

Ross County Community Action Commission Inc.



Early Head Start & Head Start 2023-2024 Annual Report

*Policy Council Approval: 1.13.2025
Governing Board Approval: 1.15.2025*

The Annual Report is distributed to the Policy Council, RCCAC Governing Board, and shared with the public on the Ross County Community Action Commission Inc. website at www.rossccac.org

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.

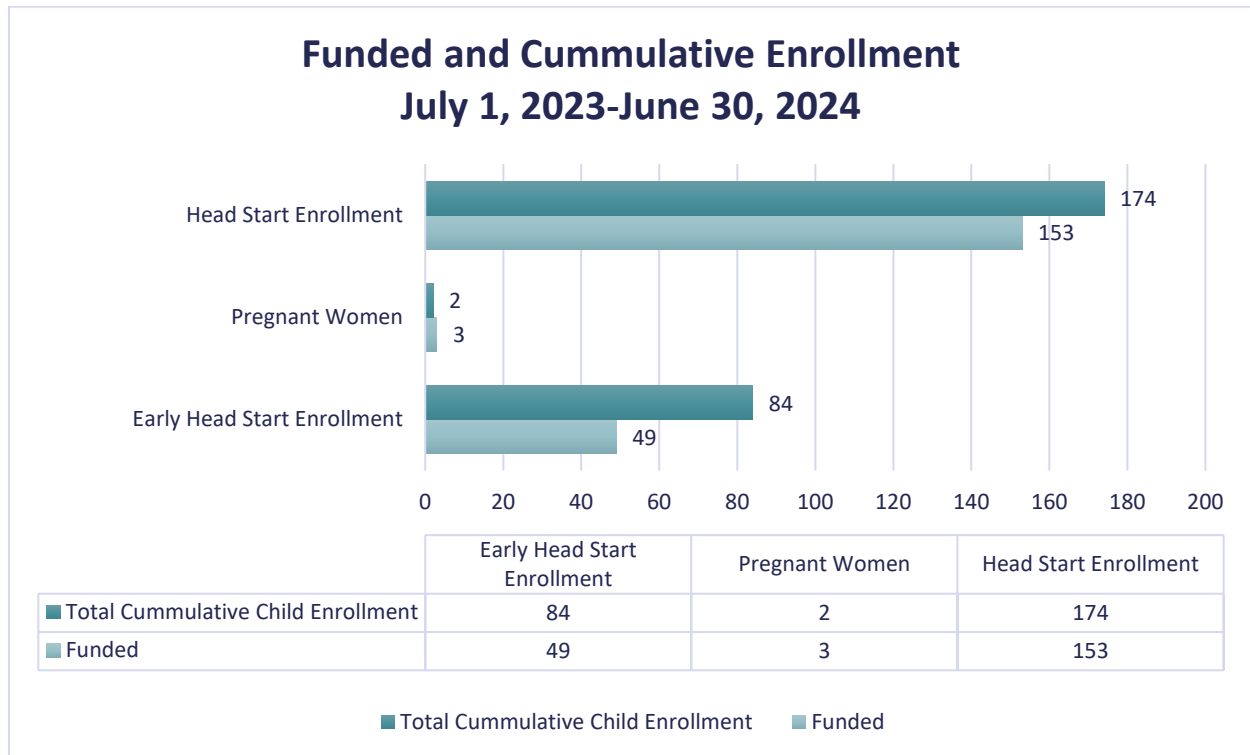
The philosophy of our program is that children benefit from a program that is family and community centered. We feel that parents are their child's first teachers and that connections within the community strengthen a child's development.

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.

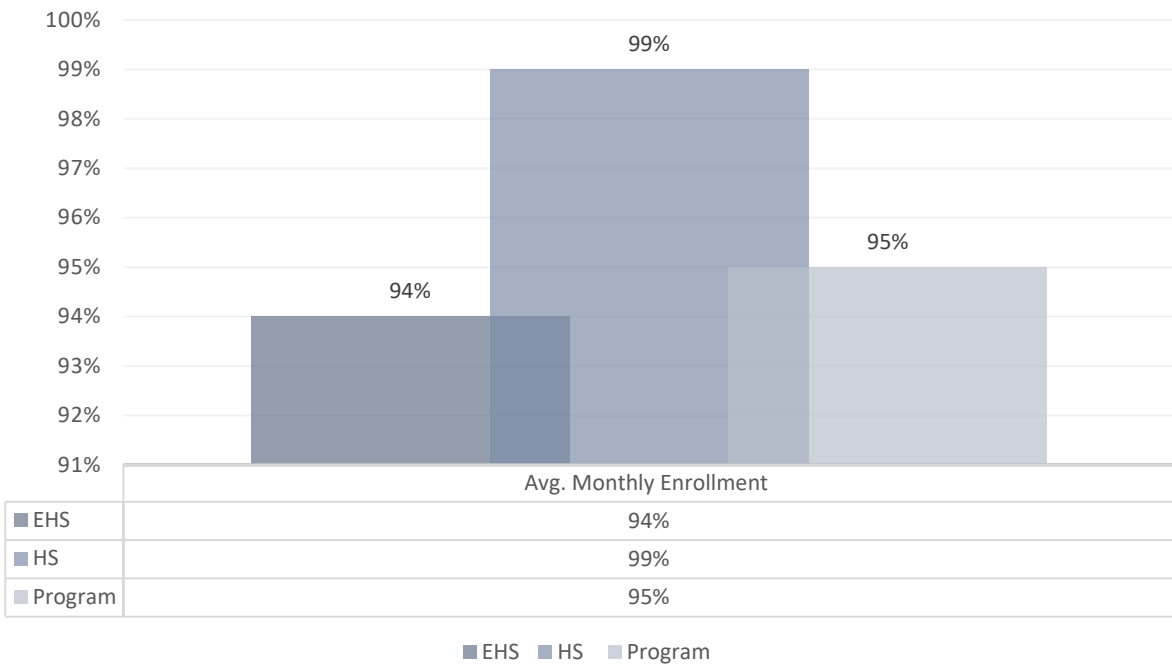
Children learn by doing. The Early Learning programs strive to provide each child with hands-on experiences

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.

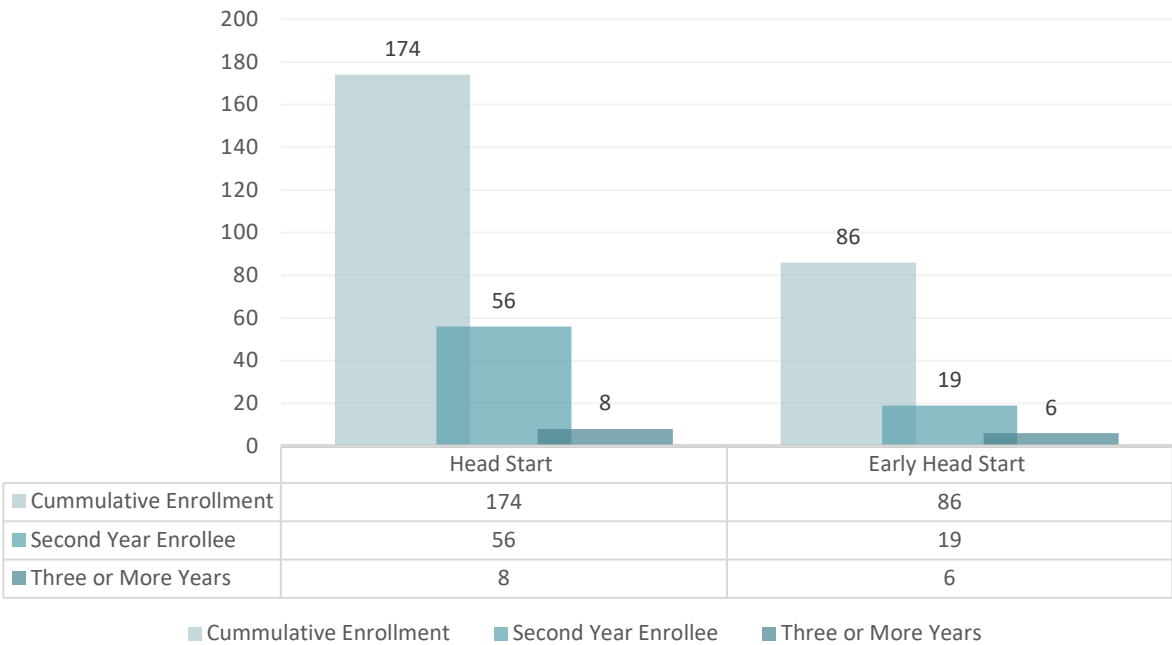
Enrollment



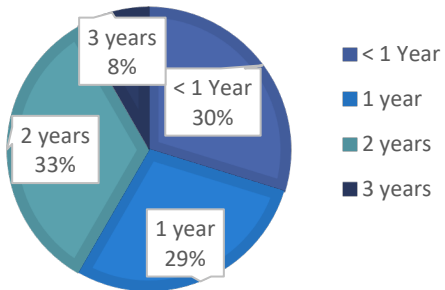
Average Monthly Enrollment July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



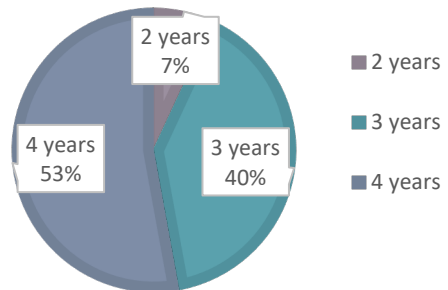
Head Start And Early Head Start Enrollment Prior Enrollment

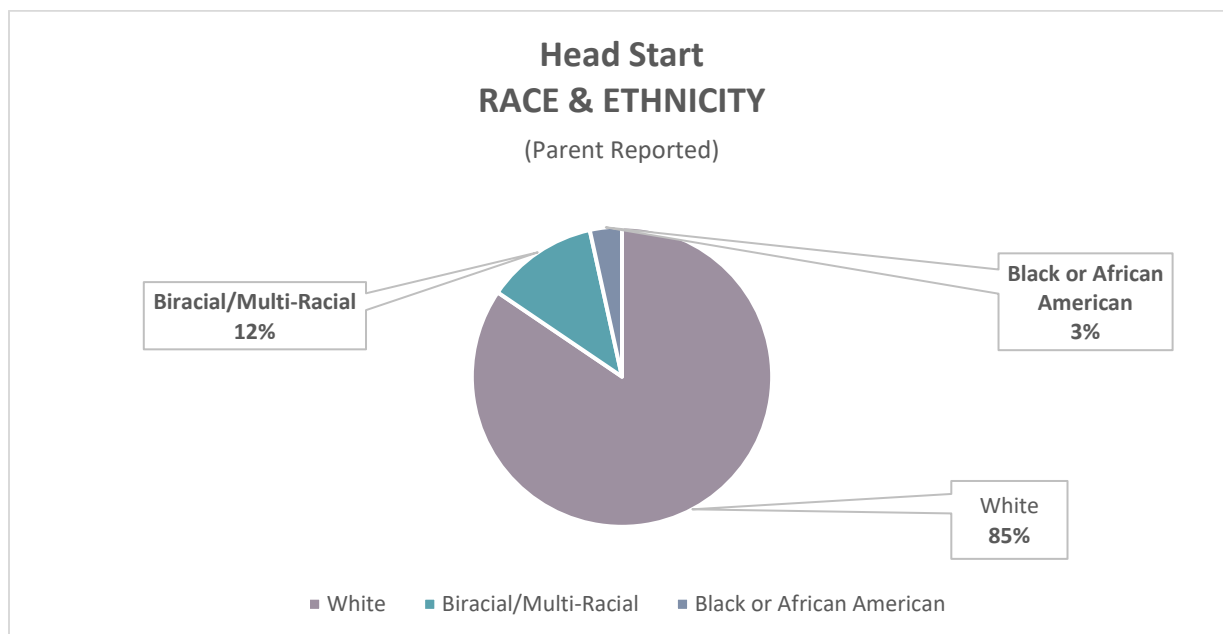
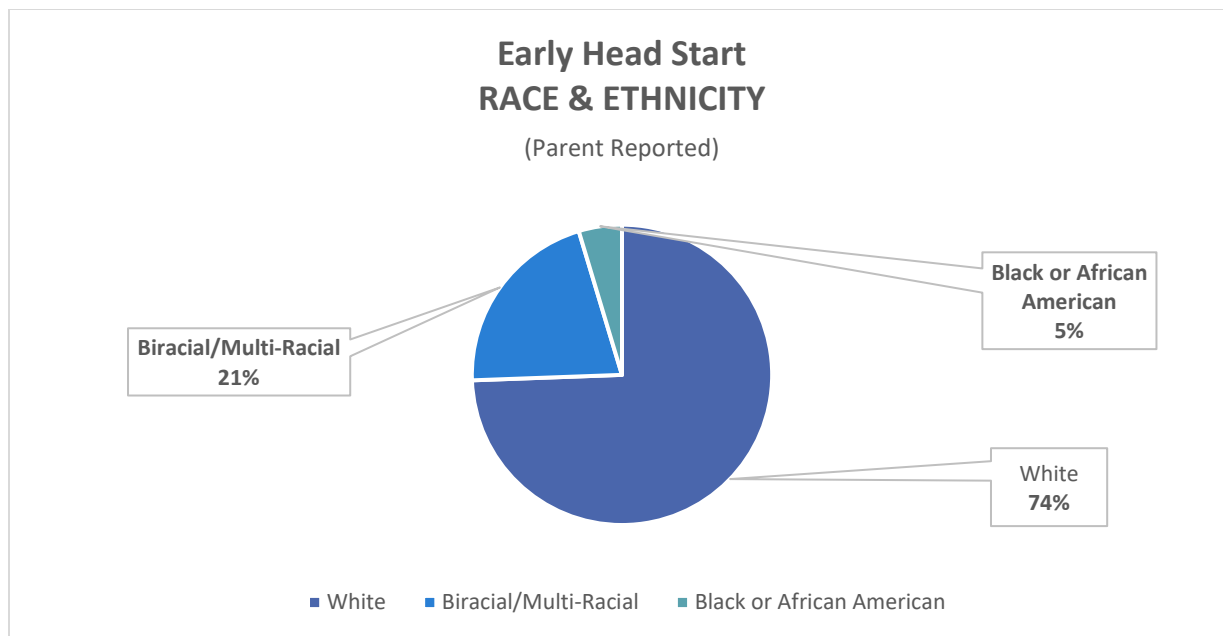


EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN BY AGE (AT ENROLLMENT)



HEAD START CHILDREN BY AGE (AT ENROLLMENT)





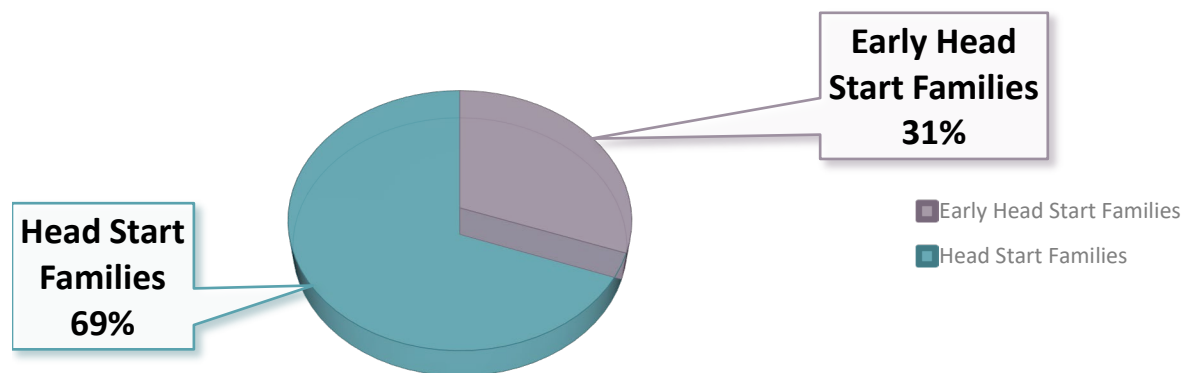
Hispanic or Latino Origin EHS- .01%

Hispanic or Latino Origin HS- .02%

Primary Language of family at home: English 100%

Family Demographics

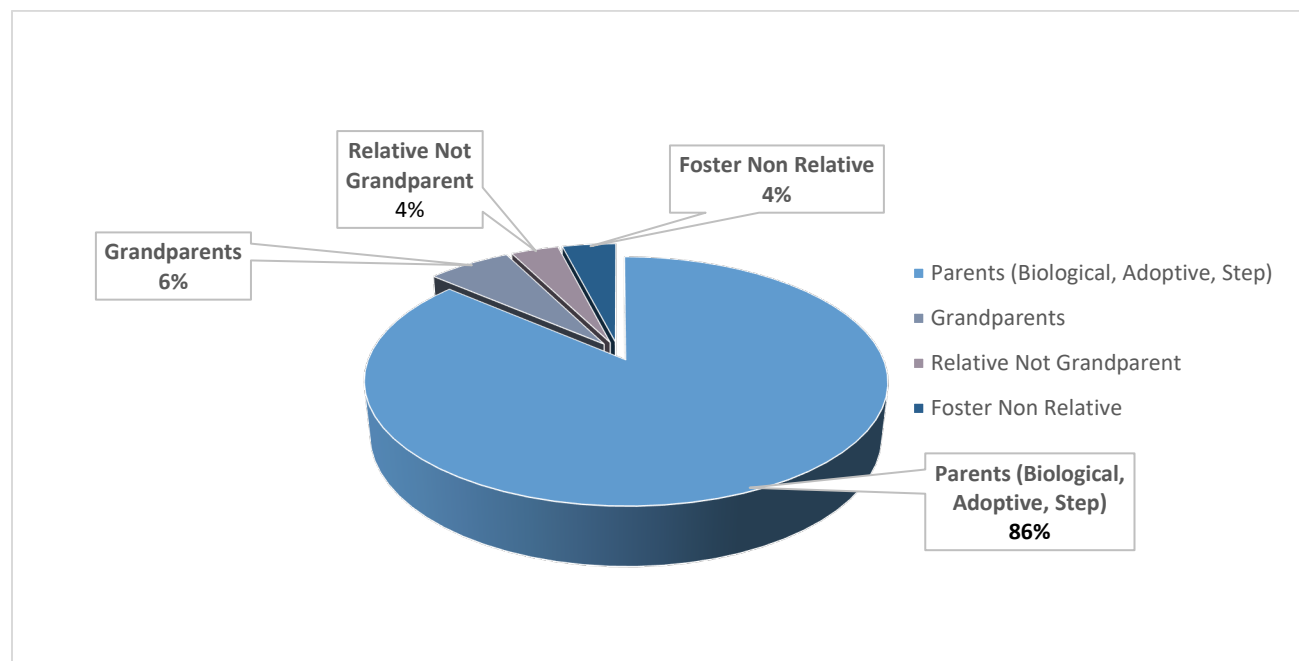
OF THE 226 FAMILIES SERVED...



Two Parent Families: **40%**

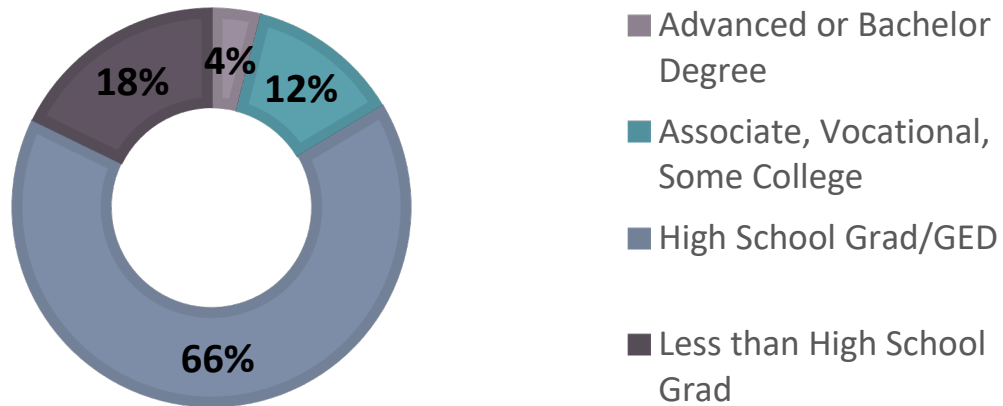
Single Parent Families: **60%**

Family Design



Of the **195** families of which the parent/guardian figure is best described as a biological, adoptive, or stepparent: **54%** have a mother only and **3%** have a father only.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF FAMILIES



Employment, Job Training, and School (at enrollment)

Number of families where at least one parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school: **63%**

Neither parent is employed, in job training, or attending school: **37%**

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.

17% of EHS students received services through an IFSP (9/52).

17% of HS students received services through an IEP (26/153).

17% of students program wide received services through an IFSP/IEP (funded enrollment) (35/205).

Mental Health

RCCAC partnered with **Hopewell Health** for mental health consultation services. All classroom staff received assistance from a mental health consultant through observation or consultation. The program was able to offer a weekly 30-minute session with **Soundscape Music Therapy** to the classrooms at Ohio University-Chillicothe. Due to scheduling and the availability of therapist, the services were unable to be provided to the Bainbridge and Huntington locations.

The staff also continued to focus on the implementation of Conscious Discipline in the



classrooms! Several staff started off the program year by attending a **Conscious Discipline Reboot** training that was hosted by OHSAI.

Health Services

100% of Early Head Start children had health insurance. **98%** enrolled in Medicaid and the remaining **2%** enrolled in other health insurance options. **100%** of enrolled pregnant women received Medicaid.

100% 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!

100% of Early Head Start children were determined to be up to date or in compliance with the state guidelines for an exemption on immunizations!

100% 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!

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Dental Exams and Treatment

100% of **Early Head Start** children had access to preventative care and dental treatment by the end of the program year, which was up from **96%** at the beginning. **100%** of **Early Head Start** children completed a dental exam during the program year!

100% of **Head Start** children had access to preventative care and dental treatment during the program year. Of those with access, **89%** completed a professional dental examination during the program year. Of the 154 students that completed a dental examination, 38 (25%) of them were diagnosed as needing dental treatment; 24 children (63%) received the treatment by the end of the program year.

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



Nutrition



17,296 Breakfasts

18,013 Lunches

19,654 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.

Community Engagement

Ross County Community Action Commission Inc. Head Start was awarded the **2023 Outstanding Community Partnership Award** by Ohio University- Chillicothe! We were selected because of the opportunities that have been provided by the program for OU-C students to engage with children and families as they prepare to graduate and work in the fields of nursing, social work, and early childhood education!





The **American Legion Post #62** generously donated **\$3,075** dollars for the program to purchase a Christmas gift for each enrolled child! The program was able to



purchase a Kohl's Cares animal and book for each student! They also provided a generous bag of candy for each student.

The program participates in many **community outreach events** throughout the school year! A few of these events in the 2023-2024 program year included a "Kidpalooza" Event hosted by South Central Ohio Job and Family Services, a booth at the Ross County Fair, monthly participation in a community resource fair, Ohio University Health and Safety Fair and Project School Tools just to name a few!



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!**

Grinch Craft Night and **Lady Bug Craft Night** were both well attended family events that were held during the 2023-2024 program year.



We celebrated the **Week of the Young Child** with **Blast Off Family Night** which included an appearance by Erica Carlson and “Sedgie the Hedgeie”! The week also included several guest readers being invited to the center!



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 of Head Start Men/Children That Participated
Hedgehog	September 2023	27%
Autumn Fest	October 2023	45%
Bridges	November 2023	0%
Peppermint Pajama Party	December 2023	24%
Cork Creatures	February 2024	59%
Rollerball	March 2024	0%
Chicken Eggs	April 2024	14%
Parachute	May 2024	14%
Cookout	June 2024	29%

2023-2024 Parent Survey

82.5% reported that their child was more socially prepared for school after attending RCCAC EHS/HS!

87.5% reported that RCCAC EHS/HS program supported their child in developing academically!

92.5% reported that the program has provided opportunities for families to engage in their child's school experience!

72.5% reported participating in the homework activities that were sent home with their child.

100% stated that they had opportunities to participate in home visits and parent/teacher conferences!

92.5% agreed/strongly agreed that RCCAC EHS/HS helped connect them to other community resources!

97.5% reported that based on their experience they were likely/very likely to recommend RCCAC EHS/HS to other families!

Kindergarten Readiness

- **77** children, or **44%** of children enrolled in RCCAC Head Start for the 2023-2024 school year transitioned to kindergarten!
- Children were able to visit a kindergarten classroom!



School Readiness

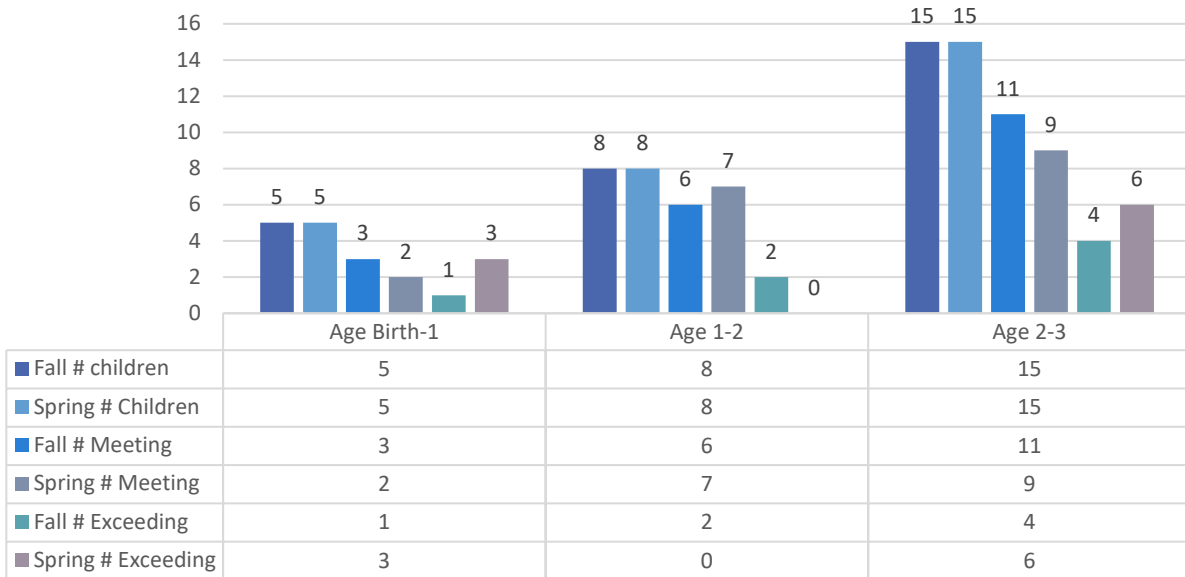
Ross County CAC Early Head Start

TSG GOLD Fall/Spring Checkpoint Periods Growth Comparison

2023-2024 School Year

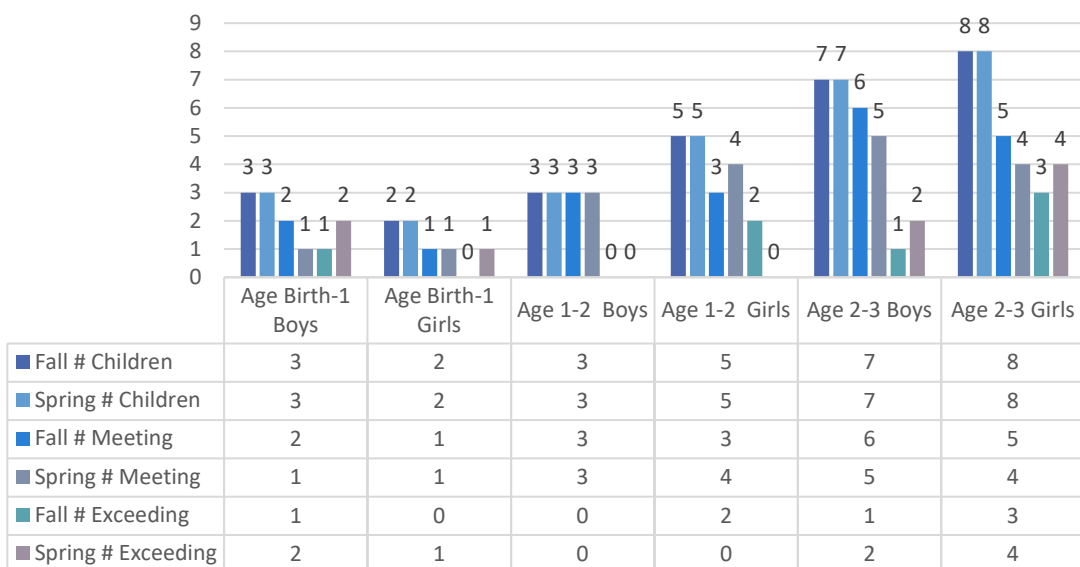
This data demonstrates how children enrolled in Ross County Community Action Commission Head Start program are meeting or are exceeding the Widely Held Expectations (WHE) for their age group. The comparative report includes data from the Fall & Spring checkpoint periods of the 2023-2024 program year from the TSG GOLD Growth Reports. “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-Emotional



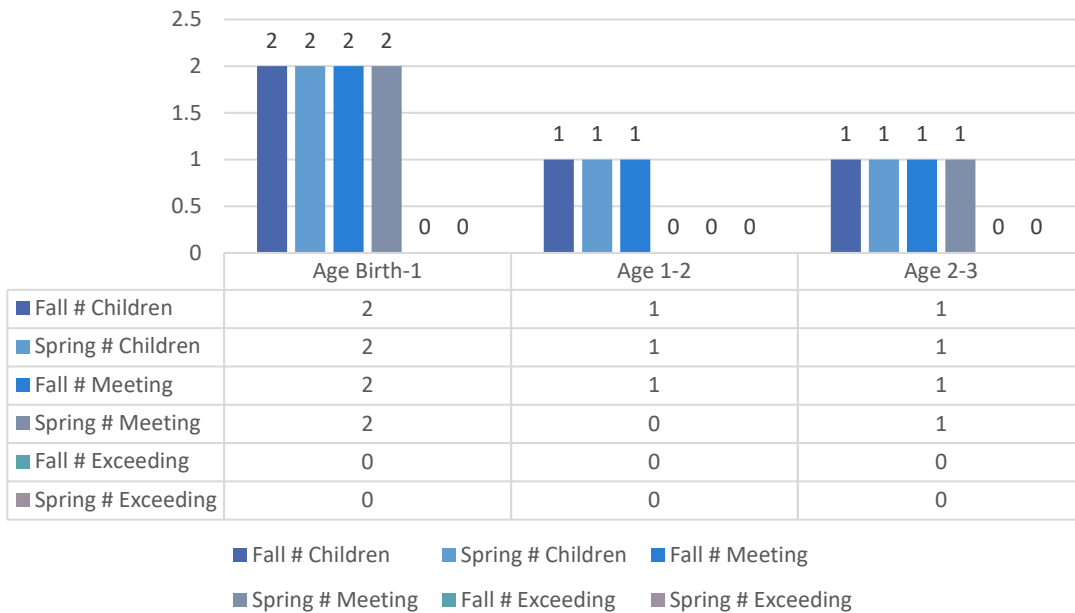
■ Fall # children ■ Spring # Children ■ Fall # Meeting ■ Spring # Meeting ■ Fall # Exceeding ■ Spring # Exceeding

Social-Emotional Boys/Girls

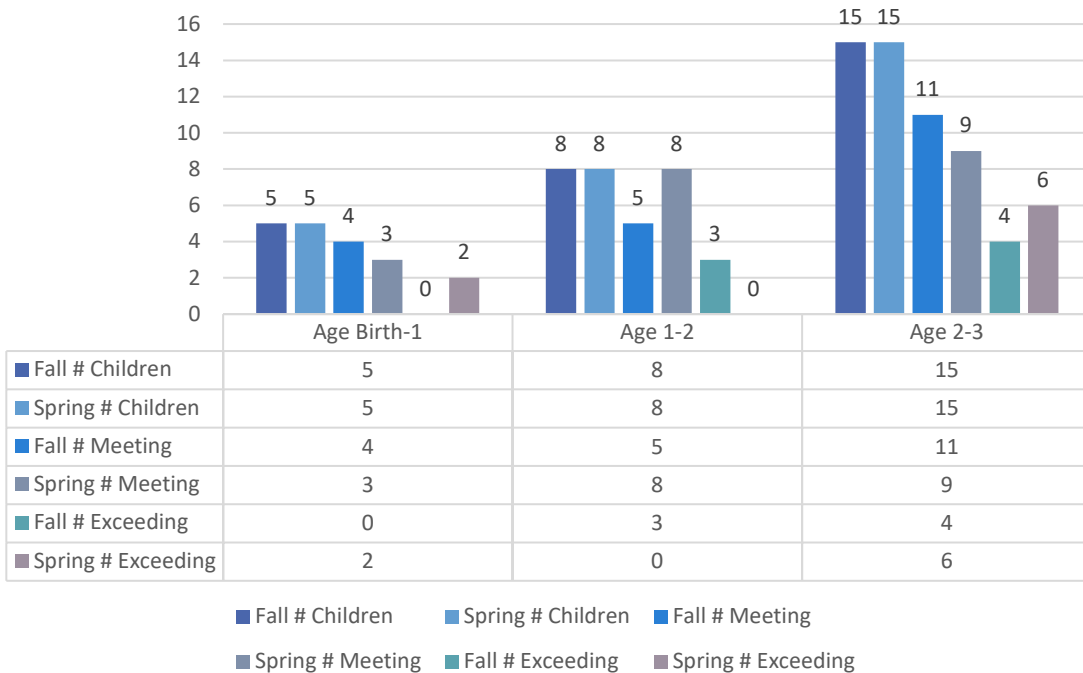


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■ Spring # Meeting ■ Fall # Exceeding ■ Spring # Exceeding

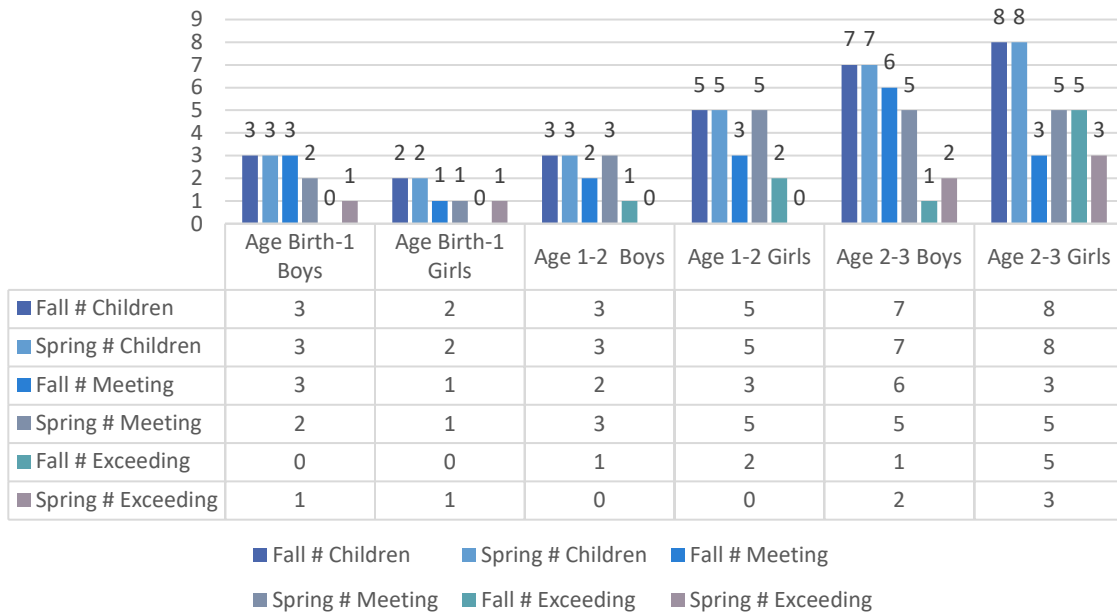
Social-Emotional IFSP/IEP



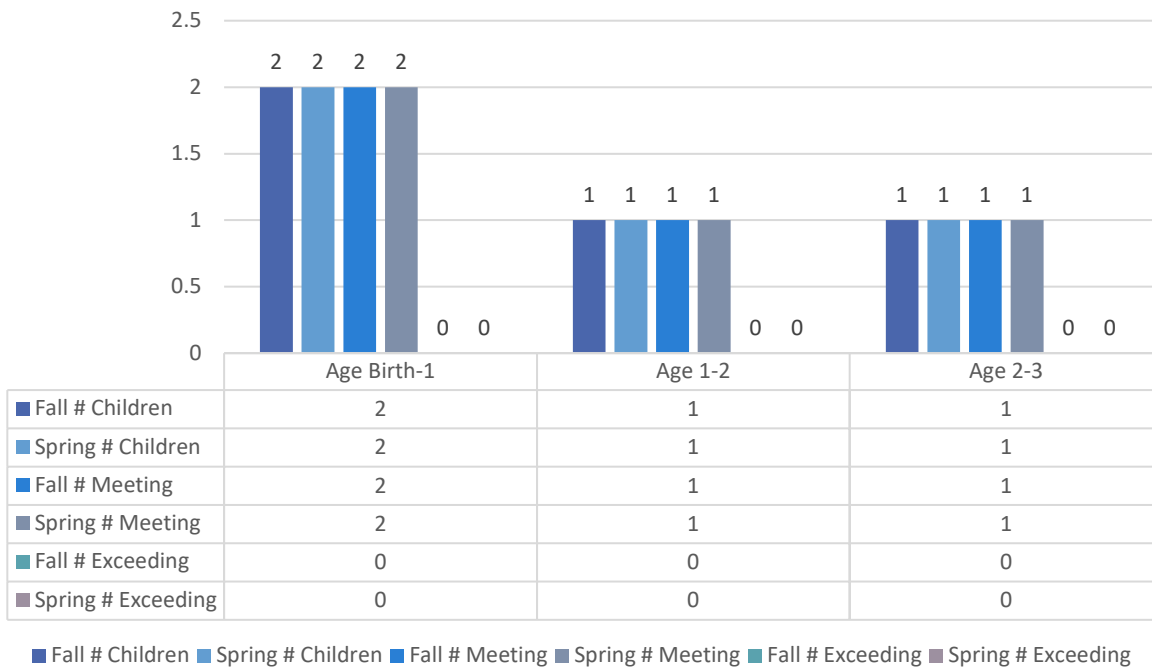
Physical



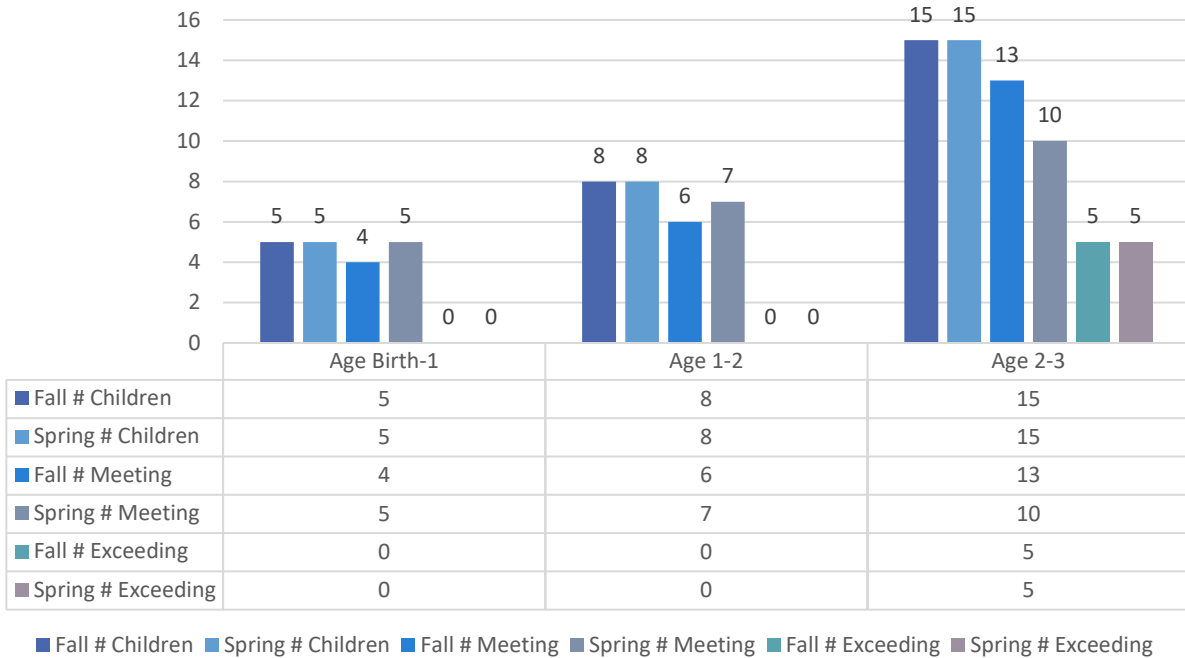
Physical Boys/Girls



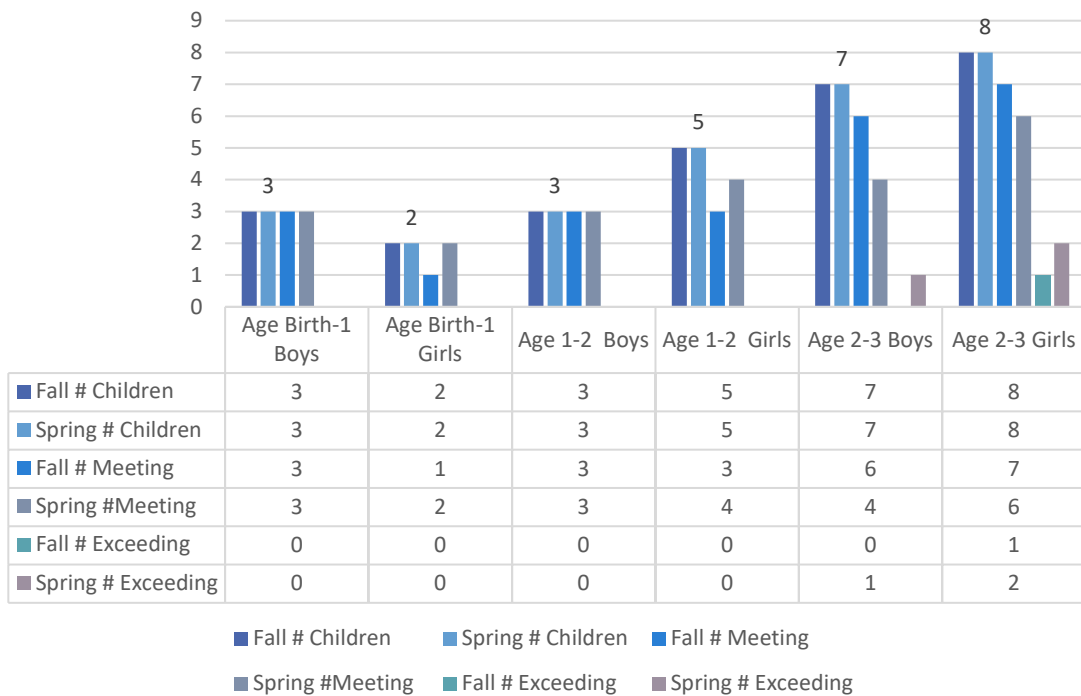
Physical IFSP/IEP



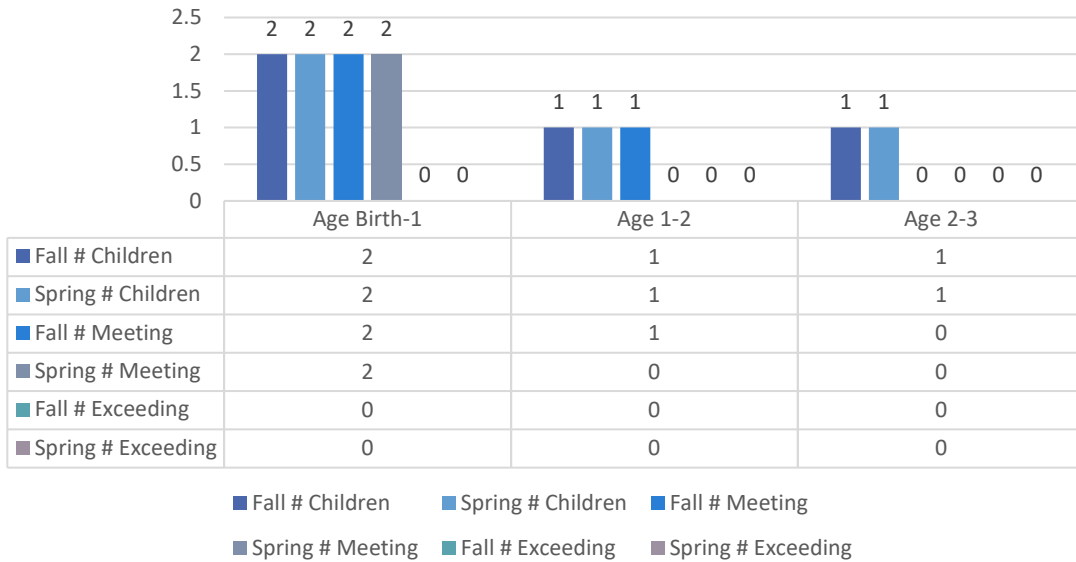
Language



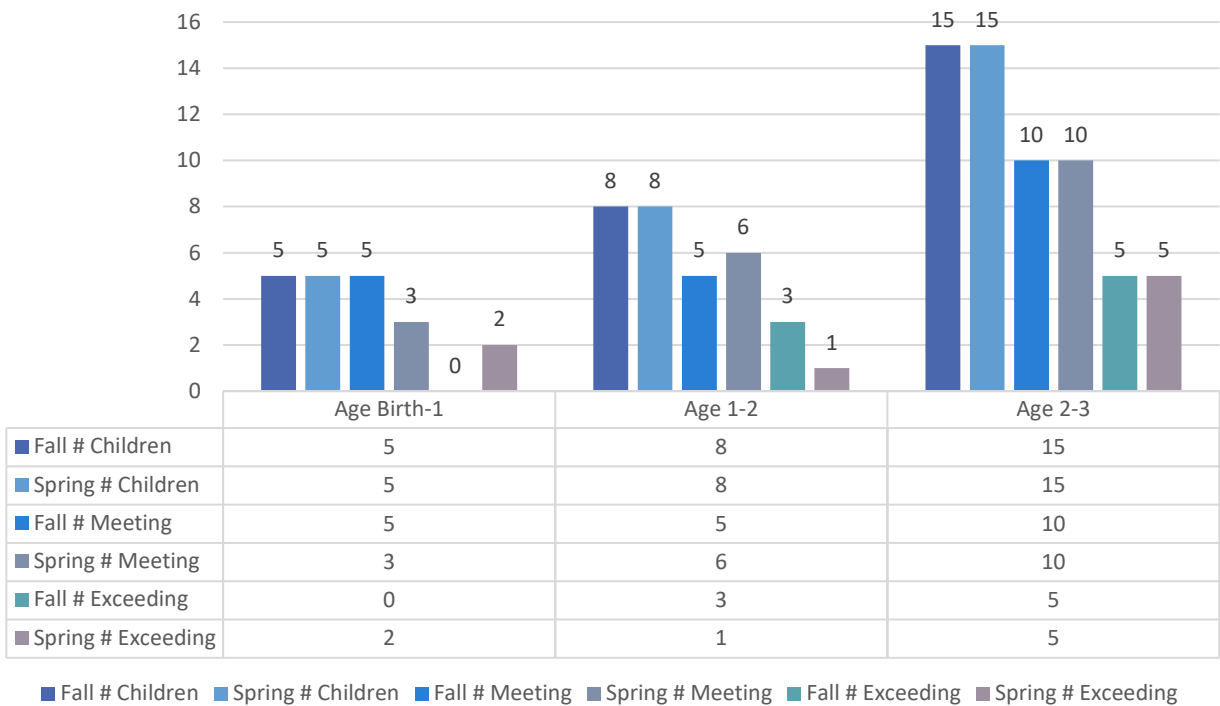
Language Boys/Girls



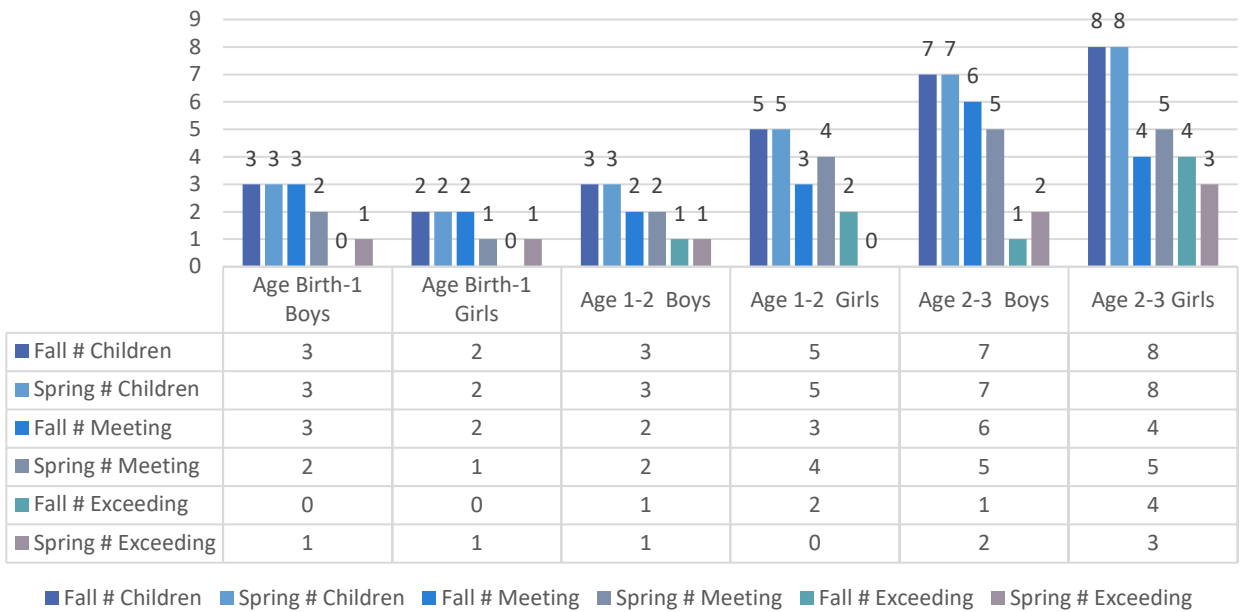
Language IFSP/IEP



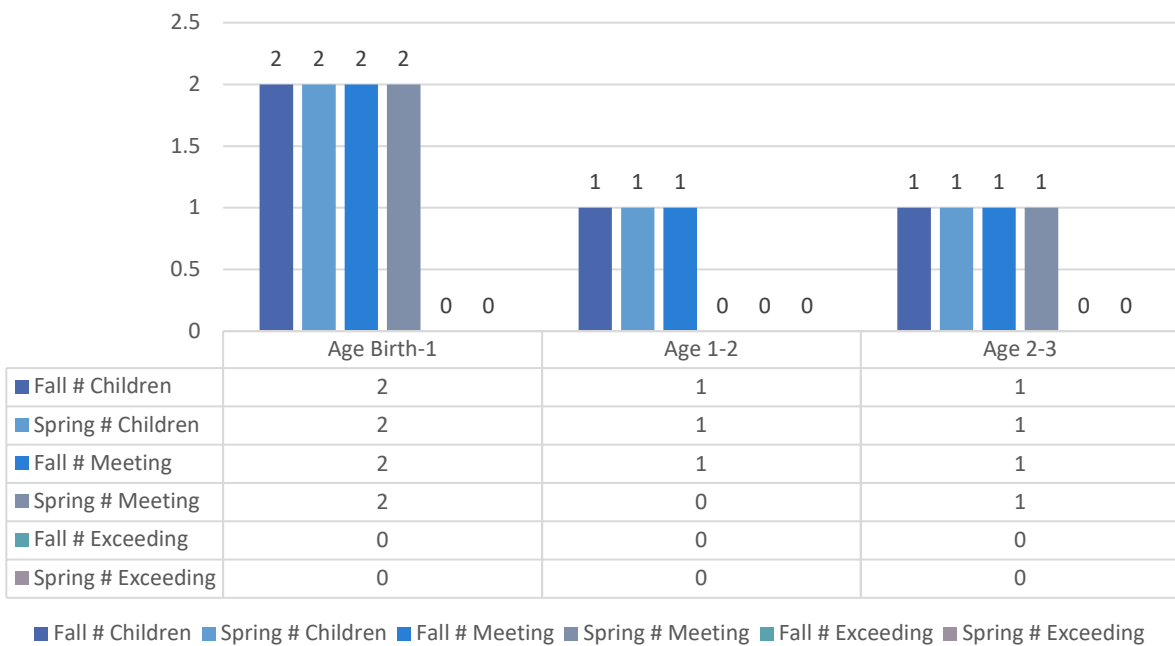
Cognitive



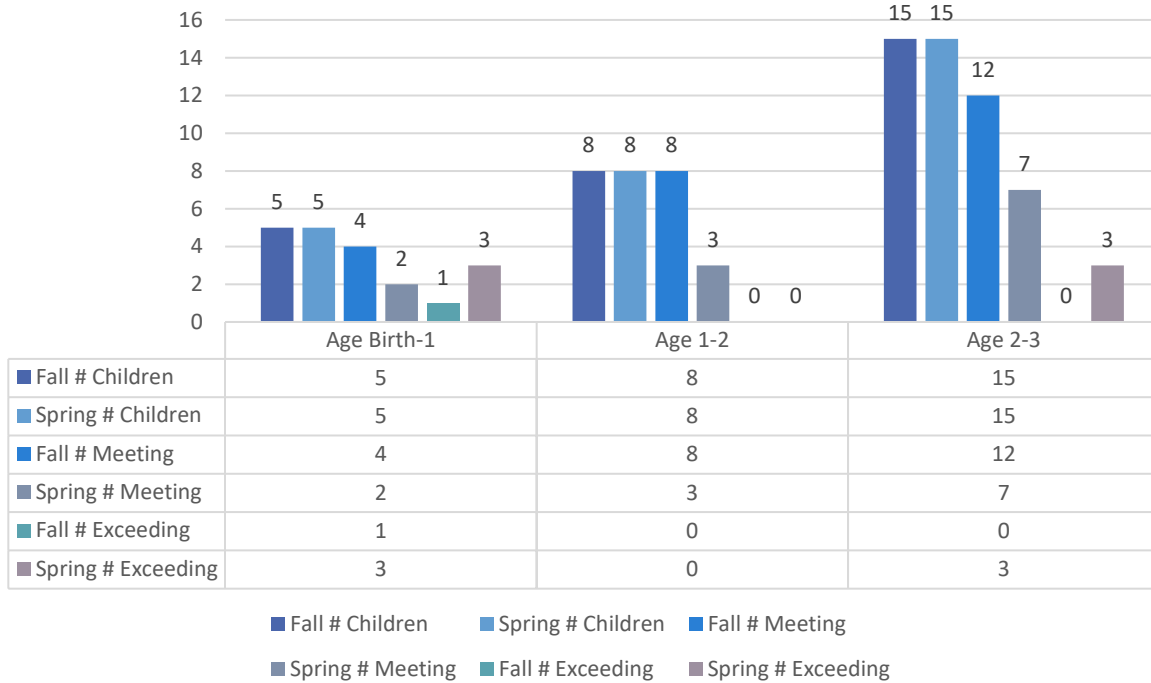
Cognitive Boys/Girls



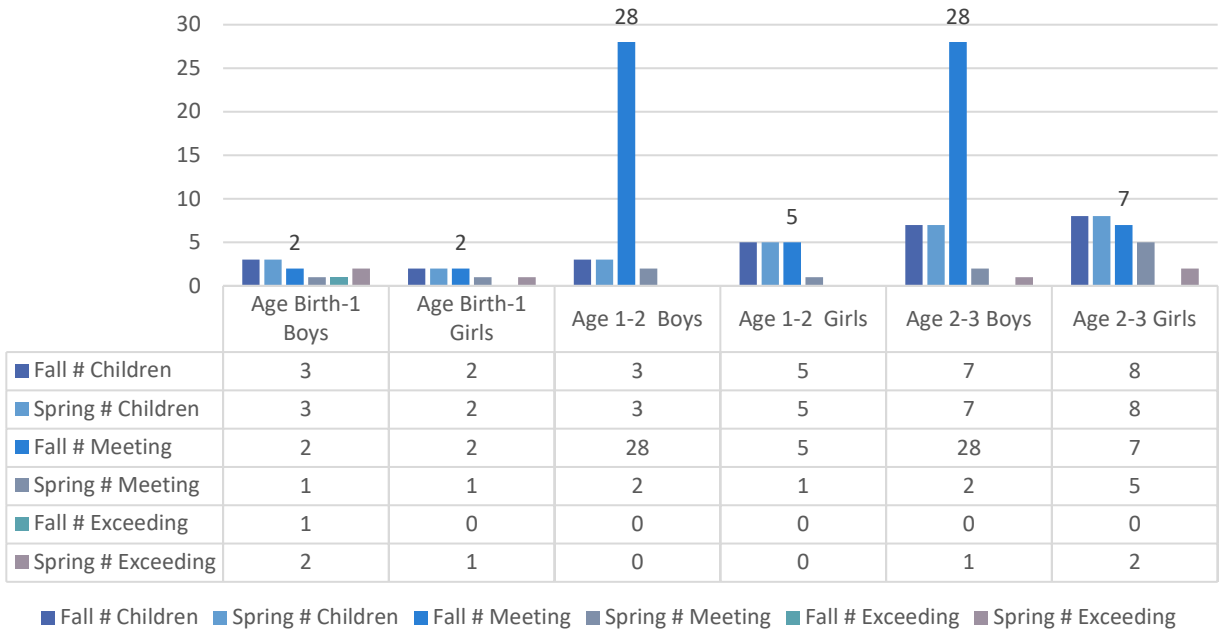
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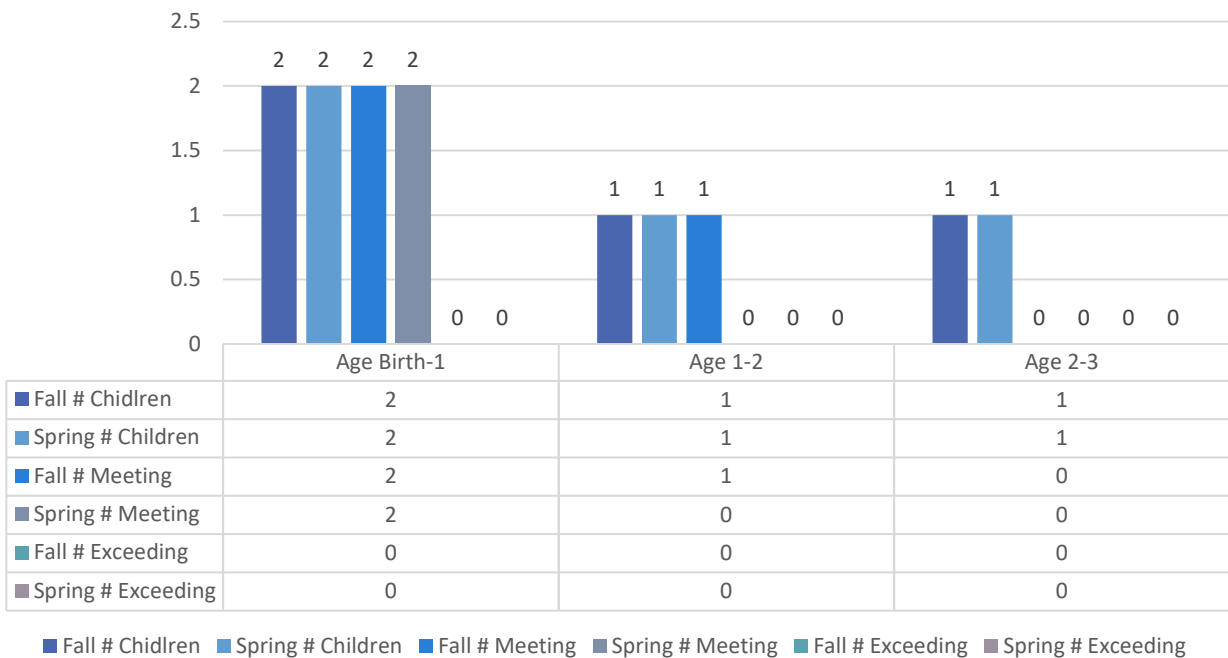
Literacy



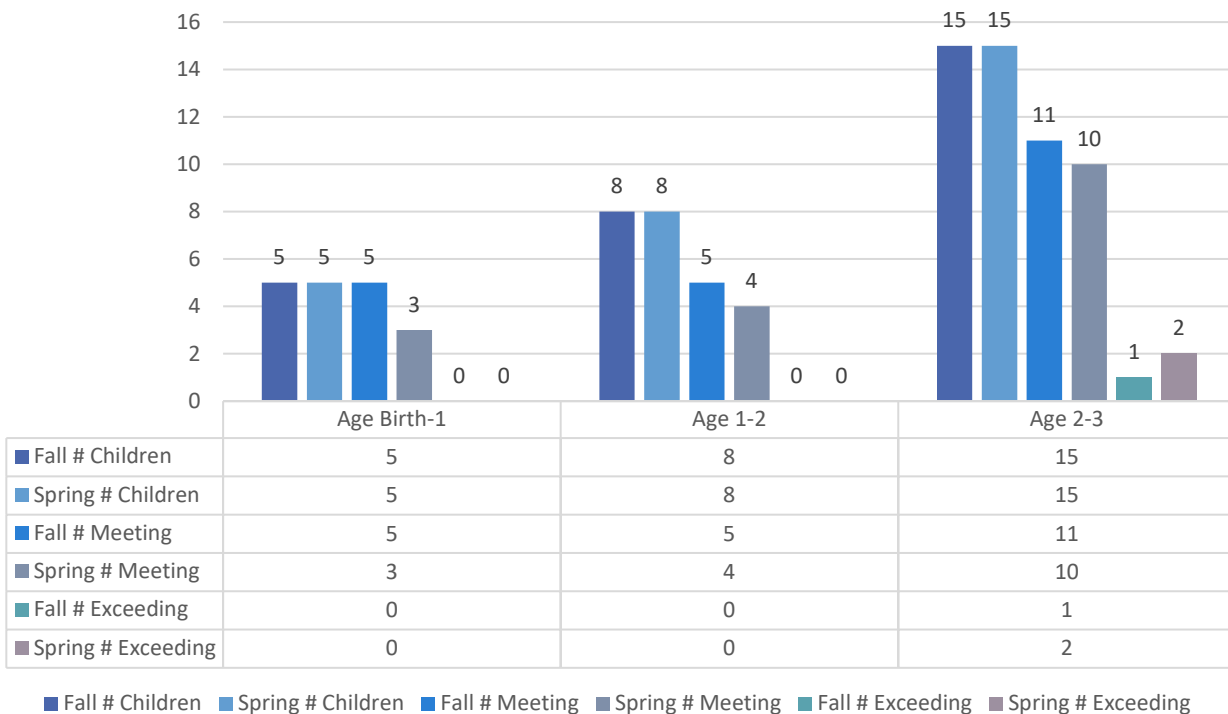
Literacy Boys/Girls



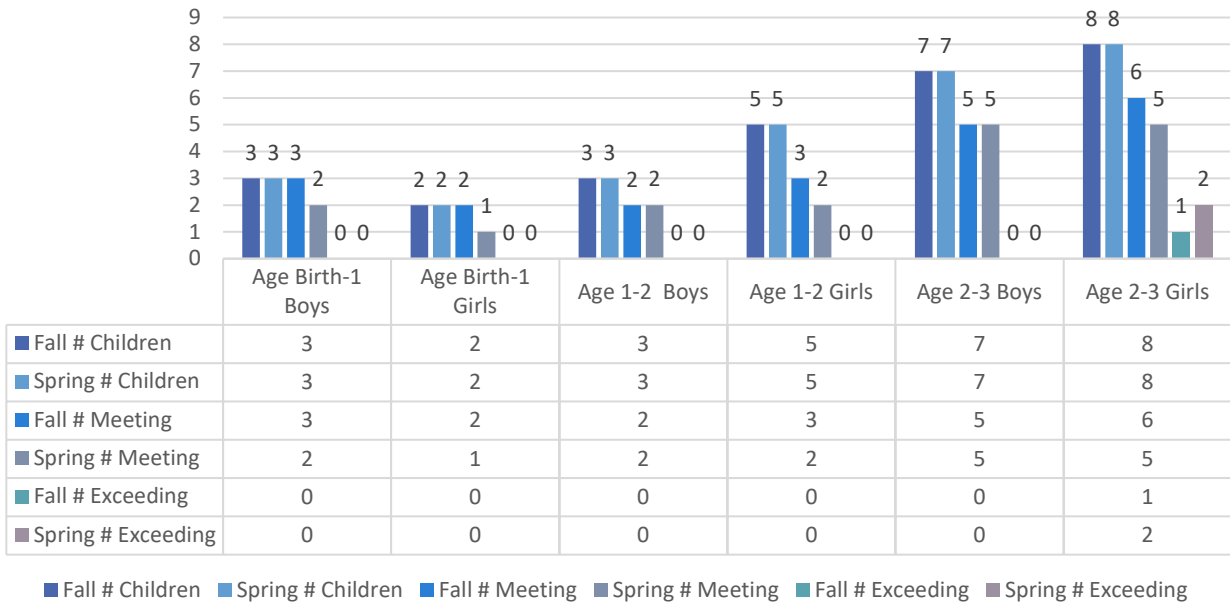
Literacy IFSP/IEP



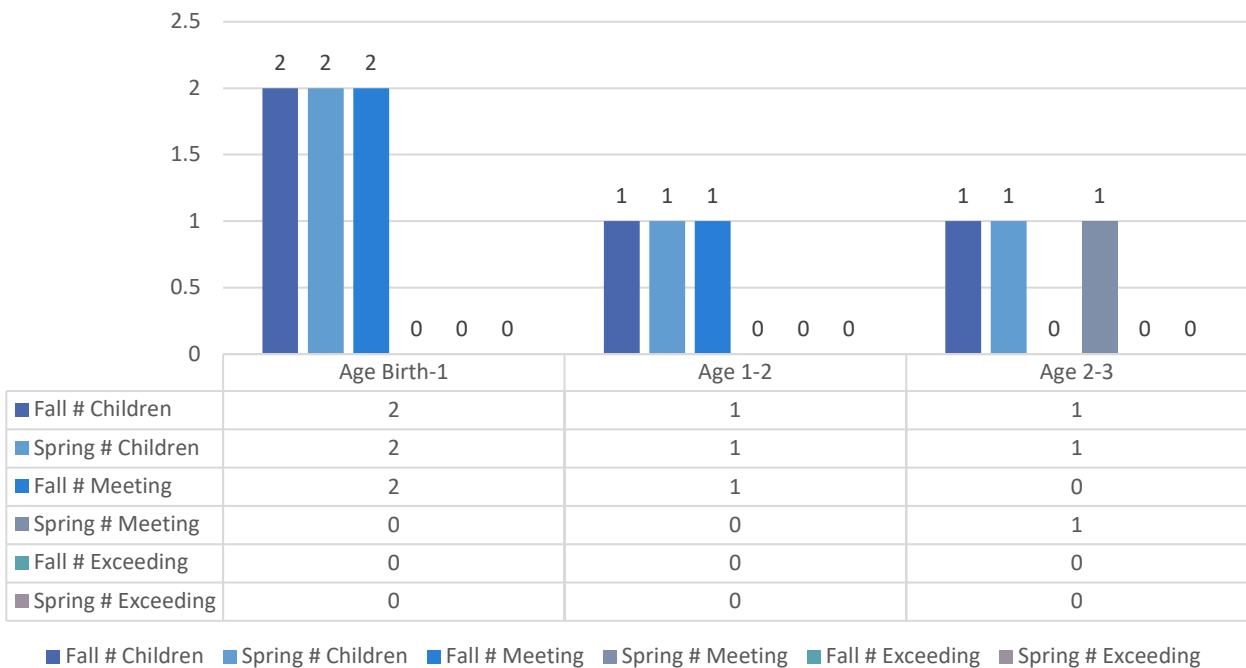
Mathematics



Mathematics Boys/Girls



Mathematics IFSP/IEP

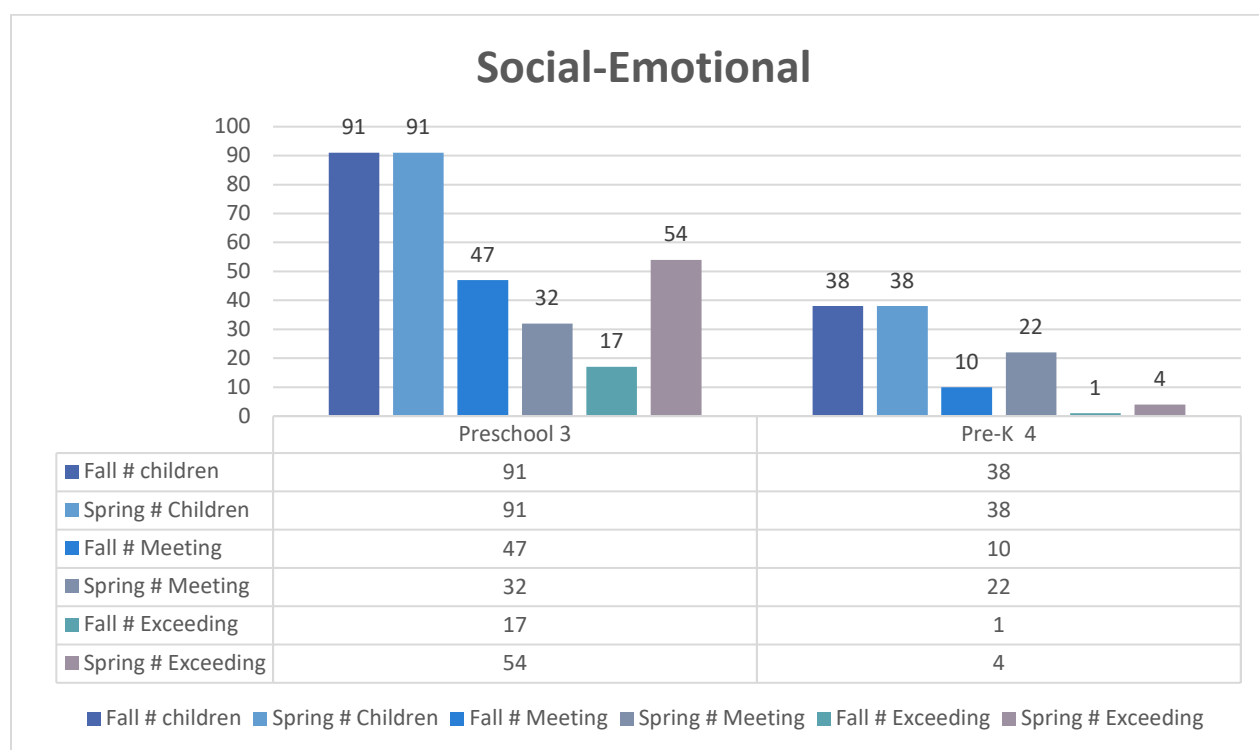


Ross County CAC Head Start

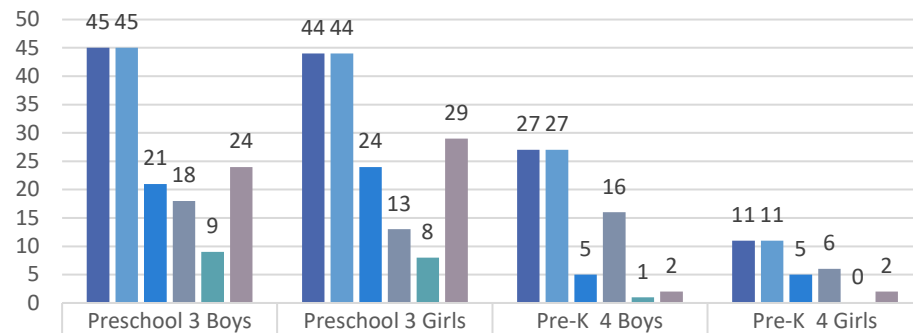
TSG GOLD Fall/Spring Checkpoint Periods Growth Comparison

2023-2024 School Year

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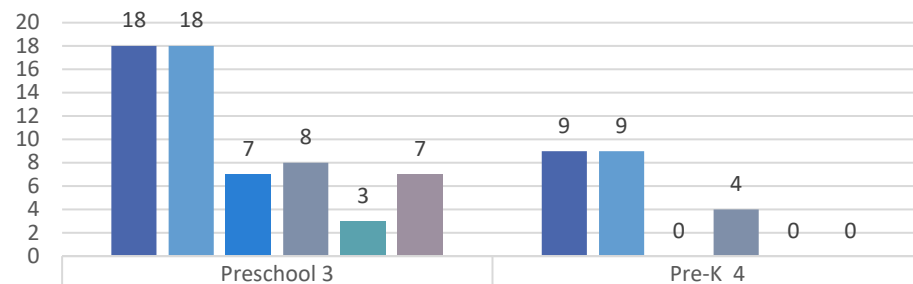
Social-Emotional Boys/Girls



Fall # Children	45	44	27	11
Spring # Children	45	44	27	11
Fall # Meeting	21	24	5	5
Spring # Meeting	18	13	16	6
Fall # Exceeding	9	8	1	0
Spring # Exceeding	24	29	2	2

■ Fall # Children ■ Spring # Children ■ Fall # Meeting
■ Spring # Meeting ■ Fall # Exceeding ■ Spring # Exceeding

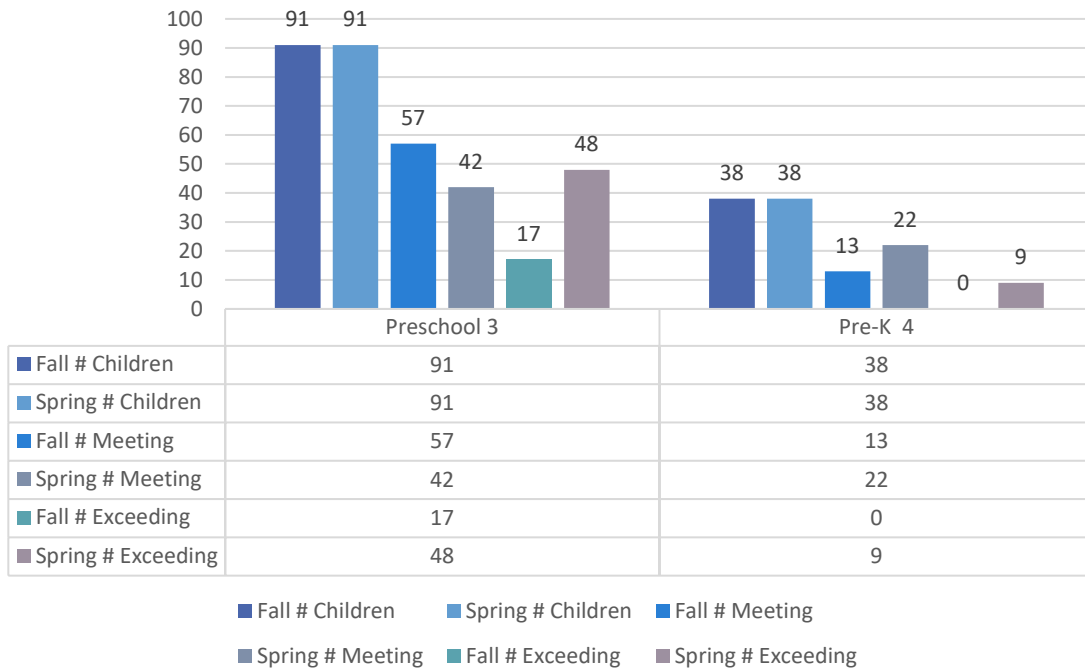
Social-Emotional IFSP/IEP



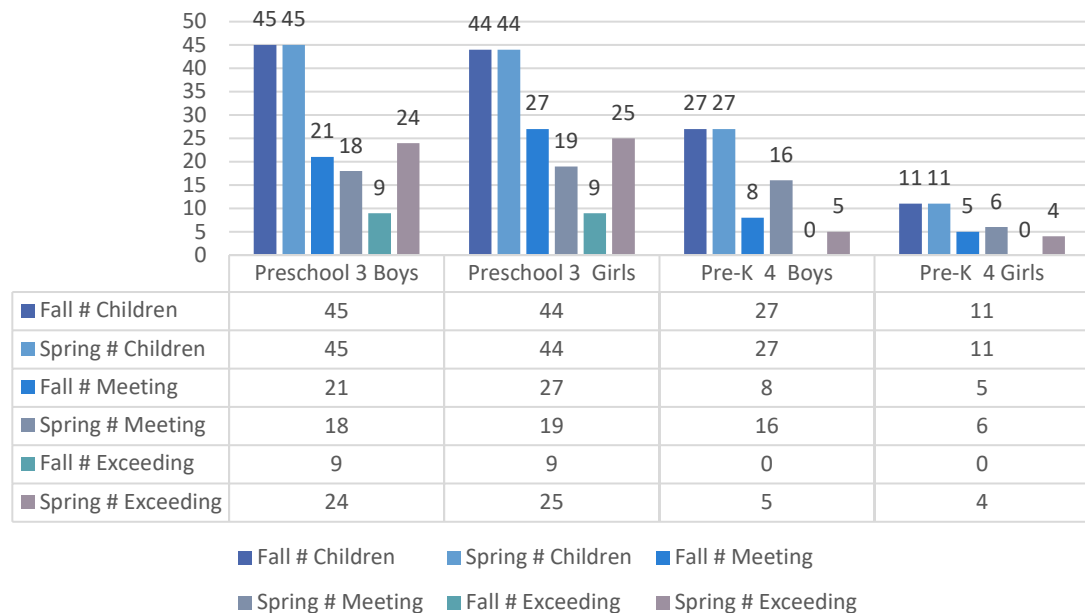
Fall # Children	18	9
Spring # Children	18	9
Fall # Meeting	7	0
Spring # Meeting	8	4
Fall # Exceeding	3	0
Spring # Exceeding	7	0

■ Fall # Children ■ Spring # Children ■ Fall # Meeting
■ Spring # Meeting ■ Fall # Exceeding ■ Spring # Exceeding

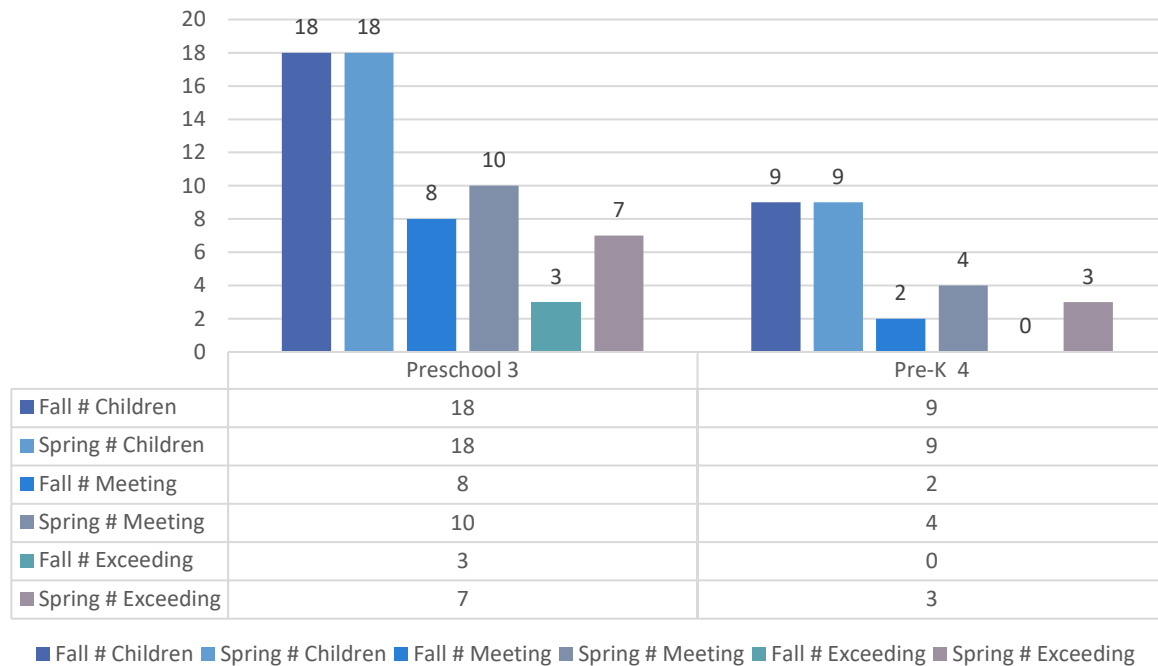
Physical



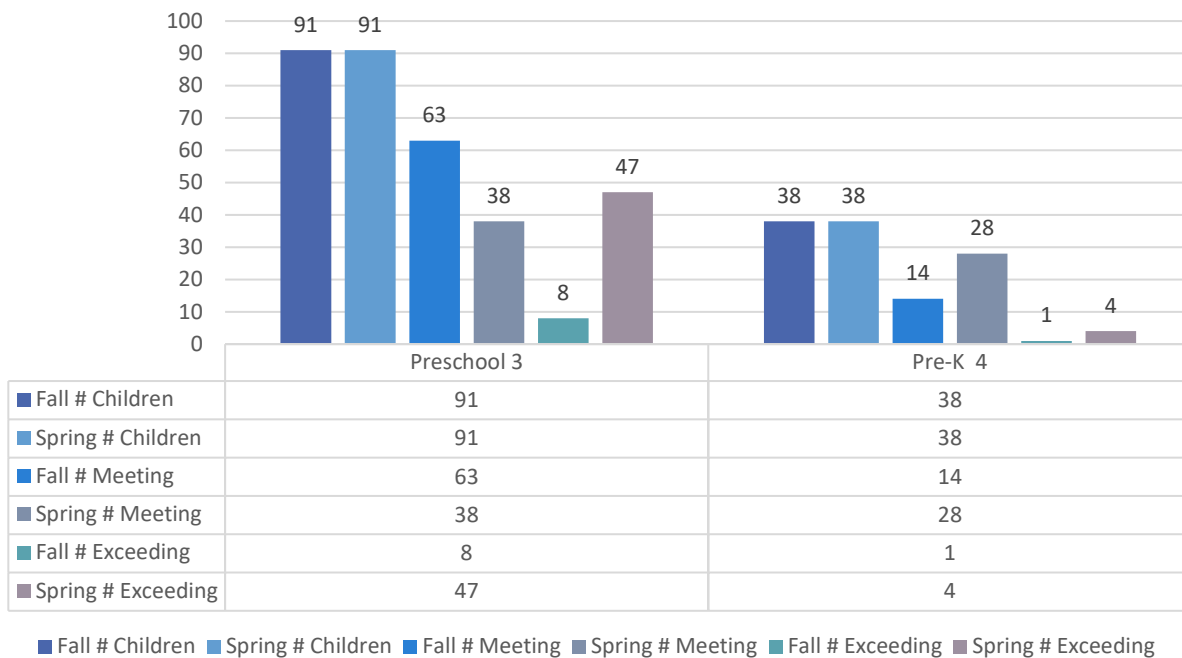
Physical Boys/Girls



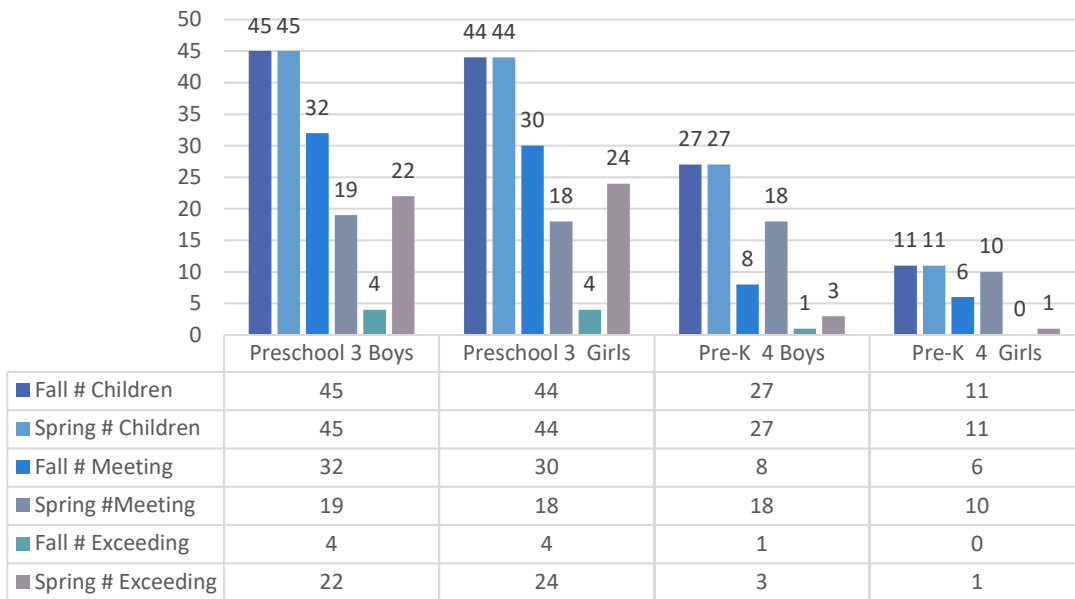
Physical IFSP/IEP



Language

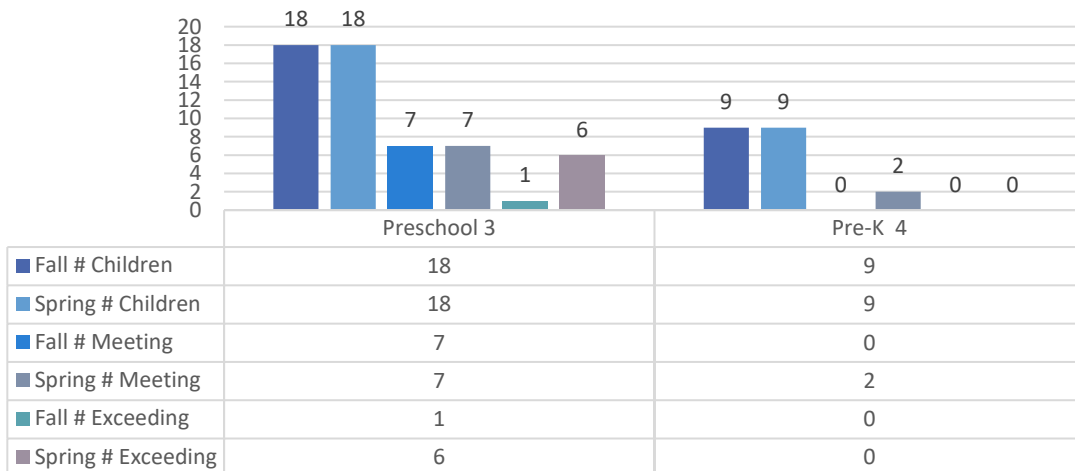


Language Boys/Girls



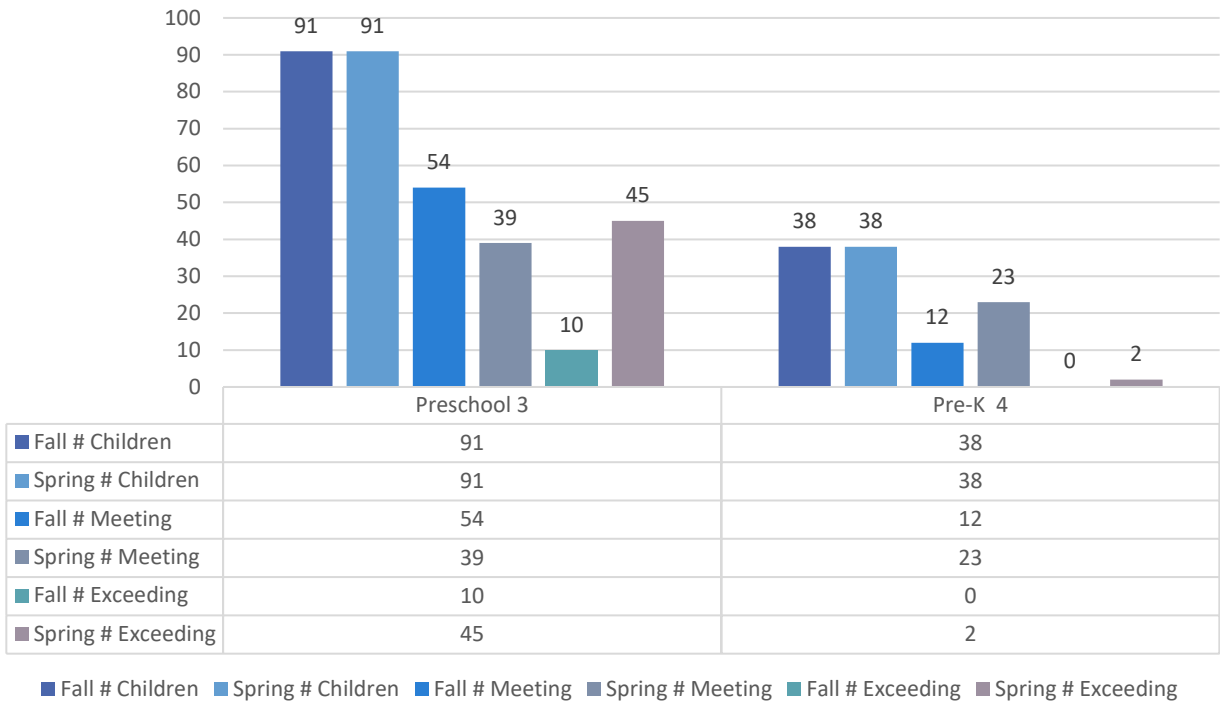
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Language IFSP/IEP

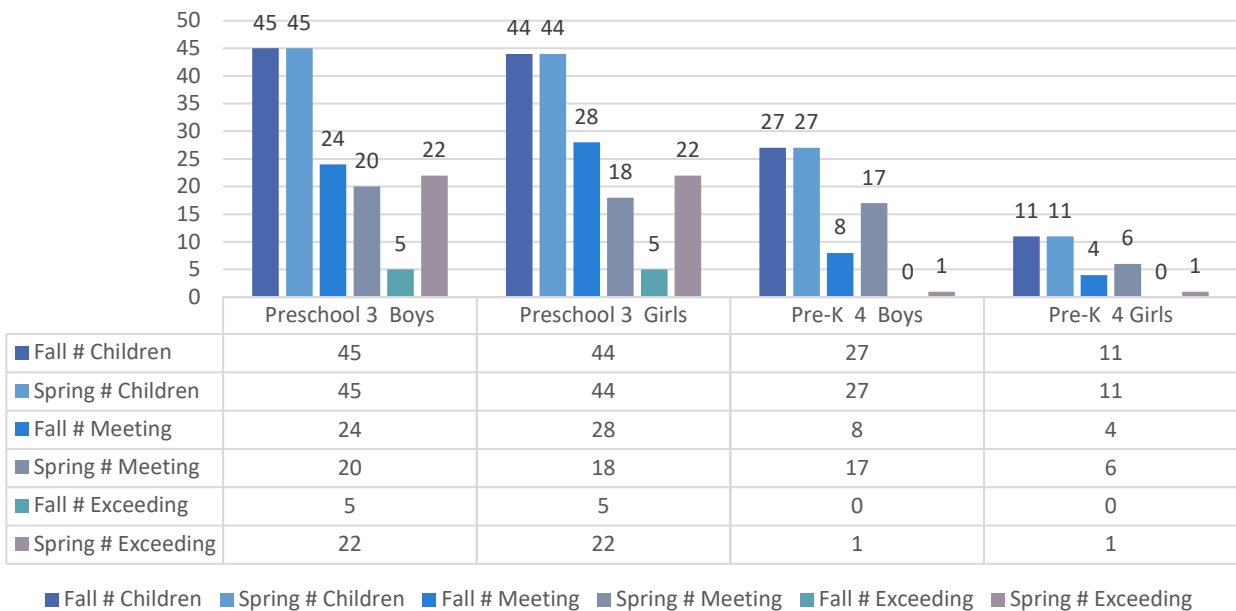


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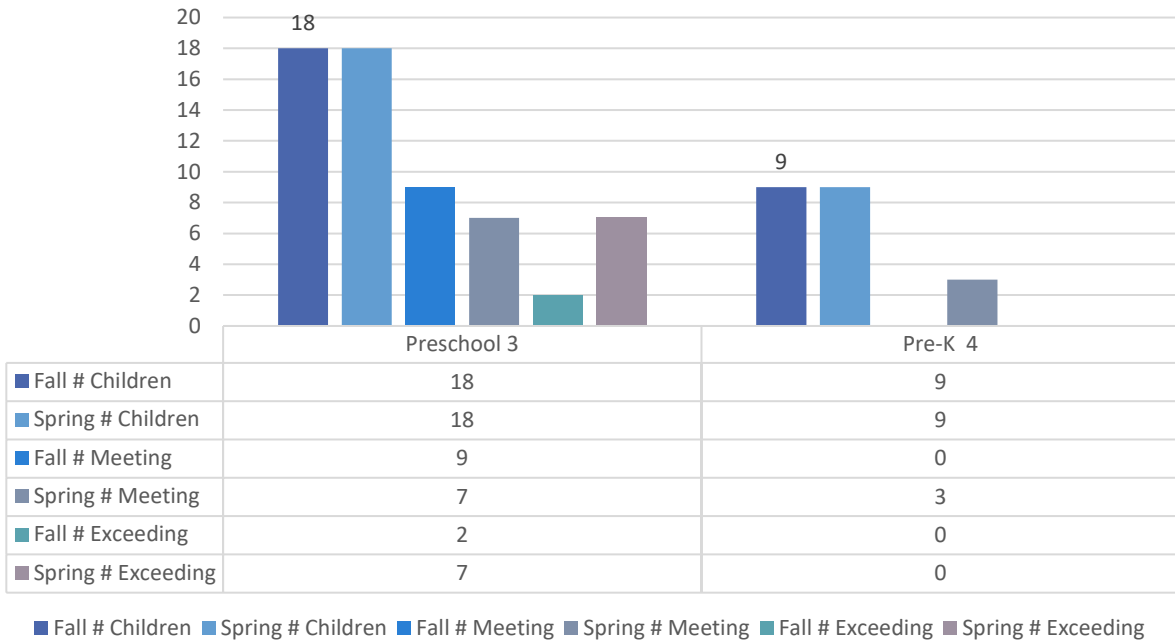
Cognitive



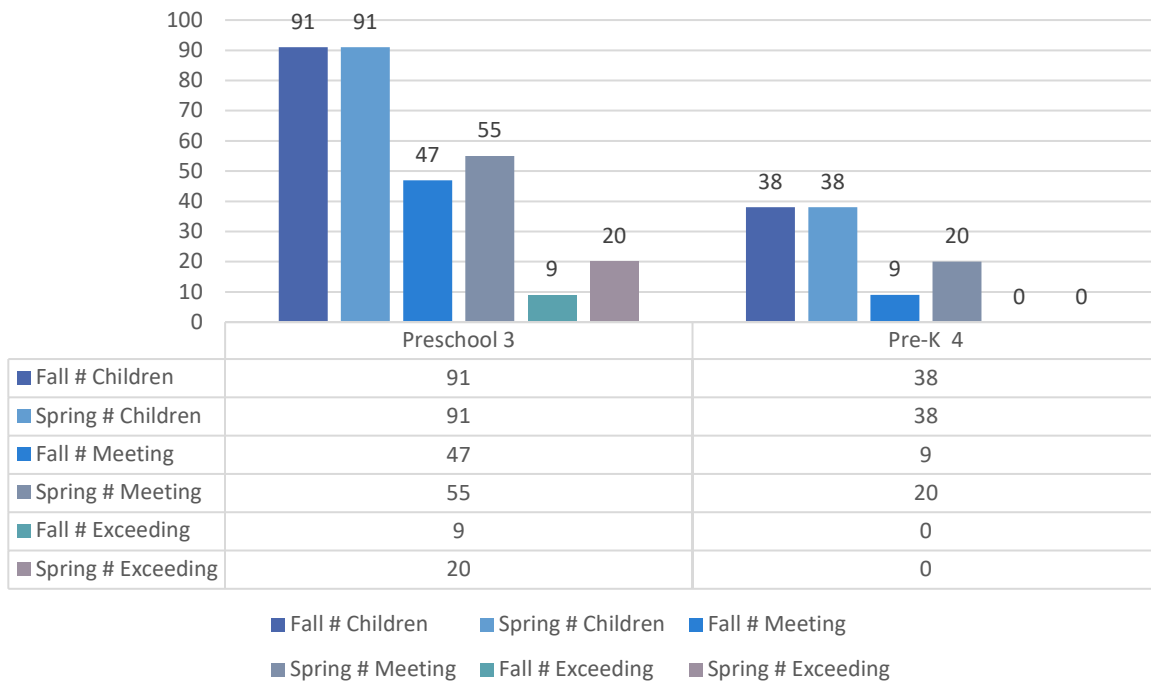
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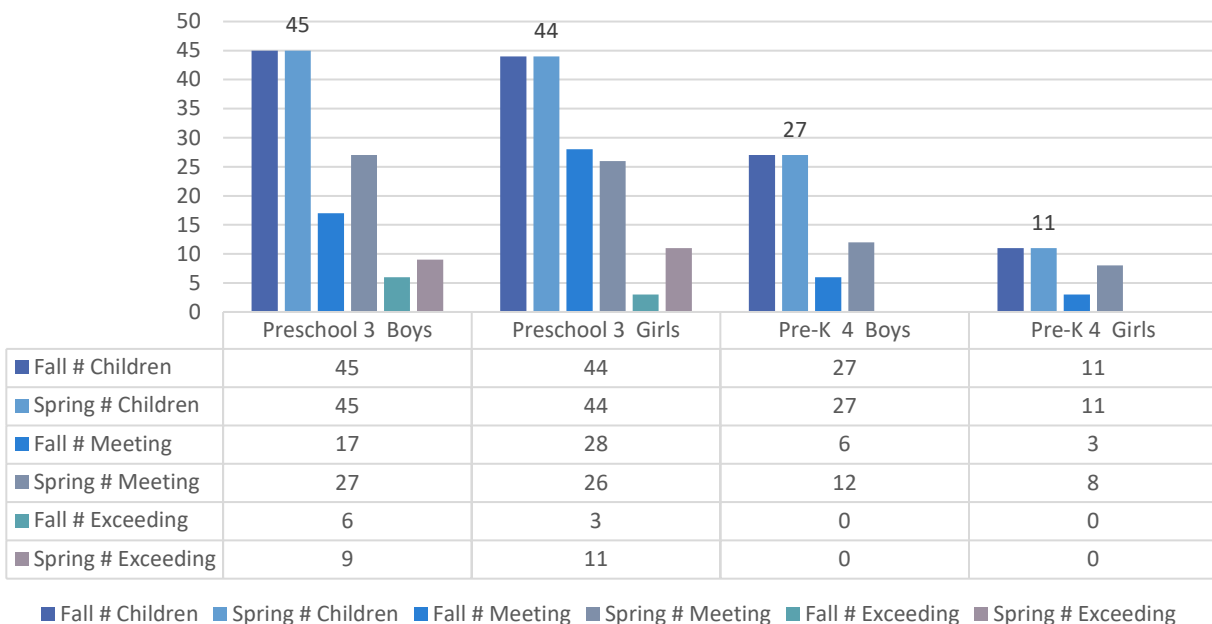
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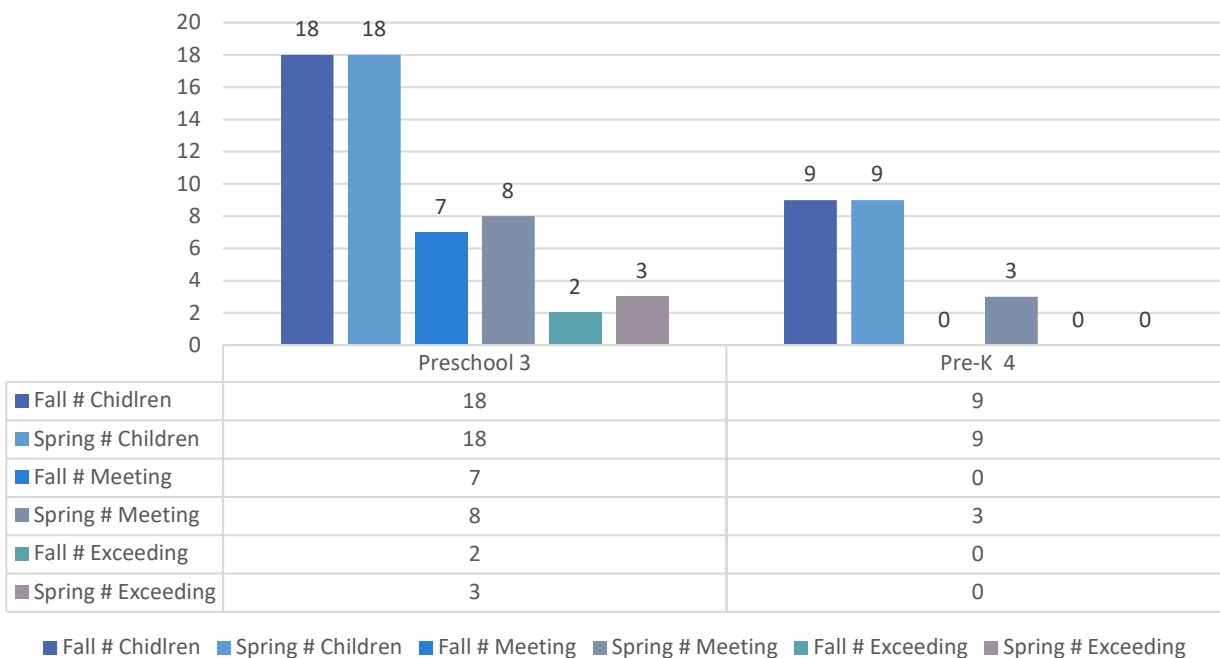
Literacy



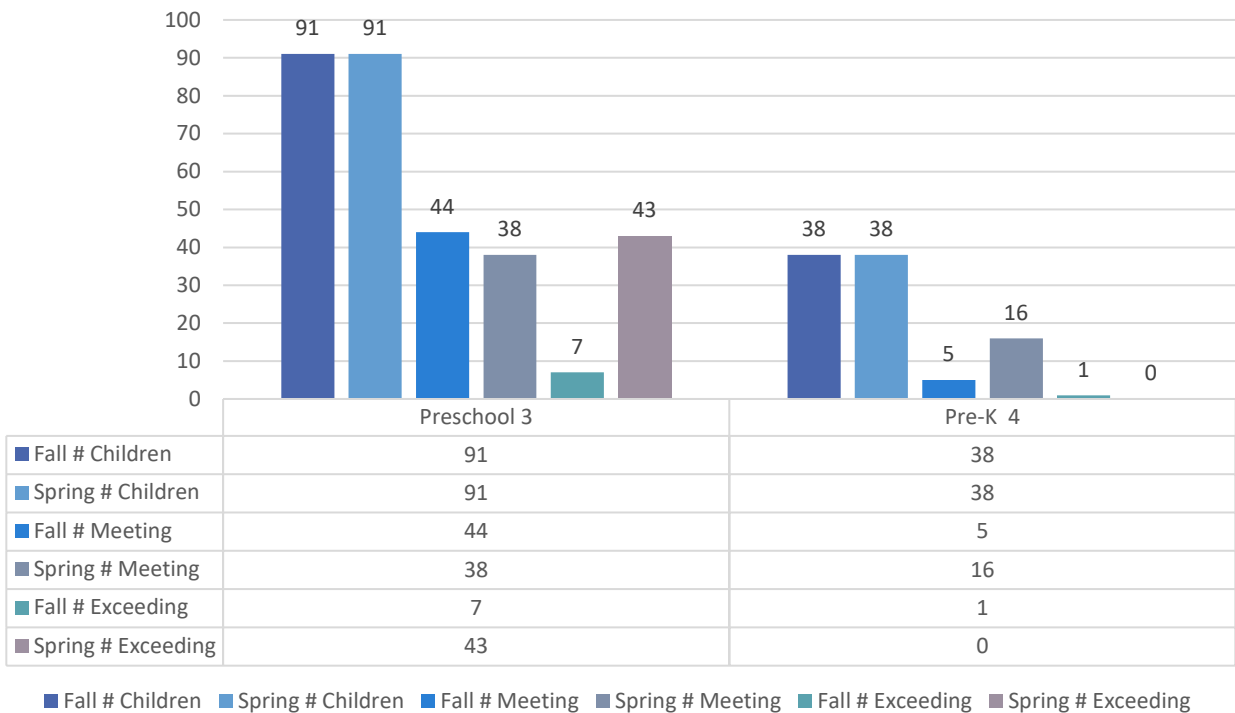
Literacy Boys/Girls



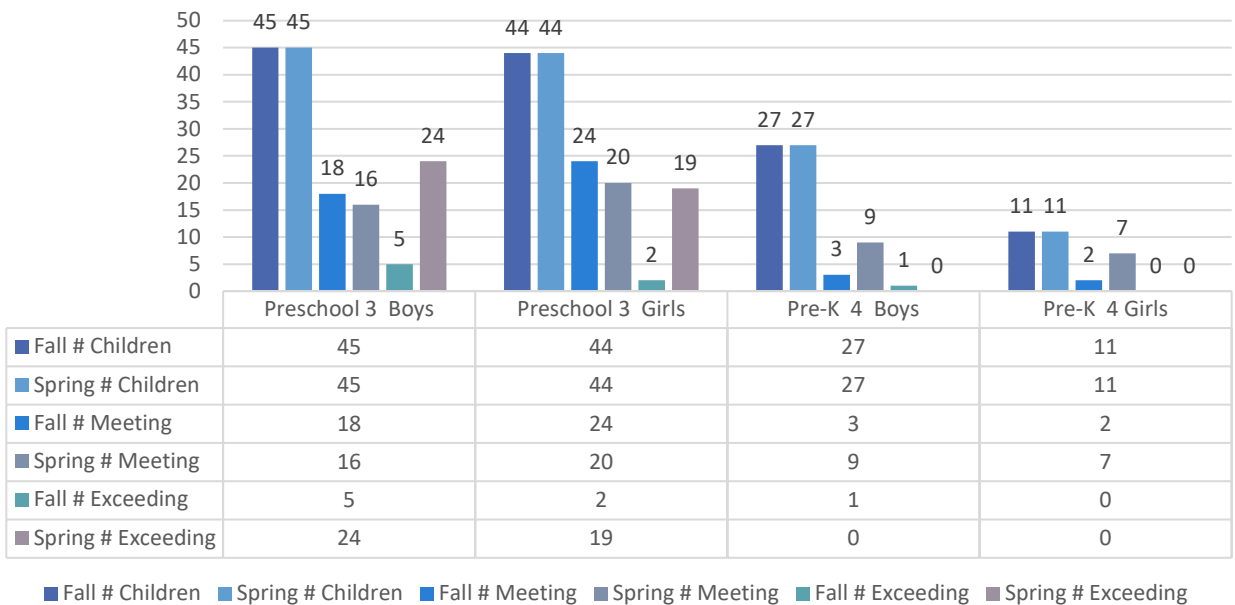
Literacy IFSP/IEP



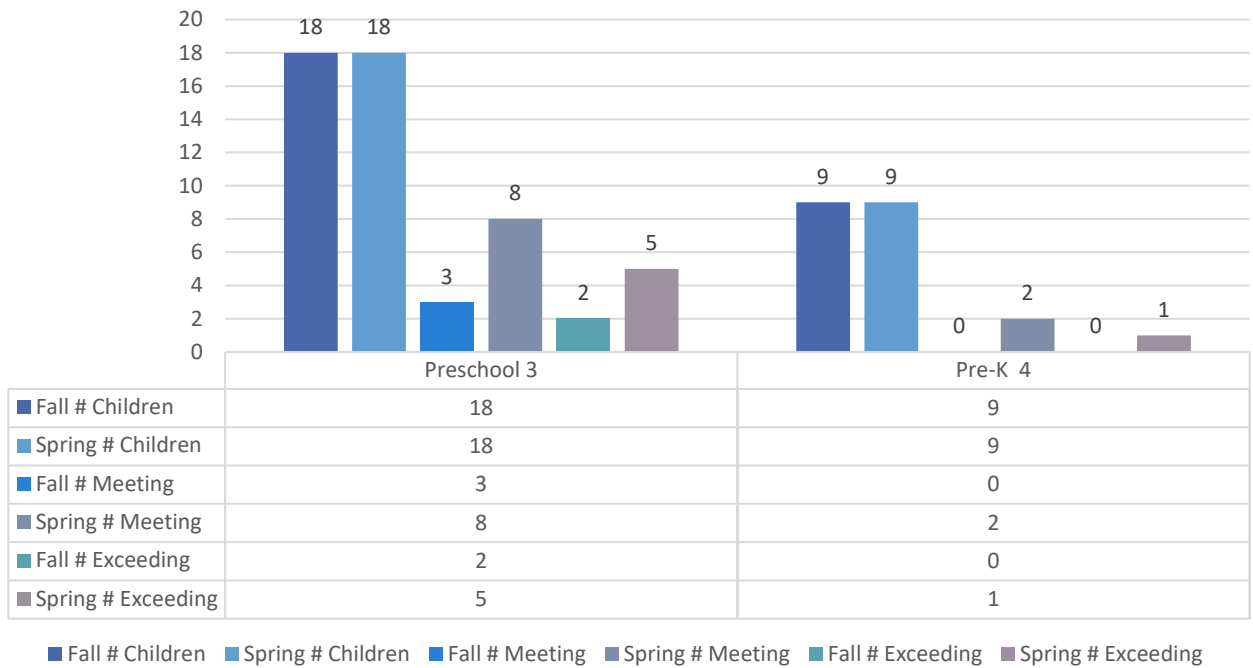
Mathematics



Mathematics Boys/Girls



Mathematics IFSP/IEP



Professional Development



Staff members had the opportunity to attend Conscious Discipline Reboot during the OHSAI Conference in August 2023. The program has a goal to provide nurturing, responsive practices, interactions, and environments that foster trust and emotional security. Professional Development opportunities that focus on the skills

and powers of Conscious Discipline support many of our program goals!



Employee Wellness

Ross County Head Start celebrates our staff and provides opportunities for team building and fun! Whether we are hosting a celebration in town square to welcome a new baby or marriage, creating an official snow angel on the playground to commemorate the first snowfall, sledding down the hill on a snow day, participating in the annual “reindeer games” or honoring our amazing staff during the week of National



Teacher Appreciation Day, you can guarantee we are building connections that make us stronger employees!



Ross County Head Start Employees have longevity....



Betty Branham- 31 years



Connie Murphy- 30 years



Peggy Free- 20 years



Kim Johnson- 10 years



Amy Blair- 10 years



Christine Balusik- 10 years

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 2023 indicated **no findings or questioned costs** relative to federal awards.

Monitoring

- The program had a successful **Focus Area 2 Review** in October of 2023! An “Area of Concern” in Safe and Sanitary Environments was identified during the review. The concern was that the program did not have the water in the facilities directly tested or lead but rather relied upon the county/city water tests (which showed no lead concerns in the water). The program received T/TA from the Program Specialist around the subject; no further action was determined to be needed.
- The program had a successful CLASS Review in the Spring of 2024!

DOMAIN	ROSS SCORES	QUALITY THRESHOLD	COMPETITIVE THRESHOLD
Emotional Support	6.3333	6	5
Classroom Organization	6.2963	6	5
Instructional Support	3.0741	3	2.3

- All three Head Start centers maintained their **5 STAR SUTQ Rating**.

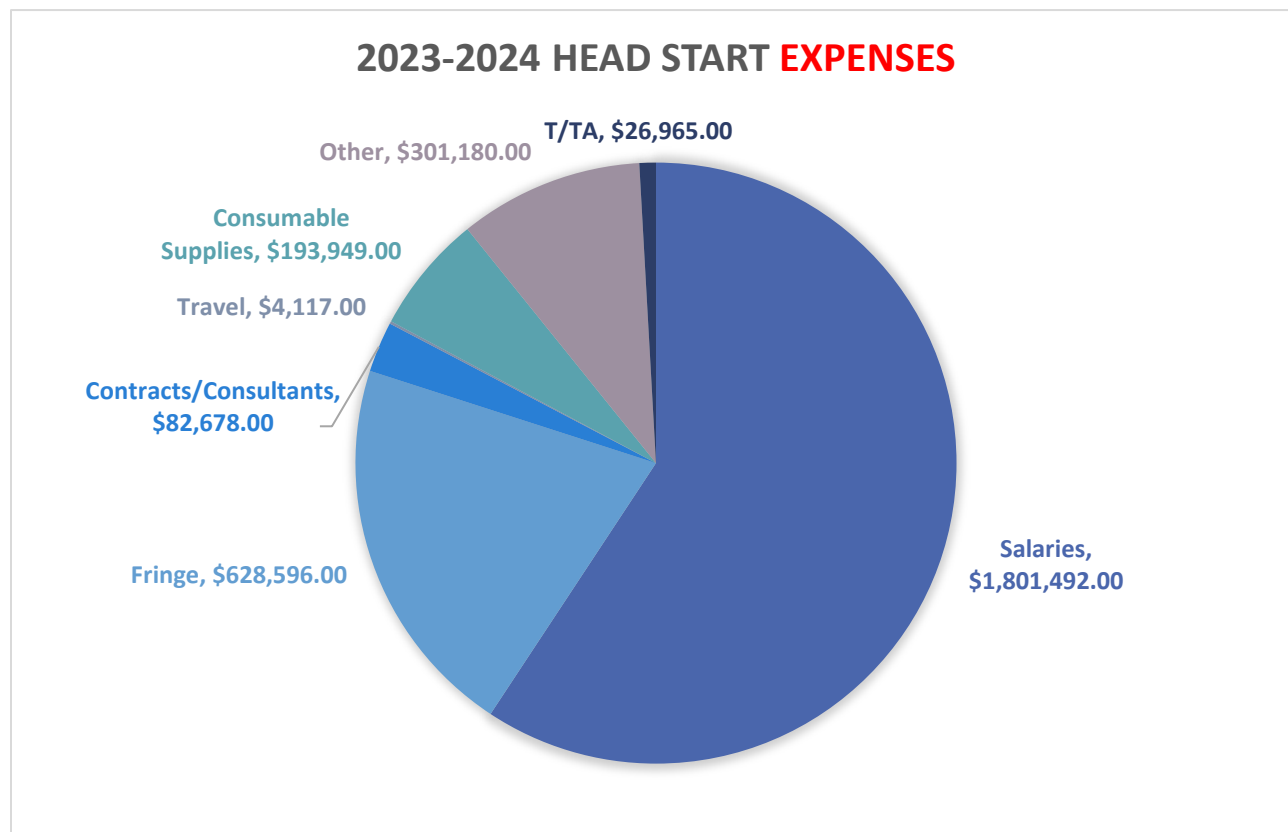
Program Budget & Expenses

Base Grant Budget

July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

Head Start Federal Grant Award: \$3,038,977

Category	Budget	Expenses
Salaries	\$1,926,034	\$1,801,492
Fringe Benefits	\$718,387	\$628,596
Contracts/Consultants	\$75,500	\$82,678
Travel	\$3,540	\$4,118
Consumable Supplies	\$53,300	\$193,986
Other Direct Cost	\$235,251	\$301,142
T/TA	\$26,965.00	\$26,965
Total:	\$3,038,977	\$3,038,977



Program Budget & Expenses Cont'd

CACFP Reimbursement

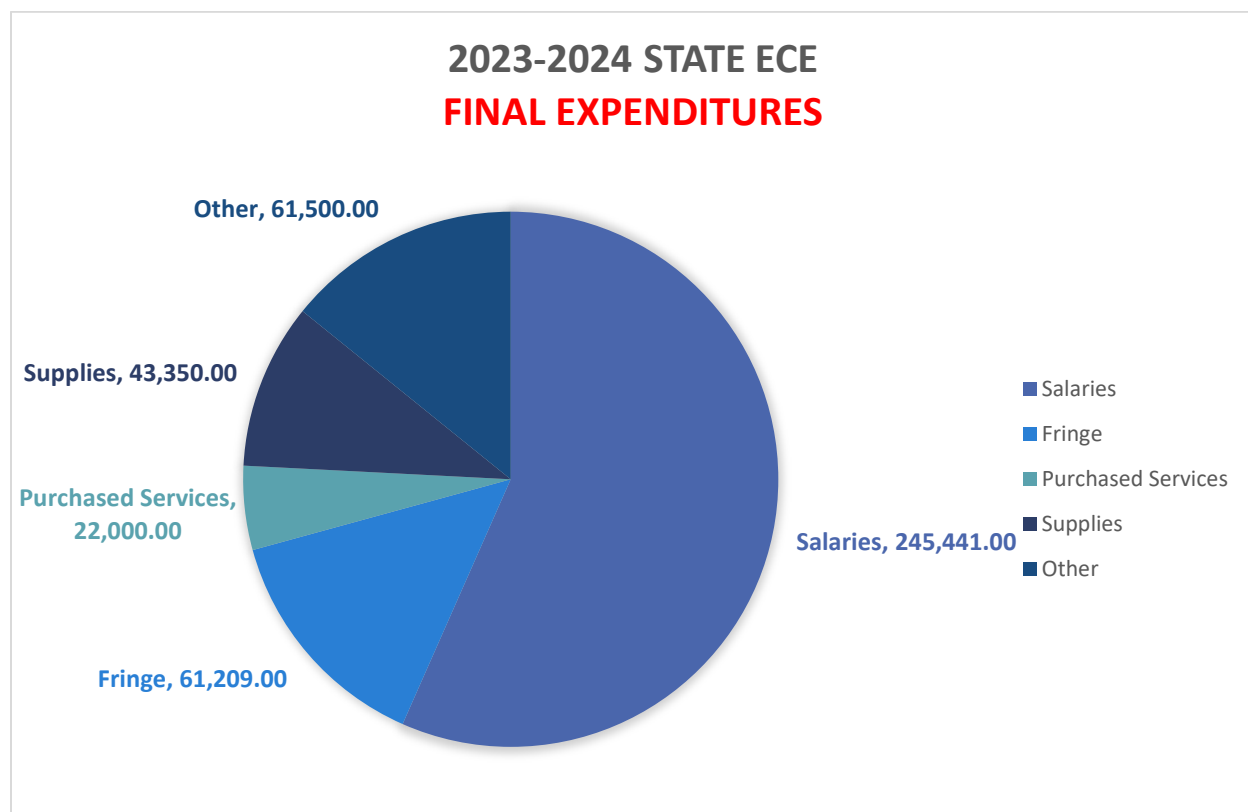
The program received a CACFP reimbursement in the amount of **\$151,442.55 between October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024.

State ECE Funding

July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

Total Award: \$433,500

Category	Budget	Expenses
Salaries	\$245,441	\$245,441
Fringe Benefits	\$61,209	\$61,209
Consumable Supplies	\$43,350	\$43,350
Other Direct Cost	\$61,500	\$61,500
Purchased Services	\$22,000	\$22,000
Total:	\$433,500	\$433,500



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



2023-2024 Recipient Marybeth Hurles

families, specifically children with developmental delays and 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 recognizes the recipient of the award each year during the August RCCAC Governing Board meeting, Denise family is invited to the presentation. A plaque honoring Denise and recognizing the recipients of the annual award is displayed at the Ross County/Ohio University Chillicothe Child Development and Family Service Center.