

Ross County Community Action Commission Inc.



Early Head Start & Head Start 2021-2022 Annual Report

Policy Council and Governing Board Approval: February 2023

Philosophy and Goals

Ross County CAC – Early Learning Programs’ mission is to provide a comprehensive child development program that promotes school readiness for children ages Birth-5 from low-income families in Ross County, by building parenting skills and self-esteem, building community partnerships, providing health services, and providing professional development for our staff to enable us to support and guide children’s cognitive, social, and emotional development.

The philosophy of our program is that children benefit from a program that is family and community centered. We feel that parents are their child’s first teacher and that connections within the community strengthens a child’s development.

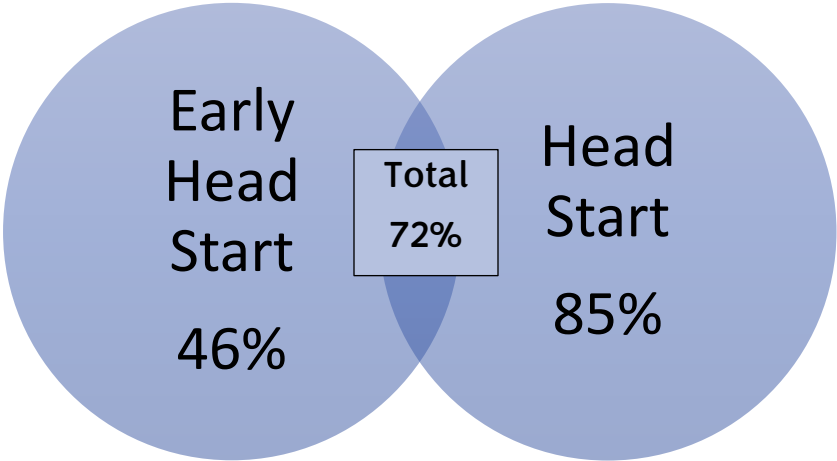
Children are individuals and should be treated as individuals. Rules are designed to create a safe environment and framework within which each child is provided the stability and consistency necessary for proper development, while at the same time providing opportunities for the child to participate in activities that help him/her acquire skills in all areas of development.

Children learn by doing. The Early Learning programs strive to provide each child with hands-on experiences to encourage the child to be creative, imaginative, innovative, and to create a desire to explore and learn. We want to inspire/instill a lifelong love of learning.

Enrollment

	Funded	Served
Pregnant Women (EHS)	3	3
Infants & Toddlers: 0-3 (EHS)	52	43
Children: 3-5 (HS)	153	165
Total:	205	211

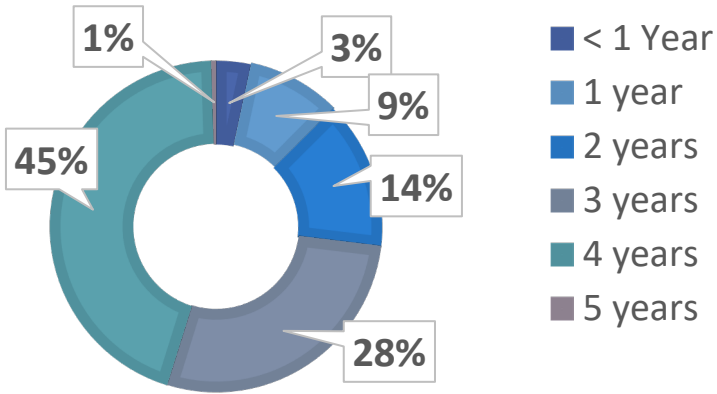
Average Monthly Enrollment



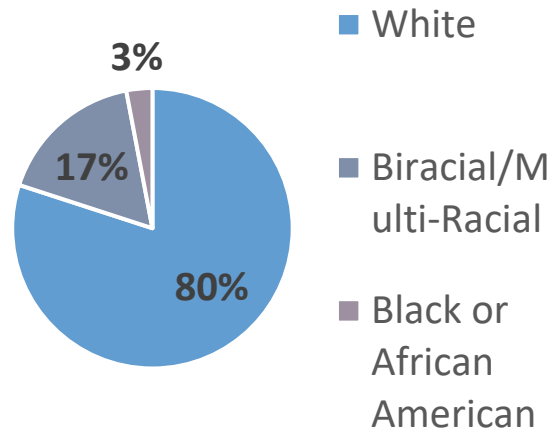
First Year of Enrollment- 67%

Enrolled in Prior Year(s) 33%

CHILDREN BY AGE (AT TIME OF ENROLLMENT)



RACE & ETHNICITY

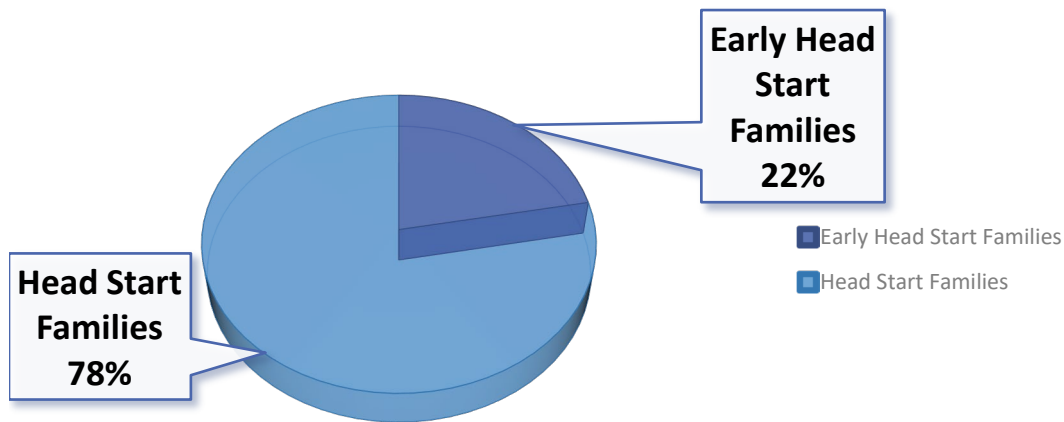


Hispanic or Latino Origin- .09%

Primary Language of family at home: English 100%

Family Demographics

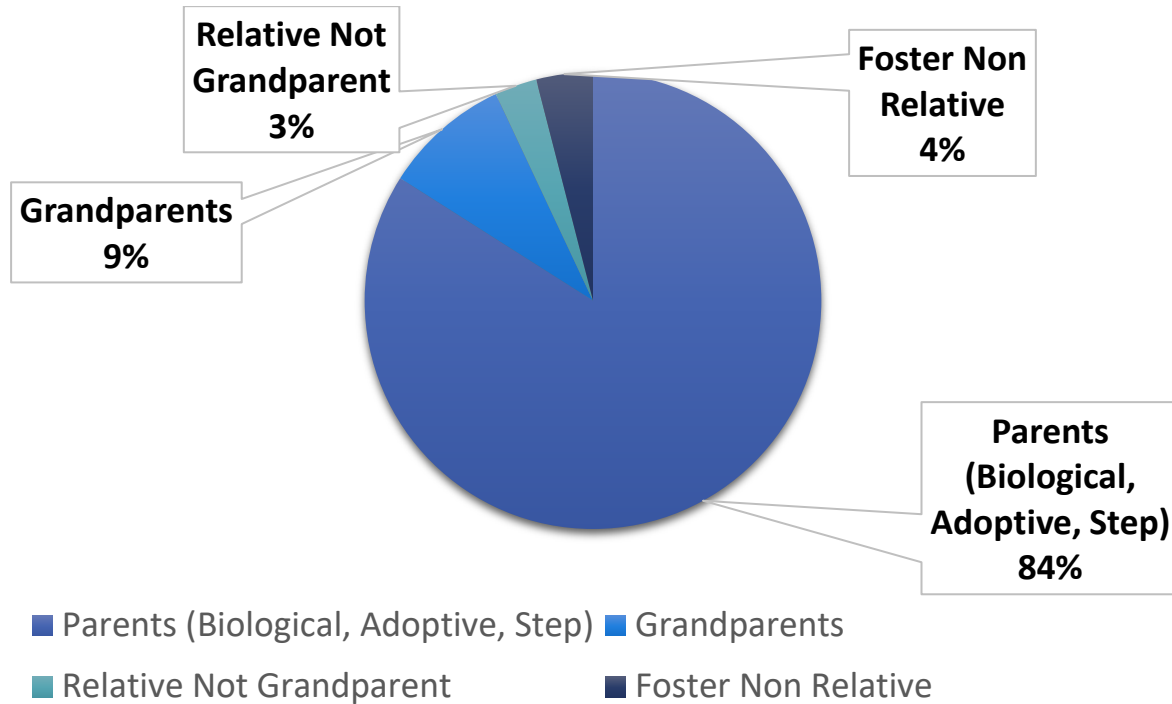
OF THE 188 FAMILIES SERVED...



Two Parent Families: 36%

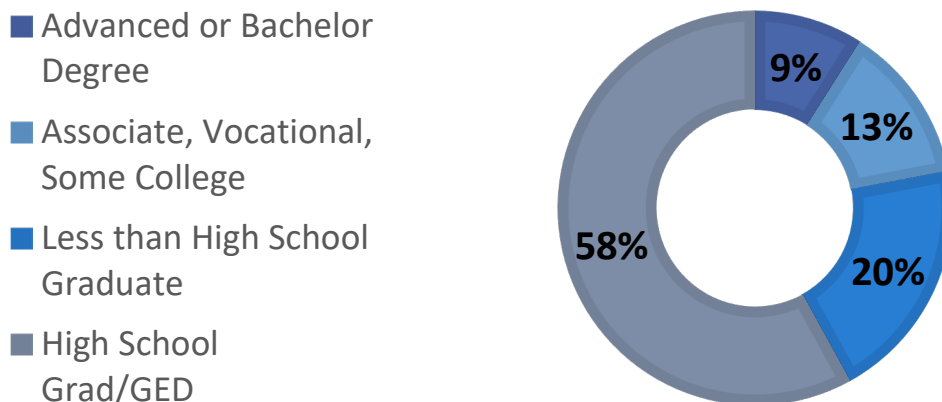
Single Parent Families: 64%

Family Design



Of the 158 families of which the parent/guardian figure is best described as a biological, adoptive, or step parent: **59%** have a mother only and **4%** have a father only.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF FAMILIES



Employment, Job Training, and School (at enrollment)

At least one parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school: **55%**

Neither parent is employed, in job training, or attending school: **45%**

Disabilities Services

Identifying young children with unique developmental needs, ensuring children receive appropriate and timely services and helping families navigate eligibility guidelines is essential to the Head Start Birth to Five Program. The Office of Head Start requires 10% of the total funded enrollment must be children with special needs.

18.6% of EHS students received services through an IFSP

13.3% of HS students received services through an IEP

14.4% of students program wide received services through an IFSP/IEP

Mental Health

RCCAC continued its partnership with **Mares Cares Counseling, LLC**. In addition, the program was able to offer a weekly 30-minute session with **Soundscape Music Therapy** in each classroom!

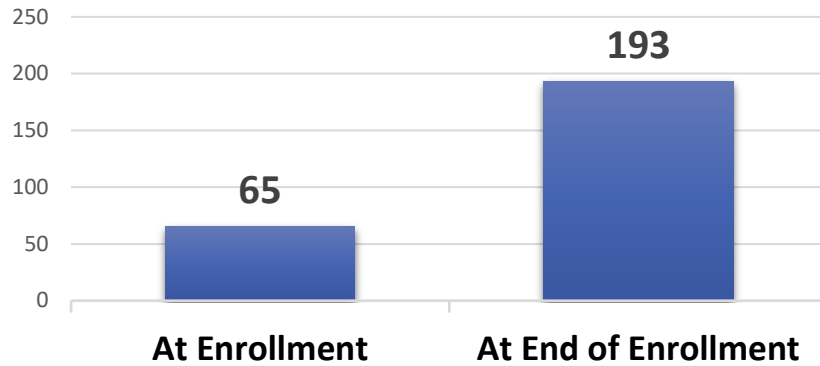


Health Services

95% of Early Head Start children were determined to be up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care by the end of enrollment!

92% of Head Start children were determined to be up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care by the end of enrollment!

Children Up-To-Date On A Schedule of Age-Appropriate Preventive and Primary Health Care



Immunizations



Early Head Start immunizations/exemptions increased from **93%** at the beginning of enrollment to **98%** at end of enrollment.

Head Start immunizations and/or exemptions increased from **99%** at the beginning of enrollment to **100%** at the end of enrollment.

Dental Exams and Treatment

74% of Head Start children completed a professional dental examination during the program year. Of the 122 students that completed a dental examination, 30 (25%) of them were diagnosed as needing dental treatment; 14 children (47%) received the treatment by the end of the program year.

67% of Early Head Start children were considered up to date according to the dental periodicity schedule for Ohio by end of enrollment.



Dr. Muckler (First Capital Dental) visits EHS

The program partners with First Capital Dental to conduct dental exams at the center twice per program year!

Nutrition



13,039 Breakfasts

13,450 Lunches

15,638 Snacks

RCCAC Early Head Start and Head Start programs provide nutrition assessment during enrollment, nutritious

meals approved by a dietician with modifications for students with special dietary needs, education for students, and education opportunities for parents to help them make healthy choices for themselves and their children.

Parent and Family Involvement

Engaging Families in School Readiness

Parents are the prime educator of their children. We strive to assist parents in achieving their full potential as both individuals and as their child's parent. Parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer, share a special talent/skill, and/or simply visit the classroom.

Various meetings and/or workshops are provided throughout the year to provide developmentally appropriate information and/or activities. Each center hosted a **monthly Parent Committee Meeting!**

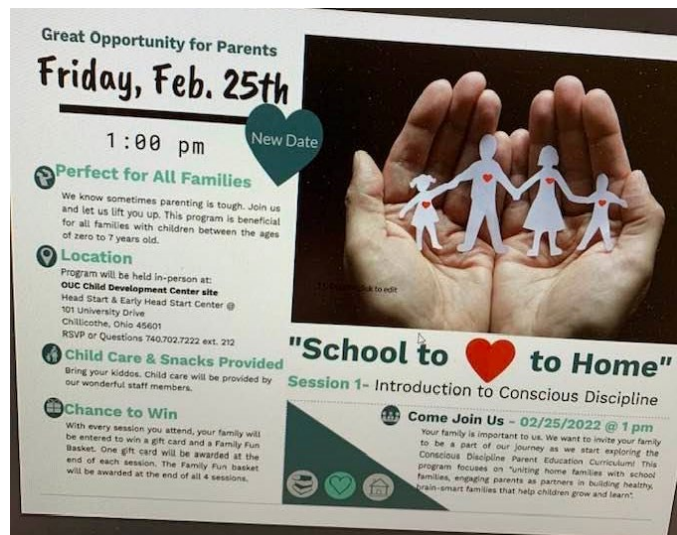


Huntington Parent Committee Meeting



Early Head Start hosted a **family day at Muddy Boots** petting farm! Families were able to safely enjoy time together outside during the covid pandemic!

Parents participated in the **School to Heart to Home Parent Curriculum** parent training with the Child and Family Advocate Staff. The curriculum is developed by Conscious Discipline, which is a practice in our center-based option. The program has a goal to increase parent participation in the parent curriculum training in the 2022-2023 program year by 10%



As a program we celebrated The Week of the Young Child! The final event for the week was a Family Night! We invited special guest **Erica**

Carlson and "**Sedgie the Hedgie**" to present to us "Finding the Joy!" Staff prepared activities for the entire family to enjoy with a focus on mental health and wellness! **125** were in attendance!

Engaging Fathers

RCCAC Early Head Start and Head Start program is a proud sponsor of **Dad & Me!** This monthly event is an opportunity for men and their children to play, hike, build, investigate, create, use tools, and have fun together!



Event	Month	Percentage Participating that are Head Start Men/Children
Creek Walk	September 2021	42%
Hansel/Gretel Candy Hike	October 2021	50%
Lantern Walk	November 2021	25%
Merrymaking Workshop	December 2021	13%
Lego Night	January 2022	64%
Squirrel School	March 2022	26%
Wooden Toys	April 2022	47%
Superheroes	May 2022	63%
Partner Olympics	June 2022	0%

2021-2022 Parent Survey

90% reported that their child was more socially prepared for school after attending RCCAC EHS/HS!

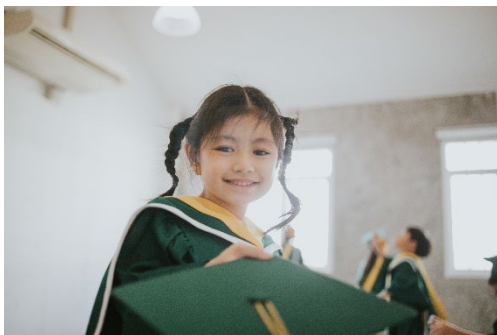
97% reported that RCCAC EHS/HS program supported their child in developing academically!

97% agreed/strongly agreed that RCCAC EHS/HS helped connect them to other community resources!

93% reported that the program was pro-active in preventing the spread of the Covid-19 virus!

100% reported that based on their experience they were likely/very likely to recommend RCCAC EHS/HS to other families!

Kindergarten Readiness



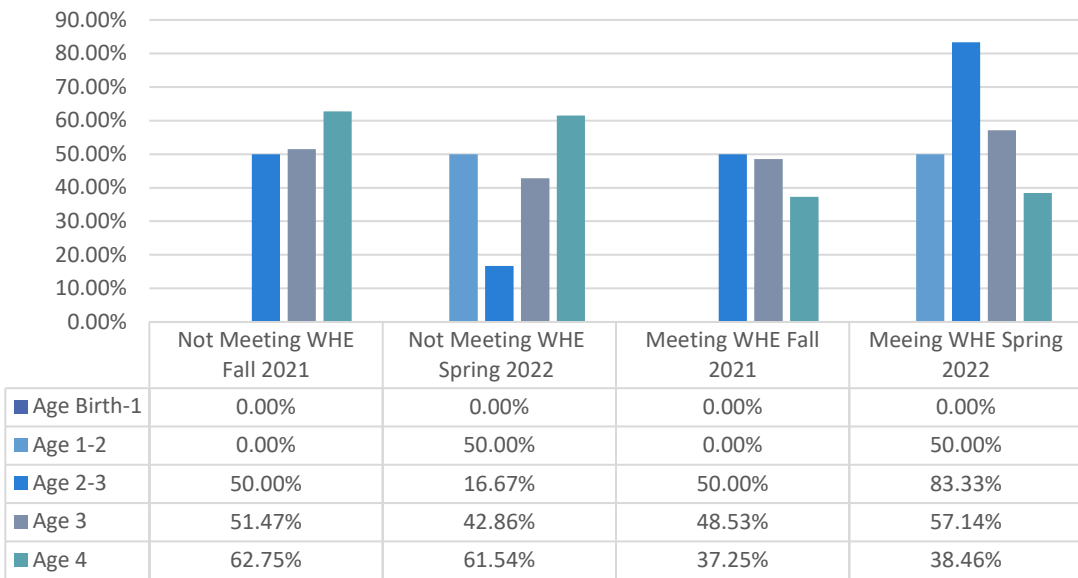
- **79** children, or **48%** of children enrolled in RCCAC Head Start for the 2021-2022 school year transitioned to kindergarten!
- Children were able to visit a kindergarten classroom!
- Parents had an opportunity to participate in a Kindergarten Transitioning Parent Committee Meeting at their centers!
- **Ross County Community Action Head Start** and **Paint Valley Local School District** partnered up to participate in **Heading to Kindergarten Cohort 2!** The goal of the cohort was to provide guidance and resources to enhance collaboration between early care and education programs, public schools, and community partners!



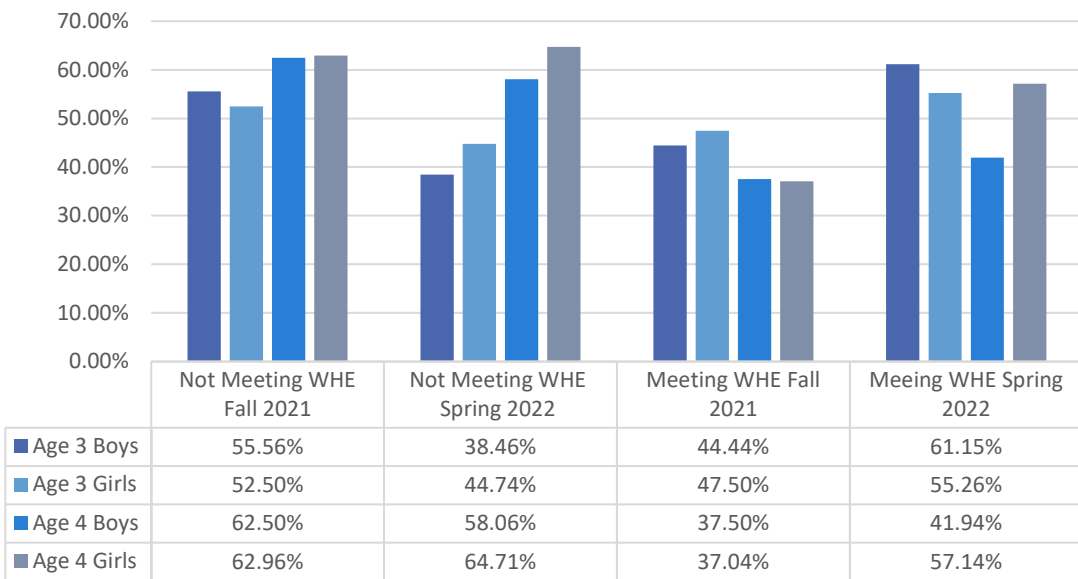
School Readiness Goals- This data demonstrates how children enrolled in Ross County Community Action Commission Early Head Start/Head Start program either meet or do not meet the widely held expectations (WHE) for their age group. The comparison includes data from the Fall of 2021 and Spring 2022; the intent being to demonstrate growth over a program year. “The term widely held expectations describes the range of knowledge, skills, and abilities that children of a particular age or class/grade typically demonstrate over a year of life or from the beginning to the end of a program year. The WHE are based on the latest research in early childhood education, are demonstrated in the progression for Gold Objectives for Development and Learning 1-23 and are used to help determine if a child’s (or group of children’s) knowledge, skills, and abilities are below, meeting, or exceeding their age or class/grade expected range of knowledge, skills, and abilities.” *(Taken from MyTeachingStrategies Support)*

Social and Emotional Development- Child engages in and maintains positive relationships and interactions with peers and adults. (TS Gold Obj. 2a, 2c)

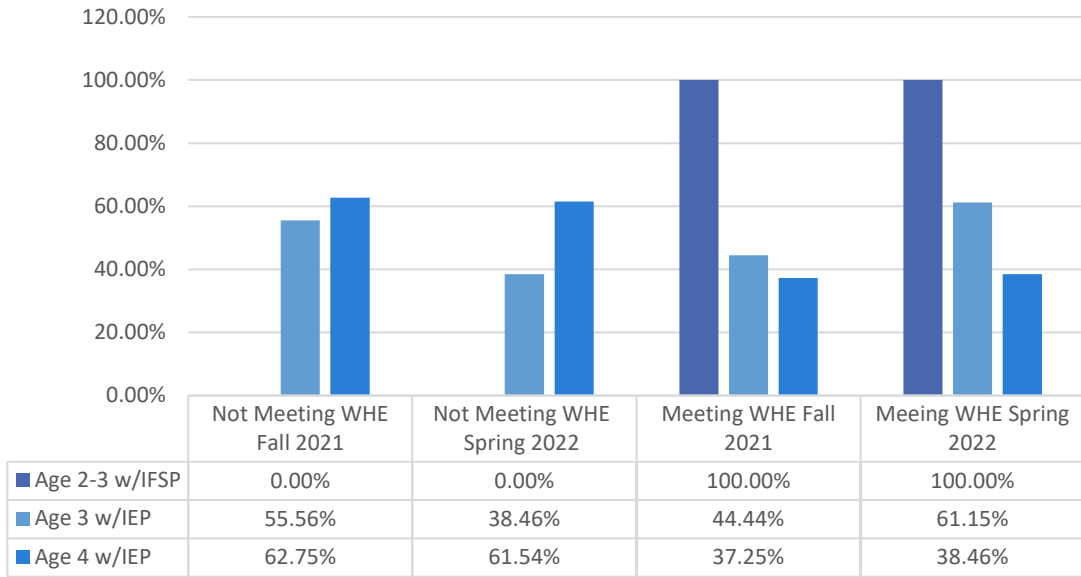
Forming Relationships 2a



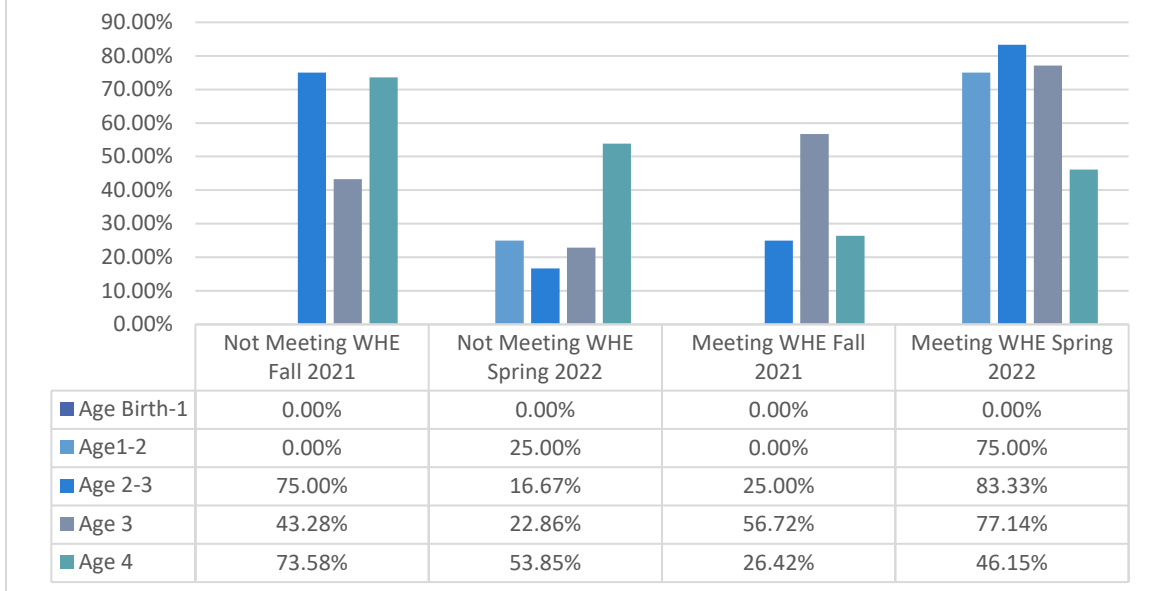
Forming Relationships 2a (Boys/Girls)



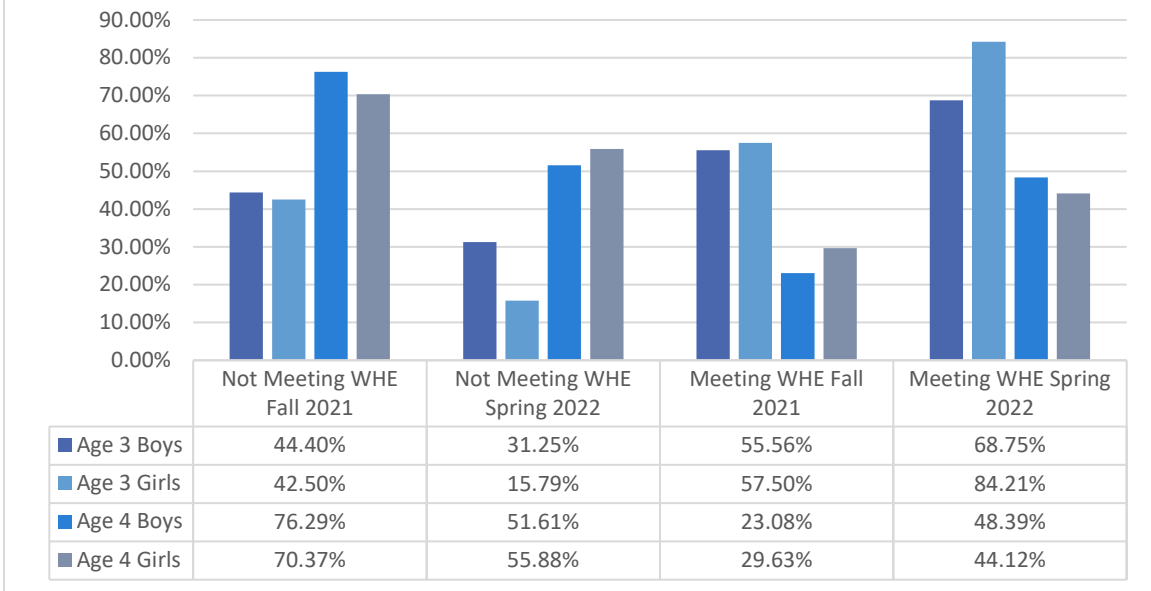
Forming Relationships 2a (IFSP/IEP)



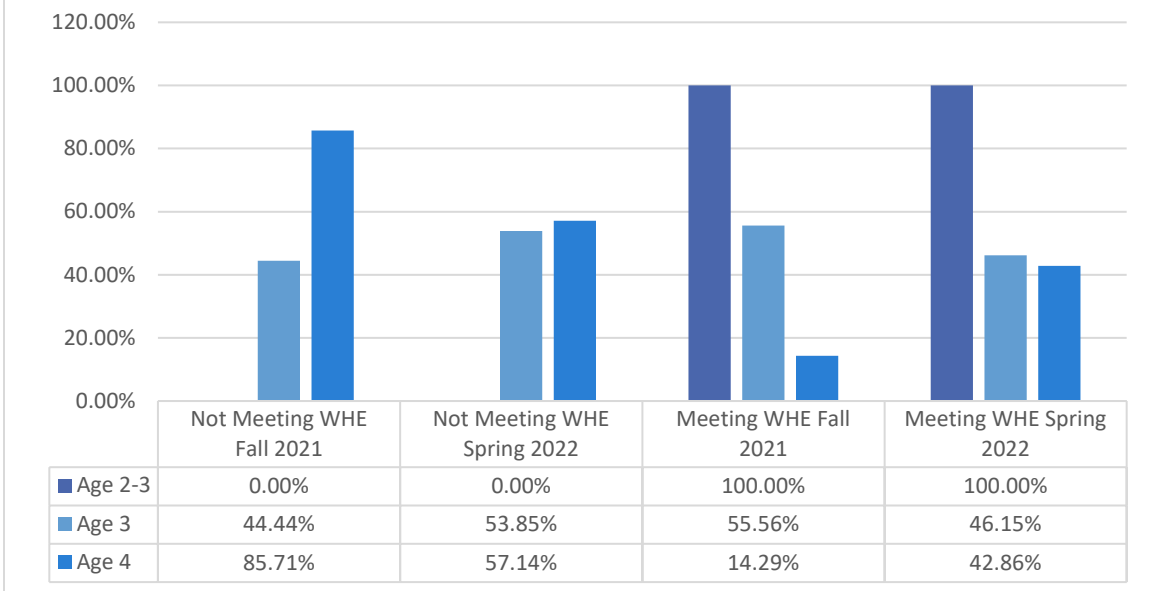
Interacts with Peers 2c



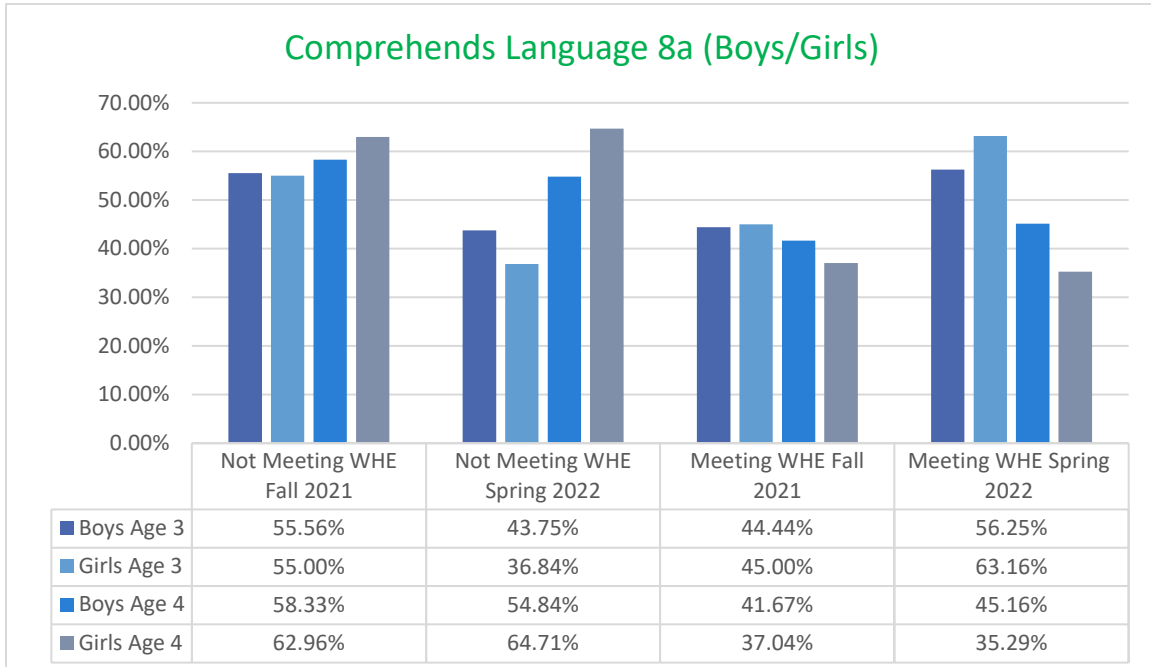
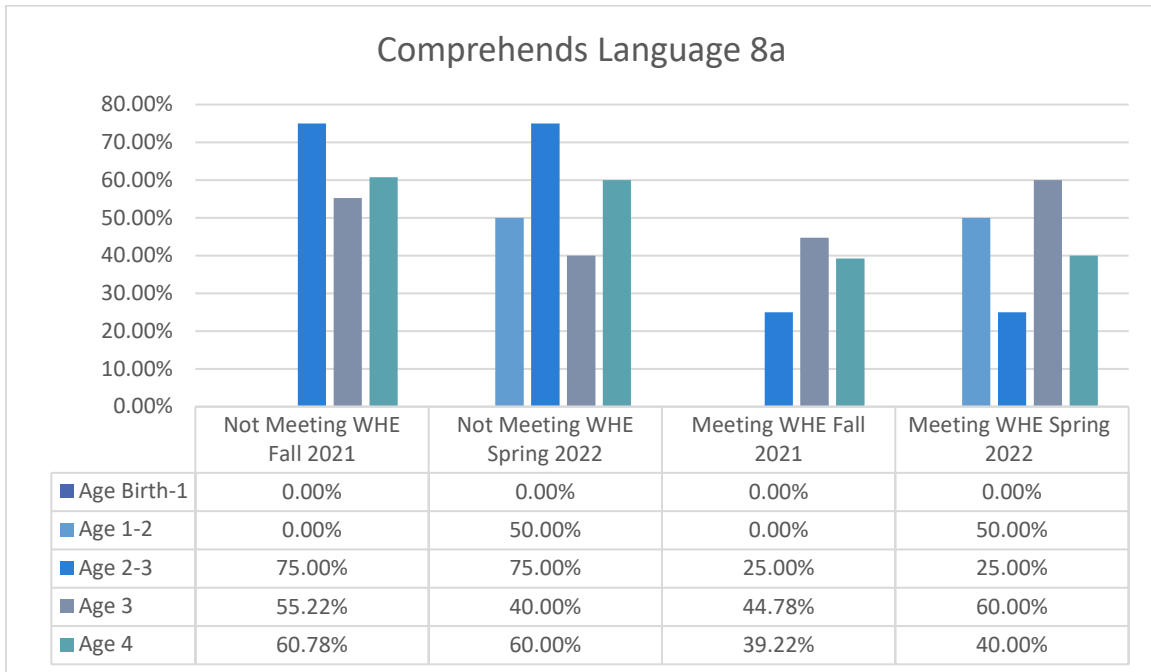
Interacts with Peers 2c (Boys/Girls)



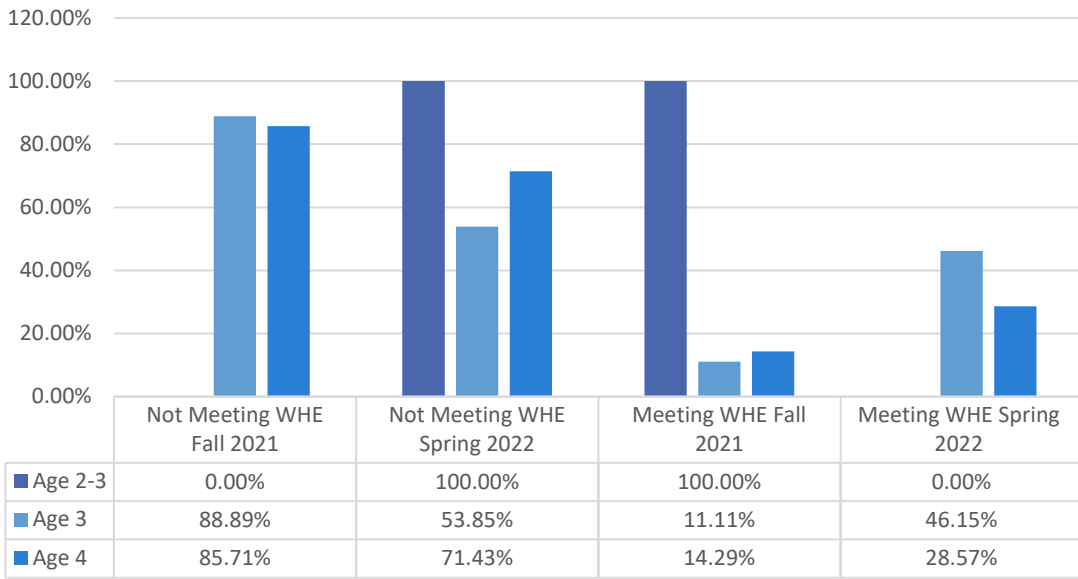
Interacts with Peers 2c (IFSP/IEP)



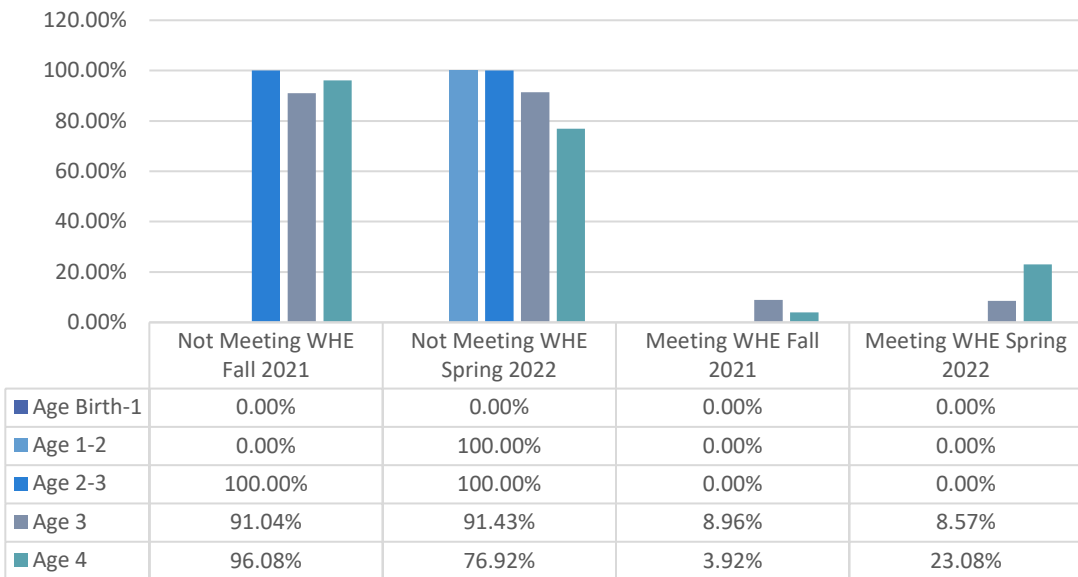
Language and Development- Children will comprehend language. (TS Gold Obj. 8a, 8b.



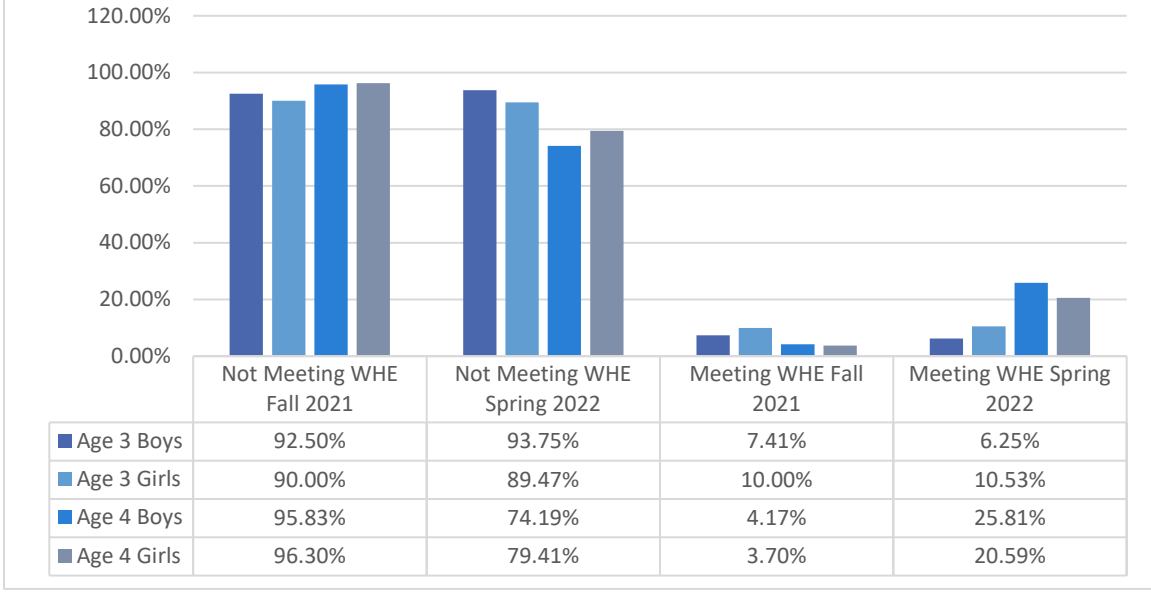
Comprehends Language 8a (IFSP/IEP)



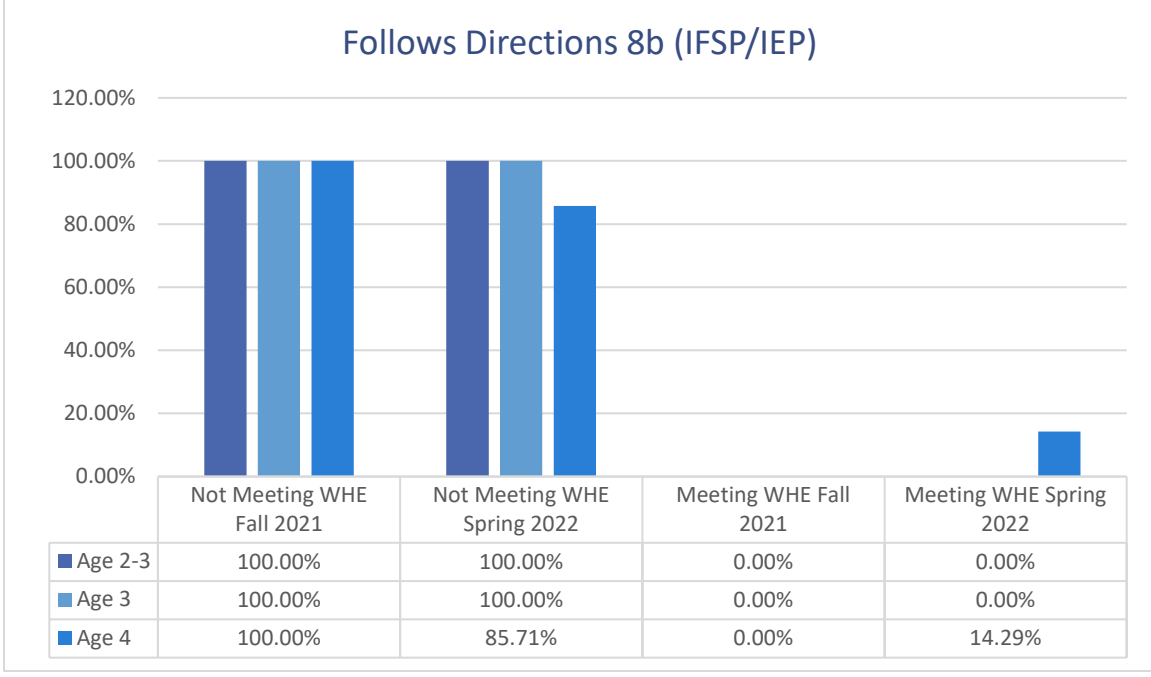
Follows Directions 8b



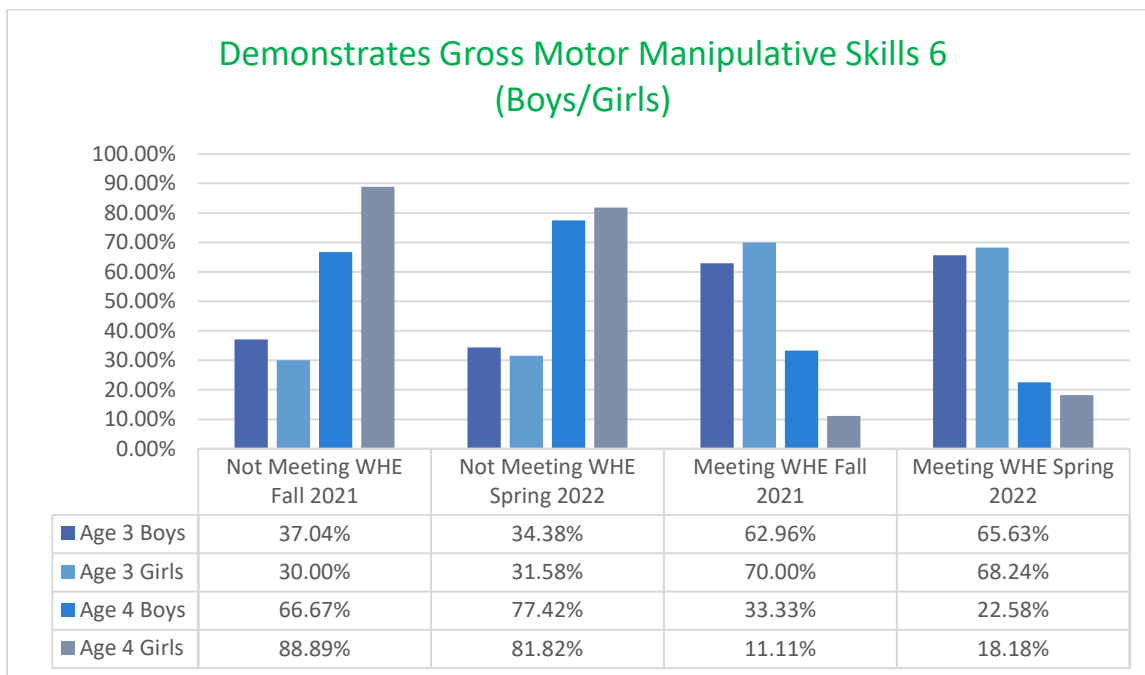
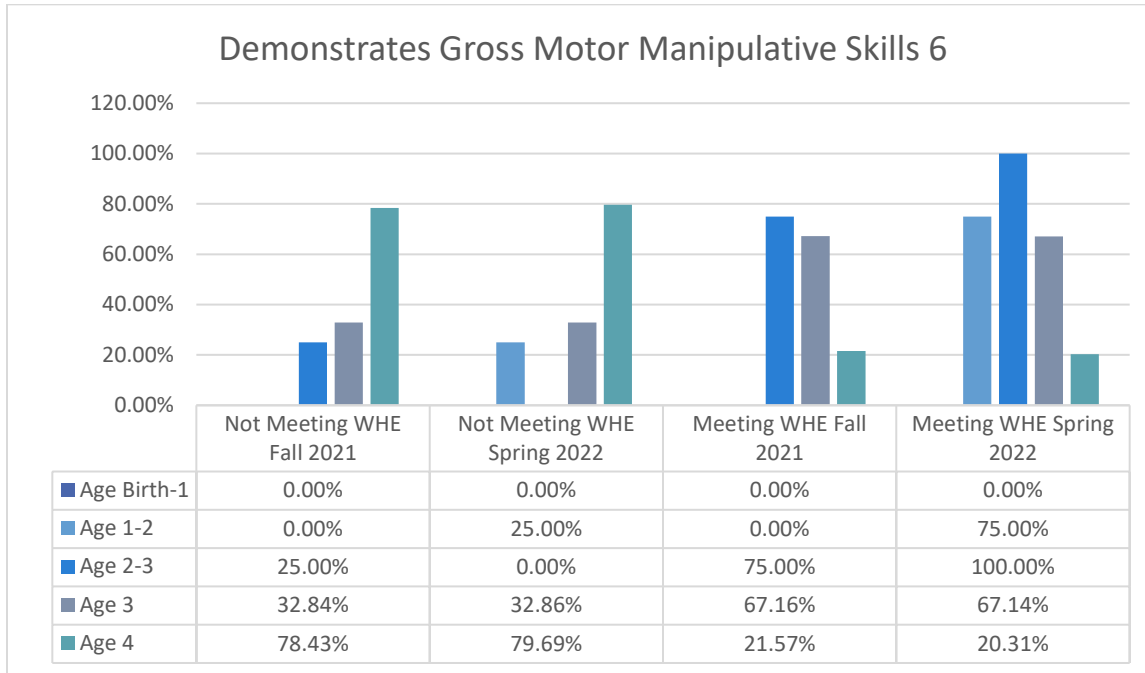
Follows Directions 8b (Boys/Girls)



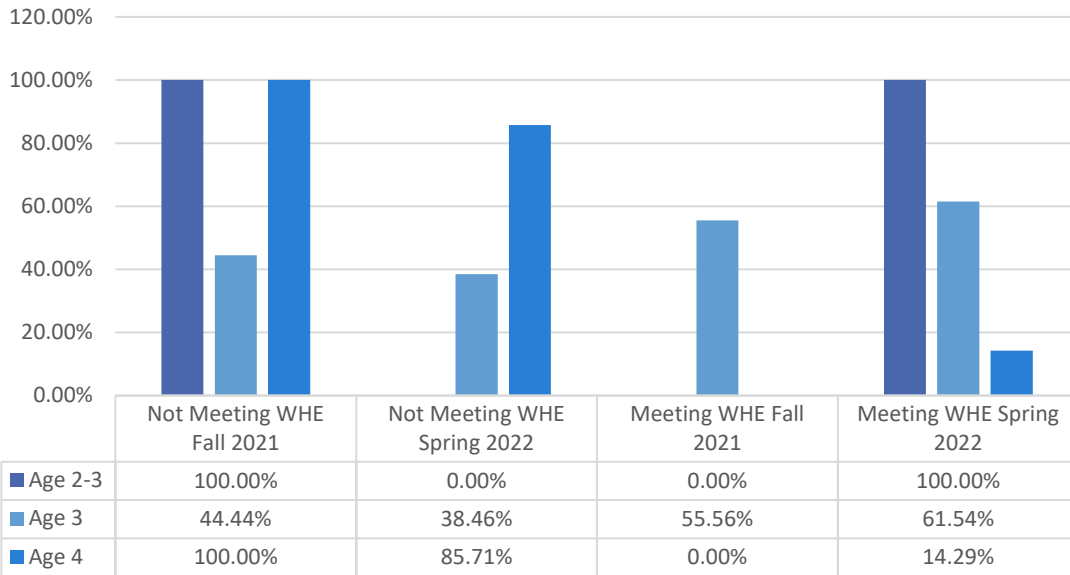
Follows Directions 8b (IFSP/IEP)



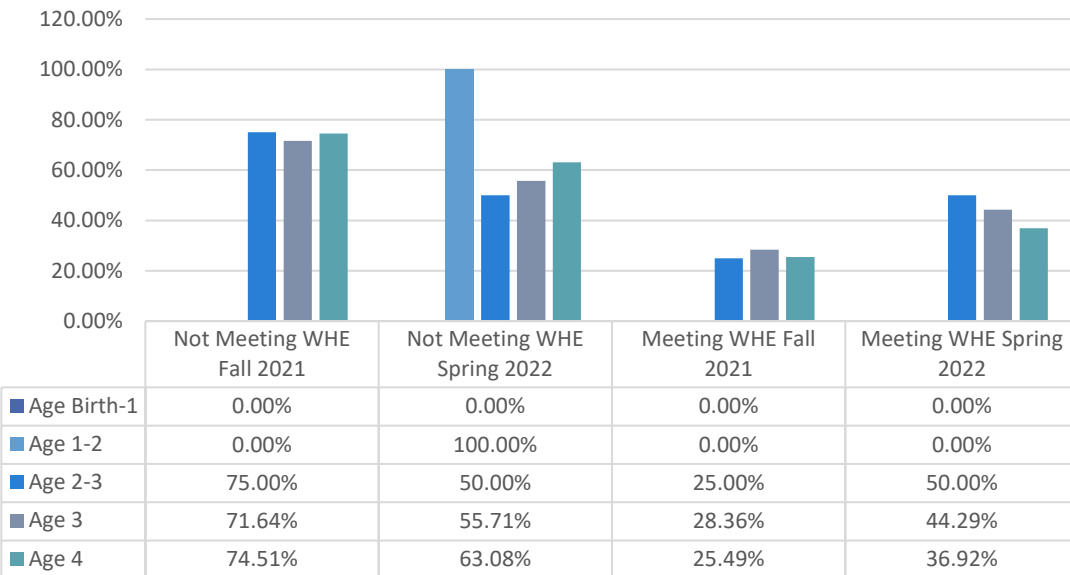
Physical Development- Children will demonstrate increasingly complex skills in fine and gross motor development. (TS Gold Obj. 6, 7a)



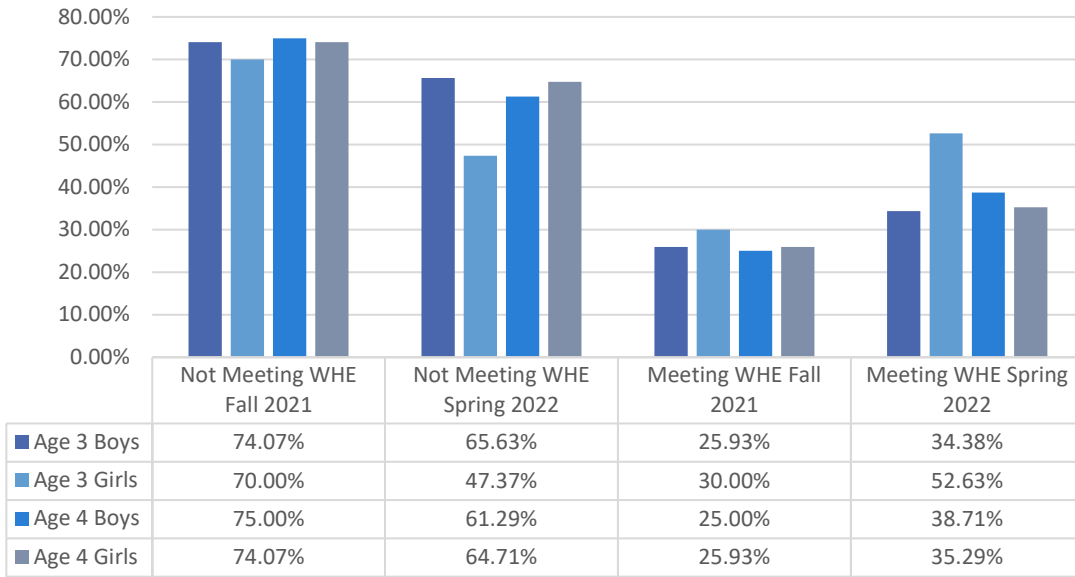
Demonstrates Gross Motor Manipulative Skills 6 (IFSP/IEP)



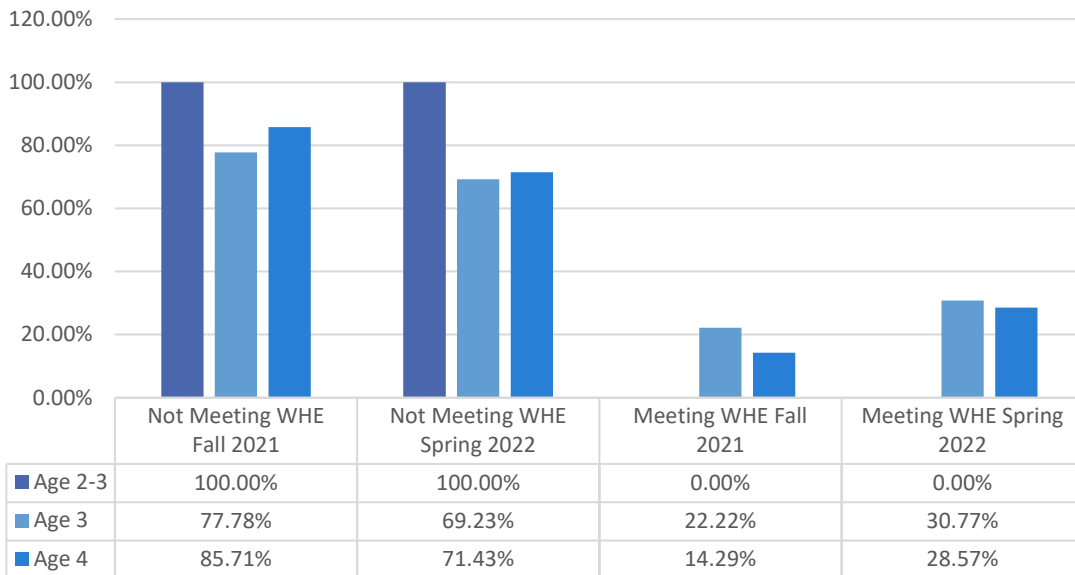
Uses Fingers and Hands 7a



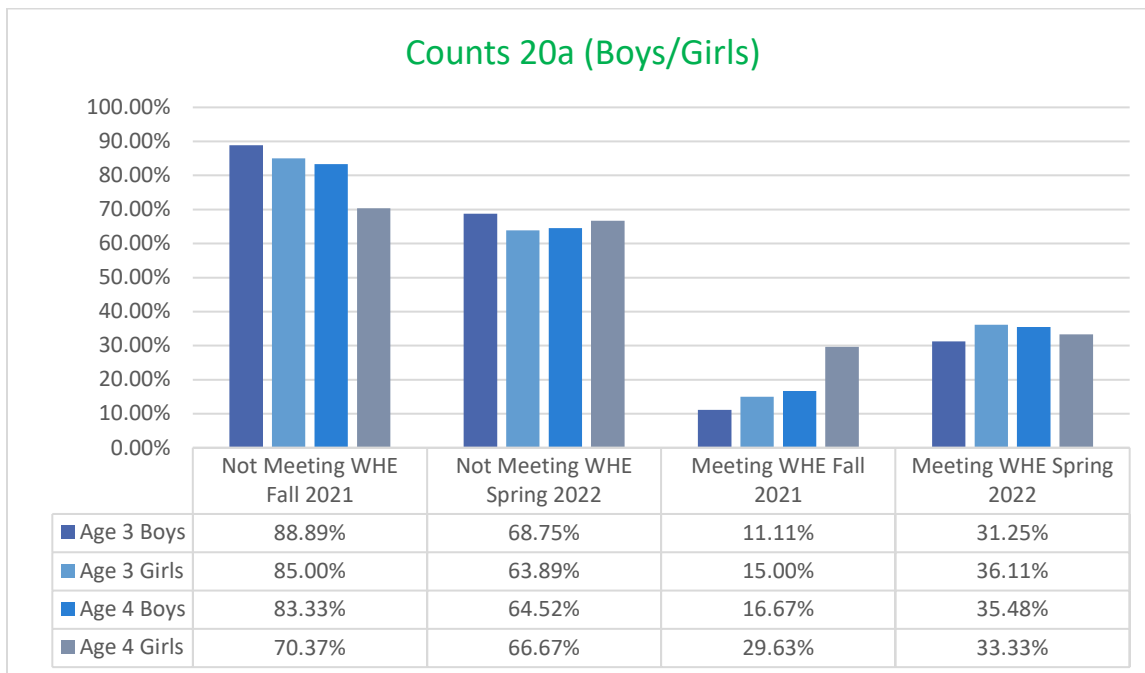
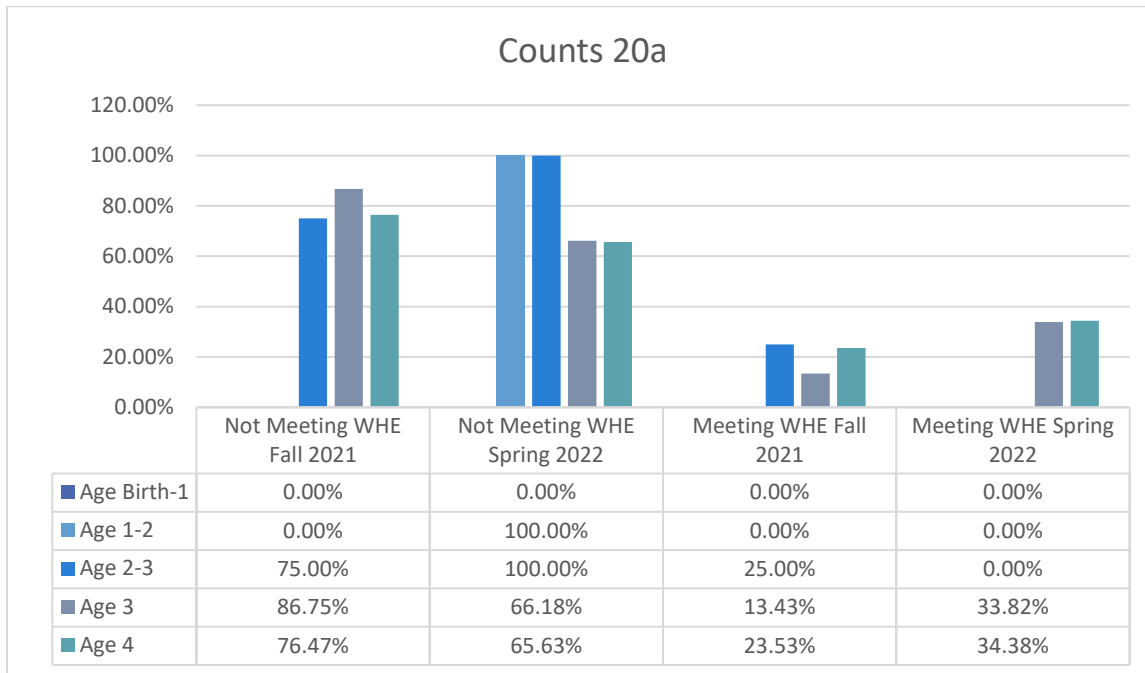
Uses Fingers and Hands 7a (Boys/Girls)



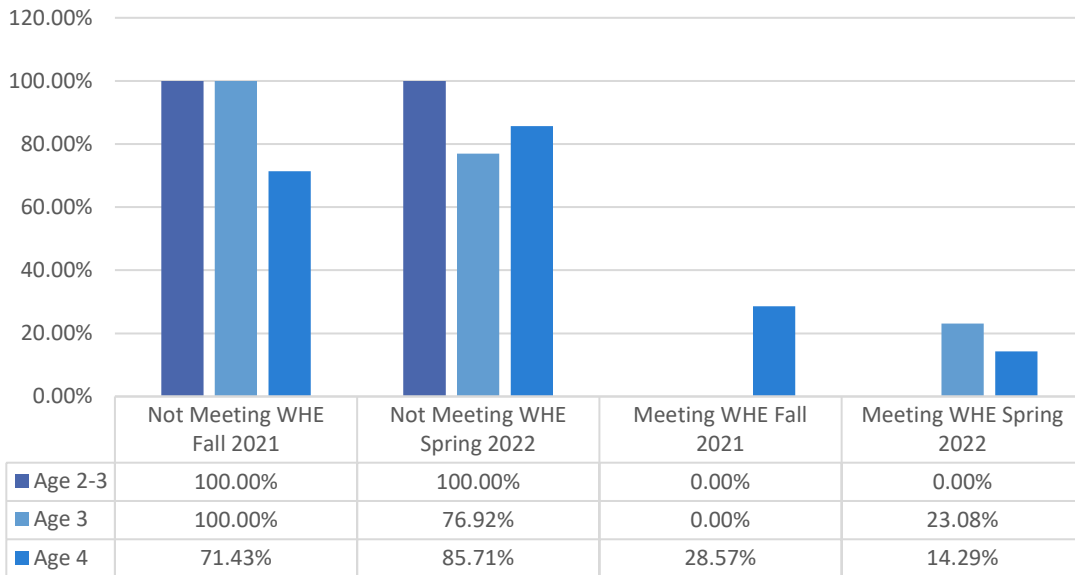
Uses Fingers and Hands 7a (IFSP/IEP)



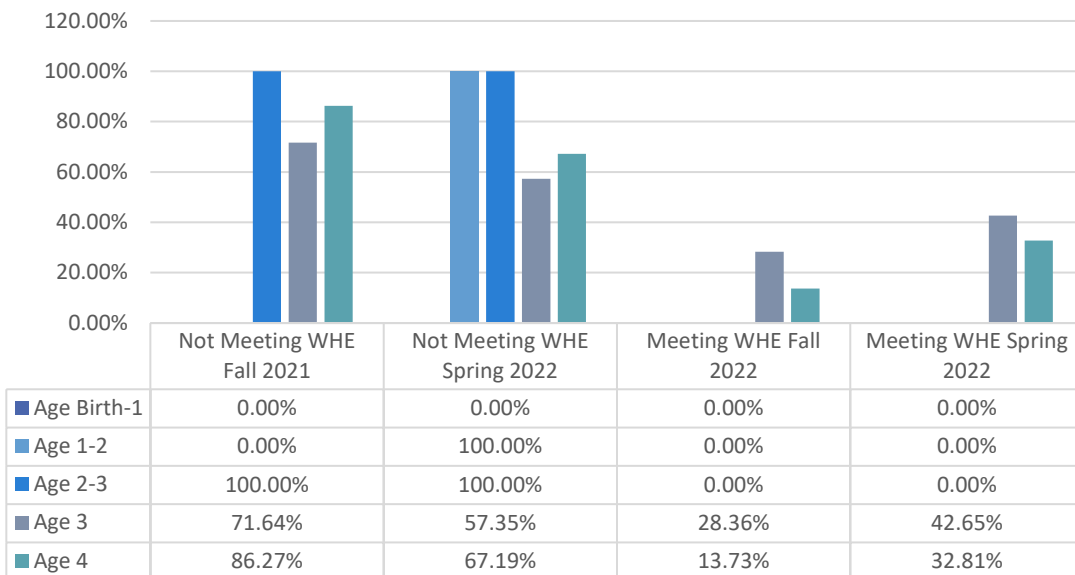
Cognitive and General Knowledge- Children will acquire increasing mathematical knowledge of number sense and quantity. (TS Gold Obj. 20 a-c)



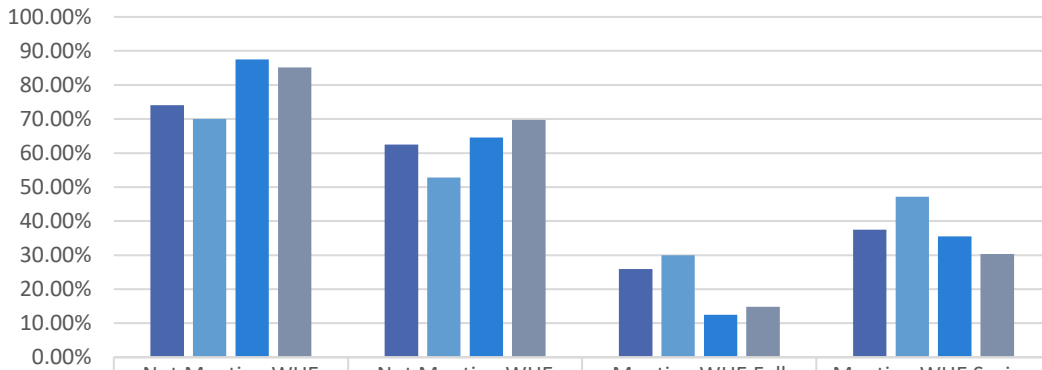
Counts 20a (IFSP/IEP)



Quantifies 20b

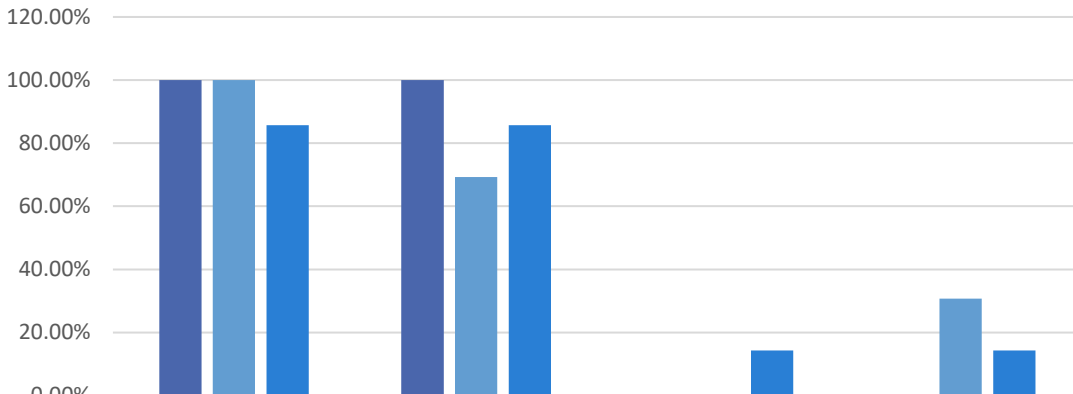


Quantifies 20b (Boys/Girls)



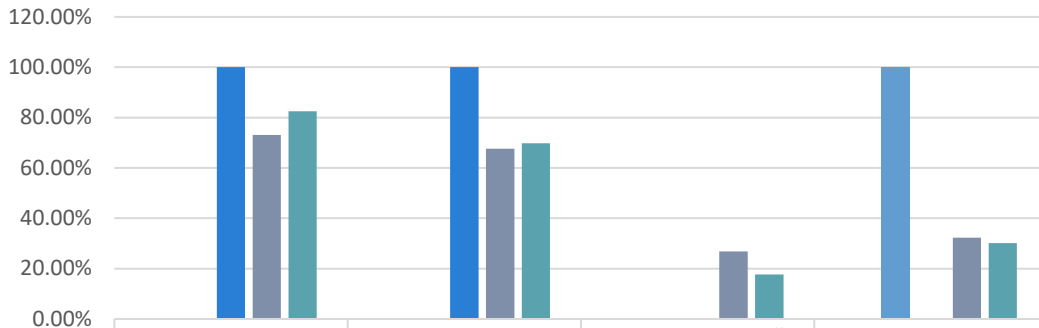
	Not Meeting WHE Fall 2021	Not Meeting WHE Spring 2022	Meeting WHE Fall 2022	Meeting WHE Spring 2022
Age 3 Boys	74.07%	62.50%	25.93%	37.50%
Age 3 Girls	70.00%	52.78%	30.00%	47.22%
Age 4 Boys	87.50%	64.52%	12.50%	35.48%
Age 4 Girls	85.19%	69.70%	14.81%	30.30%

Quantifies 20b (IFSP/IEP)



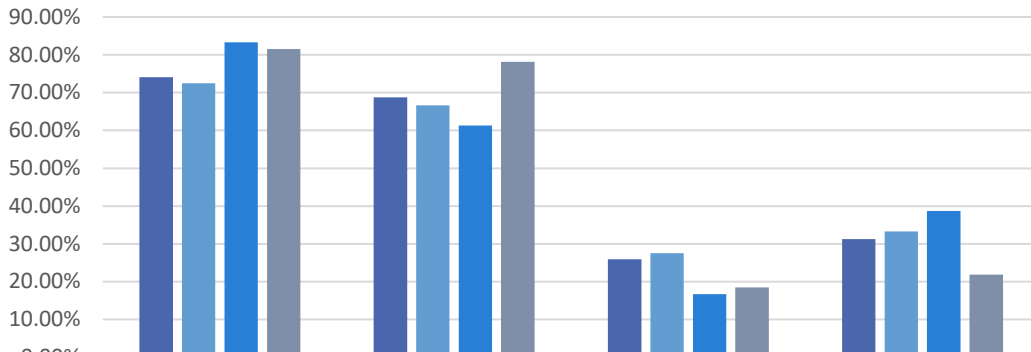
	Not Meeting WHE Fall 2021	Not Meeting WHE Spring 2022	Meeting WHE Fall 2022	Meeting WHE Spring 2022
Age 2-3	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Age 3	100.00%	69.23%	0.00%	30.77%
Age 4	85.71%	85.71%	14.29%	14.29%

Connects Numerals with Quantities 20c



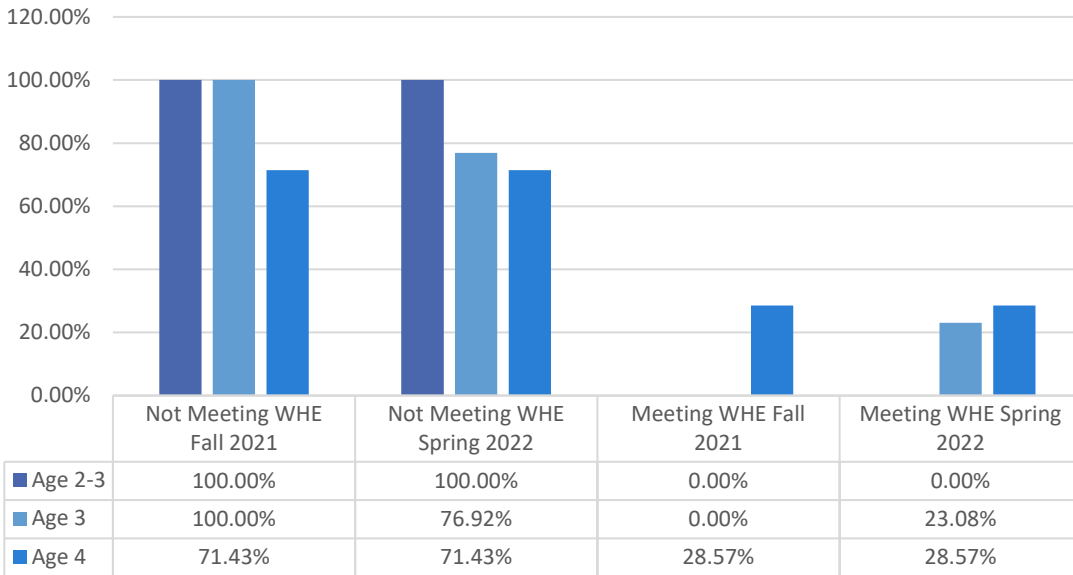
	Not Meeting WHE Fall 2021	Not Meeting WHE Spring 2022	Meeting WHE Fall 2021	Meeting WHE Spring 2022
Age Birth-1	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Age 1-2	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Age 2-3	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Age 3	73.13%	67.65%	26.87%	32.35%
Age 4	82.50%	69.84%	17.65%	30.16%

Connects Numerals with Quantities 20c (Boys/Girls)



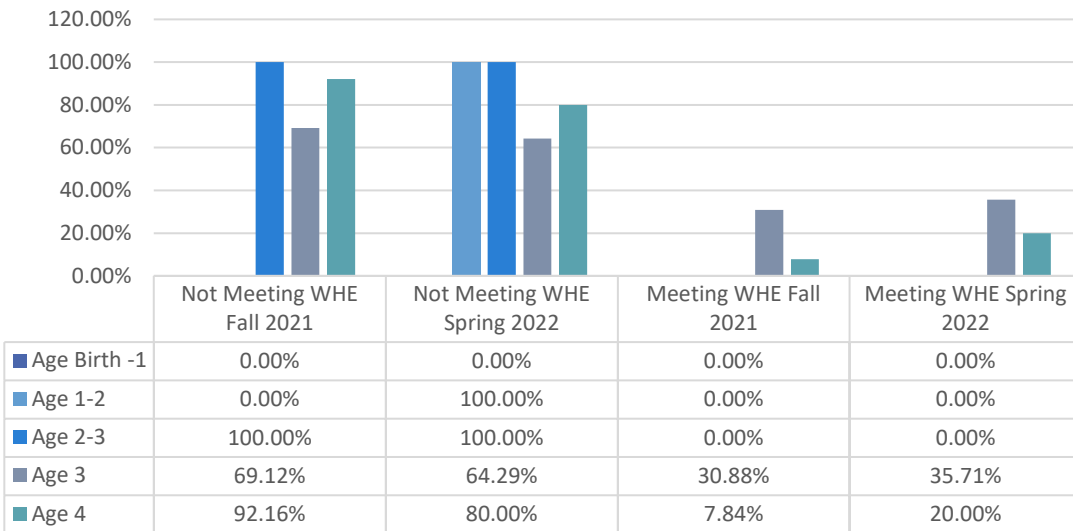
	Not Meeting WHE Fall 2021	Not Meeting WHE Spring 2022	Meeting WHE Fall 2021	Meeting WHE Spring 2022
Age 3 Boys	74.07%	68.75%	25.93%	31.25%
Age 3 Girls	72.50%	66.67%	27.50%	33.30%
Age 4 Boys	83.33%	61.29%	16.67%	38.71%
Age 4 Girls	81.48%	78.13%	18.52%	21.88%

Connects Numerals with Quantities 20c (IFSP/IEP)

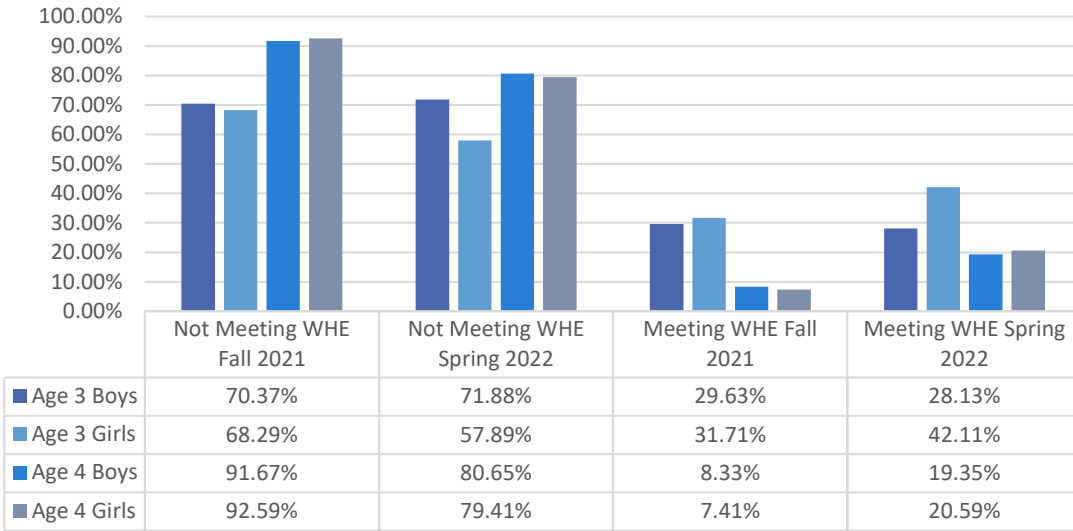


Literacy Development- Children will interact during read aloud and book conversations. (TS Gold Obj. 18a)

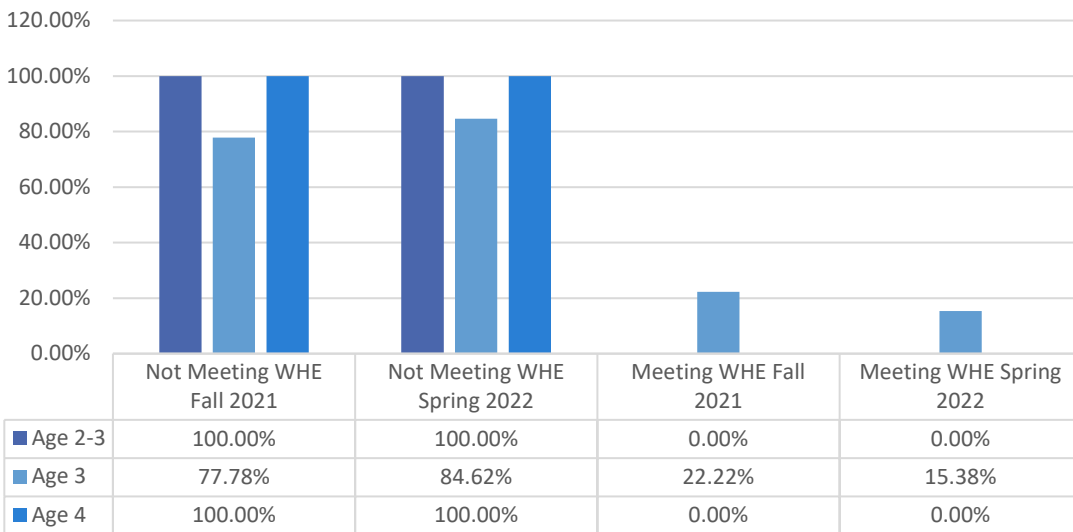
Interacts During Reading Experiences, Book Conversations, and Text Reflections 18a



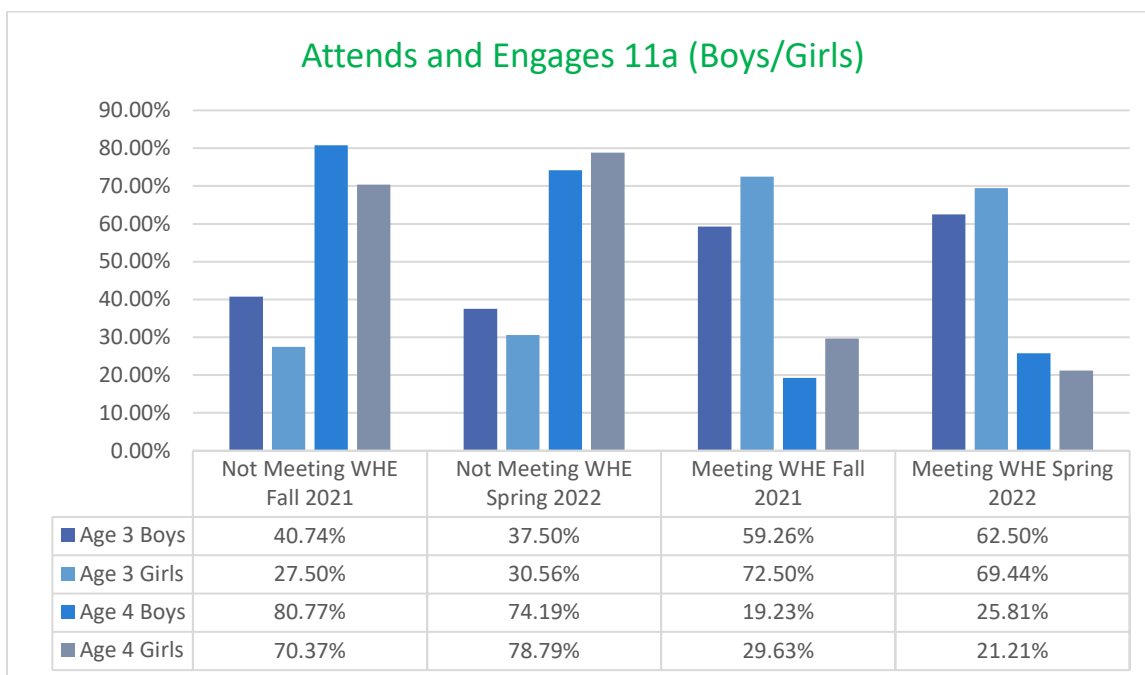
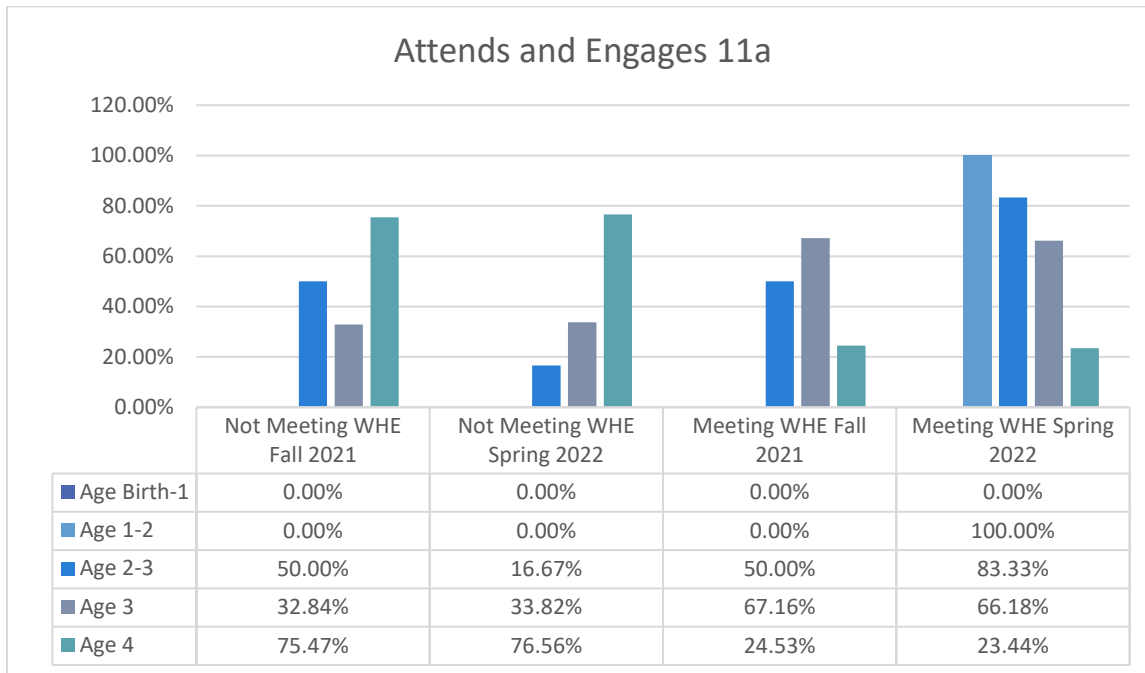
Interacts During Reading Experiences, Book Conversations, and Text Reflections 18a (Boys/Girls)



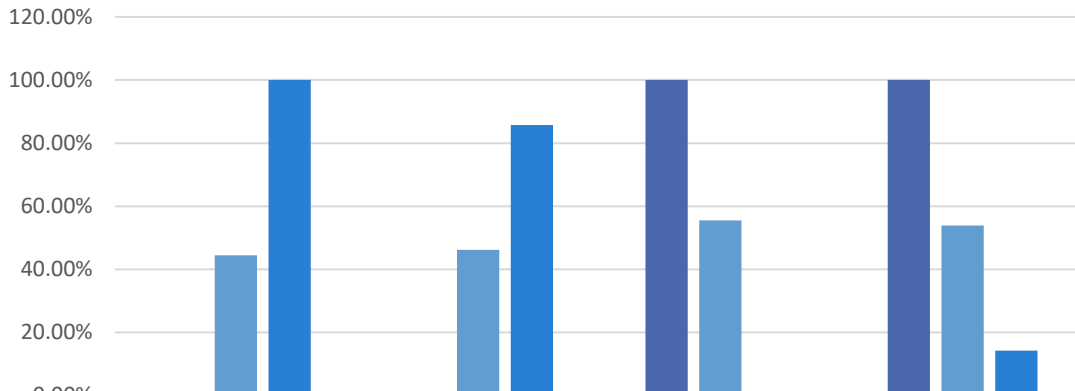
Interacts During Reading Experiences, Book Conversations, and Text Reflections 18a (IFSP/IEP)



Approaches to Learning Domain- Children will demonstrate positive approaches to learning through attention and engagement. (TS Gold Obj. 11a)



Attends and Engages 11a (IFSP/IEP)



	Not Meeting WHE Fall 2021	Not Meeting WHE Spring 2022	Meeting WHE Fall 2021	Meeting WHE Spring 2022
Age 2-3	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Age 3	44.44%	46.15%	55.56%	53.85%
Age 4	100.00%	85.71%	0.00%	14.29%

CLASS Observation Comparison

CLASS scores comparison by Domain Fall 2021–Spring 2022

High Range: 6-7 Mid-Range: 3-4-5 Low Range: 1-2

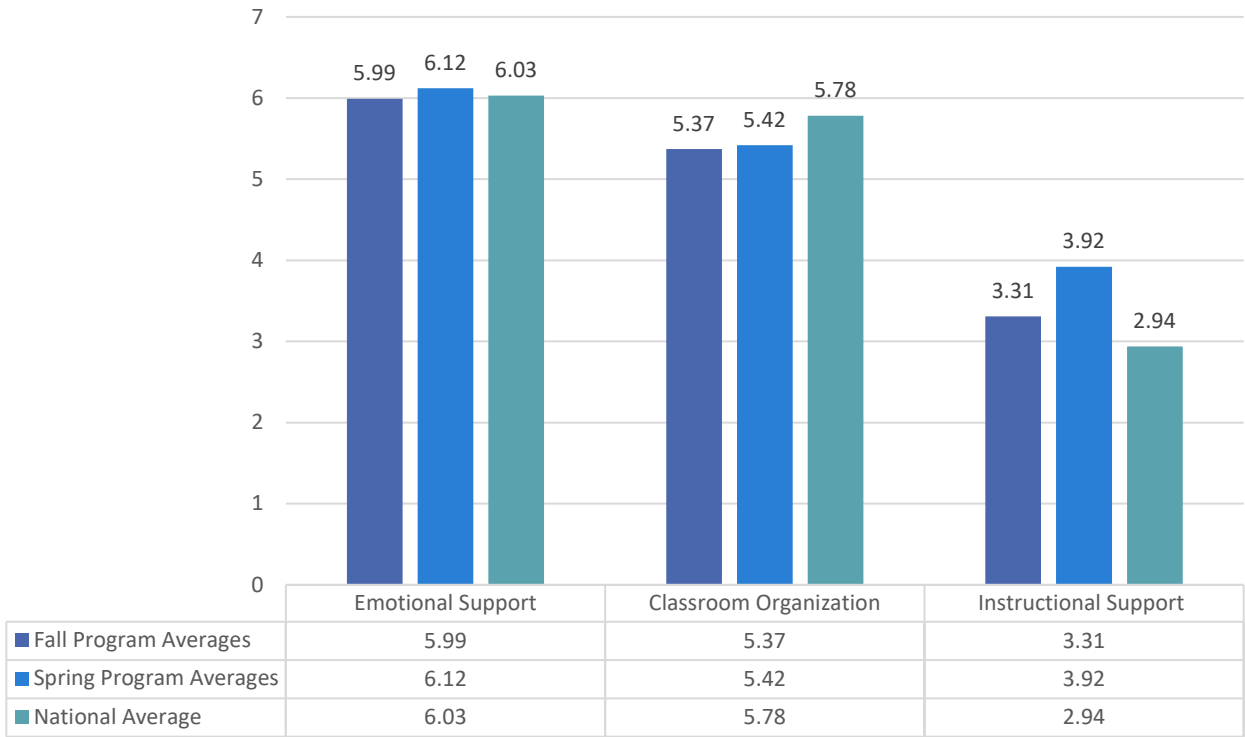
Fall 2021

Head Start Classroom	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
Bainbridge	4.81	4.50	4.83
Huntington 206	6.44	5.33	1.67
Huntington 207	6.06	5.17	1.75
OUC 123	6.06	5.00	3.42
OUC 124	6.09	5.89	3.78
OUC 131	5.94	5.67	3.75
OUC 132	5.94	5.58	3.42
OUC 134	6.56	5.83	3.83
Program Averages:	5.99	5.37	3.31

Spring 2022

Head Start Classroom	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
Bainbridge	5.94	5.58	5.67
Huntington 206	6.06	4.83	2.83
Huntington 207	6.31	5.83	3.75
OUC 123	6.19	5.58	4.83
OUC 124	5.94	4.75	3.83
OUC 131	6.00	5.67	3.17
OUC 132	6.25	6.17	3.67
OUC 134	6.31	4.92	3.58
Program Averages:	6.12	5.42	3.92
National Average OHS 2020	6.03	5.78	2.94

Class Observation Comparison Fall 2021-Spring 2022



Covid-19 Pandemic Continues



The covid-19 pandemic continued to impact service delivery during the 2021-2022 program year. All classes were held in person but were closed for quarantine as needed through advisement by the health district. The Office of Head Start implemented a mask mandate for all children and adults over the age of 2 and RCCAC implemented a vaccine mandate for all staff on February 1, 2022. It's impossible to put into

words all the emotions and challenges created by the pandemic, but RCCAC Early Head Start & Head Start continued to strive to provide families with quality services!

Improving our Outdoor Spaces

The program utilized supplemental covid funding to renovate a courtyard space at the OU-C location. The renovation provided an **additional outdoor learning space** for classrooms to use to reduce the number of children in shared spaces.



Playground spaces at the OU-C location received an upgrade to fall surfacing. The mulch was replaced with a **poured in place rubber surface**! The new surface supported the need for classrooms to spend **more time outdoors** in response to the pandemic!



Additional EHS Classroom

RCCAC began providing Early Head Start services in both the center and home-based setting in 2020. Throughout the pandemic, our community assessment has continued to demonstrate a **need for quality infant/toddler center-based services**. In the 2021-2022 program year, an additional Early Head Start center-based classroom was opened. The program now offers center based Early Head Start services to **24** children!



Professional Development

The program started out the year with a training by Dr. Deborah Zurmehly from **The Ohio State University**. Dr. Zurmehly worked with the staff throughout the program year as a support to the implementation of the “project approach.” Each classroom hosted families at the end of the program year to display their projects and talk about what the children had learned during the experience and how it related back to The Creative Curriculum!



Amy Speidel, a master trainer for Conscious Discipline, trained program staff for two full days on the seven skills and powers of **Conscious Discipline** prior to the start of the program year. The program has committed to

embracing the skills and powers of Conscious Discipline to create a culture of compassion among staff in addition to consistent implementation in the classroom.

Employees participated in a mug painting activity during the orientation week. Each person painted a mug for someone else in the group. The activity was meant as an opportunity to boost **staff morale** by learning more about their co-workers by designing a mug around their interests.



Both Early Head Start and Head Start employees were also provided professional development on **implementation of mathematics into the early childhood classroom**. Demonstrating children's growth in math concepts is one of the program goals.

Most Recent Financial Audit

The annual financial audit is taken to the Board annually for approval. The Independent Auditor's report by The Tidwell Group, LLC. through December 2021 indicated **no findings or questioned costs** relative to federal awards.

Monitoring

A Focus Area 1 Monitoring Review was conducted November 1-5 of 2021. The review was conducted via conference call. The program met **100%** of the **compliance indicators** that were part of the **FA 1 Review**.

Program Budget & Expenses

Base Grant Budget

July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022

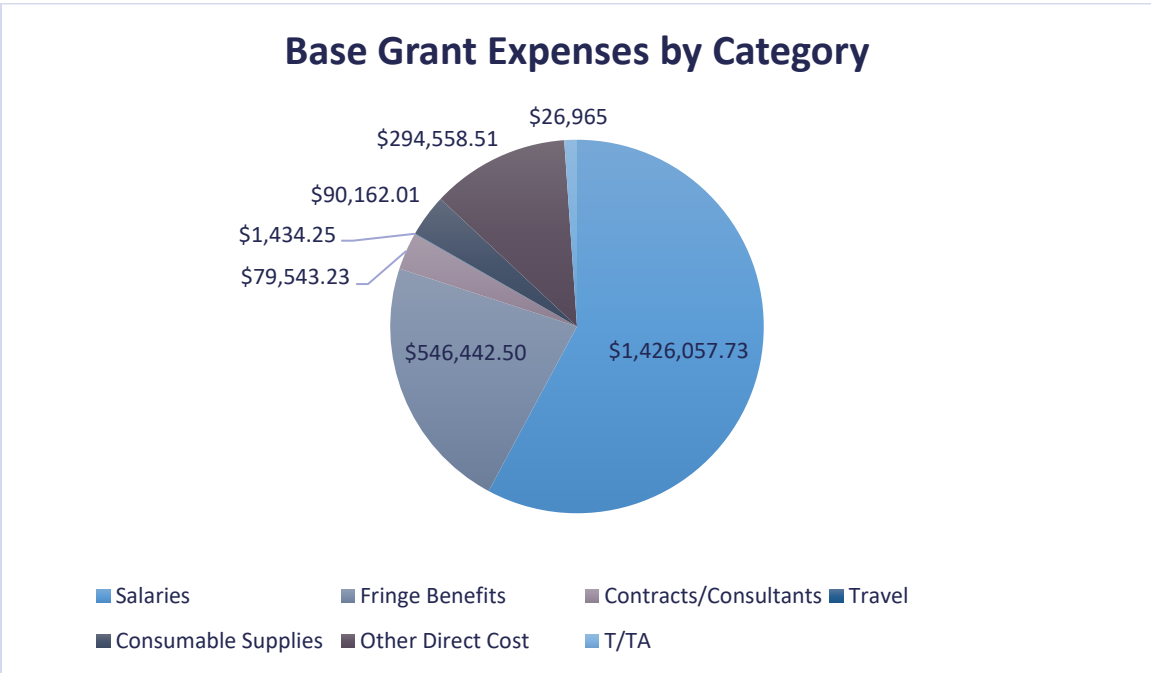
Head Start Federal Grant Award: \$2,743,446.00

Carryover Funds from 2020-2021: \$120,483.00

Total Award with Carryover: \$2,863,929.00

Category	Budget	Expenses
Salaries	\$1,711,212.00	\$1,426,057.73
Fringe Benefits	\$650,982.00	\$546,442.50
Contracts/Consultants	\$116,170.00	\$79,543.23
Travel	\$10,057.00	\$1,434.25
Consumable Supplies	\$57,837.00	\$90,162.01
Other Direct Cost	\$290,716.00	\$294,558.51
T/TA	\$26,965.00	\$26,965
Total:	\$2,863,929.00	\$2,467,524.65

*The program was granted approval to carryover \$396,404.35 in base grant funding to the 2022-2034 program year.



Program Budget & Expenses Cont'd

Federal Covid Funding

Federal Award: \$61,699.00

Carryover Covid Funds: \$63,970.00

Total Covid Funds with Carryover: \$125,699.00

Category	Budget	Expenses
Salaries	\$0.00	\$41,485.99
Fringe Benefits	\$0.00	\$5,759.49
Consumable Supplies	\$125,669.00	\$77,875.57
Other Direct Cost	\$0.00	\$547.99
Total:	\$125,669.00	\$125,699.00

**The program was awarded \$245,283 in American Rescue Plan funding. The funding must be fully spent by March 31, 2023.

CACFP Reimbursement

**The program received a CACFP reimbursement in the amount of \$100,840.04 between October 1, 2021–September 30, 202

State ECE Funding

July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022

Total Award: \$268,000

Category	Budget	Expenses
Salaries	\$142,355.00	\$142,355.00
Fringe Benefits	\$57,358.00	\$57,358.00
Consumable Supplies	\$18,250.00	\$18,250.00
Other Direct Cost	\$50,037.00	\$50,037.00

Non-Federal Funding

ODJFS Pandemic Support Payment: \$27,000

Category	Budget	Expenses
Salaries	\$27,000	\$27,000

Hero for a Child

Laura Denise Sanford was an employee of Ross County Community Action Head Start from September 8, 1981, until she passed away on November 3, 2021. Denise first became affiliated with the Head Start program as a parent and then was hired as an Assistant Teacher in 1981, spending the next 40 years in multiple positions within the program.



Denise obtained an Associate of Applied Science degree in 2006 and a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education degree in 2009 from The Ohio University while working full time for the program. Denise had a passion for advocating for children and families, specifically children with developmental delays and



2021-2022 Recipient JoAnne Bond-Riley

those who had to overcome adverse experiences. Denise had the ability to relate to all people and was loved dearly by those who worked with her. RCCAC wanted to honor Denise' years of dedication to the children and families of Ross County by annually recognizing one Head Start parent the

Laura Denise Sanford "Hero for a Child" Award. The program will recognize the recipients of the awards each year during the June RCCAC Governing Board meeting, Denise family will be invited to the presentation. A plaque honoring Denise and recognizing the recipients of the annual award will be displayed at the Ross County/Ohio University Chillicothe Child Development and Family Service Center.