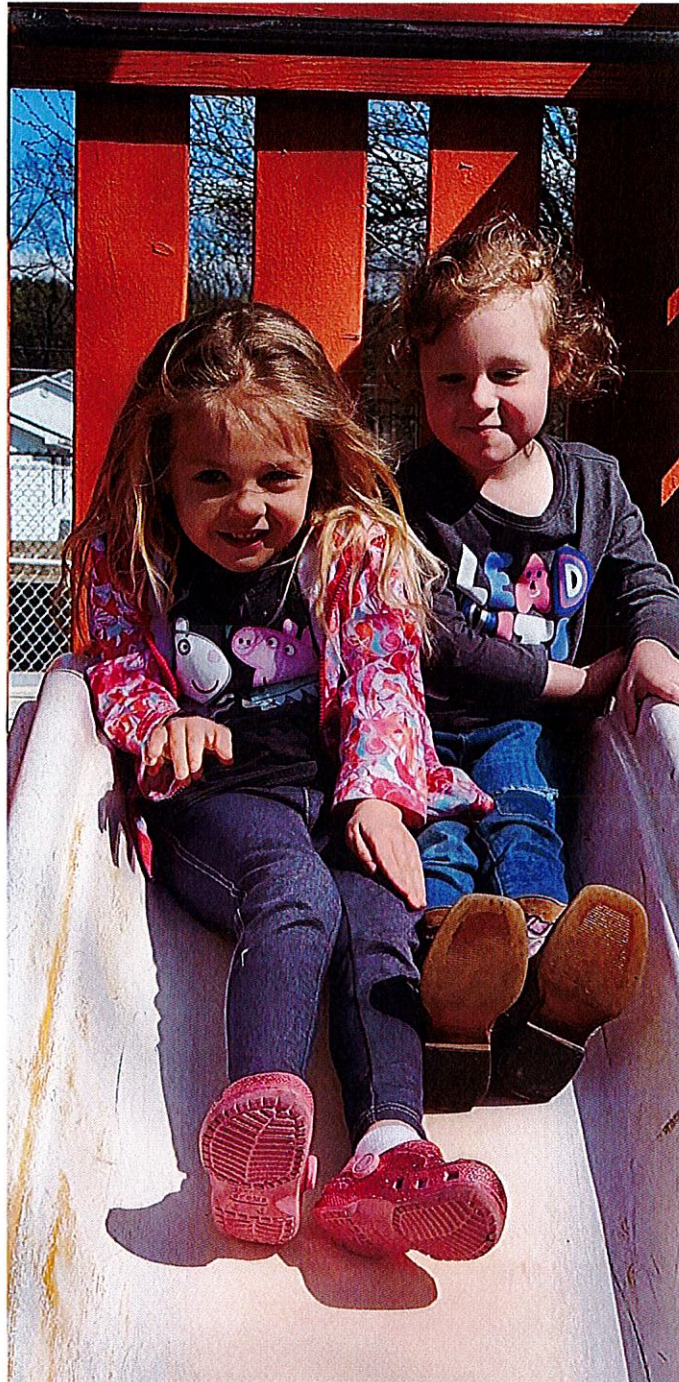


# *Heart of the Valley Head Start*

## *2021-2022*



*Annual Report to the Public*





# Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center

21 Birge Drive  
Chauncey, OH 45719  
[www.athensmeigs.com](http://www.athensmeigs.com)

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## Heart of the Valley Head Start

### Annual Report to the Public 2021-2022

***Vision Statement: Heart of the Valley Head Start will promote positive outcomes in all areas of development to ensure children and families become life-long learners and achieve long term success.***

***Mission Statement: Heart of the Valley Head Start will support families and children by providing quality services that foster growth in school readiness, self-sufficiency, collaboration with other educational leaders, and awareness of community services.***

The Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center is the grantee for the Heart of the Valley Head Start Program which provides a variety of comprehensive early childhood services to eligible infants, toddlers and preschoolers in Gallia and Meigs Counties in Ohio. The program provides center-based and child care options in eleven locations throughout the two counties. One location in Gallia County offers full day, full year child care classrooms serving infants thru preschool. 4 locations in Gallia County offer full day, 4 days per week classrooms and 3 locations in Gallia County offer full day, 5 days per week classrooms. All 3 locations in Meigs County offer full day, 5 days per week classroom.

Heart of the Valley Head Start works in collaborative partnerships with Gallia County Local Schools and Gallipolis City Schools in Gallia County, Ohio. This partnership allows head start children to attend center at the district elementary buildings along with ECE state funded and tuition preschoolers. These partnerships have ensured smooth transitions into the public school system for head start children and their families. The school districts provide transportation for these students.

Heart of the Valley also works in a collaborative partnership with Southern Local School District in Meigs County, Ohio. Head Start provides a 3 year old head start classroom in the elementary building. Children transition into the district preschool classroom the following year. The district provides transportation in the head start classroom.



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Heart of the Valley has collaborative partnerships with AMESC preschool units within Meigs Local and Eastern Local School Districts.

The Little Storm Early Learning Academy is located in Gallia County and serves infants thru preschoolers in a full working day/ full calendar year schedule. Parents whose children are served at this location are primarily students or working parents. Little Storm Early Learning Academy is also eligible to receive PFCC (publicly funded childcare) dollars.

Heart of the Valley also has transportation contracts with Eastern Local School District and Meigs Local School District to provide busing to students who attend center at Meigs Early Learning Center and at the Eastern Early Learning Center.

## **PROGRAM GOALS**

**GOAL 1:** AMESC Head Start Program will be recognized as a program of excellence, providing high-quality educational services.

**GOAL 2:** AMESC Head Start Program will increase the promotion of healthy and safe practices for all children, families and staff.

**GOAL 3:** AMESC Head Start Program will be the community leader in providing high-quality, comprehensive school readiness services.

**GOAL 4:** AMESC Head Start Program will provide families with opportunities to support self-Sufficiency and growth.



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## 2021-2022 ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Funds provided to Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center for head start and early head start children is through a federal grant.

	<u>Head Start</u>	<u>Early Head Start</u>
<b>Funded Enrollment:</b>	256	18
<b>Total # Children Served</b>	261	29
<b>Total # Families Served</b>	244	25
<b>% of Eligible Children Served</b>	100%	100%

## 2020-2021 FUNDING/EXPENDITURES

**Funding:** \$2,727,511 Federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

\$ 141,714.38 CACFP reimbursement for nutrition services

### **Expenditures:**

- Salaries: \$1,261,107
- Fringe: : \$705,258
- Supplies: \$107,230
- Training: \$31,978
- Contractual: \$365,674
- Total Direct Costs: \$2,581,466
- Indirect Costs: \$84,014
- Other: \$145,784
- Non Federal Share Collected: \$805,004





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## **Financial Audit**

The most recent financial audit for AMESC for fiscal year 2022 is available at the Treasurer's Office located at 21 Birge Drive Chauncey, Ohio 45719. Findings and corrective action plan, should there be any, can be found in each audit.

## **Staffing**

Heart of the Valley Head Start employs 74 staff to provide high quality early childhood experiences to children in Gallia and Meigs counties thru direct and contract services. 100% of teachers have an Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree or Master Degree in Early Childhood Education.

## **Health and Disability Services**

- 98% of enrolled Early Head Start children received well-child examinations
- 93% of enrolled Head Start children received well-child examinations.
- 100% of enrolled Early Head Start children had medical insurance.
- 100% of enrolled Head Start children had medical insurance.
- 100.0% of enrolled Early Head Start children had a medical home.
- 93% of enrolled Head Start children had a medical home
- 100.0% of enrolled Early Head Start children received all required immunizations for age.
- 94% of enrolled Head Start children received all required immunizations for age.
- 37% of enrolled children received a dental screening.
- 11% of enrolled children received disabilities services.



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## Federal Reviews and Inspection Reports

- Heart of the Valley Head Start was found to be in compliance for child care licensing through the Ohio Department of Education.
- The most recent federal on-site monitoring review was found to be in full compliance.

## Step Up to Quality Rating System

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) is a five-star quality rating and improvement system administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. SUTQ recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet quality program standards that exceed licensing health and safety regulations. The program standards are based on national research identifying standards which lead to improved outcomes for children. Heart of the Valley Head Start's ratings are listed below. Due to covid, unrated centers will be delayed in receiving a rating until the 2022-2023 school year.

Current SUTQ Ratings are as follows:

**5 Star Centers:** 5  
**4 Star Centers:** 1  
**3 Star Centers:** 0  
**2 Star Centers:** 1  
**Centers Not Rated:** 4

## Parent, Family and Community Engagement Activities

Heart of the Valley Head Start offers a variety of activities and trainings to support family and community engagement. All families have monthly opportunity to be a part of their centers parent meetings and to serve on Policy Council. Surveys are completed by families at the



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beginning of the school year to gauge parent interest. Listed below are activities that were conducted during the 2021-2022 school year for families, children and community members. All engagement activities were conducted virtually due to Covid-19.

- CPR/First Aid Training
- Budgeting Your Dollars Training
- Dealing with Behaviors Training
- Week of the Young Child Activities
- Kindergarten Transition Celebration
- Fall Celebration
- Winter Celebration
- Spring Celebration
- Christmas Caroling
- Parent Meetings
- Policy Council Meeting
- Parent Support Groups
- Father Support Groups
- Grandparent Support Groups

## **PARENTING CURRICULUM**

Heart of the Valley Head Start program provides Ready Rosie as its research-based parenting curriculum. Ready Rosie is a birth through age 7 family engagement toolkit. The web and mobile app feature over 1,500 real-life video modeling combined to empower families and teachers to work together to close the opportunity gap. During the 2021-2022 program year, 89% of families have utilized the curriculum.





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## **CONTINUED IMPACTS OF COVID-19**

Covid-19 continued to change the way head start services were provided for the 2021-2022 school year. Children were able to return to classrooms to receive in-person instruction. The Office of Head Start continued to provide flexibilities as a result of the ongoing pandemic, particularly around the issue of enrollment and attendance. The program was funded to serve 258 children but full enrollment was never achieved at any time during the school year. The highest percentage attained during the program year was 91%. The Early Head Start program did not face any enrollment issues and remained fully enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year. Head Start continued to actively recruit and fill the remaining enrollment slots.

Although COVID changed many things during the 2021-2022 and many head start programs across the nation dealt with major under enrollment issues and workforce shortages, Heart of the Valley staff is to be commended for stepping up, showing up and reaching out to our service area's most vulnerable families.

## **OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE**

As educators in today's early childhood field, we recognize the struggles and obstacles that families face in new and challenging times. We recognize that all children deserve the chance to grow and learn to their full potential. Heart of the Valley Head Start is committed to ensuring that all children in our service area begin with equitable resources and opportunities. We are committed to providing our students and families with a consistent network of resources that are also committed to evaluating and supporting the needs of the whole child and family.

Heart of the Valley Head Start is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. We believe that diversity is a critical component of a healthy work culture and the world at large. We are committed to training staff to expand our horizons, enable our understanding, and supporting an anti-bias and anti-racism early learning environment.