The Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) Head Start Program has been a part of the Kenosha community since 1965 serving children and families within the boundaries of the Kenosha Unified School District, which encompasses the City of Kenosha, Village of Pleasant Prairie and the Town of Somers. A total of 389 children were funded through the Federal Head Start grant and the State Supplemental Head Start grant for the 2012-2013 program year. Children attended half-day center based classrooms, 4 days a week at various locations throughout the community.

The KUSD Head Start program promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional and other services to enrolled children and families. Parents and community members are encouraged to volunteer their support in classrooms or in providing after school opportunities for parents.

In providing and expanding preschool services to all children within KUSD boundaries, preschool programs were aligned and integrated. KUSD integrated Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education, and 4 year old kindergarten under one umbrella called Early Education. This has resulted in a collaborative model that shares resources and staff while expanding opportunities for Head Start children to attend their neighborhood school where they will also attend kindergarten. This alignment provides the opportunity to strengthen the services that Head Start provides to children and families.

Kenosha Unified School District’s vision is “Maximizing the Brilliance of Children”, while the Mission is “To assure every child experiences high quality, personalized learning success.” The Head Start program goals are to improve student achievement by meeting or exceeding identified early learning standards, expand collaborative partnerships with families, community, and industry by expanding community based locations and secure resources by collaborating with all KUSD preschool programs and community child care centers.
2012-2013 Funding Sources

- Department of Health & Human Services (DHH), The Administration for Children & Families (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012) .......................................................... $1,925,079
- Training/Technical Assistance Funds .................................................................................. $31,315
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Head Start State Supplement .......... $340,725

Total Kenosha Head Start Program Budget ............................................................................. $2,297,119

2012-2013 Expenditures from DHH Funding Source

- Personnel .......................................................................................................................... $1,550,299
- Contracted Health Support ................................................................................................. $56,757
- Equipment Maintenance .................................................................................................... $1,000
- Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs ......................................................................................... $1,164
- Rent/Lease ........................................................................................................................ $177,667
- Utilities .............................................................................................................................. $40,000
- Mileage .............................................................................................................................. $808
- Postage ............................................................................................................................... $2,000
- Printing/Copying ................................................................................................................ $5,142
- Telephone ........................................................................................................................ $4,705
- General Supplies ............................................................................................................... $2,920
- Food Supplies .................................................................................................................... $10,012
- Software/Tech Equipment ................................................................................................. $8,832
- Admin of Program .............................................................................................................. $63,773
- Total ................................................................................................................................... $1,925,079
The Office of Head Start conducts on-site monitoring reviews every three years. The most recent review of the KUSD Head Start Program was conducted during the 2011-2012 program year. During the review, the program was found to be out of compliance in three areas. Each area of noncompliance was corrected within 120 days, making the program in full compliance with all Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE INFORMATION.

The KUSD Head Start program provides high quality educational and family services at no-cost for low-income children and families within the Kenosha Unified School District boundaries. The program is funded to provide services to 389 children at 15 locations in half day sessions, 4 days per week. Services throughout the year were provided to a cumulative 435 children. Of these children, 277 were at or below Federal poverty level, 92 families received Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), 14 were in foster care, 21 were homeless, and 35 families fell between 100-130% of the poverty level guidelines. There were 152 children on the active wait list that were not able to be served.

The program schedule follows the KUSD school calendar. Children attended for 3 hours and 12 minutes for 142 days. One program location at a community child care center provided full day wrap around care for children and their families.
Ages served throughout the 2012-2013 program year:
- 28% 3 Year Olds
- 72% 4 Year Olds

Race:
- 63% White
- 31% Black or African American
- 4% Biracial or Multi-Racial
- 1% Asian
- 0% American Indian/Alaska Native

Ethnicity:
- 50% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino Origin
- 50% Hispanic or Latino Origin

Primary Language of Family at Home:
- 67% English
- 31% Spanish
- 1% Unspecified Languages

Average Monthly Attendance 2012:
- Sept.: 95%
- Oct.: 91%
- Nov.: 92%
- Dec.: 88%
- Jan.: 89%
- Feb.: 91%
- Mar.: 90%
- Apr.: 92%
- May: 91%
- June: 92%
Outreach to families and the involvement of home and community are one of the most unique features of Head Start. Family Service Providers work with families to develop individualized family partnership plans. These plans incorporate family goals and the support needed to make the goals achievable. The KUSD Head Start Policy Council involves parents in the program decision making process and training opportunities to improve the overall KUSD Head Start Program design and management.

Parent education and activities are provided per site and at the program level. Opportunities provided at the site level included: Open House, Fire House Safety, Transition to Kindergarten Informational Meetings, Dr. Seuss Night, Family Fun Day, Family Game Night, Visits to Kenosha Museum, Libraries, Pumpkin Farm and local parks.
Healthy children are children who are ready to learn. At KUSD Head Start, our staff supports families to ensure that children are up-to-date on immunizations, health check-ups and dental screenings.

Health Services also provides children and families opportunities to learn about exercise and healthy food choices.

At the time of enrollment in the Head Start program year, 86% of children had continuous access to health care, 77% had the same type of access to dental care. At the end of the enrollment year, the percentage of children who had continuous access to health care was 94%, dental care was 94%. A strong collaborative relationship with community agencies in offering programs and services contributed to this increase.

88% of enrolled children received a medical exam

95% of enrolled children received a dental exam
Kenosha Community Health Center (KCHC) is a nonprofit organization offering the under served citizens of Kenosha County comprehensive healthcare and dental care which enables our families to maintain their well-being by addressing health disparities and providing access for all. A point of contact was established between KCHC and the Head Start program in order to effectively assist parents in scheduling health exams for children. KCHC also provided direct access in scheduling dental exams for 31 Head Start children per month.

Health Services Advisory consists of representatives from the Kenosha Health Department, Kenosha Community Health Center, Kenosha Head Start, UW-Extension, Wisconsin Infants and Children, a local Pediatric Dentist, Pediatrician, Optometrist, and Audiologist. Members of this committee advocate for the children and families of the community by connecting their resources and programs.

Kenosha County Health Department assures the delivery of health services to prevent disease, maintain and promote health, and to protect and preserve a healthy environment for all citizens of Kenosha County. Semi-annual Car Seat Giveaways are conducted for Head Start families. This included a free check and installation of each car seat. Head Start families were encouraged to contact the Health Department for lead poison screenings.

University of Wisconsin- Parkside provided a physician assistant student to assist the Head Start program in providing vision, hearing, and blood pressure screening for the Head Start students.

University of Wisconsin - Extension provided training and education about the importance of proper hygiene, healthy eating habits, physical activity, and preparing nutritional meals. Six classroom sessions allowed children to increase their awareness of a variety of healthy foods consistent with 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPyramid for Kids. They also learned the importance of physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle. Parents were offered a 6 week class called Eating Smart – Being Active. Cooking demonstrations, recipes, fun ways to keep children active, and ideas for healthy low-cost meals and snacks were given.
The Kenosha Unified Head Start program provides all children with a safe, nurturing, engaging, enjoyable, and secure learning environment.

All staff in the Kenosha Unified Head Start program follow The Creative Curriculum System for Preschool. The Creative Curriculum for Preschool is based on five fundamental principles. They guide practice and help us understand the reasons for intentionally setting up and operating preschool programs in particular ways. These are the principles:

- Positive interactions and relationships with adults provide a critical foundation for successful learning.
- Social-emotional competence is a significant factor in school success.
- Constructive, purposeful play supports essential learning.
- The physical environment affects the type and quality of learning interactions.
- Teacher-family partnerships promote development and learning.

(From the Creative Curriculum System® for Preschool, Volume One: The Foundation, p. 3)

In addition to The Creative Curriculum System for Preschool, the Kenosha Unified Head Start program uses Second Step®, a Violence Prevention Curriculum. Second Step® teaches children the skills of empathy, emotion management, and problem-solving.

Assessment is the process of gathering information about children in order to make decisions and support children’s learning. A process of ongoing assessment enables teachers to gather information about each child in order to plan instruction and ensure that every child is making progress. The Kenosha Unified Head Start program uses Teaching Strategies GOLD™ to manage the assessment of children. Teaching Strategies GOLD™ allows teachers to organize information collected on children into domains of development, objectives and dimensions of learning, and indicators of skill level. Each learning objective is arranged into a continuum, or developmental progression, that allows teachers to pinpoint a child’s level for each objective.
The Kenosha Unified Head Start Program takes several steps to ensure that our children and families are ready to enter kindergarten when they leave our program. The use of ongoing assessment through Teaching Strategies GOLD ensures that Head Start teachers are always aware of where their children are developing and how to plan for children who are not meeting widely held expectations. Three times per year, data on Head Start program achievement is shared with all Head Start teachers so they can set goals and make instructional plans to ensure all of the children in the Head Start Program are ready for kindergarten.

In addition to preparing children for Kindergarten, the Kenosha Unified Head Start program also ensures that Head Start families are ready for kindergarten. In December, Family Service Providers host an informational meeting on the kindergarten registration process for Kenosha Unified. At Parent-Teacher Conferences in February and March, Head Start Teachers remind parents to visit their child’s home school to register for kindergarten and give families a handout providing activities they can do at home to continue to prepare their child for kindergarten. During April and May, Head Start Teachers with classes housed in Elementary Schools are encouraged to take their class to one of the kindergarten classrooms in their building for a visit. At final home visits, parents are given information about Kenosha Unified’s “Getting Ready for Kindergarten” summer school program and kindergarten school supply lists.

In June, Head Start children’s final progress reports are forwarded to the school that they will be attending in the fall. Children are expected to meet or exceed expectations in the following domains: social-emotional, physical, language, cognition, literacy, and math development. These skills are observed daily in the Head Start classroom and are shared with parents three times a year through Family Conference Forms created in Teaching Strategies GOLD™.
PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

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DISABILITIES SERVICES

All children are screened within 45 days of entering the Kenosha Unified Head Start program using the Speed DIAL. The screening process provides information in three major developmental areas: visual/motor, language and cognition, and gross motor/body awareness. The results of the screening, along with observation data, parent reports and home visit information, are used to assist teachers in instructing and planning for the needs of each child in the classroom.

The screening process and ongoing assessment allows teachers to monitor children’s progress and quickly identify possible concerns in a child’s development. During the 2012-2013 school year, 23 children received special education services prior to the start of the program year. Fifteen children were identified during the school year, through the use of the screening and ongoing assessment information. Of the children receiving special education services, 29 received services to address speech and language impairments, and six received services to address developmental delays. Transportation was provided for Head Start students with special needs as determined by their Individual Education Plan.

FAMILY SERVICES

Parent education and activities are provided per site and at the program level. Opportunities provided at the site level included: Open House, Fire House Safety, Kindergarten Informational Meetings, Dr. Seuss Night, Family Fun Day, Family Game Night, Fun in the Sun, and visits to Kenosha Museum, Libraries, Pumpkin Farm and local parks.

2012-2013 Program Level Parent and Family Activities and Training Opportunities:

- Home Visits – 2 per family
- Parent-Teacher Conferences – 2 per family
- Eating Smart – Being Active, 6 sessions
- Reading to Teach… 3 sessions - Feelings, Problem Solving, and Dealing with Strong Emotions
- Fun with Fathers, 6 sessions
- Second Step: A Violence Prevention Curriculum, 3 sessions
- Raising Healthy Eaters, 6 sessions
- Head Start Policy Council, monthly
The Policy Council is comprised of community representatives and parent representatives from Head Start. Some of the major responsibilities of the Policy Council include approval of the grant proposal and the development of program policies and procedures. Regular Policy Council meetings are held on a monthly basis. All positions must be filled according to Head Start Regulations in order to be an effective governing body, which is essential to the success of the program.

KUSD Head Start Policy Council Members

Debbie Moran – President
Michelle Bain – Vice-President
Angela Fudge – Secretary
Carmen Camacho – Treasurer
Esmeralda Almanza – Committee Member
Maria Garcia – Committee Member
Carrie Young – Committee Member

Laura Herrera – Committee Member
Lourdes Nava – Committee Member
Karen Sens – Committee Member
Edith Sanchez-Morales – Committee Member
Melba Solis – Committee Member
Jo Ann Taube – Committee and KUSD School Board Member