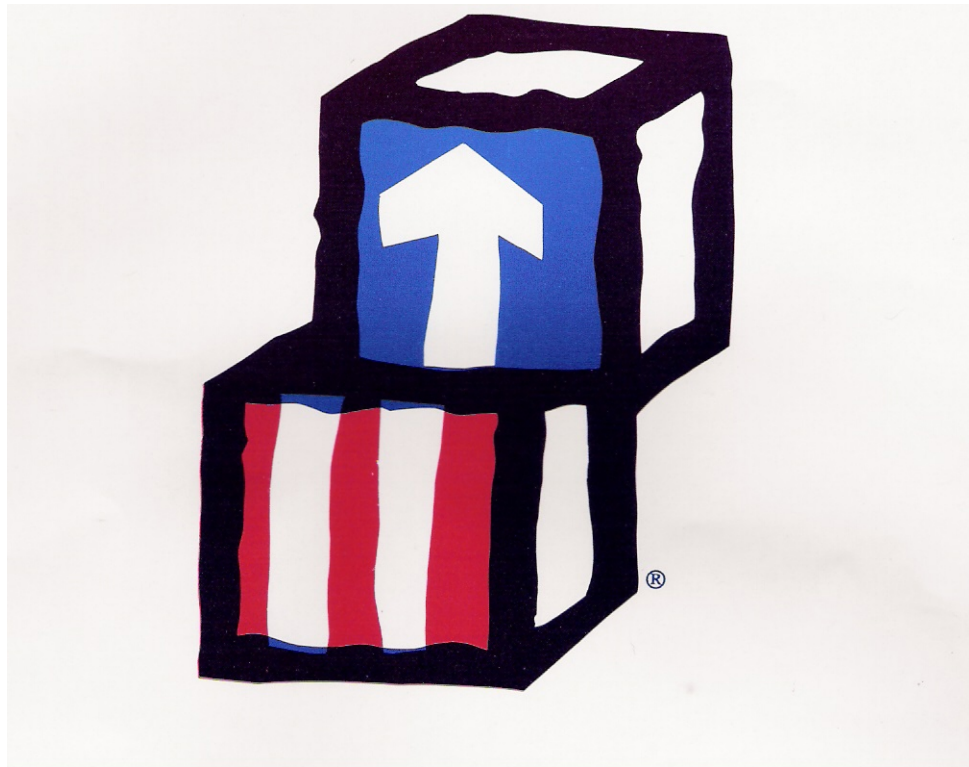


**LAFOURCHE PARISH
HEAD START**
Annual Report to the Public, 2019
Serving Lafourche since 1991



Revised September 2019
Presented to Policy Council September 2019
Presented to the Parish Council September 2019

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 income, age, homelessness, and foster care. 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 BOARDS:

The ***Lafourche Parish Council*** is the Governing Board for the Lafourche Parish Head Start Program. The Council is elected by single-member districts delineated by legislative power. The Lafourche Parish Council/Head Start Governing Board is legally responsible for the organization and is the principal policy-making unit. The governing body formulates the financial policies, reviews operations and activities, and has the legal and fiscal responsibility for the Head Start agency. It safeguards Federal funds. The Lafourche Parish Head Start Executive Director is the Lafourche Parish President.

The ***Lafourche Parish Head Start Policy Council*** is made up of 51% parents and 49 % Community Representatives. This group works in partnership with the grantee and key management staff, and also assists the program in meeting the overall goals of the program. The Policy Council is responsible for the direction of the Head Start program, including program design and operation, and long-term and short-term planning goals and objectives. The Community Assessment and Self-Assessment serves as guidance for the Policy Council. Issues with parents and community can be addressed with the Policy Council.

The direction given to the Head Start Management Team by the Policy Council was for Head Start to focus on the following:

- Safety
- Facilities
- Salaries
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Curriculum
- Technology

FUNDING:

Budget Period: January 1-December 31
Program (school) Year: August 2019-May 2020

FY18: Lafourche Parish Head Start received a total of \$2,832,849.00
Allocated as follows:
Head Start Program Operations: \$2,799,740.00
Head Start Training and Technical Assistance: \$33,109.00

BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2019 WITH 2019 COLA

PERSONNEL	\$ 1,864,111.00
FRINGE	\$ 483,565.00
TRAVEL	\$
EQUIPMENT	\$ 40,000.00
SUPPLIES	\$ 102,960.00
CONTRACTUAL (meals)	\$ 50,000.00
CONSTRUCTION	\$ 0
OTHER	\$ 259,103.00

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED,
2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR:**

LPHS is funded to serve 292 three-and four-year-old children. Actual number of children served was 336.

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 (163 days) for children, August through May, with services to parents/children beginning in mid-August; utilizes a 6 1/2hour-day schedule; and follows the Lafourche Parish School System calendar.

ENROLLMENT, 2018-2019:

Average monthly enrollment was 85.92%. Percentage of eligible children served:

- 56% At or below poverty guidelines
- 6% 101% to 130% above poverty guidelines
- 5% Above 130% of poverty guidelines
- 32% Homeless
- 4% Foster

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 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR:

- 100 % of enrolled children received medical exams
- 100 % of enrolled children received dental exams

RESULTS OF THE 2018-2019 STATE AND LOCAL REVIEW OF CLASS:

All Head Start programs undergo extensive Federal Reviews. The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 requires that the

Office of Head Start (OHS) monitor and include in the mentoring reviews of Head Start agencies a valid and reliable research-based observational instrument that assesses classroom quality, including the assessment of multiple dimensions of teacher-child interactions that are linked to positive child outcomes and later achievement. CLASS is also used by the State Department of Education to assess all 0-5 classrooms that receive CCAP funds.

Observations were conducted in 15 out of 15 Head Start Classrooms.

<i>DOMAIN</i>	<i>SCORE</i>	<i>DOMAIN</i>	<i>SCORE</i>	<i>DOMAIN</i>	<i>SCORE</i>
<i>Emotional Support</i>	<i>5.93 Proficient</i>	<i>Classroom Organization</i>	<i>5.40 Proficient</i>	<i>Instructional Support</i>	<i>3.96 Approaching Proficient</i>

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 February 2019, the State of Louisiana audited our program operations and compliance with Federal and State requirements. The review was accepted and closed.

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, 2018-19:

As their child’s first and most influential teacher, parents have an important role in Head Start. Thus, LPHS takes an active role in the fostering of parent education and engagement by embedding comprehensive family engagement in all aspects of the Head Start program.

With our open-door policy, parents are always welcome in the classroom by helping with or leading activities or projects, attending field trips, and

introducing or sharing their culture with the class. Parents engage in setting educational goals with their child's teacher during home visits and parent-teacher conferences. Other opportunities held for parent engagement activities include:

- Registrations
- Parent Orientation
- Let's Get Acquainted Days
- Open House
- Family Fall Fest
- Prime Time Literacy at Raceland and South Lafourche Head Start
- Male Involvement Activities
- Family Swing Out

Parents are encouraged to participate in parent committees and help shape program policies by being part of the Policy Council and committees of the council. Our recent Program Information Report (PIR) shows that 1,821 volunteers provided services to the program; and of these, 1,767 were current or former Head Start parents.

Our program provides a variety of opportunities for parents to become engaged throughout the program year. During the 2018-2019 program year, LPHS family involvement specialists worked with 146 families in various ways. Ranging from crisis intervention to education programs, to job assistance, the family involvement specialists worked diligently to assist families in setting and achieving their personal goals. Our program employs four Family Involvement Specialist located on sites to be available to parents to complete family assessments, form family partnerships, and measure family outcomes.

Our program held our second annual family literacy nights in each area for k-transition children. Through our PROMIS data base system, we texted reminders to families and extended a special invite to fathers. With this effort, we had an increase in male participation in our family literacy night from the 2017-2018 school year to 2018-2019.

LPHS purchased Parenting with Conscious Discipline to teach parents techniques being utilized in the classrooms. Parenting with Conscious Discipline was incorporated as individual Conscious Discipline parenting classes at our single site in Raceland. We also embedded some Conscious

Discipline mini sessions into parent committee meetings at our other locations. We also have a research-based parenting curriculum, *STEP, Systematic Training for Effective Parenting*, that we offer which will include Conscious Discipline skills and tips for parents.

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

Using results from all our assessment systems, it was determined that all LPHS students demonstrated growth in all areas of school readiness. All domains indicated 85% of students met or exceeded widely held expectations for TS GOLD. Therefore, we met our goal. As a member of the Lafourche Parish Early Childhood Network, our data is shared with the Louisiana Department of Education and Lafourche Parish Schools.

PROFILE DATA:

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

The Lafourche Parish Head Start has hired a Data Outcomes Specialist to ensure that the goals are being met.

COACHING:

The Lafourche Parish Head Start is following the Head Start Performance Standards and providing a full-time coach that meets the minimum of a baccalaureate degree in early childhood education. The Lafourche Parish Head Start program has implemented a research-based, coordinated coaching strategy for the education staff.

CURRICULUM AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

It is our belief that every child deserves to enter kindergarten ready to learn. The LPHS program purchased and is implementing a Tier 1 curriculum, *Creative Curriculum*. Teachers attended two one-day trainings with Carol Ayghana, one of the authors of *Creative Curriculum*. The assessment tool used by *Creative Curriculum* is TS Gold. We have focused our Professional

Development on both Creative Curriculum and TS GOLD. Areas assessed in TS GOLD include the following:

- 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.

According to the State Superintendent, John White, BESE has approved using 31 specific assessed items to aid in determining if children are "Kindergarten Ready."

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. Early Childhood SPED 619 Part B will also use TS GOLD assessment for children identified for special education services.

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:

Melissa Badeaux
Lafourche Parish Head Start Director