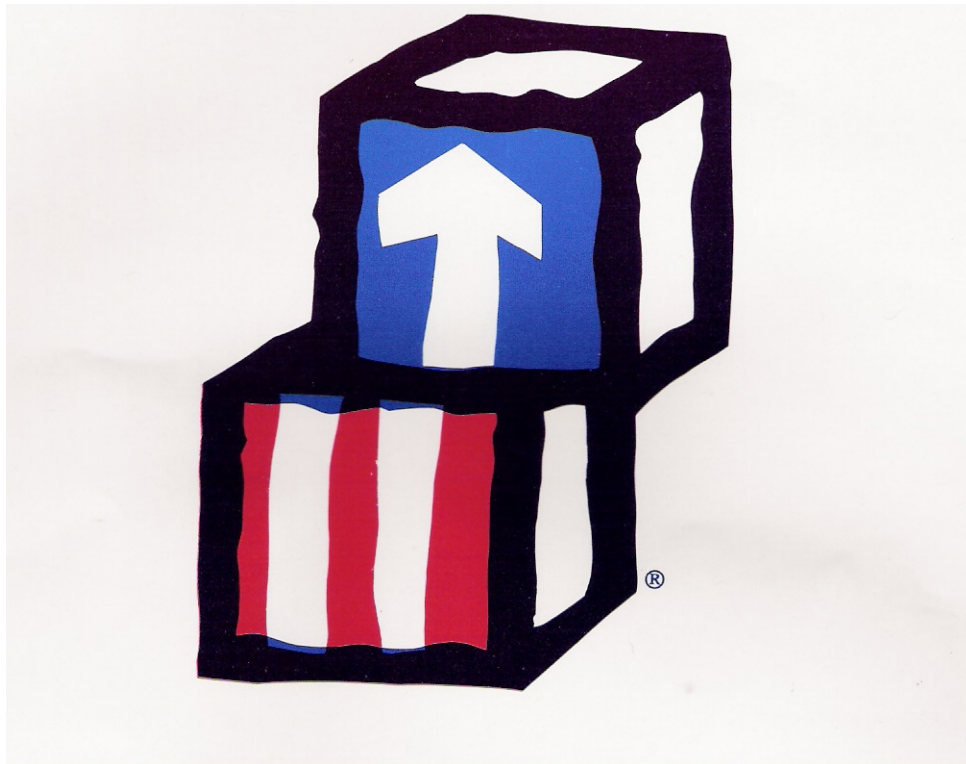


**LAFOURCHE PARISH
HEAD START**
Annual Report to the Public, 2016
Serving Lafourche since 1991



LPHS Mission Statement: *We produce self-sufficiency and self-esteem by educating children and families today for a better tomorrow.*

Head Start is a national preschool program which provides educational and social opportunities to nurture the healthy development of children. Under provisions contained in the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*, Head Start programs are required to make available to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal year that discloses the following information from the most recently concluded fiscal year, except that reporting such information shall not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual child or parent.

Lafourche Parish Head Start is more than just an educational system. It is a community service, a community outreach, a social service, a medical service, and an overall comprehensive program to meet the needs of the families we serve and to educate those families in fostering self-sufficiency. We also encourage and promote transitional services/activities to prepare the children and families prior to attending the local school or public school districts.

Enrollment is based upon a screening system of awarding points to a set of criteria, centering around age and income. The child must be at least three years old before September 30 of the current year. No child under three can be enrolled. Therefore, the common age of Head Start children in a classroom is three or four. Another common factor of the average Head Start child/family is limited or low income.

Overall, we work as a partner in the community we serve. Interagency agreements are common in the delivery of a comprehensive set of services to children.

GOVERNING BOARD:

The *Lafourche Parish Council* is the Governing Board for the Lafourche Parish Head Start Program. This board is the group that is legally responsible for the overseeing of operations of the Head Start program. The *Lafourche Parish Head Start Policy Council* is a group that works in partnership with the grantee, key management staff, and the overall goals of the program.

FUNDING:

Budget Period: January 1-December 31
Program (school) Year: August 2015-May 2016

FY16: Lafourche Parish Head Start received a total of	\$2,607,842
Allocated as follows:	
Head Start Program Operations:	\$2,607,842
Head Start Training and Technical Assistance:	\$28,432

BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2016:

PERSONNEL	\$1,597,211
FRINGE	\$ 613,008
TRAVEL	\$ 0
EQUIPMENT	\$ 0
SUPPLIES	\$ 75,769
CONTRACTUAL (meals)	\$ 70,000
CONSTRUCTION	\$ 0
OTHER	\$ 251,855

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED,
2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR:**

LPHS is funded to serve 292 three and four year old children. Actual number of children served was 325.

The Head Start sites are:

North Lafourche- Thibodaux area:

Martin Luther King Head Start, 1 classroom

Marydale Head Start, 1 classroom

Thibodaux Head Start, 5 classrooms

Central Lafourche area:

MGC Head Start, 3 classrooms

Bayou Blue Head Start, 1 classroom

Raceland Head Start, 1 classroom

South Lafourche –Galliano area:

South Lafourche Head Start, 3 classrooms

The lead teacher in all 15 classrooms has an AA or BA/BS degree in early childhood.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Our Head Start program provides a nine month school year (160 days) for children, August through May, with services to parents/children beginning in mid- August; utilizes a 6 1/2 hour day schedule; and follows the Lafourche Parish School System calendar for holidays.

ENROLLMENT, 2015-16:

Average monthly enrollment was **87.12 %** Percentage of eligible children served:

- 86.65% at or below poverty guidelines
- 7.19% 101% to 130% above poverty guidelines
- 6.16% above 130% of poverty guidelines

We maintain a waiting list for all sites to assure full funded enrollment and ongoing services to as many families as possible. Priority will be given to children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten the following year. This program attempts to enroll a minimum of 10% of children with disabilities as participants in the Head Start program.

PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLED CHILDREN THAT RECEIVED MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAMS IN THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR:

100 % of enrolled children received medical exams

99.9 % of enrolled children received dental exams

RESULTS OF THE 2016 FEDERAL REVIEW:

All Head Start programs undergo extensive Federal Reviews. 10-15% of Head Starts qualify for the modified Five-Year Differential Monitoring Process. Lafourche Parish qualified based on the previous review results, fiscal review results, audit results and the Regional Office Input.

During the month of February 2016, LPHS went through the **HSKI-C**. The HSKI-C is used to gather information to assess the grantee’s performance across the following content areas:

Fiscal Integrity

Leadership and Governance

Management Systems

Comprehensive Services and School Readiness, which includes Child Health & Safety, Family & Community Engagement, and Child Development & Education.

We were compliant in all areas and therefore LPHS met the eligibility criteria to proceed with the Differential Monitoring Process.

In March LPHS participated in the **Environmental Health and Safety Review**. This instrument is used to gather information to assess the grantee performance in ensuring safe and healthy environments for children, families and staff.

Based on the information gathered during the **HISK-C** and **Environmental Health and Safety** review, it was determined that this Head Start program is in compliance with all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT FINANCIAL AUDIT:

The most recent financial audit for Lafourche Parish Government contained no findings or non-compliances.

RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT CACFP AUDIT:

In April the State of Louisiana audited our program operations and compliance with Federal and state requirements. The review was accepted and closed.

RESULTS OF THE CLASS OBSERVATIONS:

Observations by local and outside observers were conducted in each classroom using the Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). The CLASS tool looks at three domains and ten dimensions of teacher-child interactions and measures those observed interactions on a seven point scale. The results were:

Domain: Emotional Support: Score of 5.41 out of 7

Domain: Classroom Organization: Score of 4.71 out of 7

Domain: Instructional Support: Score of 3.34 out of 7

MEMBER OF THE LAFOURCHE PARISH EARLY CHILDHOOD NETWORK: Participated in a collaborative leadership structure, network meetings, and developed a unified application process with the Lafourche Parish School System and Early childhood centers that receive **Child Care Assistance Program** (CCAP) funding.

INFORMATION ABOUT PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES, 2015-16:

Parents are the most important people in their child's world. Thus, LPHS takes an active role in the fostering of parent education and engagement. Our program provides a variety of opportunities for parents to become engaged throughout the program year.

Parents are engaged in a parent night orientation where they are introduced to the many opportunities to learn and participate in the program. During orientation, parents are presented with extensive resources provided in our parent handbook to begin the process of helping families connect with what they need to aid them in the health, safety, education, and empowerment of their family. These resources are updated annually with the input of the Family Services Specialists.

Parent engagement occurs most commonly through home visits or as parents spend time in Head Start classrooms. Parents also have the opportunity to be engaged in activities such as:

- Parent Committee meetings;
- Parent-teacher conferences;
- Open House;
- Fall Family Fest;
- Registration; Parent Orientation activities;
- Let's Get Acquainted Days;
- Program quarterly committees such as (1) Education/Transition, (2) Health Advisory, (3) Family Involvement, (4) Facilities/Licensing, (5) Program Governance/Fiscal, and (6) ERSEA;
- Policy Council meetings;
- Volunteering in various program activities; field trips
- Interview teams to hire new staff;
- The LPHS Self-Assessment process;
- Male Involvement activities.
- Selection Criteria Committee
- Family Swing Out

A Parenting Center is located at the Marydale Head Start site in Thibodaux. Also located at this site is an office for two Family Involvement Specialists. Another Parenting Center is located in the Lockport area at the MGC Head Start site, housing a Family Involvement Specialist. Another

Family Involvement Specialist is located at the South Lafourche Head Start site.

LAFOURCHE PARISH HEAD START'S EFFORTS TO PREPARE CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN,

The Lafourche Parish Head Start readiness goals are aligned with:

- The Head Start Child Outcomes Framework
- The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework
- The Louisiana State Early Learning Standards

CURRICULUM and STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

The LPHS program utilizes T.S. Gold (Creative Curriculum), a research-based, nationally recognized curriculum, which outlines goals in the eight domains of learning including:

- social emotional development,
- approaches to learning,
- literacy,
- language development,
- math,
- science,
- creative arts,
- physical health/ development,

The program guides the staff in the provision of materials and activities to support these goals in preparing children for kindergarten. Experiences are provided in classrooms and homes to meet the child's individual needs and stimulate learning in all developmental areas, with strong emphasis on language/cognitive skills, early literacy skills, and the development of positive social and learning skills. Health educational activities in the curriculum include daily tooth brushing, monthly nutrition activities, and other activities designed to encourage development of healthy habits and reduce fear and anxiety related to preventive care exams.

LPHS staff utilize an individualized observation and planning process for each child/family. Staff assess, with the parent, the child's developmental strengths and needs across the eight domains of learning. Information is obtained through informal interviews with the parent, on-going TSG (Teaching Strategies Gold) Assessment tools, and, if applicable, information from a child's Individual Family Services Plan or Individualized Education Plan. Information from these sources is then used to individualize experiences and services for children and families, and to create ongoing plans to address the child's developmental objectives and goals.

LPHS also provides information to parents of children with special needs, such as parent-friendly articles describing the special education process, individualized education plans, parents' rights in special education, and community resources. Lafourche Parish Public Schools provide services to Head Start children with IEPs.

LPHS staff, parents and collaborating agencies plan activities to support children's transition to kindergarten. Such opportunities may include attending school functions or libraries, going on classroom visits, and meeting with kindergarten teachers, principals, and special educators.

Lafourche Parish Head Start has a collaborative agreement with Lafourche Parish Public Schools that promotes a seamless transition from Head Start to kindergarten.

Respectfully submitted by:

Vicki Adams
Lafourche Parish Head Start Director