

Investing in our Neighbors Improving Lives Strengthening Communities

SUMMER

2026



SENCA HEAD START....MOVING FORWARD!

Submitted by: Angela Antholz, Head Start & Deputy Director

Head Start is an early childhood development program that provides comprehensive services to children ages zero to five and their families. Southeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Inc. (SENCA) is the grant recipient for the Head Start program which currently serves Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson counties in southeast Nebraska.

The information contained in this report will be based upon the Head Start Fiscal Year 2025 which ran from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2026 and the Program Year 2025-2026, which took place from August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026. Preschool children, 3 to 5 years, are served in center-based classrooms, including within the public schools. Preschool students attend full day classes for four days per week. Early Head Start is a home-based program, 0 to 3 years and expectant mothers, that receive 46 home visits and 22 socializations, annually.

Children: Head Start is a child-focused program with 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 future success. During the 2025-2026 school year, 139 children and one expectant mother received comprehensive services. In addition to educational services, children receive health, mental health, oral health, and nutrition services. Thirty-two percent (32%) of funded enrollment included children receiving special education services.

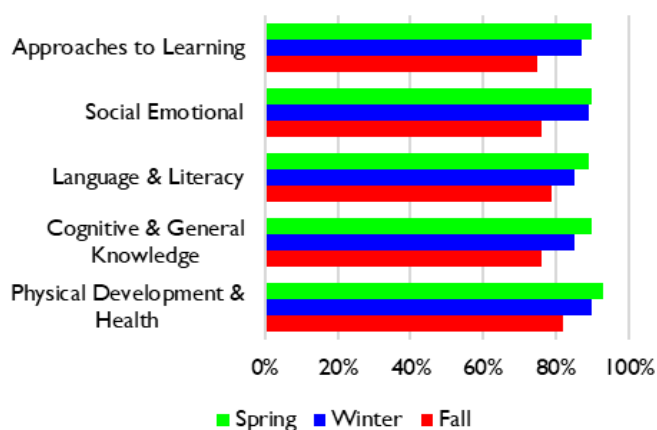
The number of Preschool and Early Head Start children meeting or exceeding expectations in the spring and/or summer shown improvement. SENCA Head Start has established school readiness goals to ensure services are provided that will help children be successful as they move to public school. Children made great strides in attaining the program's school readiness goals.

Families: This past year the program served 121 families. Families received education services, assistance with family needs, resources and referrals. Ninety-five percent (95%) of enrolled families developed a partnership agreement with 94% of those families meeting their goals or needs. Numerous opportunities were made available to Head Start parents through Policy Council, Parent Meetings, Parent Committee, Parent-Child Activities, and much more. Parents provide program direction and are involved in making decisions about the future of the program.

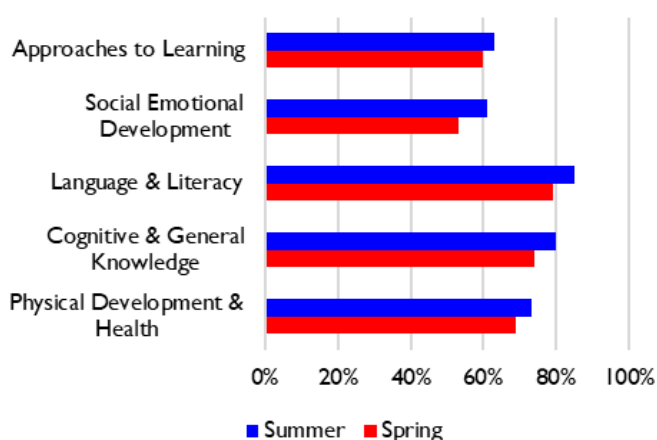
Communities: Head Start works with many partners within the service area. These partnerships ensure that everyone impacted are receiving high-quality services. SENCA Head Start is 80% federally funded with the remaining 20% being obtained through volunteer services and donations. In 2025-2026, the program collected well over the required non-federal share of \$400,489. Volunteer services and donations were provided by 421 individuals, with 192 of those being current or former Head Start parents.

Moving Forward: The beginning of the 2026-2027 school year is scheduled to start on August 17, 2026. This year, SENCA Head Start celebrated its 58th birthday. The program will serve 110 Pre-school children and 10 Early Head Start families this coming year. We are excited for children, families, and staff to return to school this fall!

2025-2026 Preschool School Readiness Meeting or Exceeding



2025-2026 EHS School Readiness Meeting or Exceeding



For more information regarding
Head Start Programs please contact
Angie Antholz, Head Start & Deputy Director,
402-862-2411 extension # 107
www.senca.org or www.facebook.com/Senca1

