



WCCS Early Learning Centers Annual Report 2022-2023

2022-2023 Program Statistics

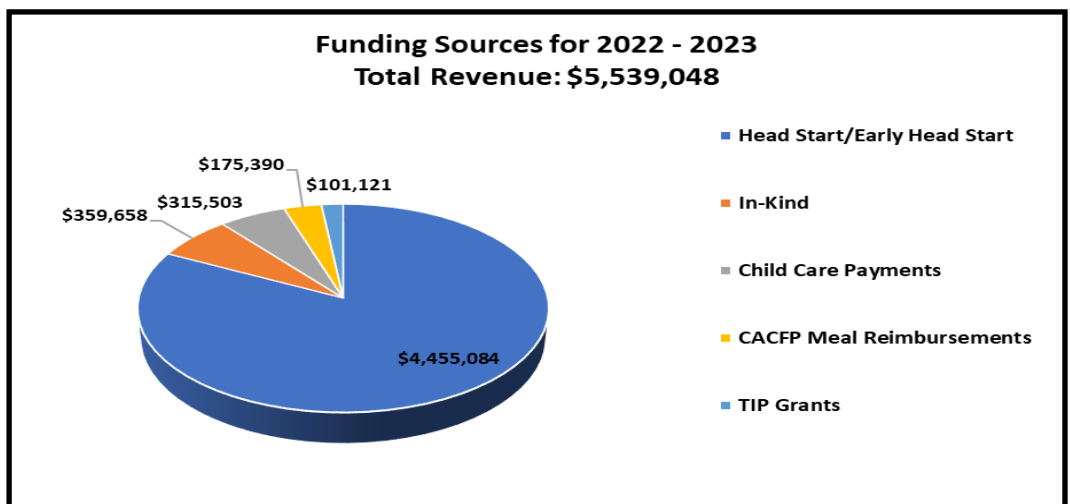
- ☺ Funded enrollment was 230 children for Head Start, and 130 for Early Head Start and Child Care Partnerships
- ☺ A total of 379 children were served: 240 in Head Start and 139 in Early Head Start and Child Care Partnerships
- ☺ Average monthly enrollment was 272 out of 360 funded slots (76%)
- ☺ 355 children (94%) were from families with income at or below poverty, including 58 foster children and 21 homeless children
- ☺ 39 Head Start children and 25 Early Head Start children (17%) were identified with disabilities
- ☺ 367 children (98%) had an ongoing source of continuous health care (medical home)
- ☺ 297 children (79%) were up to date on all immunizations
- ☺ 164 Head Start children (68%) received a dental exam
- ☺ 10 Head Start children received needed dental treatment
- ☺ 29 Head Start children received mental health services through the TIP program
- ☺ 339 families (100%) received family services



State Representative Adam Mathews visited our program

The 2022-2023 program year was a time of returning to classroom routines, while families and staff continued to face tremendous challenges related to the COVID pandemic. We saw a major increase in children with disabilities and mental health needs, and our teachers stepped up to meet these great needs. In spite of all the challenges, we continued to provide a high quality, comprehensive kindergarten readiness program for a total of 379 children.

WCCS, Inc. received a grant of \$4,455,084 from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to serve 230 Head Start children and 130 infants and toddlers. We received an additional \$132,292 in supplementary funds from HHS to renovate our new child care partnership site. Local volunteers and donors contributed \$359,658 in donations as the non-federal match for the federal grants. We received \$315,503 in child care subsidies and payments, and \$175,390 in meal reimbursements from the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program. We also received \$101,121 in local grants to support the Therapeutic Interagency Preschool (TIP) program.



School Readiness Goals

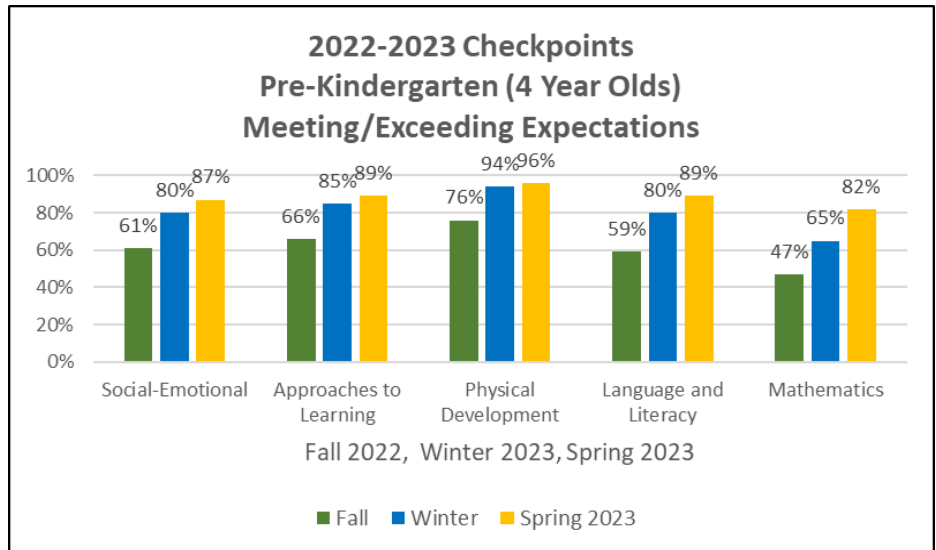
WCCS Early Learning Centers uses Teaching Strategies Gold to assess children’s learning and development throughout the year. The chart below shows the progress made by 4 year olds from fall to spring on our five School Readiness Goals.

As in past years, children entered the program with lower skills in early math and literacy. Teachers focused on strengthening these areas, and we involved parents in supporting math and literacy skills by sending home books to read and activities for parents to do with their children at home.

We again focused heavily on social-emotional supports for children to increase their sense of safety and connection after the difficult pandemic years. Teachers used Conscious Discipline strategies to help strengthen

social-emotional skills. By spring, we found that prekindergarten children had gained 26 percentage points in social-emotional skills, 30 percentage points in language and literacy and 35 percentage points

in math! Overall, 88.6% of the four year olds were meeting or exceeding expectations for kindergarten readiness. While not as high as in past years, these gains are still significant in light of the missed learning experiences, isolation and unpredictable routines during the pandemic.



TIP Program

WCCS completed a fifth successful year of operating the Therapeutic Interagency Preschool (TIP) program.

The TIP program serves children who have experienced trauma and abuse. Many children in the TIP program are in foster or kinship care due to substance misuse in the home. This

research-based model is designed to meet the great need for trauma-focused preschool intervention services, in collaboration with Warren County Children Services and Warren County Educational Service Center (ESC). Medicaid reimbursed transportation is arranged by Warren County JFS,

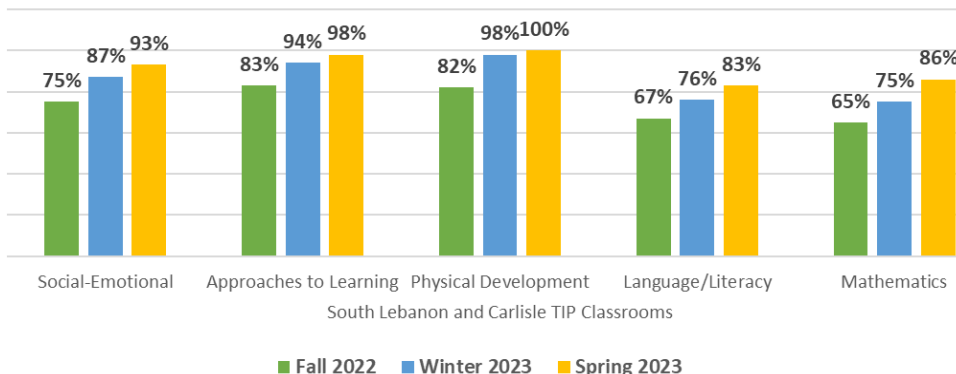
and TIP is also supported by generous funding from the Warren County Commissioners.

The experienced TIP teaching teams attended trauma-related trainings in Florida for Conscious Discipline to enhance the fidelity of our social-emotional curriculum.

Our TIP team attended CPI De-escalation training to prevent challenging behaviors, intervene safely, reduce risks and strengthen children’s outcomes.

The goals of the TIP program are to increase child resiliency and to promote healthy social interactions which are the foundation for school readiness. We were very pleased to see the significant school readiness gains made by the children at the end of the year!

TIP Children Meeting/Exceeding Expectations Growth Fall 2022-Spring 2023



Collaboration with OCALI!

During the 2022-2023 school year our agency began a year-long collaboration with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI.) This partnership was in response to our increasing number of children with disabilities. Program-wide we looked at our inclusive practices, vision and mission statements. OCALI provided extensive training throughout the year on understanding autism, sensory and visual supports.

An experienced coach made multiple visits, provided direct classroom instruction and reflection with our teachers. New schedules, classroom arrangement and transition supports were implemented.

Our OCALI collaboration enlightened our entire program with new perspectives, resources and tools for supporting children with disabilities and their families. Not only did this collaboration improve the services we provide to children with autism/disabilities but supported all of our children.

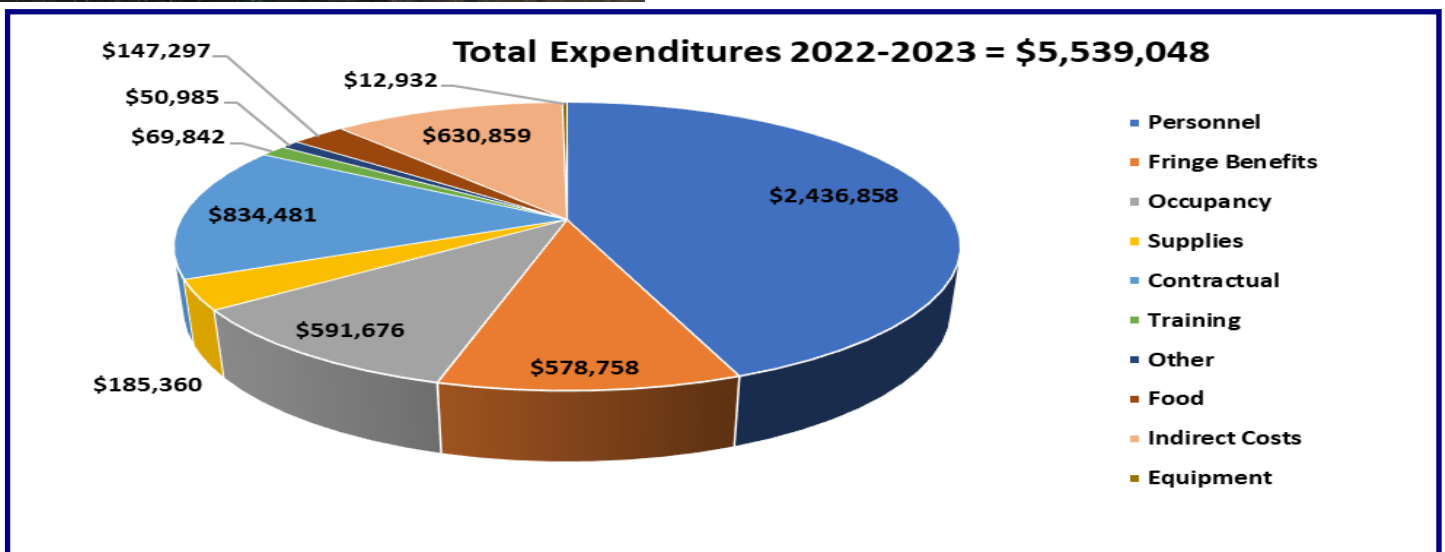


Children are seated in baskets to provide personal space and limit distractions. These baskets helped engage all the children to join circle time!

New Child Care Partnership with Oak Spring Academy



We are very excited about our new Early Head Start Child Care Partnership with Oak Spring Academy! WCCS, Inc. was able to secure Head Start funding to renovate and furnish two classrooms for infants and toddlers, add a toddler rest room, and install a new kitchen for this center. Our staff supports the teachers with training and coaching, as well as providing the families with resources and support through our Family Advocate. Oak Spring Academy, located in at 747 Cincinnati Ave. in Lebanon is now providing high quality early learning for 14 infants and toddlers in Early Head Start! Director Beth Fryman is pictured here with one of the business owners, Trevor Fant, along with their teaching team.





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WCCS Early Learning Centers

Our Vision is to empower families to create a strong foundation for each child's success in education and in life.

MISSION STATEMENT

WCCS Early Learning Centers nurture child development and strengthen families by providing the highest quality inclusive early learning experiences, trauma-responsive care, and services in partnership with families and our community.

Family Engagement

Parents volunteer in our classrooms, and they help to plan special family events at each of the centers, such as the ones pictured here. Parent representatives serve on Policy Council to help make program-wide decisions and to recommend program improvements.



Together

In loving memory of Beth Warner

Thank you for your dedication to the children at the Early Learning Centers.