



New Haven Public Schools
The Celentano Observatory Building
400 Canner Street, New Haven, CT 06511
475-220-1462 or 475-220-1463
www.headstartnewhaven.com

*The New Haven Public Schools Head Start Annual Report is made available to the public by formally presenting it to the Board of Education and posting it on the NHPS Head Start website. This ensures transparency and provides families, staff, and community stakeholders with insight into the program's accomplishments, activities, and outcomes.

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The goal of the Head Start program is to give at-risk children all across our nation a fair chance at succeeding in the educational system.
-Joe Baca

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to present the 2023-2024 Annual Report for New Haven Public Schools Head Start. The following report highlights our program's accomplishments, activities, and outcomes for the children and families of the City of New Haven.

The 2023-2024 school year was very exciting in that the children continued to experience play-based learning with their peers and develop positive attitudes about learning. The past year was marked by outstanding activity and achievement. Our program effectively showcased its capacity to implement a high-quality program aimed at positive outcomes and enhanced school readiness for children and their families.

We successfully competed for the Head Start Grant in the New Haven Service Area and received the award in July of 2024, for another five-year period. Led by new leadership – Superintendent Dr. Madeline Negrón and Director of Early Learning Programs Ms. Vanessa Diaz-Valencia – NHPS proposed a reimagined program design and restructuring of Head Start, which:

- Offers increased slots in the areas of greatest need [Fair Haven];
- Provides salaries for early care and education staff that far exceeds the living wage that covers basic necessities
- Better leverages district funding [nearly \$2 million in additional resources for children and families enrolled in the Head Start program]; and
- Extends a management structure for solid oversight of the program

We continued to provide Head Start's comprehensive services to all stakeholders. The school-based health center that was established in collaboration with Cornell School Hill Health delivered medical and dental services to our Head Start students. Throughout the year, our dedicated full-time in-house mental health clinicians consistently provided support to our students, teachers, and staff during the year. The program also centralized and streamlined the registration process. Using modern technologies, we encouraged and assisted families in applying for admission to the program and reduced the families' paperwork burden in the application and enrollment process. This efficient process also provides families with a seamless transition to kindergarten.

We're eagerly anticipating another exciting school year. Our plans include the opening of additional classrooms in the community. New classrooms will be available to families at the Family Academy of Multilingual Exploration, Lincoln Bassett, and Hill Central schools. These classrooms are distributed strategically throughout the city to cater to families living within walking distance. This allows all siblings the opportunity to attend the same school Pre-K through eighth grade. Additionally, we will be providing professional development support for educators, utilizing LETRS for Early Childhood Educators, a course that will deepen their understanding of early language and literacy development, as well as, the impactful instructional practices that will ensure our students' kindergarten readiness. Our goal remains steadfast: to provide a nurturing environment that supports early learning development, health, and family engagement. Our mission is achieved through collaborative partnerships involving all stakeholders.

We encourage you to explore our New Haven Public Schools Head Start Program. Discover the distinctive home-school relationships that set our program apart and contribute to our consistently achieved positive outcomes.

Sincerely,
Mary Derwin



LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Vanessa Diaz-
Valencia**
Director of Early Learning



Mary Derwin
Head Start Director



**Kauaneekee
Hernandez**
Head Start Assistant
Director



Monique Brunson
Principal of Dr. Reginald
Mayo Early Learning Center



Karen Carazzo
Assistant Principal of Dr.
Reginald Mayo Early
Learning Center



Debbie Lawson
Human Resources



Jennifer Rivera
Assistant Social Services
Coordinator



**Traci Turner-
Fairfax**
Project Site Director



Ronja Goldson
Fiscal Officer



Krissann Charles
Health Coordinator

MISSION STATEMENT & PHILOSOPHY

New Haven Public Schools Head Start believes that quality early childhood education is essential to future school success and offers quality childcare to all children regardless of family structure; socioeconomic, racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds; gender; abilities; or preferred language. The goal of the early childhood program is to ensure that all children in New Haven will enter kindergarten ready to learn. Our educational program is designed to help children develop socially, cognitively, physically, and emotionally in a nurturing and safe environment.

In our effort to address the needs of the whole child New Haven Public Schools Head Start offers comprehensive services in the varied areas of health and social services to families directly or through a referral system. New Haven Public Schools Head Start also recognizes the family as central to the well-being of the child. We believe that fostering a strong home/school/community partnership is central to meeting the needs of children and their families. Our goal is to help families become informed advocates for children's education and to be integral partners in the educational process, including all aspects of program design, operation, and evaluation. New Haven Public Head Start works intentionally to foster strong reciprocal relationships with families from the initial contact and endeavors to maintain these relationships over time.

New Haven Public Schools Head Start values and celebrates diversity. We understand that children's optimal development and learning hinges on our acceptance of children's home language, respect and value for children's home culture, and the promotion and encouragement of involvement and support of all families, including extended and non-traditional family units. Classrooms and curricula are designed to accommodate the individuals that make up our community. We seek information from each family about their culture and home language and strive to incorporate this information into all aspects of our program.

WHO WE ARE





Preparing children for success
in learning and life



- ✓ Bilingual, highly qualified staff
- ✓ Research-based curriculums and assessments aligned with CT ELDS and Head Start ELOF
- ✓ Comprehensive support for children and families



Highly regarded public school
system serving low-income
families in New Haven's highest-
need areas.

TRANSITIONING TO KINDERGARTEN

Information for Families

Kindergarten registration and magnet school lottery details are available on the NHPS website in multiple languages

Family Support

- Centralized kindergarten registration
- Reminders sent to families about kindergarten registration and one-on-one support provided

Resources for Families

- Transition checklists to promote kindergarten readiness
- Guidance and tip sheets are available on the NHPS website

Special attention is given to ensure services and supports follow children as they move into kindergarten.



Resources for Educators

- Read aloud books about kindergarten transition
- Ongoing training on effective transition practices

Collaborative Transition Meetings

Teams of preschool and kindergarten educators as well as family advocates share information to support a smooth handoff.

Opportunities are provided for children to visit kindergarten classrooms, meet teachers, and engage in shared activities

HEALTH, NUTRITION, & EDUCATION

100%

of children in the program had a medical home

Health Screenings Provided Onsite



100% of children received hearing and vision screenings

100% of children received medical examinations

55% of children received oral health examinations

Future plans include increased parental education, outreach, and scheduling of dental vans

11 children received referrals for identified concerns

14%

Preschoolers had an Individual Educational Plan (IEP)

STUDENT SCHOOL READINESS

Percentage of Children Meeting or Exceeding Developmental Expectations

	Language	Cognitive	Math	Social Emotional	Physical	Literacy
Fall 2023	64%	66%	56%	64%	73%	62%
Spring 2024	76%	84%	82%	84%	92%	79%

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Families have enjoyed attending winter and spring concerts, showing strong support of special events.

Goal-Setting

- Families work with Family Advocates to set personal and family goals
- Staff support families in accessing resources & services.

Home-School Connections

- Teachers conduct home visits and family-teacher conferences to build strong relationships.

Classroom Engagement

- Families are invited to volunteer in the classrooms
- Family members participate in classroom events, celebrations, and field trips

Program Governance

- Families serve on the Policy Council, which helps make decisions about program operations.
- Families are encouraged to participate in family committees (and leadership roles).



Family involvement is a core component of Head Start and is integrated into every aspect of the program.

Family Experience, Culture, & Language

- Families are invited to share cultural traditions, languages, and stories.
- Classroom environments reflect the background and experiences of enrolled families.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS



Provided comprehensive educational childcare services to over 500 Connecticut families, supporting the development of school readiness skills for all children.



Developed a plan using the community assessment to increase the number of classrooms in high-need areas



Delivered high-quality early childhood education that strengthens language and literacy skills, enhancing school readiness

NHPS Head Start successfully secured a new five-year federal grant in July 2024



“Graduated” 269 children who entered kindergarten in the Fall of 2023



Provided ongoing mental health support from full-time in-house clinicians

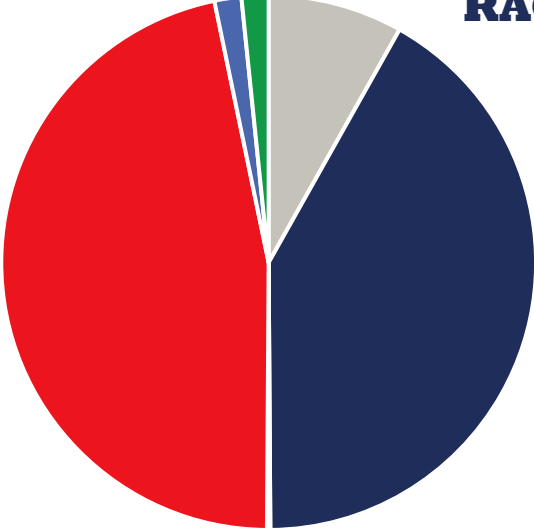
Continued to fund a school-based health center in partnership with Cornell Scott Hill Health Center to provide on-site medical and dental services to Head Start students.



DEMOGRAPHICS: Our Children

PROGRAM MODEL:
Head Start

LOCATIONS:
Dr. Reginald Mayo
Early Learning Center
Fair Haven School
John S. Martinez School
Truman School
Lincoln Bassett
Community School



RACE AND ETHNICITY

- Asian.....40
- Black205
- Pacific Islander.....1
- White.....229
- Biracial/Multiracial.20
- Other.....3

**Dual
Language
Learners
226**

**531
CUMULATIVE
NUMBER OF
CHILDREN SERVED**

ETHNICITY

50.8%
Hispanic

49.2%
Non-Hispanic

FAMILY STATUS

Single-Parent Families.....251	Grandparent Guardians.....5
Two-Parent Families.....216	Foster Families.....2
Homeless Families.....14	Referred by DCF.....0



And Our Team

EDUCATION



- Advanced Degree
- Baccalaureate Degree
- Associate Degree
- CDA
- No certification

138

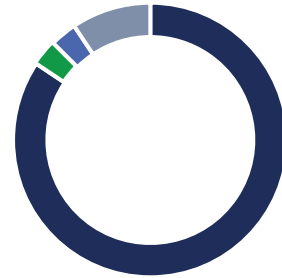
**CUMULATIVE
NUMBER OF
STAFF
MEMBERS**

13%

**TURNOVER
RATE**

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

in addition to English



- Spanish
- European/Slavic
- Pacific Island
- Middle Eastern

ETHNICITY

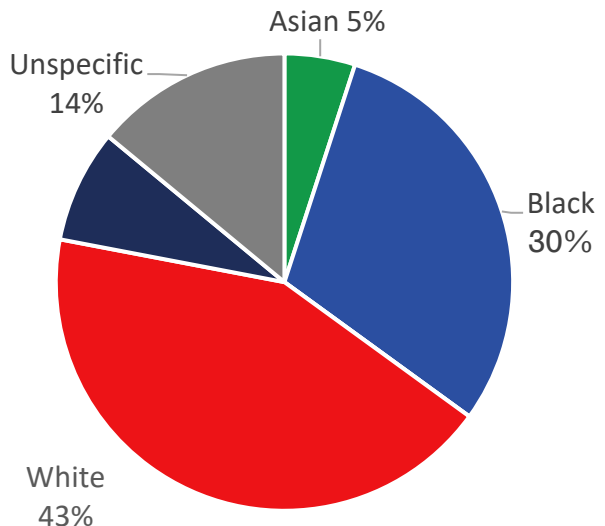
33%

Hispanic

67%

Non-Hispanic

RACE AND ETHNICITY



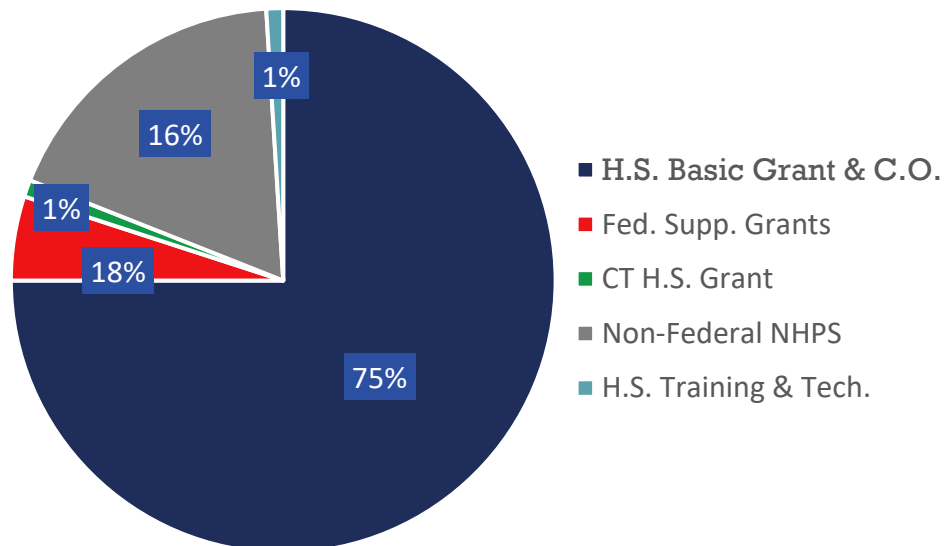
PROGRAM FUNDING

Support & Revenue	Total (\$)	Revenue by Type (%)
Head Start Basic Grant and Carry Over	\$7,660,781.00	75%
Federal Supplemental Grants	\$495,704.00	5%
State of Connecticut Head Start Grant	\$130,759.00	1%
Non-Federal NHPS Share	\$1,782,290.00	18%
Head Start Training & Technical Assistance and Carry Over	\$115,425.00	1%
Total Revenue	\$10,184,959.00	100%

SUPPORT & REVENUE

\$10.2M
Total Revenue

PROGRAM FUNDING





**“Education is the key to unlocking the world.
It is the passport to freedom.”- Oprah Winfrey**

PROGRAM FUNDING

NHPS PUBLIC SCHOOL HEAD START BUDGET	
Items	Annual Budget 7/1/2023-5/31/2024
Federal Head Start	
Training and Technical Assistance & Carry Over	\$ 115,425.00
PA 22 (Basic)	\$ 6,168,222.00
Basic Carry Over from 2022-2023	\$ 1,492,559.00
Total	\$ 7,776,206.00
Federal Supplemental Funds	
Cost of Living Adjustment & Quality Enhancement (COLA)	\$ 495,704.00
Total	\$ 7,824,697 .00
State of CT Head Start Services Grant	
Head Start Expansion	\$ 130,759.00
Non-Federal Share (25%of Basic)	\$ 1,782,290.00
Grand Total	\$ 10,184,959.00
*The New Haven Board of Education provides the required MATCH in the form of support for certified teachers' salaries, health benefits, building utilities, custodial, and food service.	
The <u>2023 Single Audit</u> posted to the City website is the most current audit. The 2024 audit is currently underway. The Federal Head Start section is contained in pgs. 4-10 (no findings), and the State Head Start is on page 24, with no findings on the following pages.	

BUDGET FOR EXPENITURES

PA 22 (BASIC) EXPLAINED	
A. Personal	\$ 3,959,200.00
B. Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,158,474.00
Total	\$ 5,117,674.00
C. Mileage	\$ 0.00
D. Travel	\$ 7,400.00
E. Equipment	\$ 0.00
F. Supplies	\$ 61,355.00
G. Contractual	\$ 597,773.00
H. Renovations	\$ 0.00
I. Transportation	\$ 354,020.00
J. Other	\$ 30,000.00
Grand Total	\$ 6,168,222.00

HEAD START EXPANSION (EXPLAINED)	
A. Personal	\$ 94,716.00
B. Fringe Benefits	\$ 28,275.00
Total	\$ 122,991.00
C. Mileage	\$ 0.00
D. Travel	\$ 0.00
E. Equipment	\$ 0.00
F. Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
G. Transportation	\$ 0.00
H. Contractual	\$ 3,768.00
H. Renovations	\$ 0.00
I. Other (Parent Activity & Field Trips)	\$ 3,000.00
Grand Total	\$ 130,759.00

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

New Haven Free Public Library System

Read to Grow

New Haven Reads

New Haven Early Childhood Council

New Haven Health Advisory-associated Pediatric
and Dental Offices

Fair Haven Health Clinic

Yale New Haven Hospital Pediatric Clinic

Junta

Haven's Harvest

CT Women Infants and Children (WIC)

CT CERCLE

Cornell Scott Hill Health Center

Clifford Beers Mental Health Clinic

Birth to Three

Common Ground Environmental Education Center

Boys and Girls Clubs

Department of Children and Families

School Readiness

NHPS Early Childhood Assessment Team

Food distribution centers

Infoline-211

All Our Kin

New Haven Public Health Department

New Haven Housing Authority

Christian Community Acton-Arise

New Haven Public Schools

Family Engagement Department

Choice and Enrollment Department

Family Resource Centers

Katherine Brennan School

Hill Central School

Fair Haven School



CONTACT US

**Any Questions?
Please call us today!**

☎ 475-220-1462 or 475-220-1463

🌐 www.headstartnewhaven.com



Early Childhood Program

New Haven Public Schools
The Celentano Observatory Building
Located next to Celentano Biotech Health & Medical
Magnet School
📍 400 Canner Street, New Haven, CT 06511



Head Start Bus Policy and Protocols

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL-Dr. Reginald Mayo School

A.M.-

Students disembark from bus with support, in well supervised area

Classroom personnel collect their assigned children and check them in on their classroom bus roster

Children are walked to classroom and checked in again, walkers and bus students are merged onto active supervision roster for the day

P.M.-

Students exit classroom with supervising adults, walkers and bus students are separated

Supervising adults check off students as they board the bus, utilizing the morning bus roster

School Leadership-

School remains staffed to receive any telephone calls or bus inquiries until receiving notification that all buses have cleared

School will assume responsibility for notifying families that their children being returned to school

School is responsible for receiving and actively supervising all returned students

School will verify the authorization of any adult picking up a returned child, requesting photo identification if necessary

School will notify the Head Start Director immediately of any bus related incidents

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS of Pre-school Aged Children

1. Parents/guardians will sign and agree to terms of Head Start Bus Policy.
2. Parents/guardians are expected to have students ready at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled pick up time. Parents/guardians are expected to be at bus drop off ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled drop off time.
3. Parents are expected to receive children or arrange to have a designated adult with photo identification at the bus drop off point. If a child is returned to school because no one received him/her or the receiving adult is not listed or does not have proper identification, it is the parent's responsibility to arrange transportation home.

4. Home/cell telephone numbers and at least one emergency number must be made available to your child's school. Families will complete the emergency pickup authorization form and will accept responsibility for updating as needed.

5. In the event there is a family crisis, parents must assume the responsibility for notifying school officials and arranging alternative plans for pickup of child returned to the school.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUS MONITORS of Pre-school Aged Children

1. Bus monitors will check students onto the bus each morning.
2. Bus monitors will secure each student into their five-point harnessed car seat.
3. Bus monitors will check students onto the bus each afternoon at dismissal
4. Bus monitors will have an identified adult sign for the child at the bus stop when dropping off.
5. Bus monitors will return signed pick up sheets to the Dr. Mayo School the following day.

STEPS to Prevent Inappropriate Release

When an unknown adult is at the bus stop:

- Ensure the person picking up is over 18 years of age.
- Request picture identification.
- Verify permission authorizing release of child to the adult- check transportation authorization form – can be verified through PowerSchool portal
- Call the Dr. Reginald Mayo School if assistance is required
- If verified, release child and obtain signature
- If the adult is not authorized, call First Student base/ dispatch and Dr. Mayo School to notify them child will be returned to school
- Return child to the school, obtain signature from receiving school staff

When a bus stop/drop off location is in question:

- Check the run sheet for drop off location
- Call First Student base to ensure there are no updates or changes to the run sheet
- Call the Dr. Mayo School to verify there are no extenuating circumstances
- Do not release student at any unauthorized location/facility or to any adult not listed on pick up authorization form
- Return student to Dr. Reginald Mayo School

Name of Program		NHPS Head Start	Program Account		PA 20 (Training)
For Period Beginning		7/1/2024	Ending		3/31/2025
		2532 5278			
Item	Annual Budget	YTD Expenses	Encumbrances	Available Budget	
A. Personal					
B. Fringe Benefits					
Total Personnel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C. Mileage					
D. Travel	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	
E. Equipment				0.00	
F. Supplies				0.00	
G. Contractual	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
H. Renovations				0.00	
I. Other	46,225.00	18,850.00	0.00	27,375.00	
Grand Total	56,225.00	18,850.00	0.00	37,375.00	
Name of Program		NHPS Head Start	Program Account		PA 22 (Basic)
For Period Beginning		7/1/2024	Ending		3/31/2025
		2532 5279			
Item	Annual Budget	YTD Expenses	Encumbrances	Available Budget	
A. Personal	3,534,547.00	1,984,647.16	0.00	1,549,899.84	
B. Fringe Benefits	1,260,837.00	587,597.77	0.00	673,239.23	
Total Personnel	4,795,384.00	2,572,244.93	0.00	2,223,139.07	
C. Mileage					
D. Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
E. Equipment	10,000.00	350.57	0.00	9,649.43	
F. Supplies	33,000.00	22,315.02	9,485.96	1,199.02	
G. Contractual	507,709.00	152,361.70	355,347.14	0.16	
H. Field Trips	18,500.00	8,346.40	9,316.00	837.60	
I. Transportation	372,200.00	110,424.24	73,616.16	188,159.60	
J. Other	44,358.00	21,676.80	2,245.00	20,436.20	
Grand Total	5,781,151.00	2,887,719.66	450,010.26	2,443,421.08	
Name of Program		NHPS Head Start	Program Account		H/S Grant-One Time
For Period Beginning		7/1/2024	Ending		3/31/2025
		2532 6499			
Item	Annual Budget	YTD Expenses	Encumbrances	Available Budget	
A. Personal	12,238.00	0.00	0.00	12,238.00	
B. Fringe Benefits	1,019.00	0.00	0.00	1,019.00	
Total Personnel	13,257.00	0.00	0.00	13,257.00	
C. Mileage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
D. Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
E. Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
F. Supplies	36,549.00	6,229.97	0.00	30,319.03	
G. Transportation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
H. Contractual	120,850.00	0.00	15,750.00	105,100.00	
I. Renovations	0.00	0.00		0.00	
J. Other (Field Trips and Parent Activities)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grand Total	170,656.00	6,229.97	15,750.00	148,676.03	
Name of Program		NHPS Head Start	Program Account		Head Start Expansion
For Period Beginning		7/1/2024	Ending		3/31/2025
		2568 5317			
Item	Annual Budget	YTD Expenses	Encumbrances	Available Budget	
A. Personal	101,367.00	63,986.73	0.00	37,380.27	
B. Fringe Benefits	29,373.00	18,744.22	0.00	10,628.78	
Total Personnel	130,740.00	82,730.95	0.00	48,009.05	
C. Mileage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
D. Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
E. Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
F. Supplies	19.00	18.39	0.00	0.61	
G. Transportation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
H. Contractual	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
I. Renovations	0.00	0.00		0.00	
J. Other (Field Trips and Parent Activities)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grand Total	130,759.00	82,749.34	0.00	48,009.66	