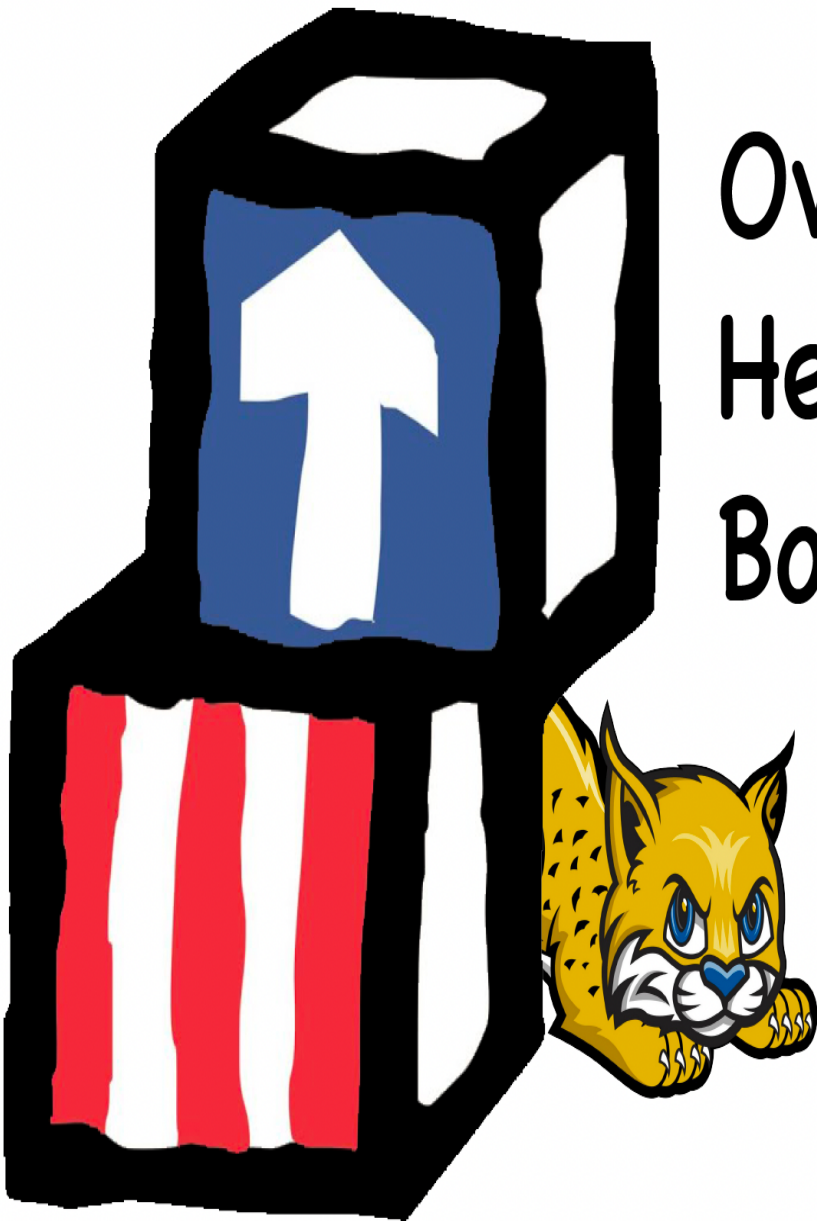


**Sweetwater County School District #1 Head Start
Annual Report 2022-2023**



**Overland
Head Start
Bobcats**

Rock Springs, WY. 82901
307-352-3430

Reviewed by Policy Council
Board of Trustees Approval

The History of Head Start

Head Start is one of the most important social and educational investments for our communities, children, and families. The Head Start Project was launched in 1965 as a comprehensive child development program for children from birth to five years of age. Administered by the Office of Head Start, the Head Start model provides a range of individualized services in the areas of early education, health, mental health, nutrition, special needs, and parent engagement. Over the past 55 years, it has provided opportunities for success to millions of low-income and other vulnerable children and their families across the United States. Head Start programs have remained strong even with the ever changing fiscal and political surroundings because of years of success.

Our Mission Statement

Sweetwater County School District #1 Head Start is committed to empowering families by providing opportunities for early childhood development, family partnerships, and community involvement through quality, confidential services.

About Us

Sweetwater County School District #1 Head Start is a federally funded program that promotes school readiness of young children of all abilities from families with incomes below poverty guidelines. SCSD#1 Head Start serves children ages 3 to 5 by supporting their mental, social, and emotional development in a compassionate and collaborative manner. In addition to providing research-based education services, we also provide children and their families with adequate nutrition services, medical and dental care, as well as social/emotional interventions.

Our program emphasizes the involvement of parents in the lives of their children through home visits, parent leadership councils, and social events. We ensure that our community's children in the greatest need receive the care and education necessary to meet the developmental milestones necessary to successfully enter kindergarten and prepare for a lifetime of productive learning.

SCSD#1 Head Start works with families to engage them in their child's learning and development so they may support the lifelong success of their child. We recognize that parents are their child's primary teacher and advocate. Through the collaboration with parents and school, we are able to support families as their children make the transition to kindergarten.

Our Community Assessment

Our 2022-2023 community needs assessment provides an evaluation of the needs and resources available to low-income families residing in the Sweetwater County School District #1 Head Start program service area. The report describes the context in which SCSD#1 Head Start operates and is useful for ensuring that the correct services are provided for the population. Please visit our website at <http://hstart.sweetwater1.org> for our 2022-2023 Community Needs Assessment update.

Serving Children with Partners

Our Partners

- Sweetwater County School District #1
- Sweetwater County School District #2
- Sweetwater County Child Development Center
- Sweetwater County School District #1 Special Education Department
- Western Wyoming Community College
- Southwest Counseling Services
- Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County

Through our partnerships, we are able to provide greater access to families, build capacity, and share in expert knowledge.

Eligible Children Served

In 2022-2023, we served the two largest communities in the county; Rock Springs and Green River. SCSD#1 Head Start served a total of 114 children during the 2022-2023 school year and a total of 115 families. As of 2020, according to the Decennial Census, the population of Green River was estimated at 11,825 and Rock Springs's population was 23,526 making our total service area population in Sweetwater County 35,351.

Children under Age Five in Poverty, Sweetwater County

Children Under Age 5		Infants and Toddlers		3 and 4 Year Olds	
Count	In Poverty	Count*	In Poverty	Count*	In Poverty
2,828	590 (20.9%)	1,697	354	1,131	236

*Estimated infants/toddlers (60%) and 3- & 4-Year-olds (40%) Source: American Community, 2020 5-Year Estimates

Our Children

Enrollment/Attendance

Families interested in Head Start must qualify by meeting a prioritized eligibility criterion. Our services are targeted towards children from low-income families, disabled children, children with incarcerated parents, foster children and homeless children. The number of families is greater than the number of children when a child's parents have separate households and both are involved in the program. Average monthly attendance was 82%. Head Start is required to report attendance each month to the Office of Head Start.

Demographics

Ethnicity

- 41 Hispanic or Latino origin
- 73 non-Hispanic

Race

- 2 American Indian or Alaska Native
- 4 Black or African American
- 0 Asian
- 0 Multi-racial/Bi-racial
- 0 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 103 White
- 5 Other (specified Hispanic as race)

Family Type

- 44 Dual-parent families; of which
 - 5 grandparents
 - 1 relative other than grandparent
 - 4 foster parents
- 71 Single-parent families

Dual Language Learner

- 25 Dual language Learner

Enrollment Age

- 52 children were 3-year-olds
- 62 children were 4-year-olds

Eligibility (categories determined by the federal government)

- 70 children qualified with income at or below the federal poverty level
- 7 children on Public Assistance such as TANF or SSI
- 9 children were in foster care at enrollment
- 6 children were homeless
- 10 eligibility-based on other type of need
- 12 had income between 100% and 130% of federal poverty line

Prior Enrollment

- 37 children were in their second year

Transition

- 53 children transitioned to kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Engaged families are essential to the well-being and development of young children. We see parents as a child's most important influence towards their child's success. Building a shared partnership with families gives parents opportunities to stay involved with the education of their child. SCSD#1 Head Start partner with families to provide and connect them with relevant services designed to strengthen families and provide a foundation for success. Our family advocates work with families to develop individualized family partnership plans. These plans incorporate family goals and the support needed to make them achievable. We build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. SCSD#1 Head Start encourages the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher.

Parents, staff, and volunteers from the community worked together to offer a variety of opportunities for engagement with children's education, personal growth, and family relationship building. A sampling of those opportunities is listed below.

- Parent Orientation/Open House - Parents received instructions about the Head Start program, further introduction to Head Start services, and a Parent Handbook.
- Policy Council Meetings – The SCSD#1 Head Start Policy Council makes decisions about the overall direction of our program. It is made up of elected parent representatives, past parents, and individuals from local community agencies.
- Conscious Discipline Parenting classes - This research-based parenting class was a 6-part class offered in person and virtually for parents throughout the year.
- Kindergarten Transitions – Principals and SCSD#1 staff held an informational parent meeting for the parents of those students who were transitioning to kindergarten. Parents had the opportunity to see their students Kindergarten principal and ask questions.
- Volunteer Training - Parents received training to be formal volunteers at Head Start and ideas of how to volunteer in the community.
- Health and Safety Fair – Head Start staff partnered with various community agencies to create a fun evening for students and parents to learn about the health and safety resources in our community.
- Other events facilitated by Head Start parents and Community Members included;
 - Parent CPR/First Aid Training
 - American Education Week
 - College and career event at Western Wyoming Community College
 - Budgeting class

- Hygiene products pantry
- Career options event with workforce services
- STRIVE (facilitated by the YWCA) – job skill training, resume building, interview and public speaking skills.

School Readiness

Sweetwater County School District #1 Head Start is a quality Early Childhood program that specializes in providing our students with the most optimal learning experiences possible to give the students a “Head Start” when beginning kindergarten. The 2022-2023 school year brought both challenges and advantages when assessing students’ skills. With lower teacher-student ratio in classrooms, teachers were able to connect, observe and facilitate learning more individually which provided great growth in our students.

Head Start utilizes quality research-based curriculums, assessment tools and best practice. The 2022-2023 assessment tool that we utilize at Head Start is the Child Observation Record (COR). We believe students learn best through the interactions with their peers and teachers in their natural learning environment. COR enables the teachers to monitor development and achievement in areas such as Social Relations, Mathematics, and Science using authentic anecdotal notes that occur naturally throughout the day. The teachers collaborate with co-teachers, parents, and management to plan for and support continued growth in each learning area.

Head Start Teachers use each child’s outcome data to individualize lesson plans and curriculum to work with each child’s development. Analysis of the data at each collection helps us establish individual goals, determine learning progress, and measure teaching effectiveness. Our data consistently shows that the majority of children entering our program do not have the skills expected for their age, but by the end of the year they demonstrate a great deal of developmental and cognitive growth.

Social/Emotional competence is highly important to academic success. We devote a good deal of time to developing that competence. This is assessed in the Social/Emotional domain, and it is also part of the Approaches to Learning domain. “Approaches to Learning focuses on how children learn and the skills and behaviors that children use to engage in learning.” (Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework). Assessing children in the Approaches to Learning domain helps us document strengths and needs in the areas of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral self-regulation. It helps us to ensure we provide opportunities for children to take initiative, to expand on their curiosity, and to use their creativity. Analyzing the data in this domain guides teaching practices. The way children engage in learning influences all development and is important for future success in school.

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework:

Central Domains					
	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Literacy	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
Infant / Toddler Domains	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
Preschooler Domains	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Mathematics Development	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
			Literacy	Scientific Reasoning	

CLASS-The Classroom Assessment Scoring System

CLASS is an observation instrument that assesses the quality of teacher-child interactions in center-based preschool classrooms. It monitors three domains of the interactions that support children's learning and development: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. The CLASS scoring system is used in Federal Monitoring of Head Start classrooms. To ensure impactful child-teacher interactions, SCSD#1 Head Start conducts CLASS observations and scores classrooms to ensure our high-quality expectations and standards are maintained.

Health Services

Health, Nutrition and Mental Health

Sweetwater County School District #1 Head Start supports children's learning and wellness through comprehensive health and nutritional services. We make every effort to ensure that students are connected to a doctor or clinic in order to receive a complete, age-appropriate health assessment. Health screenings are performed throughout the school year. Screenings determine hearing, vision, developmental, dental, or mental health needs. We encourage healthy food choices by offering two nutritious meals at school and through early education activities as well as a snack at school for our full day students. Our Health Services Manager works throughout the year to connect families with a healthcare provider in our area.

Health Stats

Physical Health

- 92 children were up-to-date on a schedule of well-child care.
- 37 children diagnosed with any chronic condition by a health care professional
 - 36 of these received medical treatment for their diagnosed chronic health condition.

Dental Health

- 78 children received dental exams.
- 6 children needed dental treatment.

Mental Health

- 5 children received play therapy through our Southwest Counseling Services partner.
- 4 child received play therapy through local providers
- 100 children participated in a classroom social skills group

Nutrition

We encourage healthy food choices by offering two nutritious meals to both full day and part day students at school and through early education activities. Our full day students also received a snack at school. Our Health Services Manager and nutrition staff develop interesting, appealing menus and ensure Head Start children have opportunities for a wide variety of taste and flavor experiences through offerings of foods that may not be familiar to them. Our staff prepare foods from scratch in our kitchen and have eliminated most processed foods from our menus.

Financial Information

Our Head Start program is financially supported several ways as the chart below illustrates. Providing quality services to children and families could not be done without a variety of funding source. The breakdown of funding is provided below for the 2022/2023 school year.

Revenues		
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services/Head Start	\$	1,385,522.75
USDA (Child and Adult Care Food Program)	\$	76,566.80
Community Services Block Grant (Budget Period 10/01/22 - 9/30/23)	\$	32,654.27
Non-Federal Share	\$	399,039.45
Total	\$	1,893,783.27

Budgeted Expenses Versus Actual Expenses

Head Start Federal Funding

Budget Period 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2023

Category	Budget	Actual
Personnel	\$ 807,948.00	\$ 761,934.52
Fringe Benefits	\$ 307,190.00	\$ 316,628.76
Travel	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies	\$ 179,506.00	\$ 214,086.36
Contractual	\$ -	\$ -
Construction	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 111,660.00	\$ 92,873.11
Total	\$ 1,406,304.00	\$ 1,385,522.75
Federal Share	\$ 1,406,304.00	\$ 1,385,522.75
Non-Federal Share	\$ 341,382.00	\$ 399,039.45
Total Federal & Non-Federal	\$ 1,747,686.00	\$ 1,784,562.20

Program Governance 2022-2023

Board of Trustees

Carol Jelaco – Chairman
Stephanie Thompson-Vice Chairman
Cole Wright-Clerk
Andrea Summers – Treasurer
Danielle Schumacher – Trustee
Anjelica Wood – Trustee
Kari Cochran-Trustee

SCSD#1 Superintendent

Kelly McGovern

Head Start Policy Council Members

Clark Allred – Chair (Community Member)
Roxana Cheatwood– Vice Chair
David Bedsworth
Shawn Pyer
Monica Stephenson
Will Lindsay (Community Member)
Tara Thompson
Tim Wilcock
Carrie Parker
Morgan Haddock
Brytton Jorgensen
Ciria Luque

Stephanie Thompson – SCSD#1 Board Liaison
Head Start Executive Director: Ryan Allen
Head Start Director : Lisa DeBernardi

Federal & Fiscal Monitoring

The Office of Head Start uses the Head Start Monitoring System to measure the performance and accountability of Head Start programs across the country. The Office of Head Start assess grantee compliance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards, the Head Start Act, and other regulations. The reviews focus on a program's performance, progress and compliance, and also provides an opportunity for continuous improvement. The Office of Head Start conducted a virtual Focus Area 2 Federal Monitoring Review of our program in March 2021. There were no findings or areas out of compliance. No additional follow-up was needed.

An annual audit for fiscal year 2022 was completed in June 2023 by Skogen, Cometto and Associates an independent auditor, with no findings.

The Office of Head Start awarded our program a five-year grant for the project period of July1, 2023 to June 30, 2028.

Our Strategic Five-Year Goals 2018-2023

Goal #1: Engage and collaborate with community agencies serving Head Start children and families to strengthen success and build additional partnerships to share and support sustainability of Head Start.

Goal #2: Increase opportunities for families based on individualized plans to respond to family needs, increase self-sufficiency, stabilize safe and healthy environments, improve communication, and support leadership, and advocacy for their children's success.

Goal #3: Support recruiting and hiring of qualified staff to meet Head Start requirements and identify professional development, continuing education and opportunities for ongoing mentoring and coaching.

Goal #4: Continue to build a data management system that ensures accuracy, protects confidentiality, and makes data available for shared analysis and decisions to support and improve quality of services.

Goal #5: Develop a system of health and wellness for staff, parents, and children.

SCSD#1 Head Start is committed to providing children with a high-quality early learning experience, built on a foundation of research, that prepares them for success in kindergarten and beyond. We continue to build a path of continuous quality improvement as we seek new ways to create the biggest impact on the children and families we serve.

Thank you!

Thank you to all those who have helped our Head Start program. Your time and talents mean so much to the success of our program.