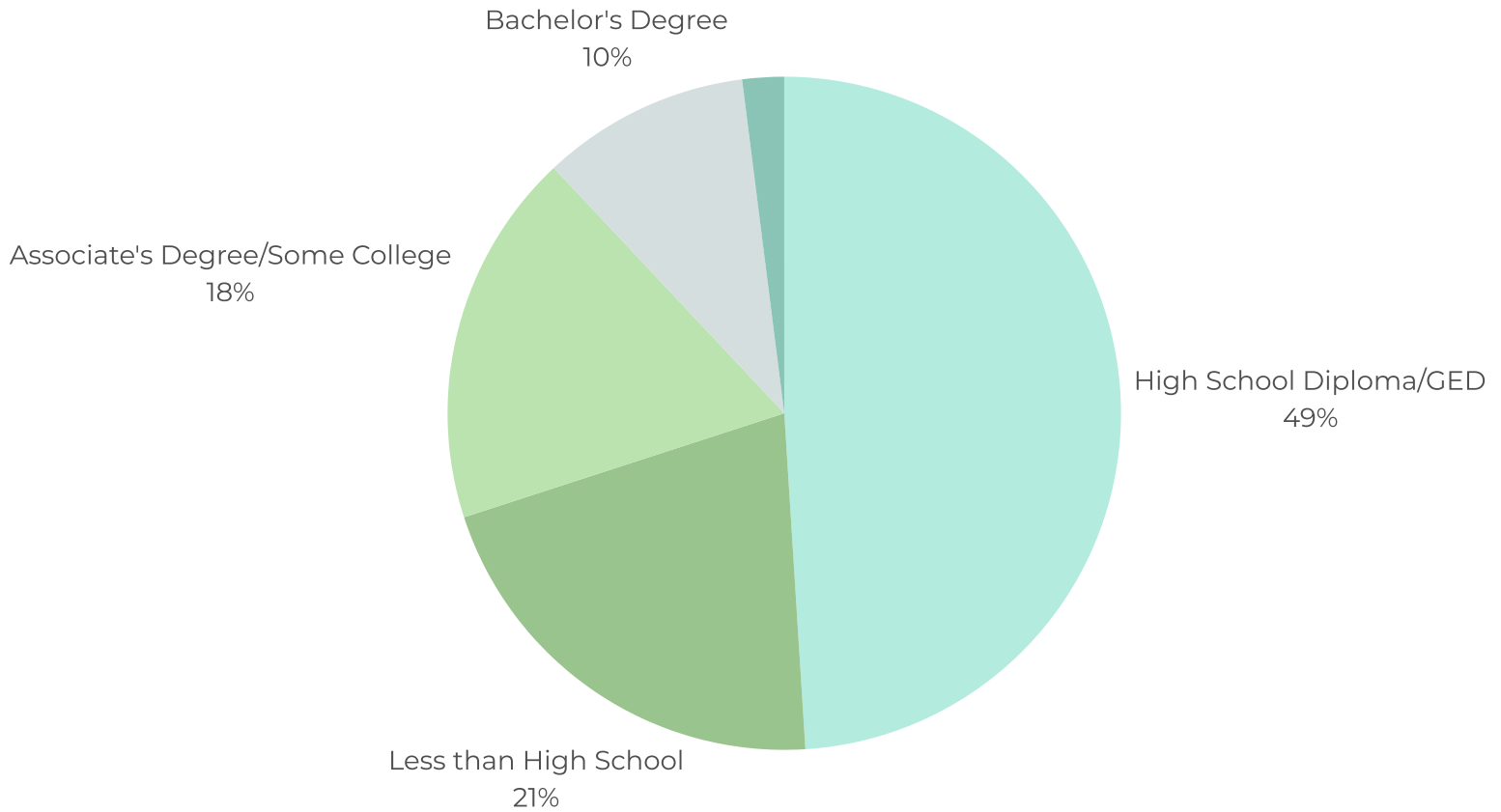
**Primary Language**

- \*Amharic
- Berber
- Dari(Afghan)
- French
- Russian
- Swahili
- Tagalog
- Urdu

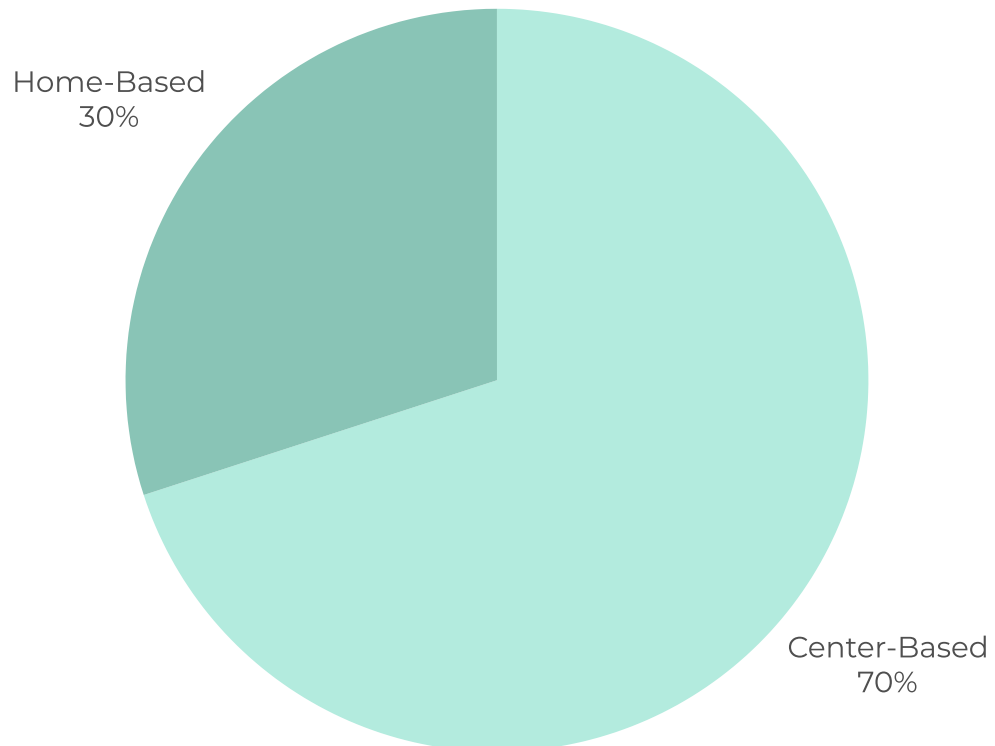


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## Parent Education Levels

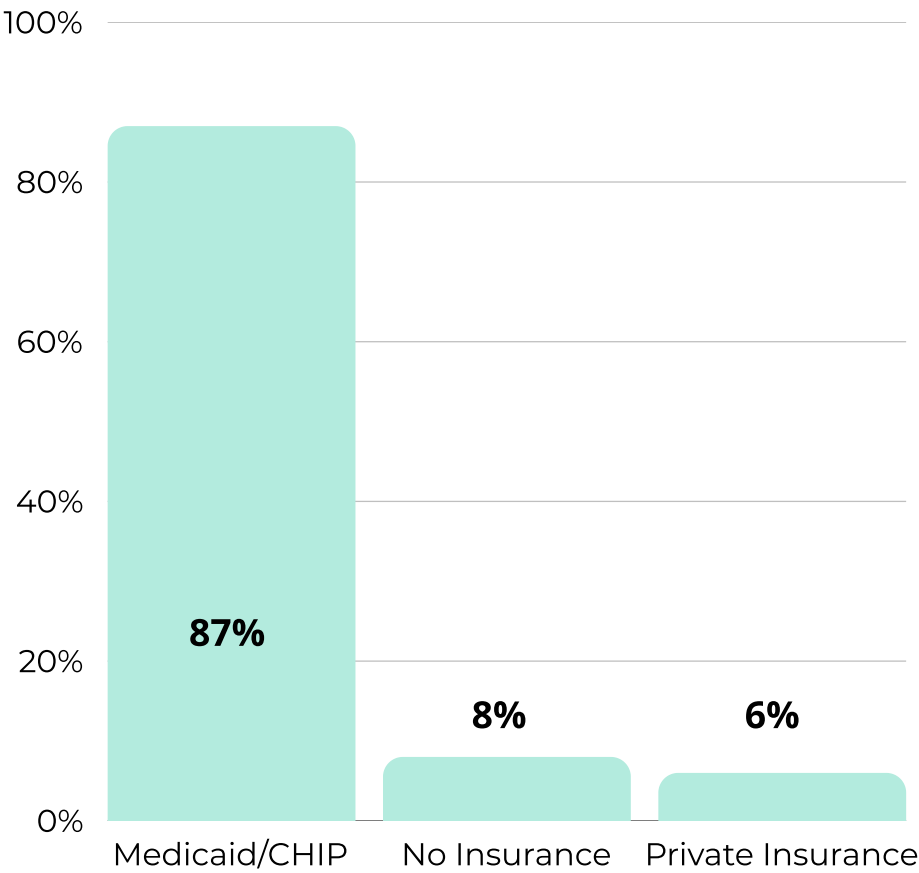


## Center-based vs. Home-based

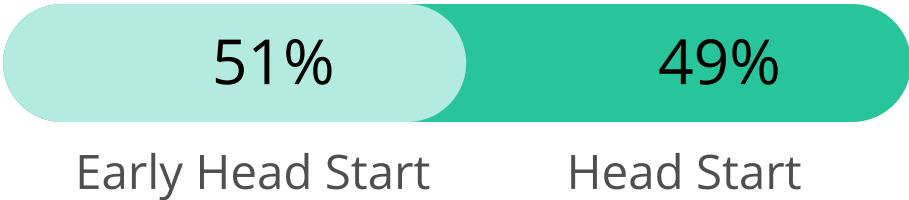




### Families with Health Insurance

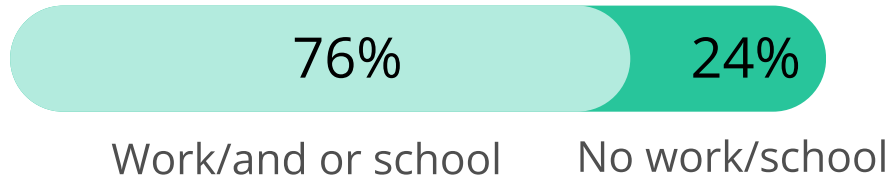


### Program Enrollment



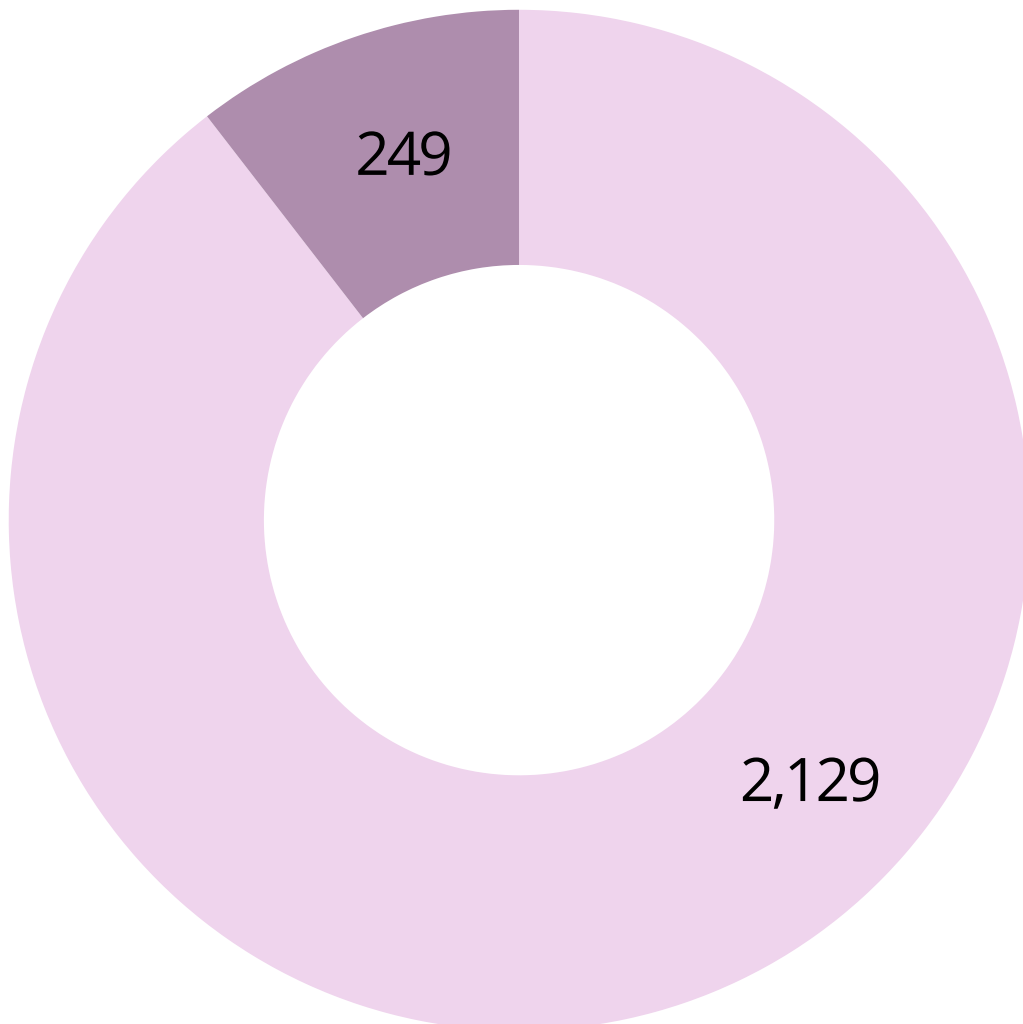
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### Parent Employment Status



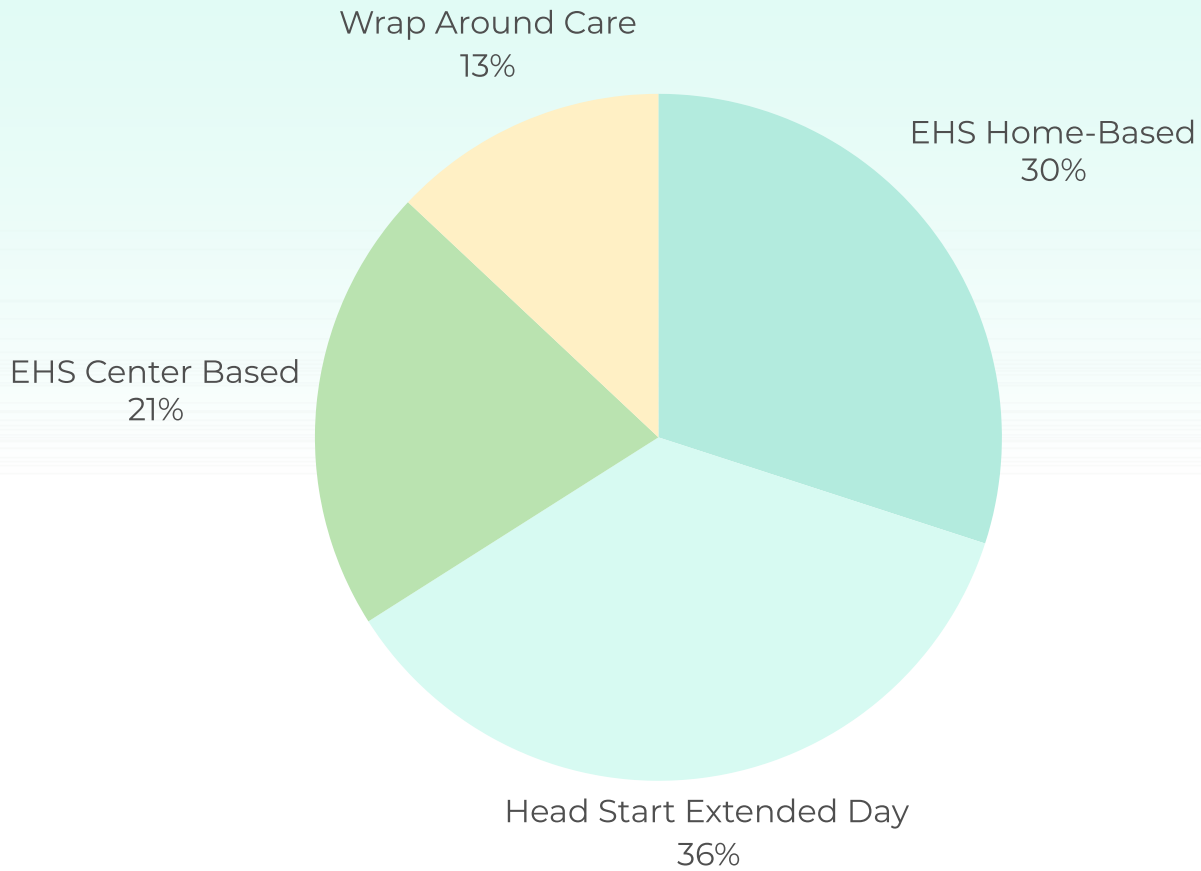
### Eligible Children being served in Johnson County

- Children who qualify for our services
- Children being served by Growing Futures

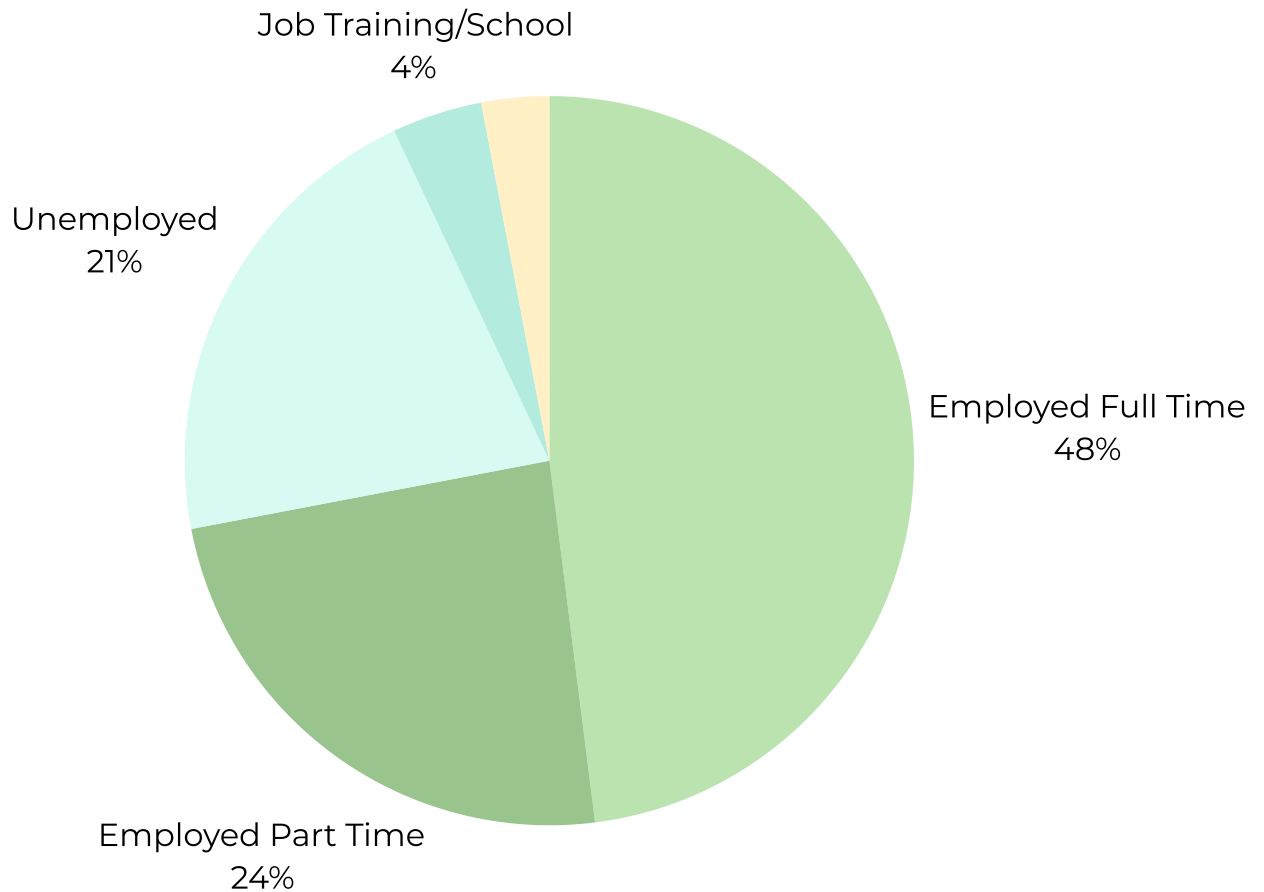


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### Enrollment by Program Option



### Parent Employment Status





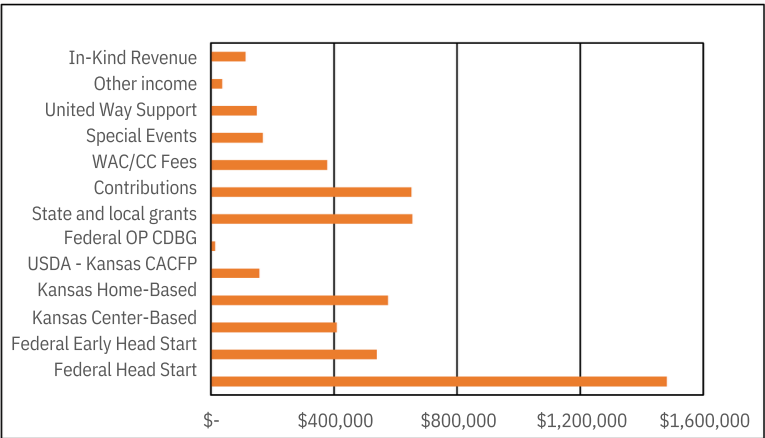
# Assets and Liabilities

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,077,723	953,284
Certificates of deposit	249,656	299,203
Grants receivable	261,867	332,399
Contributions receivable	75,000	-
Accounts receivable	640	100
Accrued interest receivable	4,167	3,865
Prepaid expenses	<u>8,398</u>	<u>8,074</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,677,451	1,596,925
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Leasehold improvements	5,000	5,000
Playground equipment	112,195	106,657
Office equipment	<u>8,369</u>	<u>13,375</u>
	125,564	125,032
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>(106,292)</u>	<u>(110,772)</u>
TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	19,272	14,260
OPERATING LEASE RIGHT OF USE ASSETS	1,585,485	1,666,276
DEPOSITS	<u>15,523</u>	<u>15,523</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 3,297,731</u>	<u>3,292,984</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 35,219	4,279
Accrued expenses	271,585	221,432
Refundable grant advance	8,398	24,140
Deferred revenue	3,953	1,226
Current portion of operating lease liabilities	<u>378,060</u>	<u>307,332</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	697,215	558,409
OPERATING LEASE LIABILITIES, less current portion	<u>1,274,917</u>	<u>1,416,025</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,972,132	1,974,434
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	635,953	739,219
Board-designated	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>
Total without donor restrictions	1,035,953	1,139,219
With donor restrictions		
Purpose restrictions	214,646	175,831
Time restrictions	<u>75,000</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Total with donor restrictions	289,646	179,331
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>1,325,599</u>	<u>1,318,550</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 3,297,731</u>	<u>3,292,984</u>

# Activities

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Federal grants	\$ 3,178,640		3,178,640
State and local grants	655,020		655,020 651,499
Contributions	463,814	187,685	378,256 168,804
Wrap Around Care & childcare fees	378,256		150,000 3 7,500
Special events	168,804		113,000 -
United Way Support		150,000	
Other income	37,500 113,000		
In-kind revenue	227,370		
Net assets released from restrictions		(227,370)	
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	5,222,404	110,315	5,332,719
EXPENSES			
Program	4,308,430		4,308,430
Fundraising	315,890		315,890 701,350
Management and general	701,350		
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,325,670	-	5,325,670
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(103,266)	110,31	7,049
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,139,21	5	1,318,550
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 9 1	\$ 179,33	\$ 1,325,599
	,035,953	1	
		289,64	
		6	

Total Public/Private Funds Received By Source



	Total \$
Federal Head Start	\$ 1,482,125
Federal Early Head Start	539,097
Kansas Center-Based	409,674
Kansas Home-Based	575,721
USDA - Kansas CACFP	157,843
Federal OP CDBG	1 4,180
State and local grants	655,020
Contributions	651,499
WAC/CC Fees	378,256
Special Events	168,804
United Way Support	150,000
Other income	3 7,500
In-Kind Revenue	113,000
	<u>\$ 5,332,719</u>

Growing Futures Early Education Center, Inc.  
Statement of Activities  
Audited Balances as of June 30, 2024

If you'd like a complete copy of the audit, please contact Tama Byrnes at **[tbyrnes@growingfutureseec.org](mailto:tbyrnes@growingfutureseec.org)**



# **Grant Awards**

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RECEIVED DURING 23-24 YEAR

**Barton P. Cohen and Mary Davidson Cohen Charitable Trust**

**City of Overland Park**

**City of Shawnee**

**Dunn Family Foundation**

**Fidelity Charitable Fund**

**Francis Family Foundation**

**Gould-Waller Fund**

**Greater Kansas City Community Foundation**

**Hall Family Foundation**

**Jonson County Young Matrons**

**Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc.**

**Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund**

**Krause Family Foundation**

**Mazuma Foundation**

**Miller Hammond Charitable Fund**

**Overland Park South Rotary Club**

**Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program**

**PNC Bank**

**Ronald D. Deffenbaugh, Sr. Foundation**

**Rotary Club of Shawnee**

**Stanley H. Durwood Foundation**

**Thomas M. Cohen Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation**

**United Community Services of Johnson County**

**United Way of Greater Kansas City**

**William G. McGowan Charitable Fund**

# Volunteer Groups

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+ COLLECTION DRIVES

540

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Volunteers

3,853

---

Hours

\$122,637

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Volunteer Match

**Amazon**

**Blue Valley CAPS**

**Blue Valley High School**

**Build Trybe**

**Burns & McDonnell**

**Centurions**

**Constructive Playthings**

**Daughters of the American Revolution**

**Enterprise Bank**

**First Interstate Bank**

**InterUrban ArtHouse**

**Johnson County Library**

**Johnson County Young Matrons**

**Junior League of Kansas City**

**Kauffman Center**

**K-State Master Food Volunteers**

**L'Arche**

**LaSertoma**

**Leadership Overland Park**

**Merriam City Chamber**

**Monticello Middle School**

**Monticello Trails Middle School**

**New Haven Church**

**Northeast Johnson County Chamber**

**Notre Dame de Sion**

**Ong & Co**

**PNC**

**ProCore**

**Royals**

**Ryan Companies**

**Searcy**

**Shawnee Mission Northwest High**

**School Student Council**

**Shawnee Mission Rotary**

**Shawnee Rotary**

**Suzuki Violin**

**Turner Construction**

**USI**



# \$86,855

## In-Kind Donations

Art Supplies	Healthy Snacks	School Readiness Kits
Baby Food	Industrial Fridge	Science City Tickets
Back to School Night Gifts	Industrial Warmers	Spirits
Ball Pits	Infant Clothing	Stuffed Animals
Balloons	Infant Play Station	Tech Supplies
Beer	Kidfest Tickets	Toys
Board Books	Laundry Detergent	Washer and Dryer
Books	Learning Aids	Wine
Booster Seat	Notebooks	Writing Utensils
Building Materials	Nursery Supplies	
Changing Mat	Nursing Supplies	
Clothing	Office Supplies	
Coffee Beans	Painting Supplies	
Dental Hygiene	Pajamas	
Diapers and Wipes	Picnic Table	
Drawer Organizers	Pies and Cookies	
Feminine Hygiene Products	Playground Renovation	
Field Trip Transportation	Produce	
Framed Photo	Purses	
Furniture	Ride-On Toys	
Gift Cards	Royals Tickets	
Hand Sanitizer	Rubber Ducks	
Handmade Hats, Gloves, Scarves		
Handmade Quilts		

# Community Partners

Safe Kids  
Women, Infants & Children  
Johnson County Library  
Sunflower House  
Strawberry Week  
Kansas State University  
Horizons High School  
After the Harvest  
Vineyard Church  
Kansas Department for Children and Families  
Kansas Highway Patrol  
Health Partnership Clinic  
Charlie's House  
DCCCA  
Shawnee Mission School District Clothing Exchange  
El Centro  
Happy Bottoms  
Catholic Charities



# Recruitment Plan

To continue to focus on recruiting participants that are living at 100% of the poverty guidelines, our weekly recruitment time continued to focus on Johnson County families living in Olathe and Gardner, Kansas. This year, we divided recruiting into multiple categories, to place focus on strengthening relationships with our community partners. Some of those partners include medical and dental offices, food and clothing pantries, English as a Second Language services, career and education services, apartment complexes, and a diverse group of grocery stores and locally owned markets.

## Other recruitment was completed at:

Pediatric dentist offices

Apartment complexes

Thrift Stores

Food pantries

Catholic Charities

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Community events

Grocery stores

General Practitioner Offices

Urgent Care

El Centro





# Parent Involvement

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## EDUCATION EVENTS

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are charged with providing education, training, and support for families as they continue their journey of attaining self-sufficiency and becoming advocates for their children. Throughout the course of the program year, the Family Educators (FEs) and Family Support Advocates (FSAs) worked tirelessly to provide families the opportunity to stay engaged in parent connections.

Parent Committees were held monthly, covering topics that focused on overall wellness-inclusive of mental, physical, financial health and self-sufficiency. Guest speakers from partnering community agencies were invited to discuss resources and services they provide. The Family Service team created fun and developmentally appropriate activities for caregivers to do with their children. Families were given the opportunity to converse and build connections with others, as well as give the Family Service team feedback.



The Early Head Start Home-Based families had the opportunity to participate in monthly playgroup socializations, primarily targeting the parent(s) and child(ren) within social/emotional, cognitive, motor, and language development domains.

FEs maintained the bi-annual Caregivers Group to provide another avenue for family connection and support. These interactive sessions allowed parents to build relationships with other parents and share resources and parenting tips with peers.



# Parent Involvement

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## EDUCATION EVENTS

During weekly home visits, Family Educators brought activity materials that could stay in the home for extended learning through play. Some of the items included paint, paper, crayons, crafting materials, sensory materials, and infant or toddler books. Additionally, all enrolled families received oral care items, household safety items, and education concerning what to do when their child gets sick.

### **Some of the items included:**

- Paint
- Paper
- Crayons
- Crafting Materials
- Sensory Toys
- Books
- Diapers
- Wipes
- Covid-19 Safety Items
- Home Safety Items
- Oral Health Care Items
- Job Applications
- Toilet Paper
- Groceries, and more.

The team also hosted our fourth Back to School Night in September, which allowed families to see their child's classroom, participate in a home-based activity, get resources for organizations in the community, and meet our staff. The team also gave families winter baskets before the center closed for winter break. The baskets included toiletry items, cleaning supplies, gift wrapping supplies, toys, food, and more.

Every family was offered a Thanksgiving basket from our partners at Vineyard Community Church. The basket included a complete traditional Thanksgiving meal. The baskets were available for families the weekend before Thanksgiving and provided enough food for families to cook multiple meals. Several families participated in this opportunity and were grateful for the basket.





# A Collection of Success Stories

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**A Fresh Perspective-** A new home-based parent shared feeling stress concerning not being able to find childcare for her infant following delivery. The infant was born two months prematurely, and both mom and baby were in the hospital for some time after the birth. Mom shared feelings of guilt for not being able to go back to work to help provide financially for the family. Therefore, the FE and mom spent part of a home visit enrolling in childcare aware, and mom spent the next few days calling childcare centers looking for availability. Additionally, The FE and mom spent time applying for food and childcare assistance through DCF. To focus on self-care, each week, the parent's homework is to do something just for herself. Recently, mom reported going to the grocery store alone and said it was so wonderful to have that time of independence. Mom is working hard to get back to work, but she is also prioritizing herself a little more and enjoying the quality time with her baby.

**Continued Learning-** A home-based family shared concerns about their toddler's behaviors. The parent told the Family Educator about how their toddler grabs things from their younger sibling and does not want to share. Over multiple home visits, the Family Educator and parent discussed Positive Discipline techniques to help each child during times of frustration and taking turns. A few weeks later, the parent shared that they implemented the Positive Discipline techniques, and the toddler started using the word, "Mio," instead of grabbing the toy. The toddler eventually shared toys without interruption. The Family Educator ensured to celebrate the parent by acknowledging the both the sharing successes, as well as the efforts to remain consistent with Positive Discipline techniques. By the look on the parent's face, the Family Educator could tell that it was a proud parenting moment.

A Family Support Advocate (FSA) supported a family going through a domestic violence situation. The FSA helped the family get into Hillcrest Transitional Living and the family was able to stay there for three months. Towards the end of the family's three-month stay, Hillcrest and the FSA supported the family with getting their own apartment. The parent attended financial programs offered by Hillcrest and started therapy. The FSA gathered household items and vouchers to the Catholic Charities thrift store, TurnStyles Thrift, for the family. The FSA also worked with Flourish Furnitures, an organization that helps with housing supplies, and Sleepyhead Beds, an organization that provides families with gently used beds, to get household items for the family. The family is enjoying their new home and looking forward to their new future. The parent is more confident, happy, and feeling more at peace.



# Corporate Donors

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425 Custom Works  
A L Huber  
Abbott Laboratories - EGC  
Aerotek  
Alba Laredo Ceramics LLC  
Allied Construction  
Anonymous  
Black Lemon Boutique  
Brown Suga Bakes  
Bukaty Companies  
Centurions - KC Chamber  
Chan Teas  
Charles Schwab  
Chicken N Pickle - North KC  
Chicken N Pickle - Overland Park  
Chick-Fil-A 97th & Metcalf  
City of Leawood  
Colonial Church in Prairie Village  
DiCarlo Salsa  
Diode  
DLR Group  
Enerfab  
Enterprise Bank & Trust  
Evergy  
Fika Coffee KC  
Financial Advisory Services  
First Interstate Bank  
First National Bank (FNBO)  
Friendly Flamer KC  
Funky Fresh Apothecary  
Garmin  
GFL Environmental  
Goering & Granatino  
Henderson Engineers  
HNTB Corporation  
Honeywell Hometown Solutions  
Husch Blackwell LLP  
Hyland Software  
J. E. Dunn Construction Company  
Jack Stack BBQ  
Johnson County Community College

Johnson County Young Matrons  
Kendra Scott - Leawood Town Center Location  
Kendra Scott - PLAZA Location  
Kissick Construction Company  
Lights & Links Permanent Jewlery  
Lil'Munchkins Children's Boutique  
McCownGordon  
Mission Hills DAR  
Monticello Trails Middle School  
Multivac  
Mythos Sauce Co.  
Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art - Johnson  
County Community  
Noonday  
Olsson  
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce  
Own, Inc.  
Paco Designs  
PawsAbilities  
PGAV  
PNC Bank  
Ryan Companies  
Santa Fe Office Interiors  
Shawnee Mission La Sertoma Club  
Smash My Trash  
Smokey By Nature  
Social Heart Inc.  
Sunflower Bank  
SWAT Sweet and Treats  
Sweet Streams Lavender  
Tallgrass Creek Hugs Committee  
T-Mobile  
Travelers  
Turner Construction Company  
UMB Bank  
United Way of Greater Kansas City  
US Toy and Constructive Playthings  
Verizon/TCC Gives  
W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Co.  
Zurich American Insurance Company



# Individual Giving

Abby Alphs  
Akash Pargat  
Allison Cox  
Ally Summers  
Angela Kennedy  
Angie Seibert  
Anita Starke  
Ann Kenney  
Ann McElhenny  
Anne Blessing  
Anne Byrd  
Anne Francis  
Anne Mills  
Anne Simms  
Anonymous  
Antoinette Redmond  
Arthur Wortman  
Austin Henecke  
Barbara Dye  
Barbara J. Hurst  
Barbara Nichols  
Barbara Stahl  
Beauty Henecke  
Bill Ebel  
Bill Henderson  
Bill Roush  
Bob Collins  
Bob Norton  
Braden Beamer  
Bradley Debrick  
Brenda Nickle  
Brent Blalock  
Brian Zickefoose  
Brittney Hooper  
Bryan Rose  
Canise Salinas-Willich  
Carly Beckett  
Carol Gonzales  
Carol Mallory  
Carolyn Hammond

Cassie Aiello  
Catherine Rice  
Cathy Harrelson  
Chad Haines  
Charles Dahl  
Cherry Reed  
Chris Davis  
Chris Goodger  
Chris Watkins  
Christopher Stibbs  
Christy Londerholm  
Cindy Green  
Cindy Shelton  
Colette Panchot  
Colleen Fowler  
Collette Harrison  
Conner Lindley  
Courtney Osborn  
Dan Hailey  
Dan Wancura  
Daniel Chang  
Daniel Hohenberger  
Daniel Kerr  
Daniel Roh  
Danny Dorrell  
Dave & Janet Loftus  
David Dyer  
David Starks  
Deanna Ferrante  
Deanna McClellan  
Deb Blaylock  
Deb Settle  
Deb Zila  
Deborah Douville  
Debra Peterson  
Denise Gutierrez  
Denise Stitt  
Derrick Loutch  
Derrick Miller  
Donna Blake

Donna Carril  
Dorothy Hiatt  
Doug Loveridge  
Edward Fried  
Elise Jones  
Emily Weber  
Eric Fowler  
Erin Evans  
Erin Greenbaum  
Eurvin Williams  
Evan Rosemann  
Frances Lynn  
Frank Perry  
Gale Hansen  
Gene R. Wilson  
Greg Boes  
Greg Musil  
Gregg Gibson  
Holly Grummert  
Irit Nevat  
Jackie Dandurand  
Jacob Turner  
Jake Barnes  
Jake Chadwick  
James "Tex" Riggs  
James J. Woods  
James Sutterby  
Jan Eilert  
Jane F. Olsen  
Janice Kindred  
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Jenna Gant  
Jennifer J. Bowlin  
Jennifer Miller  
Jennifer Nichols  
Jennifer Sawyer

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Jessica Hoffman  
Jessica Nollett  
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John Tongier  
John W. Weigel  
Jon Rast  
Jordan O'Grady  
Jose Betancourt  
Jose Martinez  
Joseph McClellan  
JR McClelland  
Judie Becker  
Judy Moore  
Judy Naro  
Judy O. Kirk  
Judy Overton  
Julia Sanders, Jr.  
Julie Brewer  
Julie Gibson Family Fund  
Julie Klima  
Julie L. Shaw  
Julie Meyer  
Julie Porter-Chase  
Justin Lamison  
Justin Mouzoukos  
Justin Roth  
Jyoti Mukharji  
Karen Downing  
Kathy Dunn  
Kathy Stawarz  
Katie Lord, Jr.  
Kay Blond  
Keith Rock  
Kelly Shanks  
Kendall Burr  
Kevin Bruns



# Individual Giving Continued

Kevin Moriarty	Mike Bukaty	Robin VanRoss	Tiffany Fields
Kevin Powell	Mitch Morse	Ron Cole	Timothy Tuohy
Kim Winslow	Mohammad Awad	Ruth Feld	Todd Dudley
Kimberly Herman	Moirra Holland	Ryan Companies	Tommy Gentry
Kristine Mendez	Monica Oliver	Ryan Miller	Torey Gerwin
Kyle Moore	Morgan Shandler	Ryan Torgerson	Traci Sitzman
Lacey Lazarczyk	Murray Levin	S. John Schafer	Tracy Gallery
Larry Thies	Musta Majee	Samantha Mothersbaugh	Tricia Suellentrop
Laura Schmeltz	Nancy Keel	Samuel Smith	Tu Tran
Leeann Hearl	Nancy Nichols	Sara Mathews	Valorie Carson
Leeanne Smith	Naomi Kloeppersmith	Sarah Jones	Victoria Charlesworth
Libbey Tucker	Neal Sawyer	Sarah Karstens-Griffith	William F. Bradley, Jr.
Lillian Hall	Nichole Stewart	Scot Schiefelbein	Yashvin Prakasam
Linda Tompkins	Nichole Waring	Scott Barnes	Zack Pfannenstiel
Lisa Willig	Nick Giuliani	Scott Campbell	Zack Smith
Liz Heller	Nicole Konrade	Scott Fowler	
Logan Heley	Norma Pastrovich	Sheila Christiansen	
Lori Luther	Pamela Coe	Sheila Seck	
Malik Dilruba	Pamela Enloe	Sherry Hutchison	
Marc Shaffer	Pat Pettey	Sophia Piatczyc	
Marci Braybrooks	Pat Rogers	Stacy Roth	
Margaret Morgan	Patricia Zimmerman	Stephanie Meyer	
Marilyn Lyons	Patrick Rafferty	Stephanie Shaver	
Marilyn Senter	Patty Mitus	Stevan Gutierrez	
Mark Smith	Patty Rebeck	Steve Russell	
Mark Tenorio	Paul Christiansen	Susan Mulvaney	
Martha Calcara	Paul Stephens	Susan Solenberger	
Martha Raybourn	Paula Petersen	Susannah Shoemake	
Mary Ann Cappel	Perri Jacobsen	Suzanne Handlin	
Mary Anne Matos	Phetmany Soukthavone	Tanesha Thompson	
Mary Beth B. Russell	Phillip N. Brown	Tara Adler	
Mary Maughn	Rachel Pegg	Tara Browne	
Mary Messner	Ralph Varum	Tarena Terry	
Mary Vizcarra	Randy Smith	Taylor Bryer	
Melanie Courtney	Rebecca Earp	Taylor Gardner	
Michael Boehm	Rebecca Fowler	Taylor Limoges	
Michael Cappel	Regina Jordan	Ted Humpy	
Michelle Hunter	Richard White	Teresa (Teri) Waters	
Michelle Rathjen	Rick Johnson	Teresa Kingsland	
Michelle Turpen	Riley Worring	Thomas Bartelli, Jr	
Michelle Wimes	Robert Collins	Thomas Bledsoe	



# 2024 Highlights



**Inaugural Run for the Roses:  
Kentucky Derby Fundraiser**



**Top 10 Fundraising Event by  
The Independent**



**PNC Nature Play Space**



**Successful Staff Retention**



Parents as Teachers.

Through the successful completion of the  
Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process,

**Growing Futures Early Education Ctr., Inc/  
Shawnee Mission Parents as Teachers**

is hereby recognized as a **Blue Ribbon Affiliate**.

**Congratulations!**

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2024



Constance Gully  
President and CEO  
Parents as Teachers National Center





1263  
Allison L. Kemner  
Vice President of Research and Quality  
Parents as Teachers National Center

**Blue Ribbon Affiliate Award**



**HARVESTING  
HOPE**

**Record Breaking  
Harvesting Hope**



# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Since 1965, Growing Futures Early Education has been a pioneer in the Head Start ecosystem. To celebrate our 60th year in 2025, we want to shed light and highlight 60 community members who are Head Start Alumni, Advocates for Early Childhood Education, neighbors from Johnson County and or surrounding network. The magic of Head Start is rooted in partnership; together we can continue to live in our mission and values for 60 years more!

## Stay Connected!



@growingfutureseec



Growing Futures Early Education Center



Growing Futures Early Education Center



**growing futures**  
early education center