

**Main Office:**

262 Harlow St, Bangor, ME 04401 (207) 973 - 3500

**Classroom Locations:**

Bangor, Brewer, Dover, Dexter, East Millinocket, Old Town and Rockland

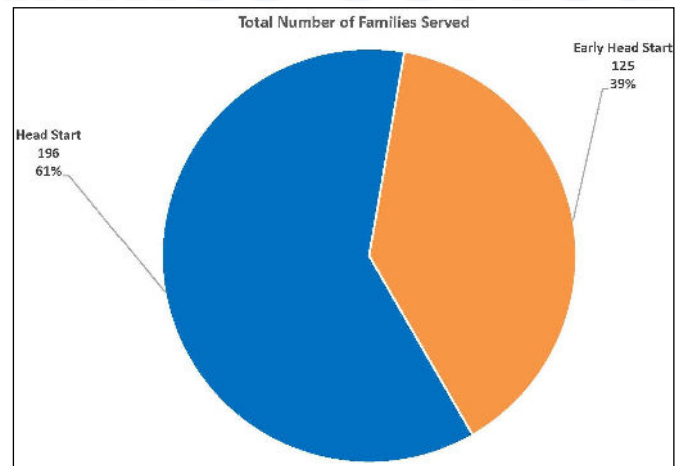
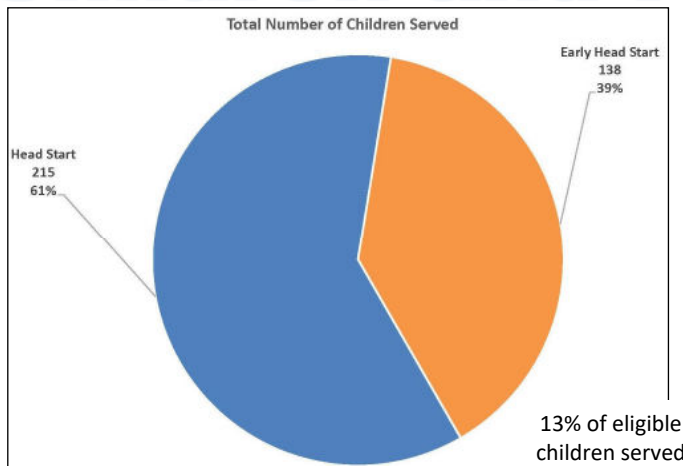
Our mission is to assist individuals and families in preventing, reducing, or eliminating poverty in their lives and through partnerships, to engage the community in addressing economic and social needs.



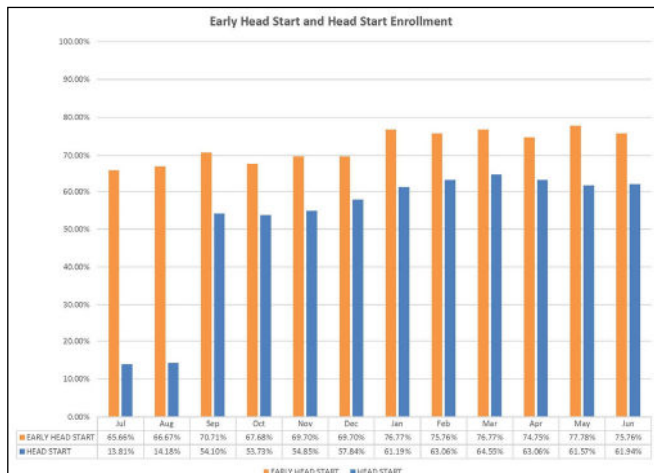
*"The most amazing, caring teachers. They're the best thing that ever happened to him! He is so loved and cared for. They provide the best education and learning experiences. He has grown so much and learned so much in a short amount of time. I wouldn't change a thing! Thanks for everything you guys do!" - from our Family Survey Spring 2023*

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to have lasting effects on Penquis Head Start and Early Head Start as well as other Head Start and Early Head Start programs across the country. The most significant effect for us is the staffing crisis. We had 7 classrooms closed for the entire program year due to staffing. This, of course, means that fewer children and families are being served. Our Head Start and Early Head Start Staff continue to meet these challenges with optimism and determination.

## Children and Families Served



## Enrollment and Attendance

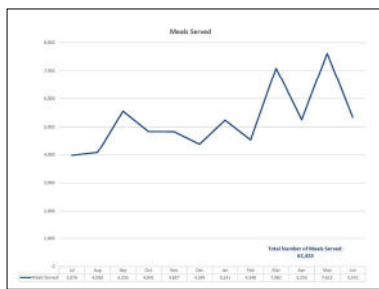
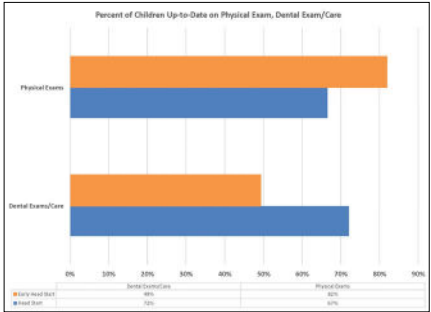


## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, HEALTH and SAFETY, NUTRITION

The focus on Family Engagement continues to be an integral piece to the work that's done in Early Head Start and Head Start. Penquis has identified the need for strong family and community engagement in Maine and has worked to create a holistic approach which affects all areas within the program. Research shows that children, whose families are engaged in their child's education and make connections within their communities, are better prepared to enter public school and are more engaged in learning throughout their school years. Due to the staffing crisis, and the inability to hire Family Support Coaches, we made the decision for our 6-Hour Early Head Start classrooms and some of our 6-Hour Head Start classrooms to do their own family support work. The classrooms took on this role with excitement and dedication to forming those very important relationships and being able to support families with resources and goals for their future.

***"You guys are amazing! A great school/program for kids to start learning for "big kid" school! So blessed and thankful!" - from our Family Survey Spring 2023***

Head Start/Early Head Start staff promote health and safety for all children and help families make connections about how their child's physical health and development contributes to their success in school. Family support staff partner with families to ensure children are healthy and remain on track for their wellness visits in accordance with Maine's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule. The availability of oral health resources in our state continues to be a challenge as many practices have experienced staffing shortages for both Dentists and Hygienists.



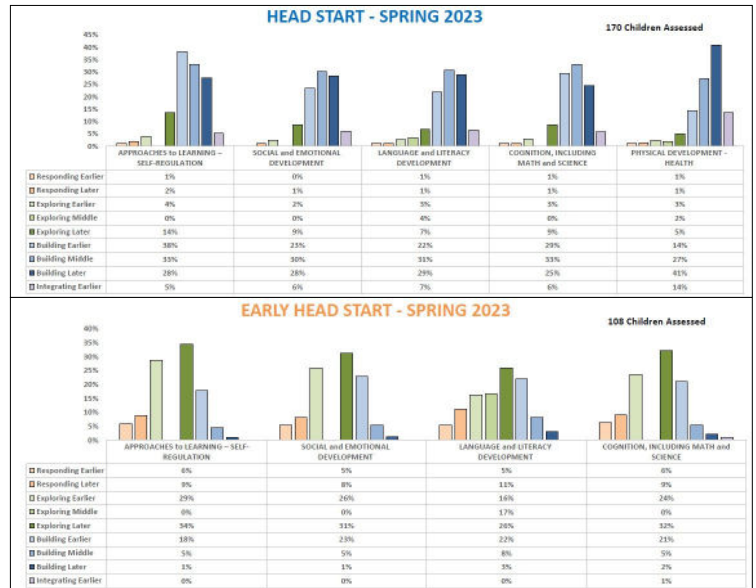
Center staff continue to work with families to establish a dental home for their child when services are available.

Several of our Penquis locations partnered with the Let's Go! 5-2-1-0 Program for the 2022—2023 school year. Staff work with the children and families to promote healthy eating and being active.

Penquis continues to partner with the Child and Adult Care Food Program to ensure that children are being served healthy, nutritious meals while they are in our care. Eight Penquis sites served 62,423 meals from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

## PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL

Penquis has established comprehensive school readiness goals for all children. School readiness goals have been established in the domains of: language and literacy, cognition, and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical health and well-being, motor development, and social and emotional development. The Head Start approach to school readiness means that children have the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and later in life; families are ready to support their child's learning and are engaged in the long-term, lifelong success of their child; and schools are ready for children. To support these developmental goals, Penquis provides every child from 6 weeks to 5 years of age with a comprehensive educational program which occurs in a rich learning environment. Teachers complete developmental assessments on children a minimum of three times per year. Teachers use this information to establish individual goals for each child which are supported throughout classroom daily routines and responsive curriculum plans. After several years of implementing the Opening the World of Learning (2005) curriculum, we are completing our successive roll-out of the PreK for ME curriculum in all Preschool and Pre-K classrooms. The Pre-K for ME curriculum will be fully adopted in all Head Start classrooms when the final two classrooms transition to PreK for ME curriculum in Fall 2024.



Families are recognized as their child's first and most important teacher. Throughout the year, parents and staff meet during educational home visits and Parent/Teacher Conferences to exchange information about how each child's skills are progressing, and to set short- and long-term goals for each child. Families are provided with information about their child's screening and assessment data, as well as progress reports about goals that were developed during the Parent/Teacher Conferences.

At the end of the year, as children are getting ready to transition to elementary school, teachers provide families with information about kindergarten registration, and assist families with the registration process as needed. Preschool teachers attend IEP meetings when a child with special needs is transitioning to public school. Whenever possible, kindergarten teachers and/or principals attend a spring family meeting to provide information about entering kindergarten.

## REVENUES and EXPENDITURES

June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Federal HS & EHS	\$ 4,852,910	Personnel & Benefits	\$ 428,3053
State EHS	\$ 387,555	Travel Out of State	\$ 1,831
Federal DHHS Pass-Through	\$ 52,272	Space & Occupancy	\$ 701,330
Federal DOE Pass-Through	\$ -	Supplies	\$ 105,736
Partnership Revenue	\$ 608,420	Other	\$ 507,203
Other Income	\$ 119	In-Kind	\$ 386,789
Inkind HS & EHS	\$ 386,789	Indirect Cost	\$ 302,123
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 6,288,065</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 6,288,065</b>

### MONITORING REVIEW

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area Two (FA2) monitoring review of our Head Start and Early Head Start programs in April 2022. This was an in-person/virtual review due to the pandemic. The OHS Monitoring Protocol Tool was used to gather information through interviews, observations, and document reviews. While there were no areas of concern, non-compliance or deficiencies in all areas reviewed with one exception. We were found to be in non-compliance for safety practices related to when the date background checks were conducted and the date 2 teachers were working in a partnership classroom. We were given an opportunity to correct the non-compliance issues and it was determined through a review follow-up with no further action needed.

### AUDIT

The independent certified public accounting firm of BerryDunn issued an unmodified opinion for the financial and compliance audit of Penquis C.A.P., Inc and Its Affiliates for the year ending September 30, 2021. There was no noncompliance that was material to the financial statements.

## **NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

### **Infant, Toddler, Preschool and Pre-K Classrooms**

(Ages 6 Weeks to 5 Years of Age)\*

#### **Locations:**

- Bangor (Davis Rd, EMCC, Venture Way)    Brewer (Brewer Pre-K, Jean Lyford)  
Dexter (Dexter Pre-K)    Dover (Morton Ave, SeDoMoCha Pre-K)  
East Millinocket (KTech, Opal Myrick)    Old Town (Middle St)  
Rockland (High St, South School)



For more information contact Kelley Graffam at [kgraffam@penquis.org](mailto:kgraffam@penquis.org) or 973-3567. Fill out an online application by going to [penquis.org](http://penquis.org) or by clicking [here!](#)

*\*Not all ages served at every location.*