



2020

Investing in our Neighbors Improving Lives Strengthening Communities

SENECA HEAD START PERSEVERES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES!

Submitted by: Angela Antholz, Head Start & Deputy Director

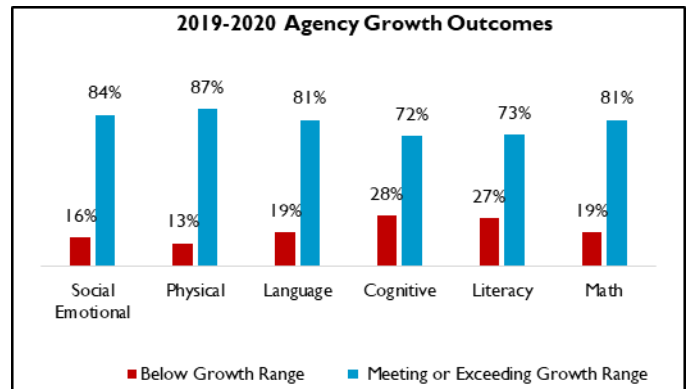
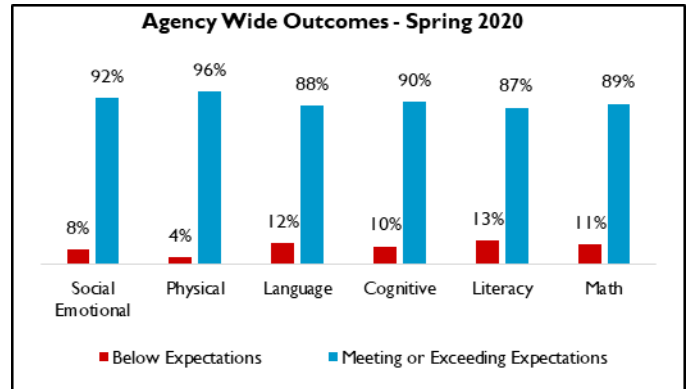
SENECA Head Start is a comprehensive child development program which serves children from age 3 to 5 & their families. Head Start is a child-focused program & has the overall goal of increasing school readiness of young children in low-income families. Comprehensive child development, school readiness and family support are provided and have a direct impact on their future success. Providing these comprehensive services during the COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be challenging. The program closed the center-based services on March 17, 2020 and moved to providing services remotely. I am pleased to say that the SENCA Head Start staff rose to the occasion doing their best to provide education services to children and to support our families during this uncertain times.

During the 2019-2020 school year, 165 children and 146 families received comprehensive services. Health services ensured that 93% of all children were up-to-date on well-child care. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of enrolled children received special education services. Overall, SENCA Head Start has seen 90% of all children ending the year meeting or exceeding expectations versus 77% at the beginning of the year. While children made great strides, the gains are not as high as in previous years. This is more than likely directly related to the need to close centers due to COVID-19. Data was also unable to be collected from collaboration sites due to school closures. During the closure, all educational services were provided via remote learning. The public is encouraged to check out the full Annual Report to the Public at www.senca.org.

There are always changes as the program conducts ongoing monitoring and program improvement activities, but SENCA Head Start has always maintained one constant... ***talented staff dedicated to serving the children and families of southeast Nebraska.***

Mary Jane Gist Retires After 47 Years with SENCA

It is with a heavy heart that we say good-bye to Mary Jane Gist, Family & Community Partnership Coordinator. Mary Jane is retiring after 47 years with SENCA Head Start. Mary Jane is one of the most compassionate, caring and passionate people I have ever met. Her love of children and families is at the center of her being and has provided her with much success over the years. The countless number of children and families Mary Jane has touched over the years have been blessed. We wish Mary Jane the utmost happiness on her retirement from SENCA Head Start.



The beginning of the 2020-2021 school year is scheduled to start on August 19, 2020 and we are pleased to welcome several new staff to our team. SENCA Head Start has developed a re-opening plan that includes guidelines that will be followed to ensure we are keeping children, staff, and families safe. All facilities and vehicles have been cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized, and necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies have been purchased. Staff will also return to work well-ahead of the children to ensure everyone is trained on trauma-informed care to better assist children and families in their return to school. Funding has been utilized to invest in technology upgrades and child learning supplies to prepare for future remote learning, in the event another closure must take place. We are excited for children, families, and staff to return to school this fall and we are preparing for this to be a safe and healthy return for all. The health and safety of each child in our care is our highest priority.

For more information regarding Youth Education programs, please contact Angela K. Antholz, Head Start/Deputy Director, at 402-862-2411 extension # 107 or visit www.senca.org or www.facebook.com/Senca