Head Start is a national child development program for preschool children that promotes the school readiness of children from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development.

Created in 1965, Head Start is the most successful, longest running national school readiness program in the United States for preschool children that also supports and empowers families.

Prince William County Public Schools was awarded the Head Start grant from the Department of Health and Human Services in 1990 and serves Pre-Kindergarten students residing in Prince William County and Manassas Park.

Prince William County’s Head Start program is funded to serve 397 students. Due to family relocations, a total of 427 students entered Head Start during the program year. There are at least 1500 eligible children in Prince William County and Manassas Park (3 to 5 years old) who qualify for the program, however remain unserved due to the lack of additional funding.

### 2018-2019 Student Demographic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of children</th>
<th># of children</th>
<th>Eligibility Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>VPI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Enrolled based on receipt of public assistance or SSI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>318</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Enrolled based on income eligibility (below 100% of the federal poverty guideline PGL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>Enrolled within 100-130% PGL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Enrollment due to Foster Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Enrolled due to status of Homeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>Enrolled within 130%-200% PGL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Enrollment

A total of 421 Head Start and 391 VPI families were served throughout the 2018-2019 school year.

### Attendance

The overall daily attendance rate for the program was 91% (Head Start) and 92% (VPI).

Prince William County Public Schools Strategic Plan Goal 1 - Student Achievement: All students meet high standards of performance. Objective 1.1.6: The Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for individual schools and the Division will be at least 95%.
Highly Qualified Staff

Each Head Start teacher has a Virginia Teaching Certificate and either a bachelor’s or a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education. Currently, nine teachers hold a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education and nine teachers hold a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education.

Prince William County Public Schools Strategic Plan Goal 4 – Qualified Work Force: Employees are highly qualified (as defined by VDOE), high performing, and diverse. Objective 4.1: Recruit and hire highly qualified instructional personnel.

Curriculum in Head Start

Curriculum plays a critical role in achieving Head Start’s School Readiness Goals. Prince William County Head Start implements High Scope Curriculum, Conscious Discipline, and Second Step Violence Prevention to engage children academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. All three of these are correlated with Virginia’s Foundation Blocks for Early Learning, the Virginia Kindergarten Standards of Learning, and Head Start’s Child Development and Early Learning Fundamentals. In Head Start, curriculum is taught using sound child development principles and the best practices of teaching.

Curriculum websites:
High Scope [www.highscope.org/](http://www.highscope.org/)
Conscious Discipline [www.consciousdiscipline.com/](http://www.consciousdiscipline.com/)
Second Step [https://www.secondstep.org/early-learning-curriculum](https://www.secondstep.org/early-learning-curriculum)

Inclusive Classrooms

Head Start has developed a Dual Language Instructional Policy which details best practices for teachers to use in fostering a language rich environment for all students. The policy specifically outlines strategies to reach Dual Language Learners and addresses Dual Language Family Involvement. Sixty-one percent of all students are English language learners.

Prince William County Head Start enrolls children with speech and language impairment and developmental delays. During the 2018-2019 school year, a total of 55 children with special needs were served, representing 13% of the enrolled children. Students who require additional speech and language skills are provided services by a Speech and Language Pathologist during the school day. Those with developmental delays are served by a Resource Teacher who visits the classroom for 1-3 hours per week or by an Inclusion Teacher, who is assigned to the classroom four hours per day. The Resource Teachers, Inclusion Teachers, and Head Start Teachers provide a variety of strategies to help all children access the curriculum.

Proficiency Data

Assessments help guide instruction and individualization for each student in conjunction with intentional teaching based on classroom observation of students. The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS-PreK) is administered to students in the fall and spring. This screening assesses the children’s emerging literacy awareness. The chart below depicts the gains that children made during the school year compared to the state benchmarks.
The Head Start program assesses children’s development three times a year to measure progress of the Head Start Performance Outcomes and adjusts teaching strategies and individual support to ensure that all students are mastering these standards. The graph below shows the progress made over the last 4 years and the percentage of children that are proficient in all the curriculum areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social and Emotional Development</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approaches to Learning</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Development</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Health and Development</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
<td>99.1%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prince William County Public School Strategic Plan Goal 1 - Student Achievement: All Students meet high standards of performance. Objective 1.1: Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed achievement performance levels.
School Readiness

After analyzing the 2017-18 Head Start Child Outcome Framework data, the following goals were identified. The information below shows the progress from the Winter assessment in January and the progress made at the end of the year in the Spring assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Readiness Goal</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reasoning &amp; problem solving</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Control</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter identification</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>97.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sounds and syllables</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>94.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counting to 10</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical operations</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collect, describe, discuss, and record information</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase movement</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine motor skills</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classroom Quality

Virginia Quality assigns independent raters to examine the classroom quality in the areas of basic health and safety, education and qualifications, curriculum and assessment, environment, and interactions. Ratings are indicated in levels ranging from 1 (low) to 5 (high). The following data shows all current Head Start classrooms results.

Health

“You can’t educate a child that isn’t healthy, and you can’t keep a child healthy that isn’t educated” - Former Surgeon General, Jocelyn Elders, MD.

Educating families on the importance of preventative healthcare is the cornerstone of Head Start. The Head Start staff works closely with families to obtain physical and dental examinations for all children, as well as assists with any needed medical follow up.
Head Start holds Health Fairs annually, during the Summer and offers a variety of services to families. Parents meet one on one with the Head Start Nurse, Dietitian, and Mental Health Specialist to talk about their children’s health and any concerns they may have.

Children receive vision, hearing, and developmental screenings, and their parents receive information on parent involvement opportunities, how to enroll in GED or ESOL classes, as well as meeting with local health, dental, and insurance providers to learn more about keeping their family healthy.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Head Start used the Welch Allyn Spot vision screener. The Spot Vision Screener can detect measurements for Myopia (near-sighted) and Hyperopia (far-sighted) which are what a near or distance vision test looks for. In addition, Spot detects 3 amblyopic risk factors (Hyperopia, Strabismus (Gaze) and Anisometropia (unequal refractive power) as well as Astigmatism (blurred vision) and Anisocoria (unequal pupil size). This screening process results in detecting vision problems, treating the child earlier, and helping the child start school with a clearer view of the world. A total of 76 children received glasses during the school year from these screenings.

The Lions Club was instrumental in screening children and assisted 2 families, without insurance, in receiving follow up evaluation and glasses. Head Start has also utilized 5 vision certificates from Sight for Students, a program that offers free vision follow up and glasses, for uninsured students.

The Head Start program also offers free Adult, Child and Infant CPR/First Aid classes to parents to become certified; this year 57 Head Start parents became certified.

Prince William County Public Schools Strategic Plan Goal 2: Climate—The teaching, learning, and working environment is safe, caring, healthy, and values human diversity. Objective 2.2: Promote and ensure safe, responsible, and healthy behavior.

### Mental Health

Head Start uses Conscious Discipline to enhance children’s social emotional development. This evidence-based learning program provides opportunities for children to understand personal safety, express internal feelings, self-regulate, and develop problem-solving skills. Children leave the program with a greater sense of independence and a positive self-image.

The program’s Mental Health Specialist helps identify children’s specific strengths and needs through classroom observations to provide individualized behavioral support. Each child’s social and emotional growth is assessed through the e-DECA screening tool. The program also offers free parenting education and materials to build mental health awareness, reduce family stress, and strengthen the parent-child relationship.

Other services provided by the Mental Health Specialist to Head Start families include:

- 411 observations of enrolled children were conducted
- 112 parents were provided with consultations; 16 parents were provided 3 or more consultations and 136 parents indicated in the parent survey that the program had helped them understand typical behavioral of young children.
- 14 children and/or families were referred for mental health services; 10 received services
- 16 home visits were completed
- 73 parents attended Conscious Discipline training; (through workshops and home visits); 72 parents who answered the parent survey stated they utilized training techniques
- 16 parents attended Stress Management training
Prince William County Public Schools Strategic Plan Goal 2: Climate—The teaching, learning, and working environment is safe, caring, healthy, and values human diversity. Objective 2.2: Promote and ensure safe, responsible, and healthy behavior. 2.2.1 Increase positive behavior supports such that the disproportionate numbers of discipline referrals for economically disadvantaged students, limited English proficient students, students with disabilities, and students from each racial/ethnic category will decrease Division wide.

Nutrition

Through role modeling, positive reinforcement, and daily conversations, teachers promote healthy behaviors in the classroom. Leading initiatives such as Head Start’s I am Moving- I am Learning and USDA’s MyPlate are used in conjunction with nutritionist developed monthly menus, plus fresh fruit and vegetable snacks from local farmers.

Every month, parents receive nutrition, activity, and health tips through the “Tastes of Health” newsletter. Annual nutrition classes are offered by a Registered Dietitian. These educational opportunities provide parents with the knowledge on how to choose healthy, affordable food for their families.

All children’s growth, intake, and medical information is reviewed by the Registered Dietitian and nutritional concerns are discussed with the child’s family. During the year, children are monitored for growth changes. Those who are above the 95th percentile or below the 5th percentile on the Body Mass Index for age and gender are followed throughout the school year by the Registered Dietitian. Children above the 95th percentile for BMI receive additional nutrition education and are encouraged to increase physical activity. Head Start also has two Masimo Hemoglobin testing machines. They are used to recheck the hemoglobin levels of children whose hemoglobin level was below normal when they entered Head Start.

Parent Community Engagement

Parent engagement is an important component of the Head Start program. Family engagement is about building relationships with families that support family well-being, strong relationships between parents and their children, and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children.

Head Start encourages parents to volunteer in the classroom and participate in a variety of training and educational activities. During 2018-2019, the number of volunteers who were current or former Head Start parents was 414. The parent volunteer rate was 81%. A total of 100 fathers volunteered in the classroom during the school year. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of parents participated in at-home learning activities with their child.

Family Service Workers met with each family to assist parents in setting family goals. Most of family goals were related to Adult Education/ESOL, Health, Employment, Parenting, and Asset Building (Income/budgeting). Ninety-two percent (92%) of families made progress towards their family goals.
Over 597 family goals were completed during 2018-19.

Collaboration with community partners such as Kids and Family Dental, Lifetime Dental, Manassas Park Free Clinic, Nextcare, Northern Virginia Community College, Prince William County Schools Adult Education Program, Apple Federal Credit Union, Northern Virginia Family Services, as well as many other community agencies helped ensure families related to the necessary resources to reach their goals.

**During 2018-19:**
- 78 parents enrolled in ESOL classes
- 20 parents enrolled in GED classes
- 51 parents enrolled in college classes
  
**An increase of 66 parents from 2017-18**

**Federal Review**

Department of Health and Human Services Office of Head Start Federal Review and financial audit results:

The most recent monitoring review of the Head Start program was conducted in 2017. The Prince William County Head Start program was found in full compliance with all Federal Laws pertaining to Head Start Key Performance Indicators and Environmental Health and Safety, and CLASS.

As part of the requirements of our Head Start grant, Prince William County Schools must complete an annual audit. The audit for 2017-18 had no Head Start compliance issues. A complete copy of the 2017-18 fiscal audit is available in the Prince William County Public Schools Department of Finance.

Prince William County Public School Strategic Plan Goal 5 - Organizational Alignment: The organizational system is aligned and equitable. Objective 5.3: Maintain the fiscal integrity of the School Division. 5.1: Align school and department/office plans with School Division goals and school needs.
## Prince William Preschool Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel:</td>
<td>2,526,758</td>
<td>985,289</td>
<td>1,592,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits:</td>
<td>848,292</td>
<td>345,767</td>
<td>536,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel:</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies:</td>
<td>77,720</td>
<td>69,617</td>
<td>164,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>232,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>181,768</td>
<td>52,052</td>
<td>161,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; Technical Assistance</td>
<td>42,831</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>3,677,369</td>
<td>1,452,725</td>
<td>2,695,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Federal Share:</td>
<td>919,342</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>552,338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prince William County Public School Strategic Plan Goal 5 - Organizational Alignment: The organizational system is aligned and equitable. Objective 5.2: Maintain an equitable and effective use of available funds. 5.2.3: Funding ratios for schools and departments will be reviewed to ensure current needs are met within budgetary constraints.
Community partners, investment partners and board members who support the work Head Start began in 1965 and who continue to work with us to make the future brighter and better for Head Start children and families throughout Virginia.
School Board
Babur B. Lateef, M.D.
Chairman At-Large

Mr. Justin David Wilk
Vice Chairman
Potomac District

Mr. William J. Deutsch
Coles District

Mrs. Alyson A. Satterwhite
Gainesville District

Mrs. Lillie G. Jessie
Occoquan District

Mr. Gil Trenum
Brentsville District

Ms. Diane L. Raulston
Neabsco District

Ms. Loree Y. Williams
Woodbridge District

Mr. Sasan Faraj
Student Representative

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Steven L. Walts

Superintendent’s Staff

Mr. Keith A. Imon
Deputy Superintendent

Mrs. Jarcelynn M. Hart
Associate Superintendent for Western Elementary Schools

Mr. William G. Bixby
Associate Superintendent for Middle Schools

Mrs. Denise M. Huebner
Associate Superintendent for Eastern Elementary Schools

Mr. Al Ciarochi
Associate Superintendent for Support Services

Mr. Michael A. Mulgrew
Associate Superintendent for High Schools

Mr. R. Todd Erickson
Associate Superintendent for Central Elementary Schools

Mr. John M. Wallingford
Associate Superintendent for Finance and Risk Management

Mrs. Rita Everett Goss
Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability

Mrs. Amy A. White
Associate Superintendent for Human Resources

Associate Superintendent for Communications and Technology Services

Prince William County Public Schools does not discriminate in employment or in its educational programs, services, and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, veteran status, disability, genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by law.