



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024



Dear Head Start and Early Head Start Community,

We had many exciting things happen in our program during the 2023-2024 school year. We successfully submitted a 5-year grant for the continuation of Head Start and Early Head Start services in Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Knox Counties. We started working on the application to the Office of Head for approval to start construction on a new child care facility in Bangor. We, also, submitted a Change in Scope to the Office of Head Start to address our staffing shortages.

EMCC Katahdin Higher Education Center, where our Katahdin Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms are located, started a year-long renovation project. We are eagerly awaiting this beautiful new space!

We reopened our EMCC Preschool classroom in Bangor in April 2024. It was wonderful to be able to welcome back preschoolers to that location! We are also working hard to reopen our High St Infant classroom in Rockland in the next few months. We hope to serve infants again at that location soon.

Some of our program goals that we are working on for the upcoming year include:

- We will attract and retain qualified and dedicated Early Childhood Education Professionals to ensure a high quality, stable workforce prepared to meet the needs of children and families.
- We will rebuild, strengthen, and refocus our coaching practices.
- We will revive Family Engagement across all program models and roles to collaborate with parents to support their child's development and school readiness and the family's overall wellbeing.
- We will ensure children possess the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary for success in school and throughout their lifetime.

This report reflects our work in the 2023-2024 school year, working with families, children and our community partners.

We look forward to the continuing collaboration with parents, staff, Penquis programs, and our Community at-large to achieve all of our goals for the families and children we serve.

Mary Kay Hallett

Penquis Head Start Director

"I love this program for my kids and I feel they have gained a lot from teachers and staff."

- Family Survey 2024

PENQUIS MISSION STATEMENT

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.

MAIN OFFICE

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

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

Penobscot County:

Bangor: Davis Rd, EMCC, and Venture Way

Brewer: Brewer Pre-K

Dexter: Dexter Pre-K

East Millinocket: Katahdin and Opal Myrick Pre-K

Old Town: Middle St

Piscataquis County:

Dover: Morton Ave

Knox County:

Rockland: High St and RSU 13 Pre-K



HEAD START

EARLY HEAD START

Children Served (ages 3-5):

184

Families Served:

174

Average Enrollment:

53%

of funded enrolled (268)

Average Attendance:

83%

Eligibility:

Income Eligible or Categorical Eligible:

164

Other Eligibility including Over-income:

20

Disability:

of children with an IEP prior to this year:

24

of children with a new IEP this year:

12

11% of
eligible
children
served

Children Served (ages 3-5):

110

Families Served:

98

Average Enrollment:

70%

of funded enrolled (99)

Average Attendance:

85%

Eligibility:

Income Eligible or Categorical Eligible:

101

Other Eligibility including Over-income:

9

Disability:

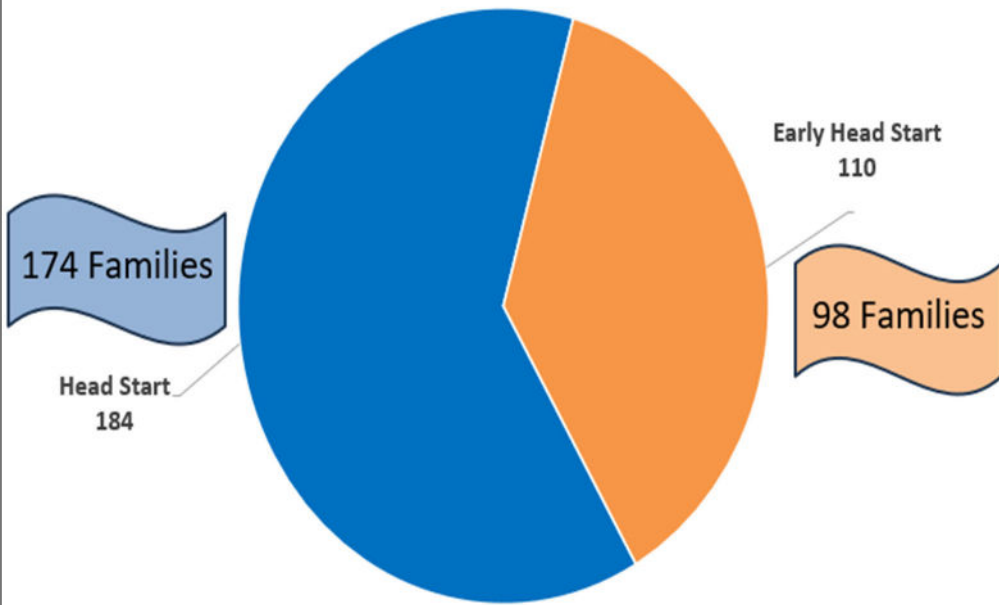
of children with an IEP prior to this year:

11

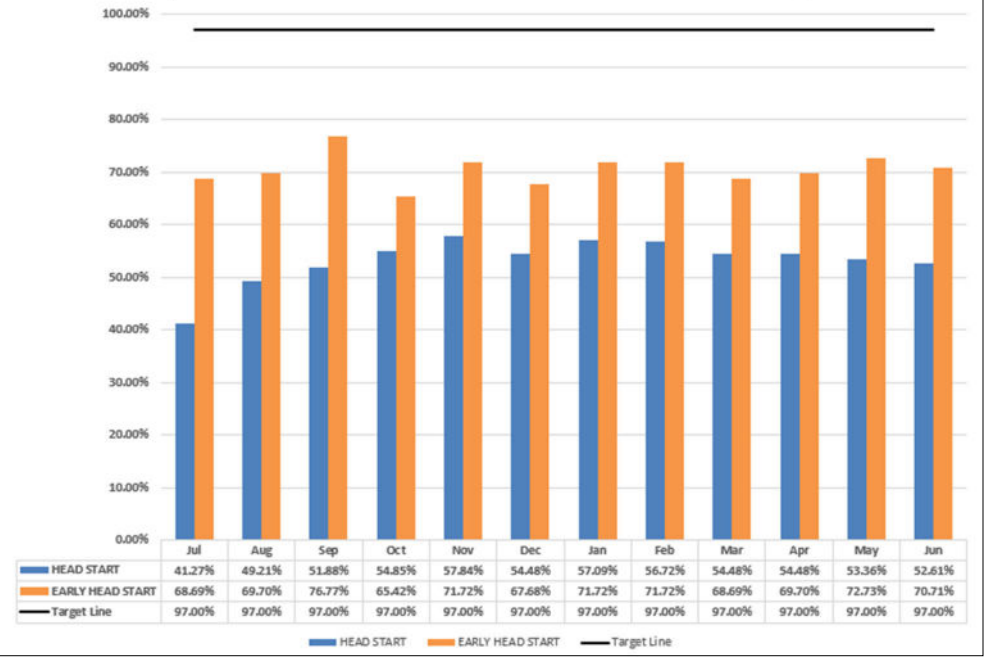
of children with a new IEP this year:

6

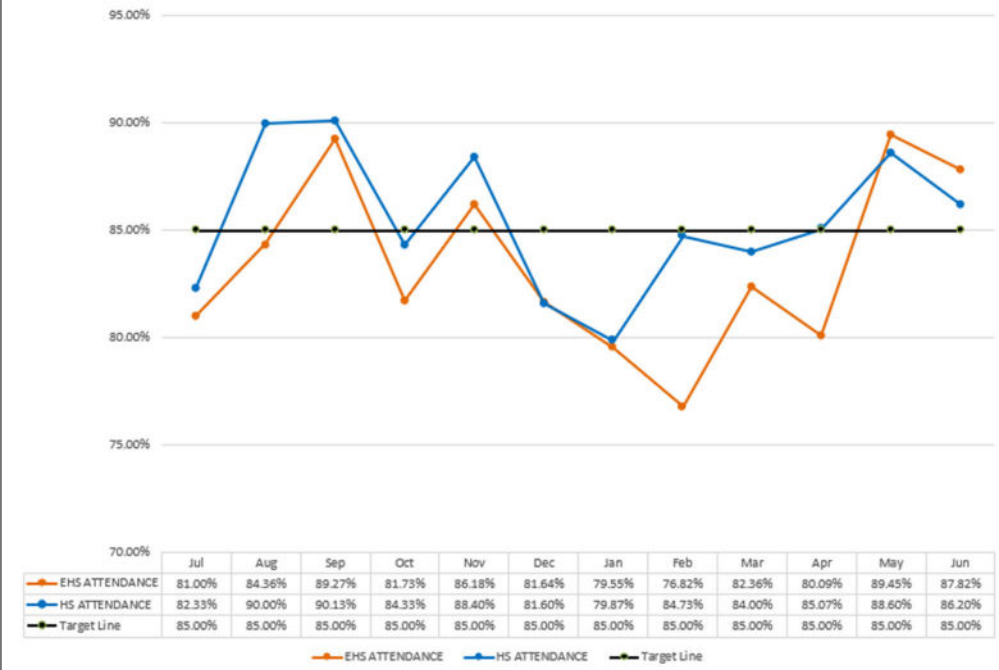
Total Number of Children and Families Served



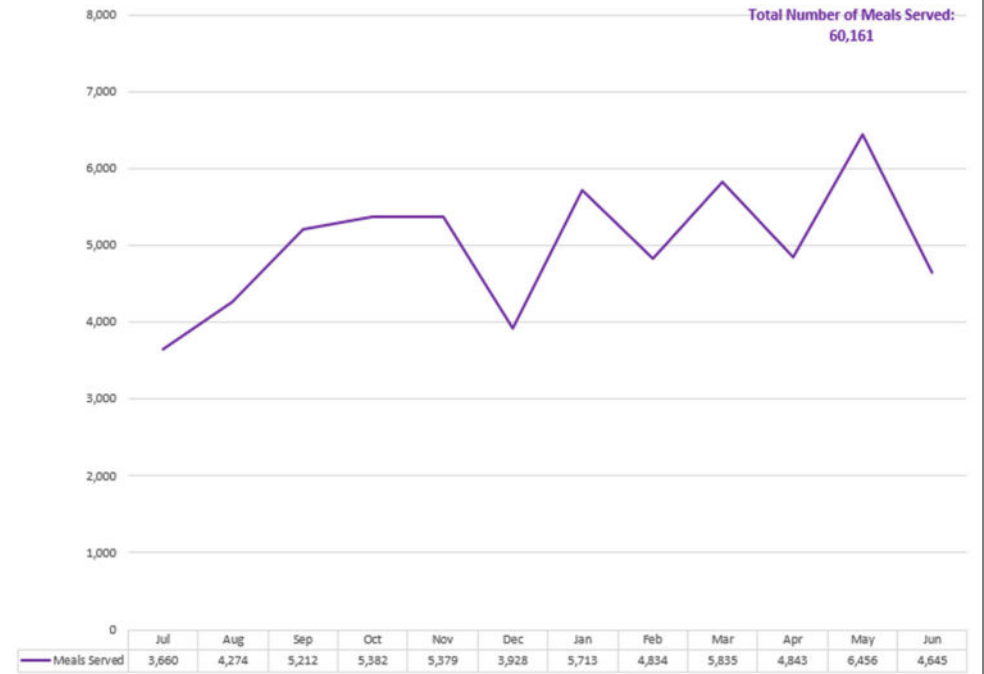
Head Start and Early Head Start Enrollment



Head Start and Early Head Start Attendance



Total Number of Meals/Snacks Served



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, HEALTH and SAFETY, NUTRITION

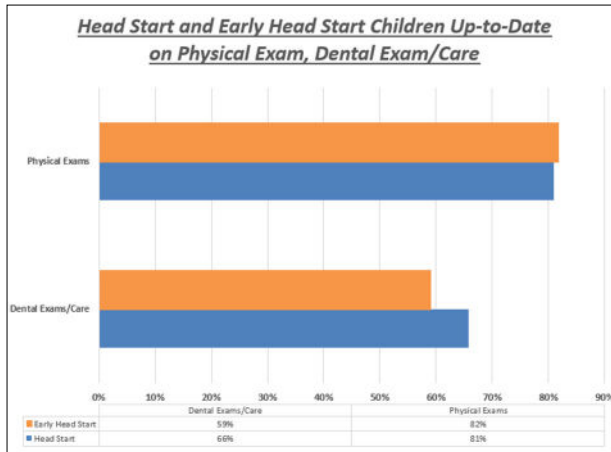
The focus on Family Engagement continues to be an integral piece to the work that's done in Early Head Start and Head Start. Penquis has identified the need for a strong family and community engagement in Maine and has worked to create a holistic approach which affects all areas within the program. Research 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.



Our focus on Family Engagement has resulted in stronger participation at monthly family events held at local centers. For example, at Spring 2024 family events many centers reported record attendance. Staff are dedicated to promoting family engagement through intentional activities that integrate our curriculum, as well as meeting family requests for topics of interest. Some family events this past year included open houses, art shows, literacy events, paint and sip, and a gardening extravaganza.

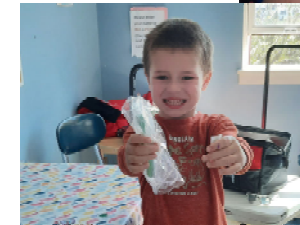


"Teachers are the most extraordinary teachers. They have made my son's experience literally a dream come true. The magic in that classroom is unmatched! I'm so blessed to have met and formed relationships with these two incredible teachers. Thank you Penquis! It's been a wonderful year for my son!" - Family Survey 2024



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.



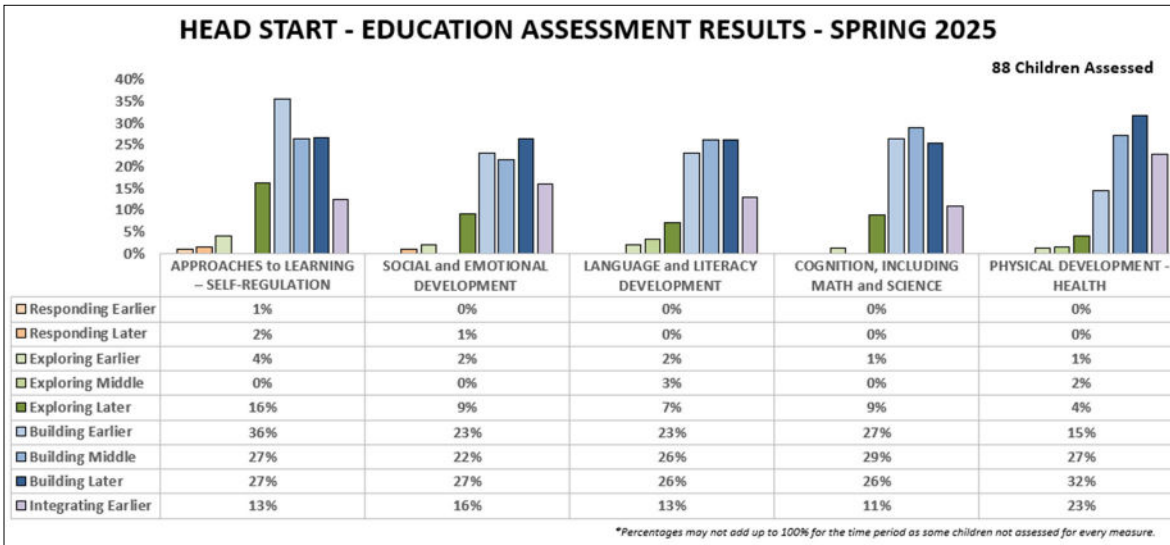
Several of our Penquis locations partnered with the Let's Go! 5-2-1-0 Program for the 2023 2024 school year. Staff work with the children and families to promote healthy eating and being active.

Penquis continues to partner with the Child and Adult Care Food Program to ensure that children receive healthy, nutritious meals, serving family style service while they are in our care. Eight Penquis sites served 60,161 meals from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

PREPARING CHILDREN for SCHOOL

School readiness goals have been established in the domains of: language and literacy, cognition, 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. In all of our Head Start Preschool and PreK classrooms, we implement the PreK for ME curriculum, and in our Early Head Start classrooms we implement the Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos.

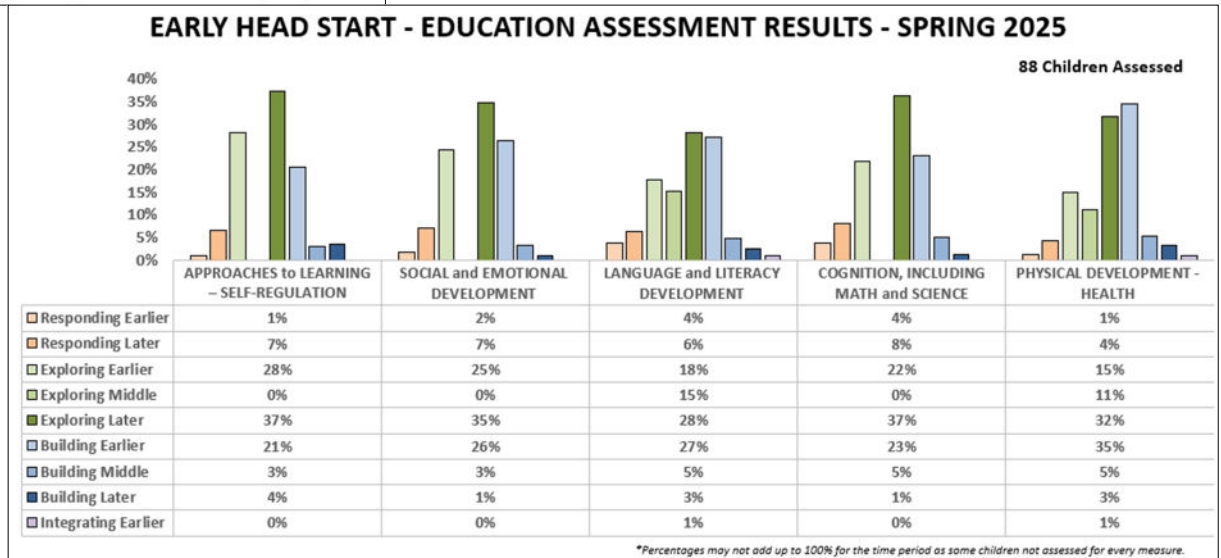


“They have been wonderful to work with the last 3 years. My son has grown so much from their love and support. He loves going to school.”

“My daughter LOVES going to school and having them as teachers!”

“The pre-K program has been exceptional, and I’m so thankful that my son was able to participate in it! His teachers go above and beyond when it comes to communication, events, cleanliness, and developmental skills.”

- Family Survey 2024



REVENUES and EXPENDITURES

June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Federal HS & EHS	\$ 5,457,247	Personnel & Benefits	\$ 4,901,368
State EHS	\$ 771,636	Travel Out of State	\$ 1,850
Federal DHHS Pass-Through	\$ 52,272	Space & Occupancy	\$ 709,395
Federal DOE Pass-Through	\$ -	Supplies	\$ 88,313
Partnership Revenue	\$ 346,348	Other	\$ 590,853
Other Income	\$ 30	In-Kind	\$ 149,361
Inkind HS & EHS	\$ 149,361	Indirect Cost	\$ 335,844
Total Revenues	\$ 6,776,984	Total Expenditures	\$ 6,776,984

FINANCIAL AUDIT RESULTS

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, 2023. There was no noncompliance that was material to the financial statements, however there were audit findings identified that were required to be reported.

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.



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

Dexter:

Dexter Pre-K

Dover-Foxcroft:

Morton Ave

East Millinocket:

Katahdin, Opal Myrick

Old Town:

Middle St

Rockland:

High St, RSU 13 Pre-K

We serve the entire family by:

- Programming for income eligible families ages 6 weeks to 5 years
- Family Support Coaching
- A safe, nurturing learning environment
- Research-based curriculum, developmental screenings, along with individualized plans to meet each child's needs
- Healthy meals and snacks
- Opportunities for family involvement in educational activities
- And So MUCH More!

For more information contact

Kelley Graffam at

kgraffam@penquis.org or

973-3567.

Fill out an online application by

going to penquis.org.

**Not all ages served at every location.*

