

**EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOLS
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEPARTMENT
HEAD START COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT
FEBRUARY, 2018**

Presented by Beth Reilly MPH



HEAD START COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2018

Acknowledgements: Special thanks to Jill Hunsaker Ryan and Silver Street Consulting. The Program Service Area description in this report was replicated courtesy of the 2012 Head Start Community Assessment.

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*Standard numbers refer to citations in the Head Start Performance Standards.

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Introduction:

The Federal Head Start Performance Standards requires the grantee agency to conduct a Community Assessment every five years and annually review and update. The Head Start Community Assessment includes the collection of specifically required information in order to promote thoughtful analysis to improve services and address the needs of Head Start eligible children and their families. The Head Start Community Assessment requires both the review of data and the input of families as they self-identify their education, health, nutrition and social service needs.

Other Eagle County organizations also conduct community assessments that include a broader array of information such as specific workforce data, community-wide health information, occupied housing information, etc. Some of these assessments are referenced at the end of this document for those looking for a larger picture of community-wide strengths and needs. This document is meant to complement, not duplicate, these other efforts.

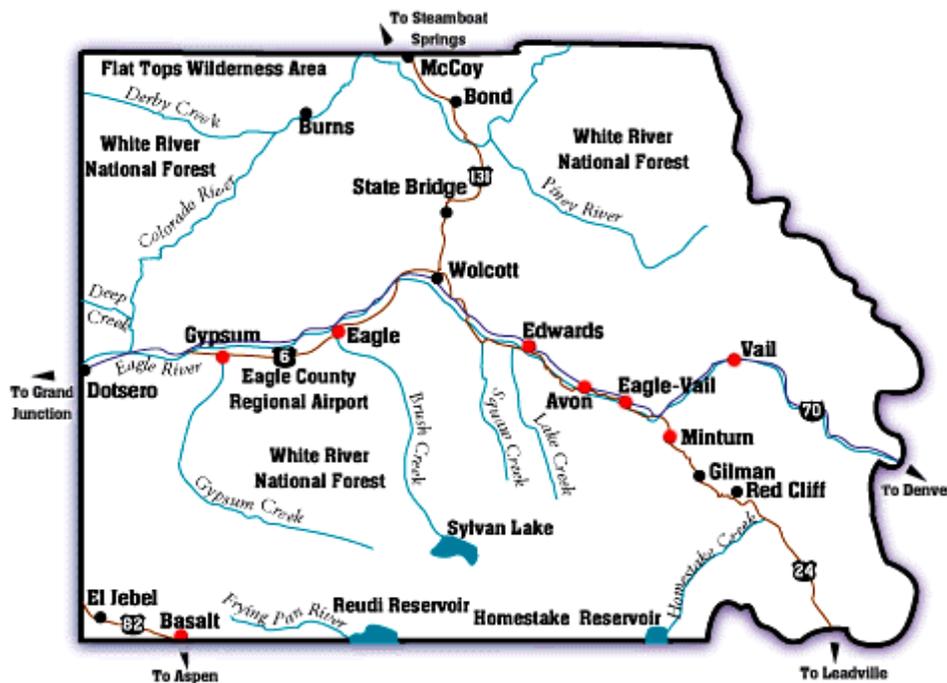
Program Service Area 1302.11 a

Eagle County is a mountainous, rural community known for the world-class resorts of Vail and Beaver Creek. The county is located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains on Colorado's Western Slope, almost equidistant from the two major metropolitan centers of Denver and Grand Junction. Denver is approximately two hours and two mountain passes east. Grand Junction is two hours west, through the Glenwood Canyon in Garfield County. Eagle County has an elevation high of 10,603 ft. at the top of Vail Pass, which drops to a low of 6,150 ft. at the west end of the county. More than 80 percent of Eagle County is public land, including 930 square miles of the White River National Forest.



Tourism is one of the county's main industries with visitors attracted to the area's snow sports, rivers, golfing, hiking, biking and other outdoor activities. Second homes are another unique feature and are also an economic driver. These industries create the demand for a large workforce in the areas of service, maintenance and construction.

In many cases, rural communities are not able to offer comprehensive physical health, mental health, dental health, and social services, especially for low-income populations. These gaps may be filled in neighboring counties. Regionally, Eagle River Valley residents may access services in Garfield or Summit counties and vice versa. However, winter weather conditions can inhibit driving access on any given day. Many residents in neighboring Lake County work in Eagle County and therefore seek services here.



Most of the county's population resides along the I-70 corridor. The county seat is the town of Eagle, which is also located along I-70. Eagle County does have two towns in its southwest corner, El Jebel and Basalt, which are approximately a one-hour drive from the county seat and are also significant population centers. These towns border Garfield County to the west and Pitkin County to the south; in fact, the town of Basalt is partially located in Pitkin County. This geographic separation creates unique service challenges

for the southwest corner of the county. The county does have a small Health & Human Services satellite office that serves this area.

The Head Start program is operated through the Eagle County RE-50 School District, which serves the Eagle River Valley, from Vail west to Dotsero. The Head Start program provides comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and their families, from ages three to five. The program follows a center-based model and each child receives four days of center-based early education services. In addition, each family is served by a Family Services Coordinator, assuring all ancillary and support services are received.

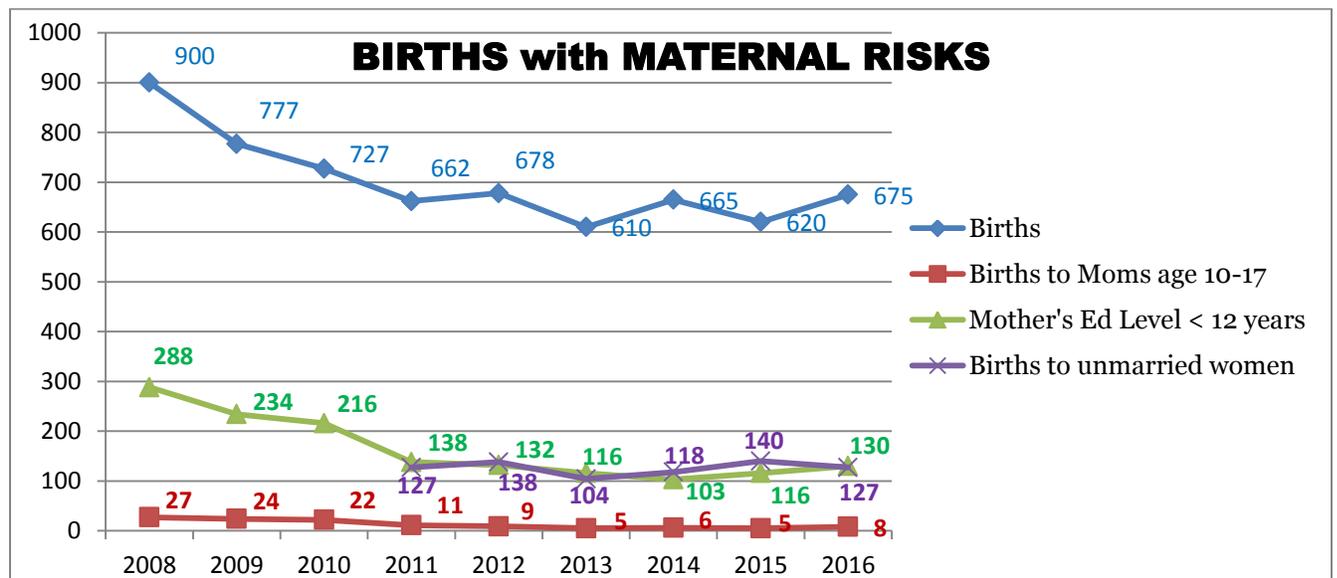
During the 2017/2018 school year the program is fully enrolled at 69, with 16 Head Start eligible children (based on <100% poverty/homeless) with complete applications, currently unserved and on the wait list. Of the 16, ten on the waitlist are below Federal Poverty guidelines. Four live west of Wolcott and twelve live east of Wolcott. The rest are eligible due to a housing crisis. (*In addition, there are 40 incomplete or unprocessed applications received with not enough information to contribute to this report.)

	East of Wolcott	West of Wolcott
Total Applications	63	57
Applications missing information	15/63	19/57
New unprocessed applications	2/63	4/57
Completed applications ineligible for Head Start	31/46	32/36
Completed applications eligible for Head Start based on income	9	3
Applicants eligible for Head Start based on homeless status	9	2
Applicants eligible for Head Start based on both homeless status and income	3	1
Total Head Start eligible applicants	15	4
Total Head Start eligible currently <u>unserved</u> by other ECE programs	12	4
Head Start eligible applicants on the waitlist that are already served through other ECE programming (IEP or Tuition)	3/15 2 tuition 1 IEP	0

Demographic Make-up of Head Start Eligible Children and Families 1302.11bii Number

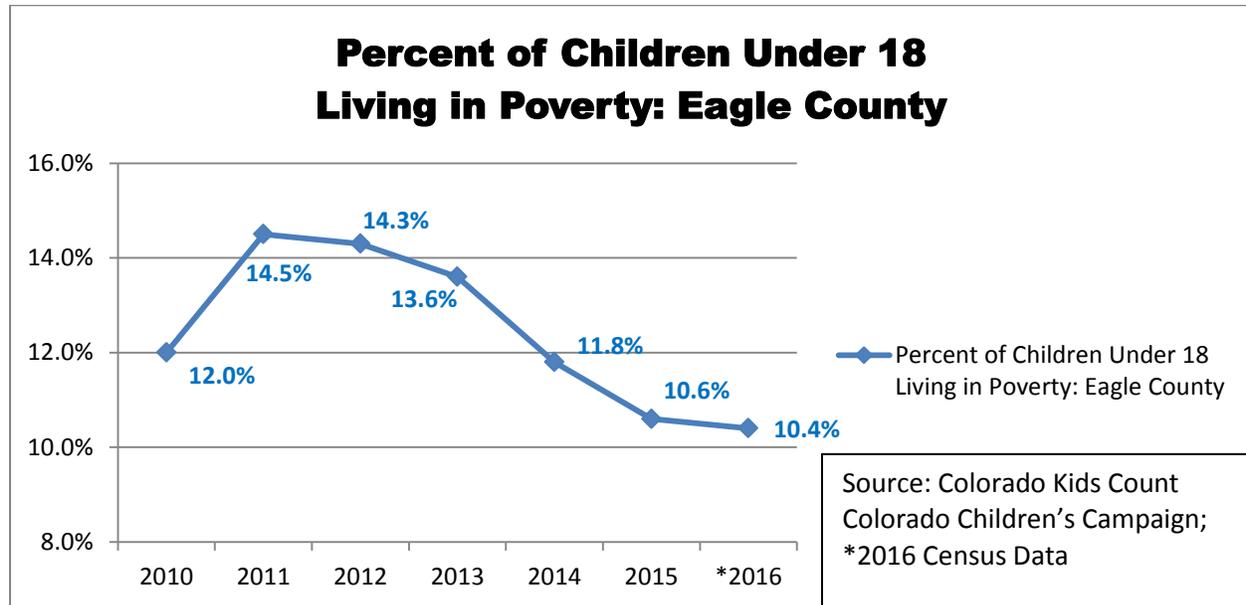
According to the US Census Bureau “American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates” for 2016 Eagle County’s population was 52,894 with 6.2% (3278) under the age of 5. (<https://factfinder.census.gov>) In 2016, 675 children were born in the county. The 5-year average of births is 650 with a range of 610-678. (<http://www.cohid.dphe.state.co.us/>)

Head Start enrollment eligibility is based primarily on income levels. Since there are more applications than enrollment spaces, other risk factor criteria are also considered for weighting applicants, such as parental educational level, age of the parent at the time of birth, and being a single parent. (See Appendix A: Selection Criteria) Teen births remain low at 8. 2016 saw a slight increase in the percentages of births to women with a lower educational level (19.3%). The percent of births to unmarried women declined from 22.5% in 2015 to 18.8% in 2016. Eagle County births to foreign born women declined from 46.6% in 2015 to 41.6% in 2016. Although births to foreign born women is not noted specifically on the selection criteria as a risk, foreign born parents do have additional challenges accessing resources and supports for their families due to eligibility barriers associated with many programs. (<http://www.cohid.dphe.state.co.us>)



Beginning in 2015 the percent of children under 18 living in poverty has returned to the pre-recession levels prior to 2010. 2016 Census Bureau American Community Survey data identifies 10.4% of children under the age of 18 living in poverty in Eagle County and 10.3% of school age children (5-17) within the Eagle County School District boundaries living in poverty. Although higher than desired, Eagle County School's children living in poverty is lower than both the U.S. (19.5%) and Colorado (13.4%)

(<https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe/saipe.html?>).



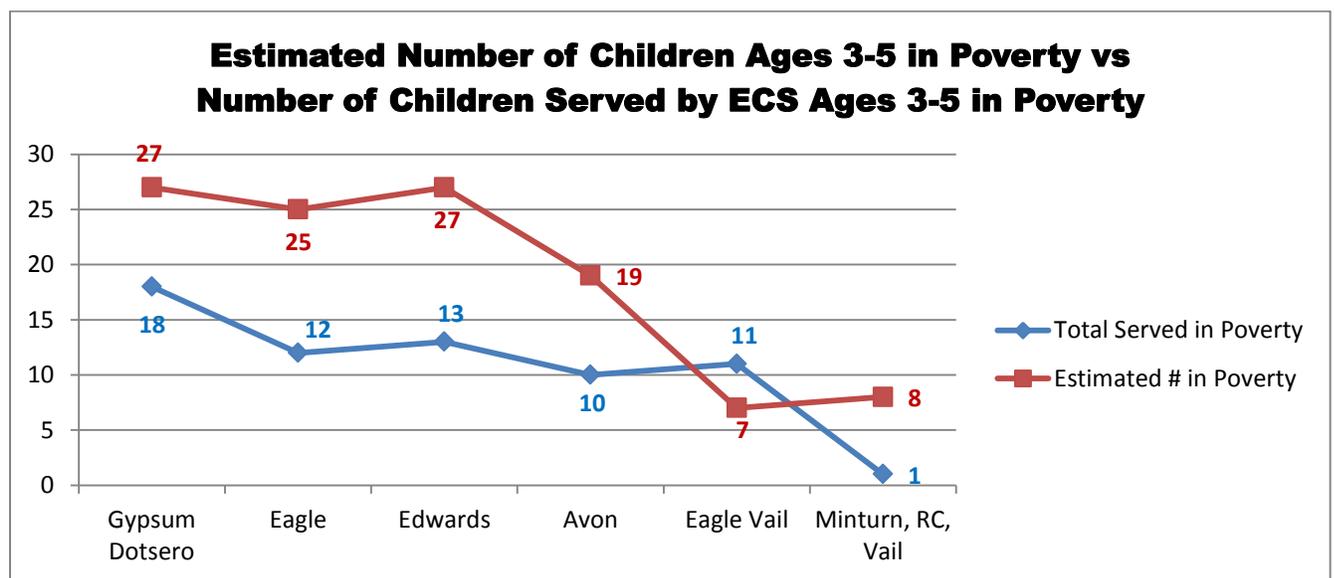
One can estimate the numbers of those Head Start eligible based solely on poverty in Eagle County by adding the births in 2013 and 2014 and multiplying by 10.4%. This results in an estimate of 133 eligible children. The communities of El Jebel and Basalt in Eagle County are outside of the service area of the Eagle County School's Head Start grant. About 15% of children under the age of five lived in the El Jebel / Basalt area at the time of the 2010 Census (American Fact Finder US Census). Thus, we can further estimate the number of Head Start eligible children within the Eagle County Schools service area to be 113 (133 x 85%). In the 2017-2018 school year, the Eagle County Schools Head Start grant serves 69 Head Start children. Fifty-two (75%) Head Start children live below 100% of poverty (\$24,300 for a family of 4 in 2017). Thirty-six (52%) of Head Start children met the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. Some children are eligible in both income and housing crisis categories. (Google Doc 2017-2018 HSCPP Enrollment)

Eagle County Schools also serves at-risk children through the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) and Early Childhood At-Risk Enhancement (ECARE). Thirteen CPP/ECARE children live below 100% of poverty. Thus, a total of 65 children living below 100% of poverty are served by Eagle County Schools early childhood programs, 58% of the estimated need. Considering those income-eligible on the waitlist, the program is either serving, or have on the program’s radar, 69% of the estimated number of income eligible children in Eagle County. There are 27 potentially income eligible children in the community that either “not found” or are part of the group of applicants that have incomplete applications. Between the CPP/ECARE and the Head Start program, 132 at-risk children receive services in 2017-2018.

Geographic Location

Population and poverty data by census track within Eagle County is only available for 2010, creating challenges in identifying changes in community needs based on geographic location in 2017.

The following graph roughly identifies the estimated numbers of pre-school aged children in poverty in each geographical area compared to the number of Head Start and Colorado Preschool enrolled children living below poverty in the 17-18 school year.



The following table presents the above information in a different format.

ESTIMATED PERCENT OF PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IN POVERTY SERVED BASED ON ESTIMATED NEED		ESTIMATED NUMBER UNSERVED IN POVERTY
GYP SUM/ DOT SERO	67%	9
EAGLE	48%	13
EDWARDS	48%	14
AVON	53%	9
EAGLE VAIL	157%	(-4)
VAIL/ REDCLIFF/ MINTURN	13%	7

The reader should be reminded that the above tables were developed from census tract data from 2010 and geographic demographics have changed since then. There are only ten complete Head Start applications that are below federal poverty levels and are unserved. Avon children living in the Eagle Bend apartments were included in the Eagle-Vail count due to being within the boundaries of Homestake Peak School service area located in Eagle-Vail. There are four children living in Eagle Vail not attending their “home school.” These children are attending school in Avon (2) and Vail (2).

This data corresponds with the 2017/2018 self-assessment which indicates a need for the review of the application process and consideration of ways to reduce barriers for families to submit a completed application. New processes are currently being implemented for 2018/2019 applicants. If the data estimates are valid, some of the unserved eligible may be in the 40 incomplete or unprocessed applications.

Racial and Ethnic Composition

According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Vital Statistics, in 2016 53% of children born in Eagle County identified as White and Non-

Hispanic; 25% identified as White and Hispanic, 2% identified as Asian American or Pacific Islander, and 20% identified as “other”. The “other” category may represent challenges in data collection, difficulty of respondents in understanding the differences between race and ethnicity categories, and the rigidity of the reporting system. The US Census 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate identifies Eagle County’s overall population in 2016 by race as 88.5% White. Non-Hispanic White (70%) and Hispanic/ Latino (30%) represent the two dominant ethnicities in the county. The foreign born population is 18%. Almost twenty-nine percent of residents speak a language other than English at home and 12.8% report they “speak English less than very well”. (5 year averages 2012-2016- Census <http://factfinder.census.gov>)

Housing Crisis

Fifty-two percent (36 children) of Head Start enrolled in 2017/2018 meet the Federal definition of homelessness in the McKinney-Vento Act. Most are experiencing a housing crisis by living in shared housing due to economic crisis. There are many whole families living in just one bedroom. High levels of Head Start eligibility based on homelessness are not surprising. The American Community Survey 2012-2016 identifies that the medium cost of rent is \$1284. There is a rental vacancy rate of 5.24%. In addition, 35% of renters are paying more than 35% of their income on rent and 29% of mortgage holders pay more than 35% of their income on housing costs. (<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview>) Nonetheless, the percent of Head Start children eligible due to homelessness declined 10% from the prior year.

The Housing Affordability Index (HAI) helps track the affordability of housing. If a family with a medium family income can purchase a medium priced family home the index would be 100. If the index exceeds 100 then the medium family income exceeds the amount needed to purchase medium priced family home and housing is considered affordable. If the index is lower than 100 then the cost to purchase a medium priced family home exceeds the medium family income. In June 2016 the HAI was 47 for a single family home and 80 for a condo-townhome, further demonstrating the lack of affordability of housing.

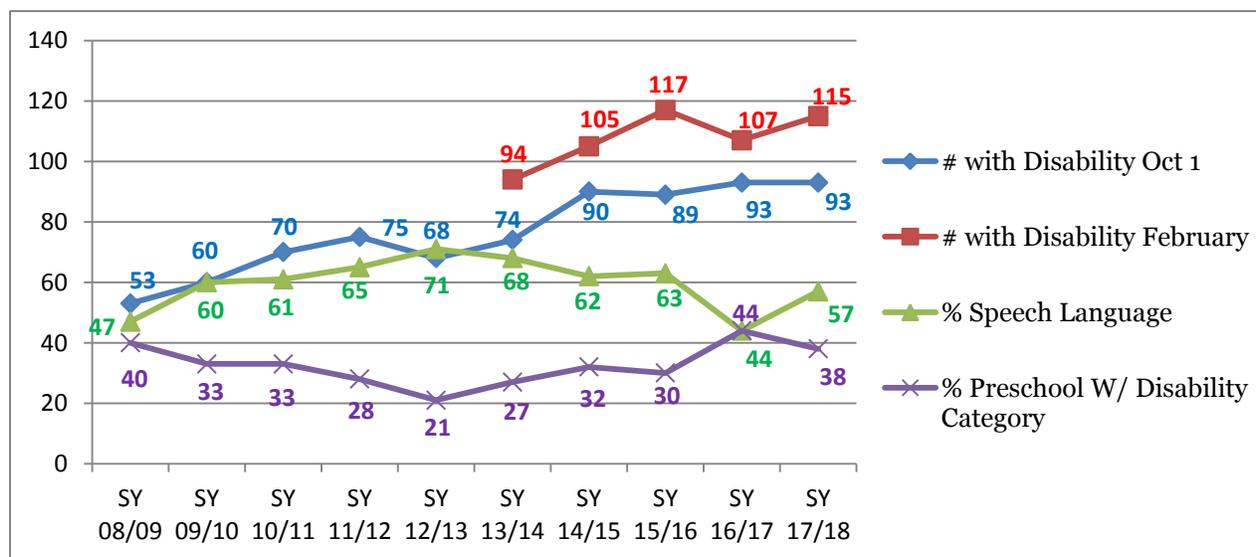
Foster Care

There currently is no Head Start enrolled involved in the local Foster Care system.

Children with Disabilities

Eagle County Schools is the Local Education Agency (LEA) for children with disabilities. Services are provided in inclusive classrooms. Each school district preschool site is served by an Early Childhood professional with a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Special Education. Additional services are provided through Eagle County School’s Exceptional Student Services Department (Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Audiology, etc).

Data is collected by October 1st each year regarding the number of preschool children served and their type of disability. The number of children served by the preschools with disabilities jumped 75% between 2008 and 2017 which is attributed to increased outreach efforts. Speech and language is the most common area of special needs among preschoolers, representing 57% of disability enrolled children by October 1st in 2017/2018. The next largest category is the broad and somewhat vague category of “preschooler with a disability.” This category represented 38% of enrolled children with a disability in 2017/2018. In 2017/2018 three additional children were identified with autism, one with multiple disabilities and one other with health related disabilities.



The “official” count of children with disabilities occurs in October, but children enter the preschool program as they are identified, or in conjunction with a Part C child’s third birthday and transition. Thus, the October count under-reports the number of children with disabilities actually served annually through the Early Childhood Department. In February 2018, children with disabilities represented 38% of total ECS preschool enrollment (115/301). Twenty-four percent (25 children) of children with disabilities use transportation to access their special education services. Head Start had eleven children enrolled with disabilities. One of these left the program in late October so by February 2018 there were ten.

Mountain Valley Developmental Services (MVDS) is the local Part C provider. In February 2018, they were serving 60 children with disabilities under age three in the Eagle County School’s area with two caseworkers. Annually, they serve around 100 children through Early Intervention in the Eagle River Valley. MVDS is also an important partner regarding Child Find and Child Find referrals. In addition, they are the fiscal agent for the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council (RMECC), employing the Council’s director and managing grant funding.

Data Regarding the Needs of Head Start Eligible Families 1302.11b1ii Education

Eagle County Schools measures educational progress on a variety of educational domains three times a year using the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment. The domains are: social-emotional development, cognitive development, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, language, literacy, mathematics, social studies, the arts, science and technology and Spanish language and literacy.

All of the domains showed substantial educational growth during the course of the 2016-2017 school year, comparing the Fall Checkpoint measurements to the Spring Checkpoint measurements. At the Fall Checkpoint the lowest areas for all children were in the domains of Spanish Literacy (29% at widely held expectations), Spanish Language (32% at widely held expectations), and Mathematics (35% at widely held expectations); demonstrating the greatest educational needs entering the program.

More than 90% of preschoolers age-eligible for kindergarten in the coming school year meet widely held expectations when they leave the program in the spring in the domains of Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Social Emotional, Cognitive skills, and English Literacy. The domain of English language had 78% meeting widely held expectations. The domain of Mathematics had 76% meeting widely held expectations. The domains of Spanish Literacy and Spanish Language had 52% meeting expectations. Children age-eligible for Kindergarten in the coming school year show the greatest growth from fall to spring in the area of Mathematics (50% growth).

All areas of measurement at the spring checkpoint were within five percentage points of the prior year's results except for children 3-4 years of age in the areas of English Literacy (decline of 8% from the prior year), Mathematics (decline of 5% from the prior year) and Spanish Literacy (decline of 20% from the prior year).

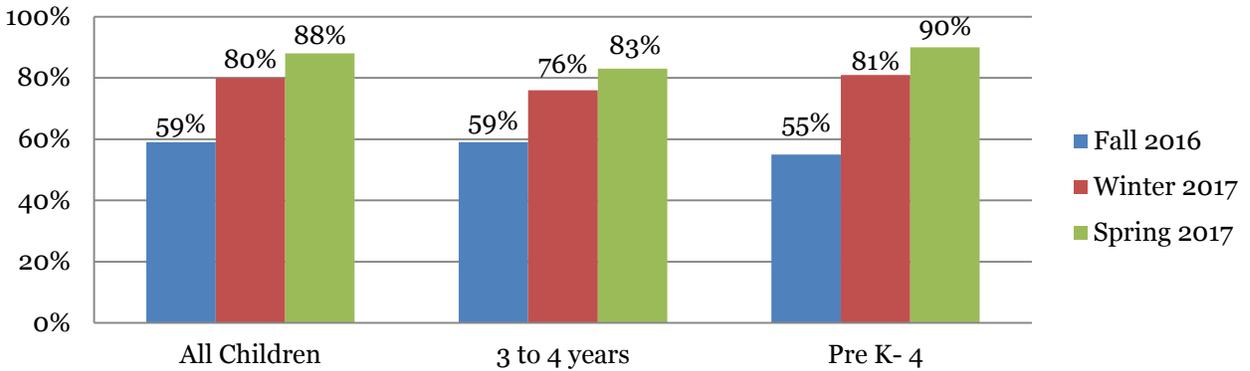
New in 2014-2015 were measurements in Gold regarding Spanish Language and Literacy. All district sites, beginning in 2015-2016, provide dual language learning opportunities. All programs, except one, instruct and assess in Spanish Language and Literacy



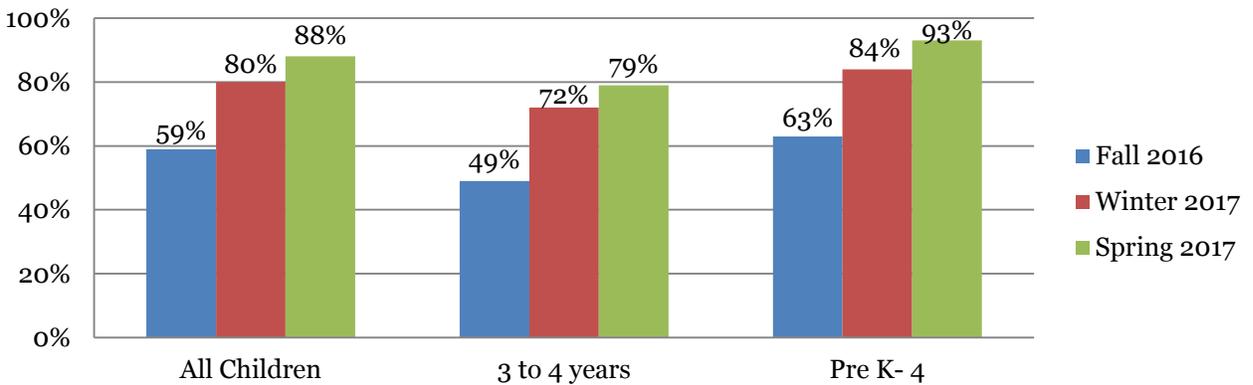
beginning in 2016/2017. All sites, except three, are moving toward the implementation of dual language using evidence based strategies and are committed to moving towards a 50-50 model. The three schools that haven't moved to a 50-50 model have smaller populations of English Language Learners in their community but are offering specific areas of Spanish instruction including the social and emotional curriculum, Dinosaur School, and language and literacy instruction using storybook circles and the curriculum Estrellita.

Please review the following graphs for more details.

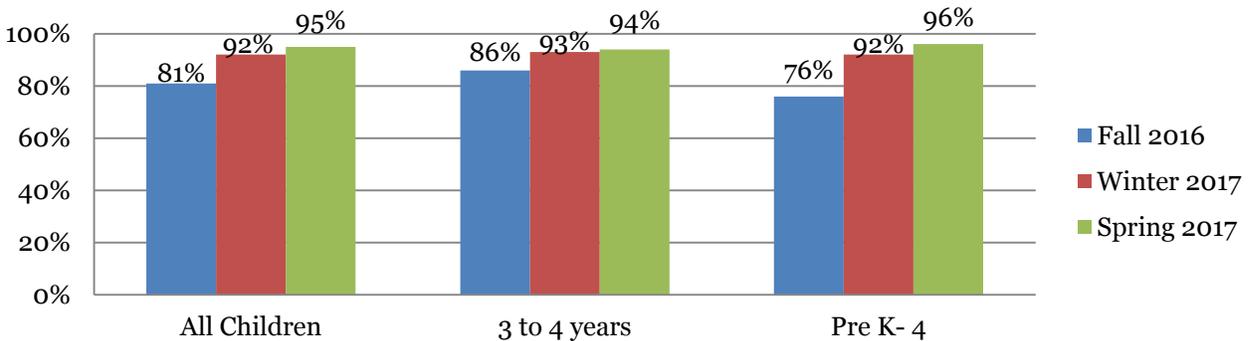
Social Emotional 2016-2017
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations

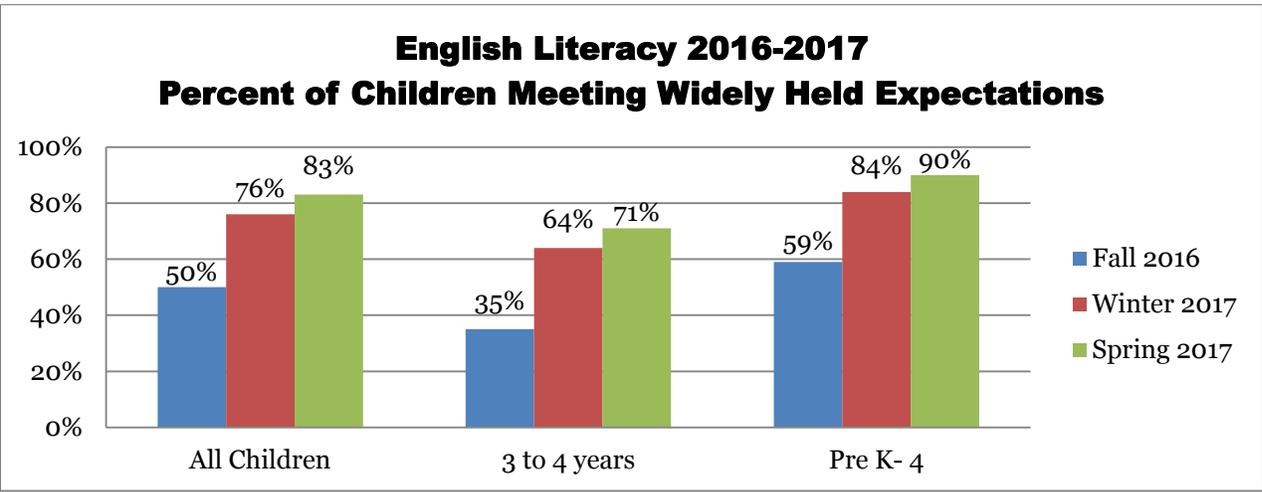
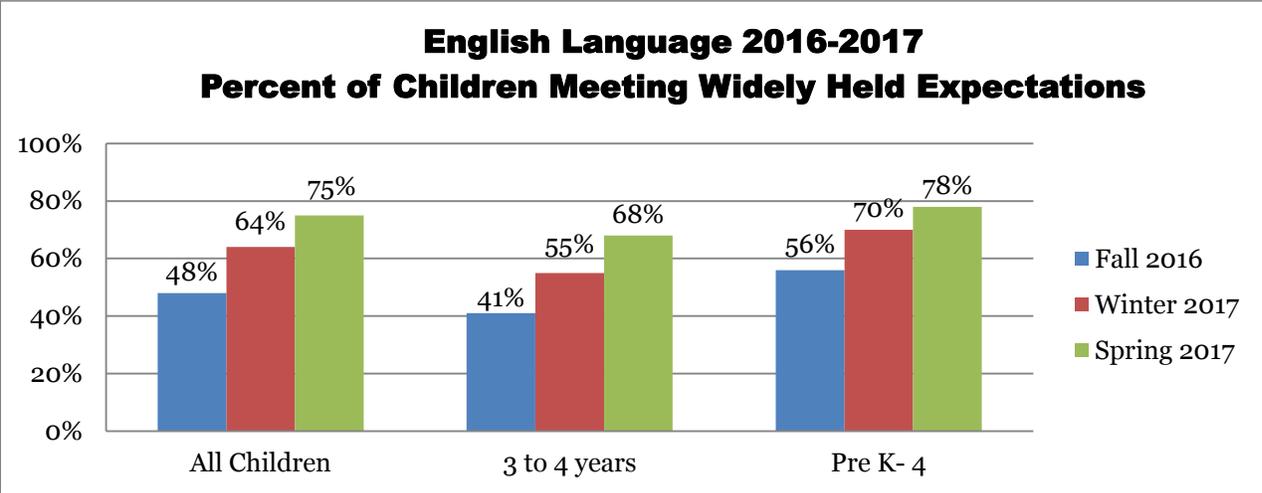
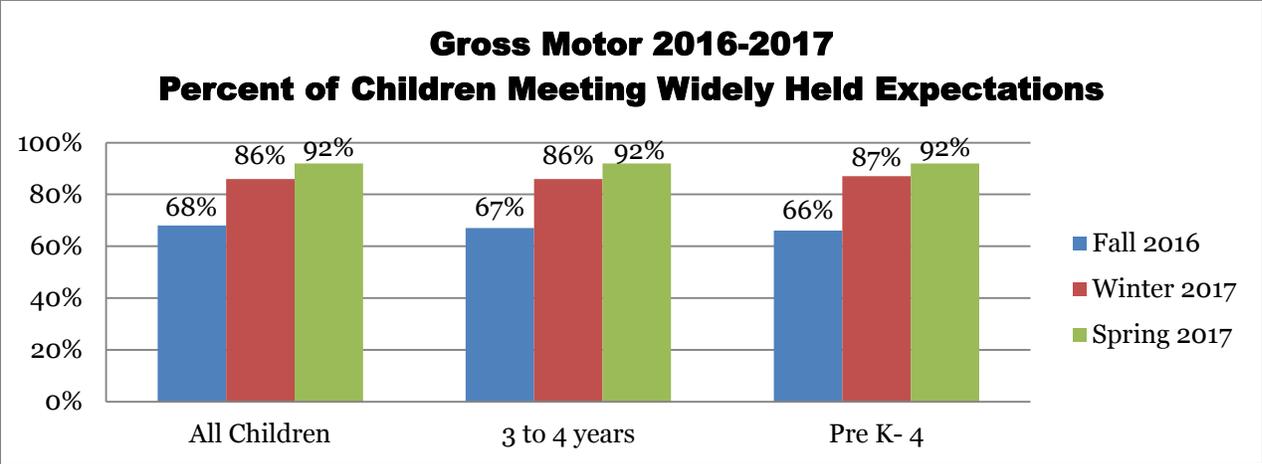


Cognitive 2016-2017
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations

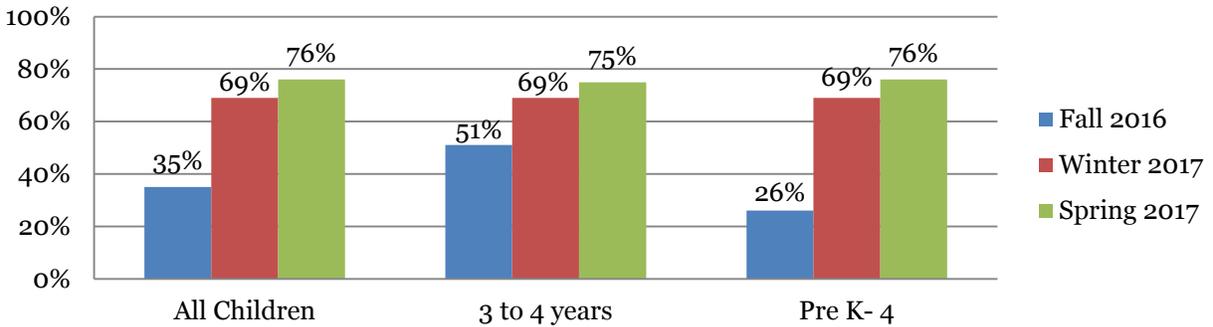


Fine Motor 2016-2017
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations

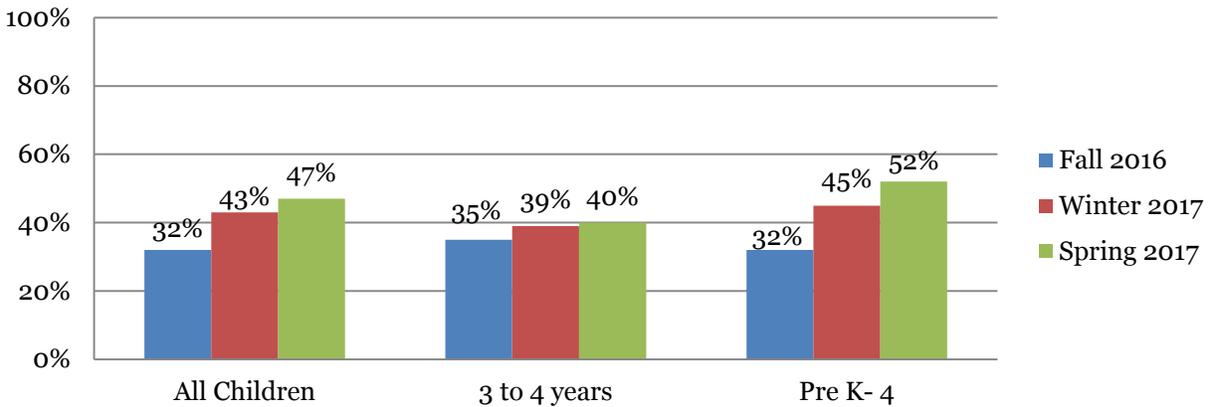




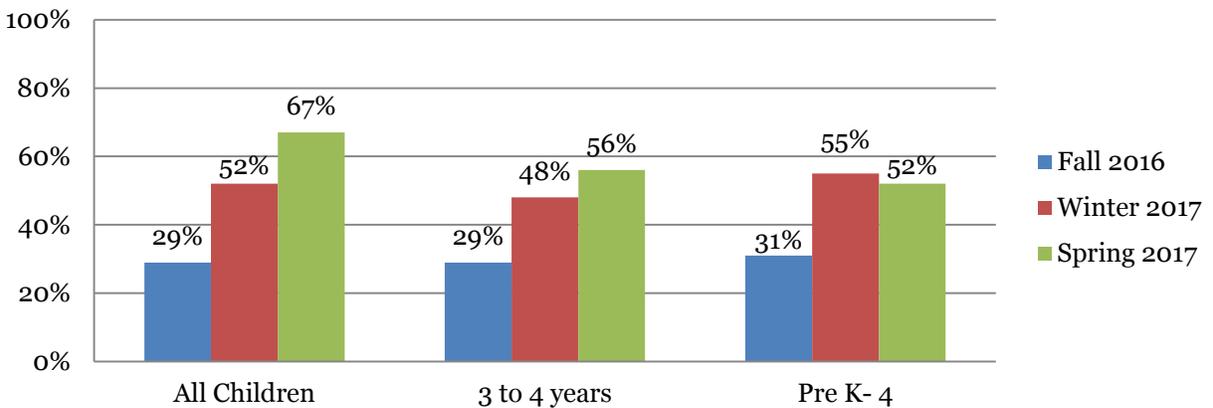
Mathematics 2016-2017
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations



Spanish Language 2016-2017
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations



Spanish Literacy 2016-2017
Percent of Children Meeting Widely Held Expectations



Education needs as defined by families:

Parents were asked at the year-end Satisfaction Survey, “In your opinion, what are the most important **education** needs in our community?” Thirty-one parents responded with comments in the spring of 2017. For a complete list of comments and results, please see the Parent Satisfaction Survey results (Appendix C). A summary of parent-identified educational needs is noted here:

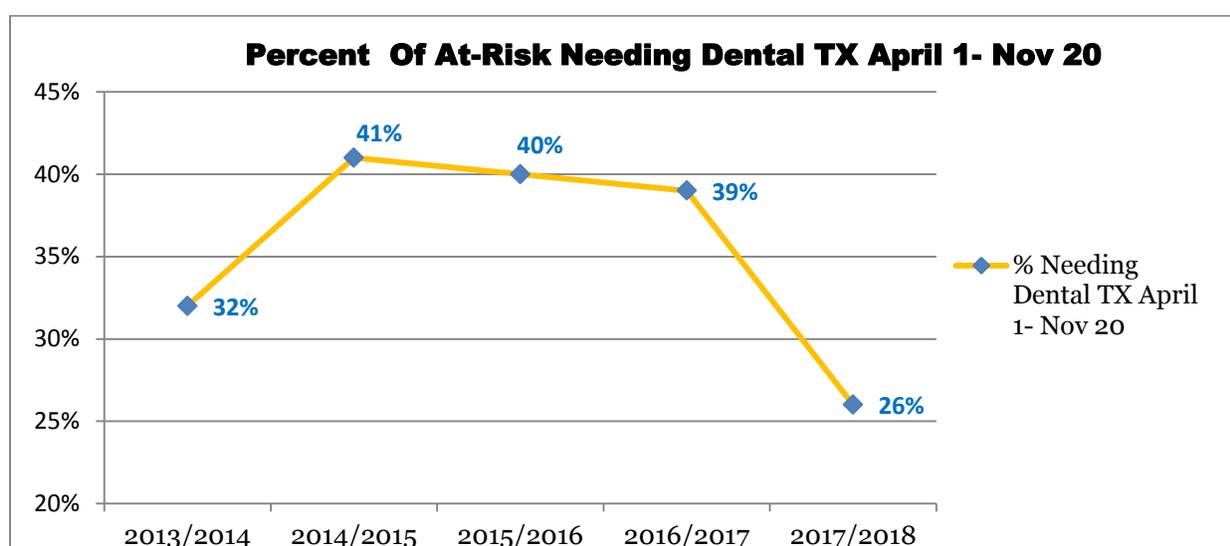
- Learning respect/ values/ social emotional skills (6)
- Dual language/bilingual skill development (4)
- Parent involvement in their children's education. (4)
- Communication skills (2)
- Reading and writing (2)
- Free education
- Celebration of imagination
- Individualized learning adapting to individual needs
- Learning goals and academic achievements
- Drug education/ prevention
- Access and availability to preschool
- Vocational training at community colleges
- Independence skills and self-confidence
- Challenge students
- Satisfaction with current systems (4)

Health

The health needs of Head Start enrolled children are documented annually through the Ninety Day Report and presented to the staff and community through the Health Services Advisory Committee, the Policy Council, and through the self-assessment process. Primary health needs are presented here. Please see the Ninety Day Report (Appendix B) for full and detailed information. The top health needs, based on data, of Head Start enrolled children are oral health, social-emotional health, and improved turn-around with vision intervention. In addition, this year there was a significant

decline in the timely receipt of a child physical.

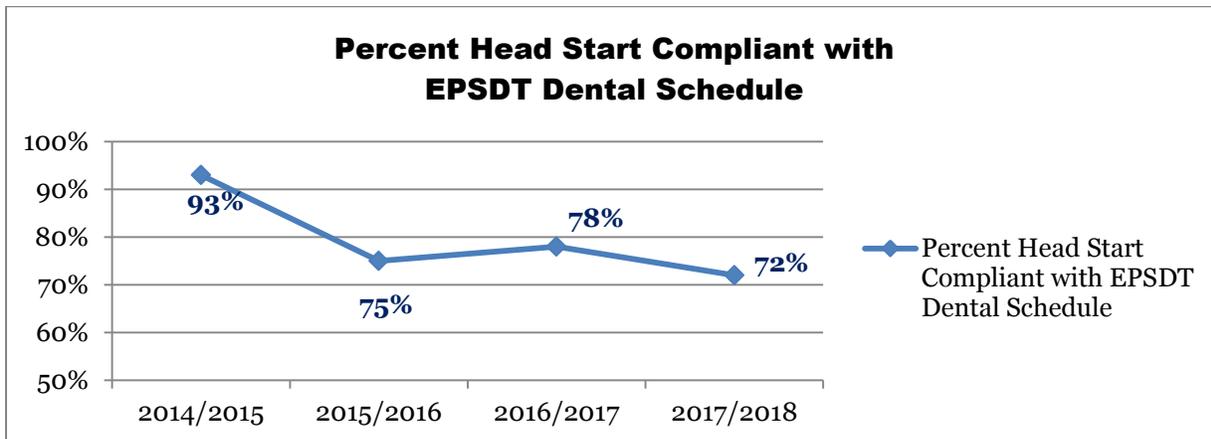
Oral Health: A large percentage (26%) of children at-risk required treatment for tooth decay in the past year. However, this is a significant decline from prior years. One challenge in oral health is lack of access to fluoridated water for many low income children. Water is not fluoridated in Red Cliff, Minturn, and Gypsum. In addition, none of the mobile home parks (except the Aspens in Avon) have fluoridated water. Many of the enrolled children live in these areas.



Currently there are four Medicaid Dental Providers in Eagle County: Image Dental, Comfort Dental, All About Smiles, and Mountain Family Health Center (MFHC). All About Smiles recently opened in February 2016. All are able to provide preventative care and MFHC will see children ages 0-3, likely impacting the decline in dental caries among 3-5 year olds. Image Dental, All About Smiles and MFHC refer any restorative needs to pediatric dental specialists, usually All Kids Dental in Glenwood Springs. Comfort Dental will also provide restorative care, as long as sedation is not required.

All Kids Dental is the dental home to 40% of the at-risk enrollment. All Kids Dental refers Medicaid-enrolled children for 12 month check-ups, rather than 6 month check-ups due to capacity issues. This is a challenge as both Early Periodic Screening

Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) requirements and best practices recommend preventative care every 6 months. Of course, home oral health practices, nutrition, fluoride, and prevalence of the bacteria causing tooth decay are also important factors in tooth decay. MFHC’s market share as the dental home for Head Start and CPP enrolled tripled from the prior year’s 8% to 24% in 2017/2018.

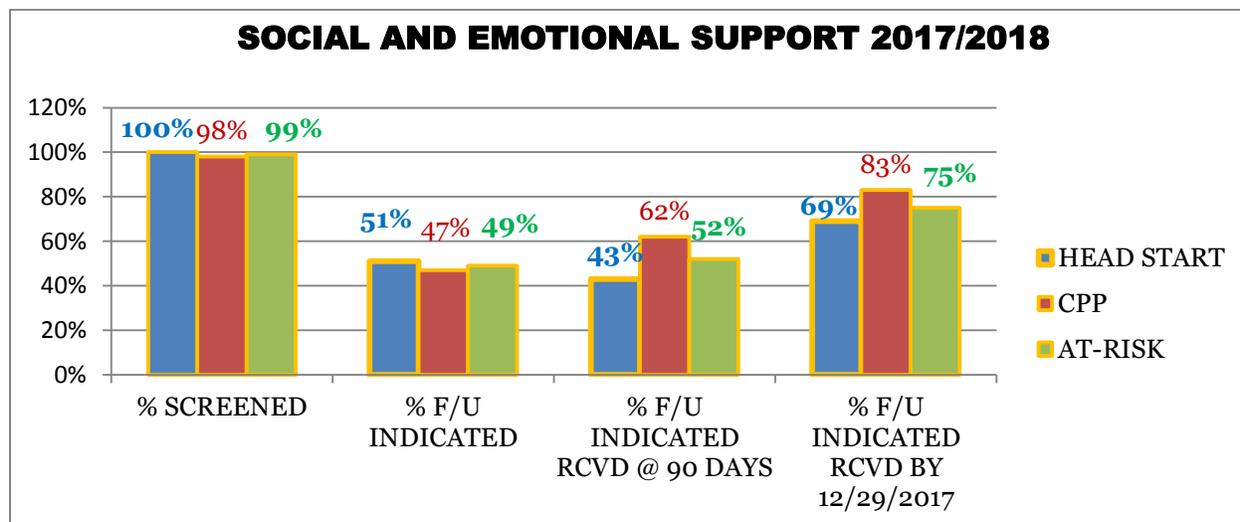
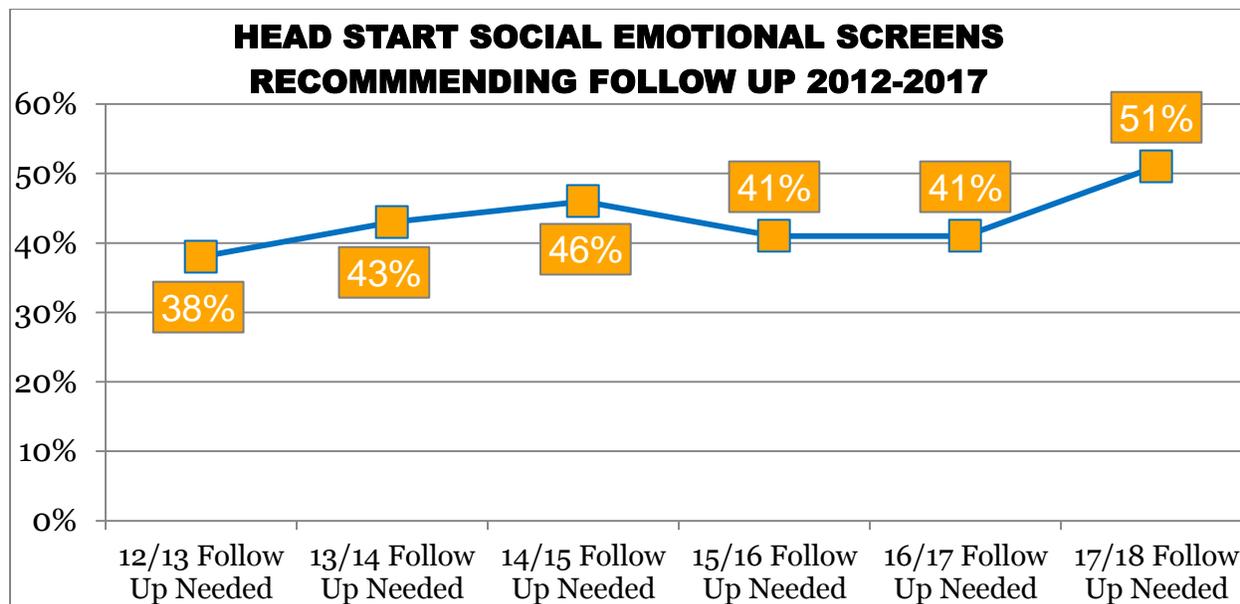


Social-Emotional: All preschoolers receive a social emotional screen (DECA) within the first 30 days of the school year. Both parents and teachers complete the screen. Children and families are referred for follow up individual consult(s) with a mental health professional if the results meet any of the following conditions:

- The teacher results indicate concern in any of the five social-emotional domains reviewed.
- The parent results indicate concern in three or more of the five domains reviewed. (Parents are given education materials for any identified concerns).
- The family services home visit interview identifies other areas of crisis or concern.

This year 51% of Head Start enrolled indicated the need for follow up as indicated by the DECA, significantly higher than the percent identified in the application process with low social skills (42%). There is an effective system in place to assure the family meets with a mental health professional to discuss family needs and concerns. Beginning in 2017/2018 the parent consults with a mental health professional increased from 30

minutes to one hour. Each program also implements the social-emotional program of “Dinosaur School” and/or Second Step. The Incredible Years Parenting classes are offered in English and Spanish at least annually in the community.



It is the goal that identified families, including CPP/ECARE enrolled, through funding from the Temple Hoyne Buell grant, will receive dedicated time with the mental health professional within ninety days to discuss concerns and strategies. Forty-three percent of Head Start children with social emotional issues had met with a mental health

professional within 90 days of enrollment. Sixty-two percent of CPP/ECARE enrolled children with social emotional issues had met with a mental health professional within 90 days of enrollment. It is hypothesized that the increase in duration and quality of the consults reduced their timeliness due to the doubling of time needed to schedule and complete consults.

Vision: All Head Start enrolled children received vision screens within forty-five days of enrollment. The program has an important partnership with the Lions Club, which conducts most of the vision screens for enrolled preschoolers. The Lions Club utilizes a photoscreener. The photoscreener is able to give immediate preliminary results, expediting the referral process. The Lions Club partnership has been very helpful in assisting families to receive services locally through their generous voucher program. The voucher provides approximately \$200 towards a vision exam and corrective lenses for each accepted applicant.



In addition, Eagle Valley Vision and Dr. Pence began accepting Medicaid patients in 2015, further expediting the referral process for those indicating a referral through the screening process. Eagle Valley Vision sets aside two days each November to serve preschool referrals.

The program has been less successful in getting children vision follow up appointments over the last three year ranging from a high of 91% in 2015/2016 to a low of 59% in 2017/2018. Efforts continue to be made to assure follow up care for these children. Reasons for delays in completion of follow up include “no shows” for scheduled appointments, and not returning for dilation appointments. Two children left the program before follow up services were completed. About 20% of those screened are referred for a professional eye exam.

VISION	SCREENED	NEW REFERRAL INDICATED	REFERRAL COMPLETE	COMMENTS RE: REFERRALS
Head Start	69/69 100%	17/69 23%	11/17 69%	RX for glasses: 7/11= 64% 4 additional were already under care prior to enrollment. 2 Referrals dropped before the referral was completed.
CPP	60/63 95%	10/63 16%	5/10 50%	RX for glasses: 5/5= 100%; 2 additional were already under care prior to enrollment.
All At-Risk	129/132 98%	27/132 20%	16/27 59%	RX for glasses: 12/16= 75%

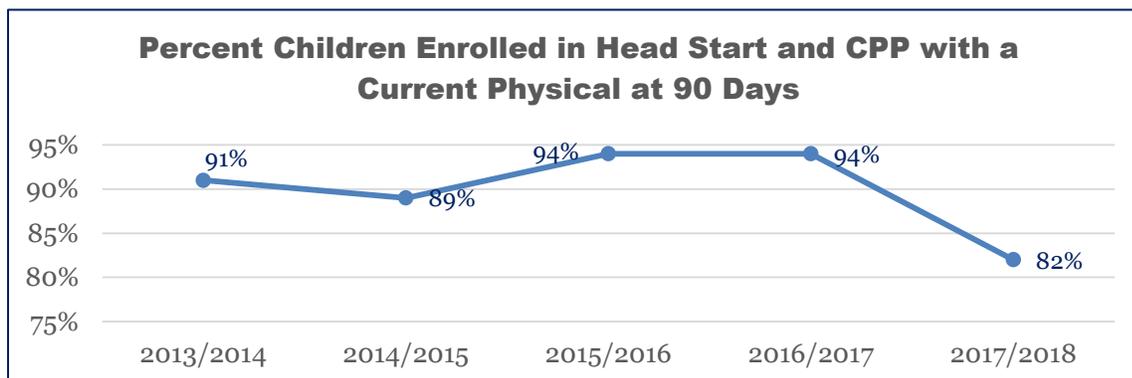
*As of 2/1/2018

Child Physicals:

After 90 days 82% of children enrolled in Head Start/ Colorado Preschool Program and an average of 80% of all children enrolled in Eagle County Schools' Early Childhood Programs submitted physicals. Having a current physical on each child is a requirement of licensing.



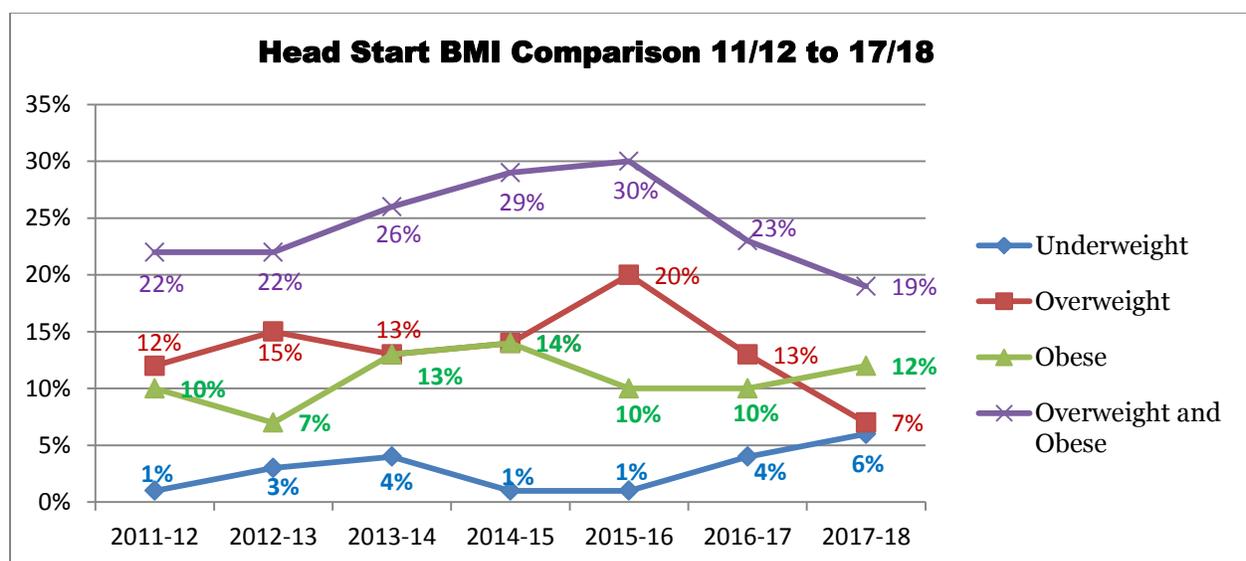
The 2017/2018 self-assessment process revealed some of the challenges in receiving a timely physical. Some families are waiting for improved insurance status. Some families assumed their providers were faxing forms, but these faxes were not received. Some families report that their insurance will not pay for a physical before the date of the prior physical thus their delay in submitting. Some staff noted it may be more difficult to get physicals from returning families due to varying due dates and less initial contacts through the enrollment process. It was noted that parent communication for reminders for those enrolled in the extended day program was more difficult.



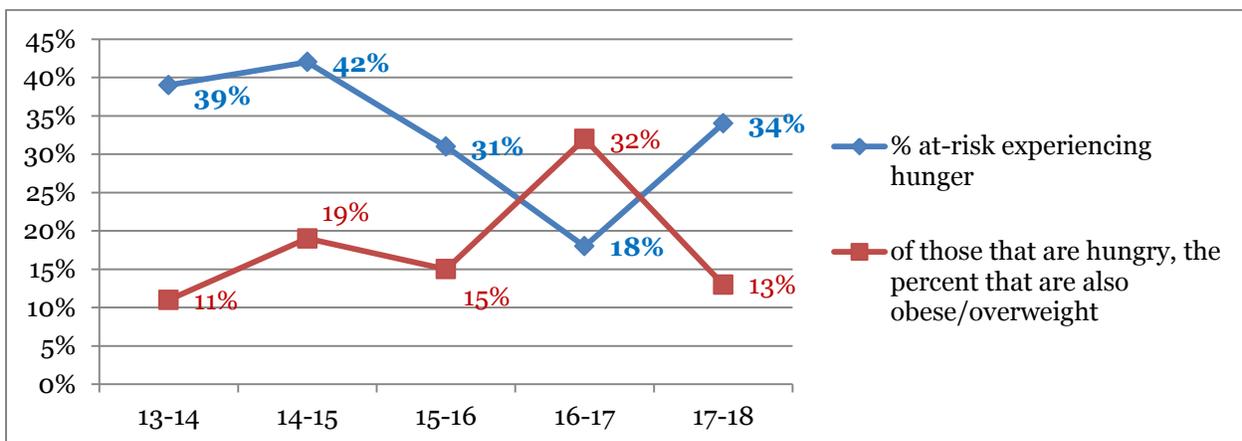
Nutrition

Although the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) identified Eagle County as having the lowest percentage of obesity in the country (Vail Daily 11/24/2017), data collected on Head Start enrolled children demonstrate nutritional needs. Nineteen percent of Head Start enrolled children are overweight or obese. Fortunately, the percentage of overweight children has declined 4% from the prior year and 11% since 2015/2016. Seventy-two percent (18/25) of all at-risk overweight and obese children have received nutrition consults by a Registered Dietician. Through funding from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, resources are available to provide nutrition consults to all nutritionally at-risk Head Start and Colorado Preschool Program enrolled children and families.

The percentage of preschool children at-risk with anemia is 5%. Only one CPP enrolled child has low hemoglobin levels. Seven percent of Head Start children (5) have symptoms of anemia in 2017/2018. At-risk preschool enrollments with symptoms of anemia receive nutrition consultations and additional education. Eighty-three percent (5/6) of anemic children at-risk have received a nutrition consult to date through the ECS contracted Registered Dietician. The greatest number of anemia cases appears around the age of 1 when a child's diet transitions from that of an infant to that of a toddler.



Risk of hunger is identified by asking families, through interview, the scientifically reviewed questions of: “Within the past three months did you worry whether your food would run out before you had money to buy more.” Or, “Within the past three months the food we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to buy more.” After a one-year dip in 2016-2017, hunger levels jumped to thirty-four percent of at-risk enrollment in 2017-2018. Children identified as at-risk for hunger receive a weekly backpack of food through the Food Rescue Express, are referred to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), receive Free and Reduced lunches, and are linked to local food banks (ie: Salvation Army) and free community dinners.



Health and Nutrition as defined by parents

Parents were asked in the year-end Satisfaction Survey, “In your opinion, what are the most important **health** and **nutrition** needs in our community?” Thirty one parents responded with comments in the Spring of 2017. For a complete list of comments, please see the Parent Satisfaction Survey results (Appendix C). Almost all of the comments focused on nutrition related topics rather than other types of health needs. A summary of parent-identified health and nutrition needs are noted here:

- Healthy eating (11)
 - Drink water (2) and milk; eat fruits and vegetables (3)
 - Healthy meal ideas (2)
 - No processed foods
 - Healthy eating at home
 - Access to breakfast at school

- Fewer hamburgers and pizza
- Balanced diet (2)
- Distribution of basic information about health and nutrition (5)
 - Information about foods and nutrients needed for different ages
- Healthy habits (4)
 - The development of healthy habits at a young age.
 - Support for healthy habits for adults.
 - Self-discipline in healthy habits
- Exercise and sports (3)
- Access to health and nutrition services
- Access to potable water
- Enough sleep
- Access to enough food; preventing hunger
- Satisfaction with current services and access.

Social Services

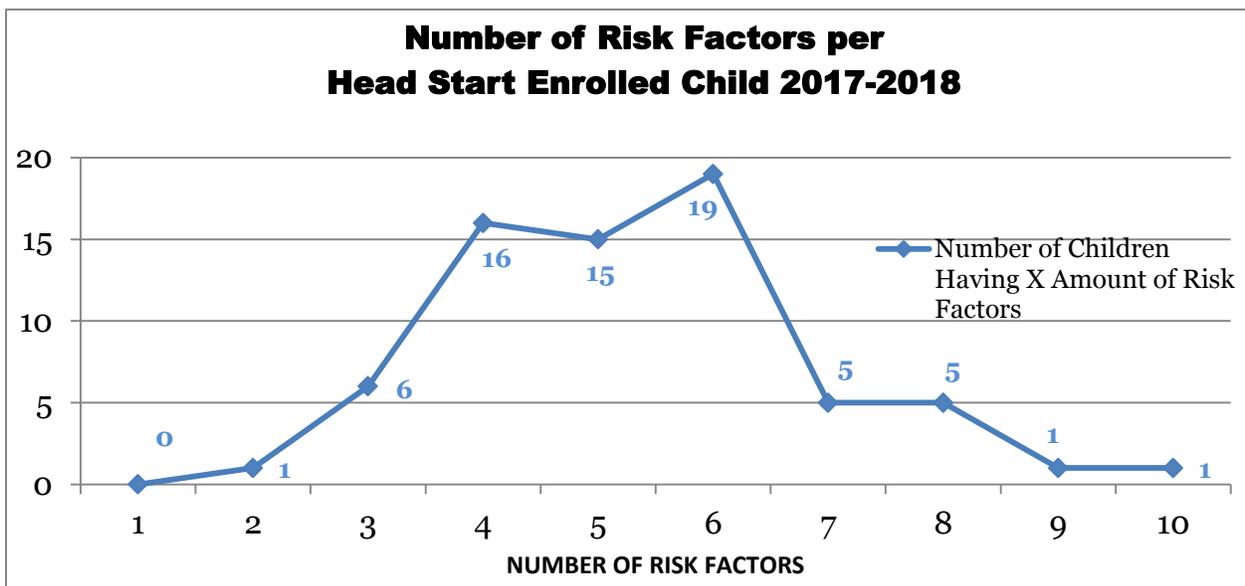
Social Service needs, for the purpose of this report, are calculated by reviewing both the risk factors identified by enrolled families in the application process, and identified by issues recognized during the home visit and documented in the annual Head Start Program Information Report (PIR).

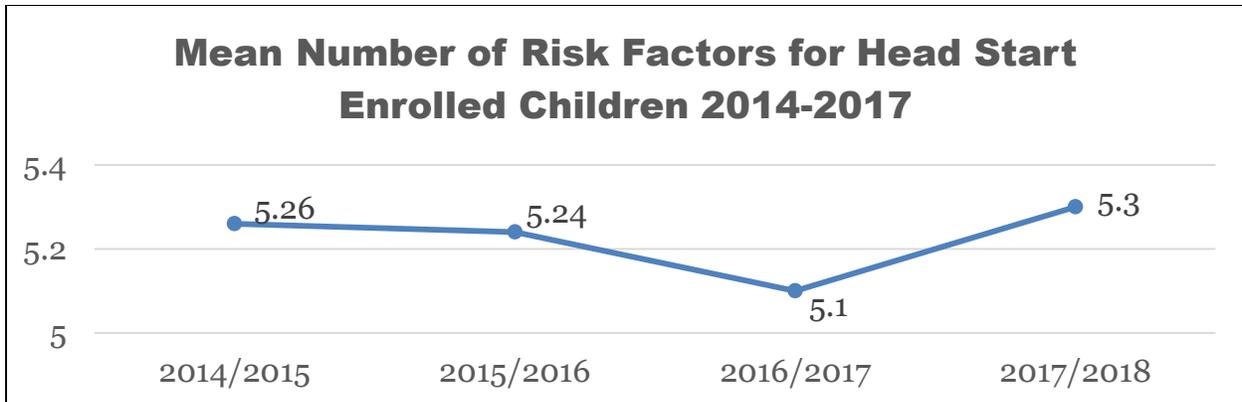
Risk factors of 69 Head Start enrolled children were reviewed using the program database, Servue. Risk factors that increased by 5% or more from the prior year include the categories of single parent (+18%), history of abuse or neglect (+6%), housing crisis (+5%). The categories of risk factors identified and the percentage of enrolled children's families with these risks are as follows:

- English Language Learner 93%
- Homeless 67%
- <100% of Federal Poverty Levels 65%
- Single Parent 65%
- Parent with less than a high school education 63%
- Poor Social Skills 42%

- High Mobility (more than 2 moves in one year) 39%
- Misc. Crisis 30%
- History of Abuse or Neglect 19%
- Disability 16%
- Drug or Alcohol Abuse 13%
- Teen Parent 10%
- 100%-116% of Poverty 7%

It is important to note that Head Start enrolled children face multiple and diverse challenges and require intensive intervention and case management services to assist them to overcome barriers and achieve goals. The following graph identifies the number of risk factors which each enrolled Head Start child faces. The mean number of risk factors per enrolled Head Start child in 2017/2018 is 5.30, slightly higher than prior years. The mean number of Head Start risk factors per site is fairly even ranging from a mean low of 4 Head Start risk factors at Brush Creek to a mean high of 6.7 at Red Hill. Red Hill may be artificially high with only three Head Start enrollees. June Creek, Homestake Peak, and Gypsum all had an average of 5.8 risk factors.





Estimates of social services needs can also be calculated by reviewing the annual Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) regarding the number of Head Start families who needed a variety of social services during the 2016-2017 school year. These needs may have been identified through the application process or through the relationship building process with the Family Services Coordinator during the program year.

Service	% of families with identified need during program year.
Health Education	58.1%
Parenting Education	50%
Adult Education	48.6%
Mental Health Services	37.8%
Job Training	36.5%
Emergency of Crisis Intervention	28.4%
Relationship or Marriage Education	24.3%
English as Second Language Training	20.3%
Assistance to Families of Incarcerated Individuals	17.6%
Housing Assistance	14.9%
Child Abuse and Neglect Services	4.1%
Child Support Assistance	2.7%
Substance Abuse Prevention	1.4%
Domestic Violence Services	1.4%

It is worth noting that 63% of parents of Head Start enrolled children have at least one parent with education less than the level of a high school diploma. Almost 49% have self-identified adult education as a need. Yet at year end, only 14% of parents with a low educational level made progress towards a GED or other vocational training opportunity. (Reilly, *Measuring Success Report 16-17*) The Family Services team has identified addressing this discrepancy as a strategic goal.

Social Services Needs as defined by parents

Satisfaction Survey respondents were asked, “In your opinion, what are the most important **social service** needs in our community?” Eighteen parents commented in the Spring 2017 survey. For a complete list of comments, please see the Parent Satisfaction Survey results (Appendix C). A summary of parent-identified social service needs are noted here. (Note: Some of the social services needs identified by families overlap into other categories, such as health and education.)

- Parenting, including providing information and education for the parents on the child's needs, responsible caregiving, and a healthy home environment (4)
- The county offers a lot of social services for the community and I don't believe there are any unmet needs (3)
- Learning to be friendly, respectful (3)
- Having emotional/mental health support (2)
- Help in transportation- some families don't have a car. Educate them in the importance of being involved in everything for our kids
- Communication
- Valuing our environment
- Parent involvement
- Safety, including the protection of each child.
- Drug education
- Bullying prevention
- Greater understanding of different cultures
- It is all important

The Head Start Policy Council was presented with the Education, Health, Nutrition and Social Service needs identified by families through the Satisfaction Survey at their January 2018 meeting. Parents were asked to comment and share their perspectives on community needs. Four Head Start Policy Council members responded:

Health and Nutrition Needs:

Respondent 1: “I would say receiving both healthy meals at school and sending home

information on how to be healthy at home. I really liked to hear that the school district is being pro-active in trying to maintain the health standards that the Obama administration put into place before Trump rescinds them.”

Respondent 2: “Access to healthy food and the knowledge of what we need to be healthy. I see the Nutrition Nuggets and other informative information going around. I’m not sure how you make people read it.

Respondent 3: “At our last Policy Council meeting we talked about kids not having access to dental check-ups due to overbooked dental offices. A suggestion is letting parents know that there are other dental offices their kids can be seen.”

Respondent 4: “General information and education. Providing nutritious food to those with low incomes. Community meetings can help address these needs.”

Education Needs:

Respondent 1: “I think having a well-rounded education seems to be the most important need (ie: bilingual education, creating fundamentals, social emotional, etc.). I think the school district is doing an excellent job in trying to make education well rounded.”

Respondent 2: “More early childhood facilities are needed. I’ve heard the preschools have waiting lists.”

Respondent 3: I think an education need would be having a stronger English base since most of the kiddos this would be their second language. I know that they mainly receive instruction in English so any extra support would work.”

Respondent 4: The importance of dual language. I would love to see it expanded through middle and high school!”

Social Services:

Respondent 1: “Again I think the community is looking for a well-rounded education that includes social service ideals. While I think this is not the main objective especially at the early childhood level, I think the school is doing a good job addressing these issues.”

Respondent 2: “The only experience I’ve had with a social service is with Child Find, which may or may not fit in the social service category. Child Find and everyone involved in it were fantastic. Dr. Engle referred us to them. Are all the doctors in the valley taking the time needed to address issues? Are parents open to services such as Child Find?”

Respondent 4: Assistance to fill out complicated paperwork and knowledge of the required form. More focus on mental health for both parents and children.”

Head Start Policy Council review and input regarding community strengths and needs impacts policy. The comments noted by parents and Policy Council members noted above will be considered in strategic planning and policy making. For example, the Head Start Policy Council was presented with Community Assessment data and the 2015 needs identified by parents on 2/18/2016. The Policy Council prioritized the following recommendations/concerns:

- The gaps in the transition from Early Head Start to Head Start and from Head Start to Kindergarten.
 - Program Response: Kindergarten transition grant and more frequent collaboration with Early Head Start.
- The need for more resources to support children who have risks that are not getting in, especially when the applicants are barely out of the income eligibility range.
 - Program Response: Adding a selection criteria category for incomes 100-116% and 116%-130%.
- Increase diversity and participation by all parents in parent committee meetings and parent trainings. Current participation is predominately by Hispanic parents.
 - Program Response: Continuing improvement in the marketing of meetings and trainings.
- The need for extended day. Parents commented that the current day really only allows for a five-hour work day when considering transportation, drop off, and pick up. This does not support the economic advancement of participants.
 - Program Response through 3A: Extended day and summer program began in the 2017-2018 school year.
- There were also concerns about the nutritional level of the food served. One policy council member shared information regarding the introduction and puree

of vegetables into the sauces, improving the nutritional value. Nonetheless, the group would like to see continued growth.

- Program Response: The InteGreat coalition completed a full menu analysis with a Registered Dietician in the fall of 2017.

Needs Identified by Community Immigration Survey

In the fall of 2014 Catholic Charities' Community Integration Services conducted a survey of immigrants. The survey has not been updated since 2014. The school district's preschool programs widely distributed the surveys and contributed significantly to the response rate. Thus, key survey results are shared here. Survey questions were written with a scaled response where 1 equals strongly disagree; 2 equals disagree; 3 equals neutral; 4 equals agree and 5 equals strongly agree.

There were 28 scaled questions. The most favorable, highest level of agreement, follow:

- I feel safe in Eagle County (4.36)
- I want to stay in Eagle County long term (4.31)
- I feel like my child is safe (4.28)
- I can communicate with my child's teacher and or childcare provider (4.24)
- I trust the local law enforcement officers (4.21)

The least favorable, lowest level of agreement, follow:

- I am able to be in the same profession as when I was in my native country (2.68)
- I have access to mental health services that meet my needs (2.79)
- My housing costs are affordable (2.83)
- I have access to dental care that meets my needs (2.9)
- My family has a safety plan in case of an emergency (2.96)

Catholic Charities has administered this survey previously and has seen improvements in all areas except in the area of a safety plan (-.04).

Community Goals Identified by Head Start/ CPP Parents

Each Head Start/ CPP family receives a home visit by a Family Services Coordinator.

During these visits families are asked what their goals are for the community. Although

goals and needs can overlap, goals can also represent aspirations. The following are community goals identified by Head Start/CPP parents in the fall of 2016. Due to changes in interview forms there are not updated goals for 2017/2018. The following goals are from 2016/2017. Similar goals have been combined for reporting purposes.



Vail, Red Cliff, Minturn Area:

- More unity in the community
- Accessible afterschool programs for children
- Transportation for preschool
- Parks and recreation for children

Eagle Vail Area:

- To be involved in the community
- Bus house Hwy 6 by Eaglebend apartments
- Youth center at no cost- like a boys and girls club
- No racism
- No more violence
- A clean community

Avon Area:

- Cooking classes (2)
- Summer and afterschool programs that include transportation
- More activities for children
- More parent involvement in activities and education
- A giant park that has everything like in Denver
- A playground for children living in Sunridge

Eagle Area:

- More art and dance programs for preschool age children
- Transportation for preschoolers
- To change management at Eagle mobile home park
- That children in preschool don't go outside in the snow
- Less discrimination and more work
- Happy that 3A & 3B passed because that will make a big impact in son's education
- That they clean the snow from the streets more frequently
- That they clean the snow and ice outside of the school

Edwards Area:

- There are a lot of dogs and cats on the street in the ERVTP. Can they take them away?
- That there is a better park for children at ERVTP (6)
 - Lighted, fenced and secure parks
 - Rocks in the park is a concern
- Library in Edwards
- Abolish the legalization of marijuana
- Activities for teenagers at a good price
- More schools or slots for kids
- Medical services at cheaper price
- Affordable housing
- No discrimination
- More help for single mothers
- Sports that aren't so expensive
- Offer more early childhood schools or availability in the area
- Help people with needs
- Scholarships for extracurricular activities



Gypsum:

- Parks:
 - A park or place to take the kids that is Trial Gulch Rd.
 - More parks for kids, with different activities, they get bored of the same ones
- Activities for families:
 - More Mommy and Kid activities in any setting
 - More family activities-Movie nights,
 - Free/affordable, accessible places to go with families, especially young kids (5)
- Activities for children:
 - After school programs for children in preschool
 - More Activities for all the kids in sports or activities
 - Activities for kids/entertainment especially for kids
 - PreCampVail type activities for all of the valley
 - Places for young kids to participate in sports
- More stores, lower prices for general shopping (2)
- Housing for lower income families (2)
- Some kind of speed bumps on Greenway Street- lots of traffic with kids playing nearby
- Child Care for children under 2 that is not expensive
- More jobs close to home
- Community Garden
- Transportation for preschoolers and young kids to and from school

Dotsero:

- That families integrate and participate in the community of Dotsero
- Better park for Dotsero, more lights and safety for kids when playing outside (2)
- More stores and activities for kids

Additional Prevalent Social Factors

The Head Start Performance Standards require the inclusion of prevalent social factors that impact the well-being of eligible children and their families into the Community Assessment. In addition to the social issues noted above, the Community Assessment from Community Commons identifies the following social factors that differ significantly from the state or national data. The Community Commons report can be updated in real time so it is recommended to link to the website in building the most current report. The website is listed at the end of this assessment:

- Eagle County's linguistically isolated population is double the percent of the state. Eagle County's linguistically isolated population is 6.78% while the state's is 3.16%. In addition, Eagle County's population with limited English proficiency is 13.09% compared to Colorado's 6.2%. This data helps determine the need for potential English language assistance and risk for reduced access to health care communication and literacy.
- The foreign born population in Eagle County is 19.04% compared to 9.77% in Colorado.
- The percent of the food insecure population in Eagle County that is ineligible for state or federal assistance is 39% vs 35% for Colorado.
- The percent of housing burdened households (housing costs above 30% of income) is 39.22% compared to 33.66% in Colorado.
- There is significant income disparity by ethnicity. In Eagle County only 912 Hispanic/ Latino families have incomes above \$75,000. On the other hand, 10,629 Non-Hispanic/Latino families have incomes above \$75,000. The medium family income for Non-Hispanic whites is \$102,465 while the medium family income for Hispanic/Latinos is \$49,315.
- Although the overall medium family income in Eagle County is \$82,465, for a single mother with children the medium family income is \$34,122.
- Eagle County's population of uninsured adults (15.93%) exceeds that of the state (11.05%) and nation (13.21%). Eagle County's population of uninsured children (8.2%) exceeds that of the state (4.44%) and nation (5.05%). There is an ethnic disparity in insurance coverage with 11.36% Non-Hispanic whites being uninsured compared to 35.62% of Hispanic/Latino being uninsured.

- Eagle County’s population without adequate social and emotional support (self-reported as “all” or “most of the time”) (18.5%) exceeds state (16.9%) percentages.

Additional Prevalent Economic Factors

The Head Start Performance Standards require the inclusion of prevalent economic factors that impact the well-being of eligible children and their families into the Community Assessment. The Vail Valley Economic Development Council produces and posts a wide range of local economic data. Only a few indicators are noted here. Please see <http://vailvalleymeansbusiness.com/data-center> for full reports.

- The top four employment sectors for employees are Accommodations and Food Service (29%; 10,533 jobs); Retail Trade (10%; 3,537 jobs); Real Estate and Rentals (9%; 3,090 jobs) and Health Care and Social Services (9%; 3,047 jobs).
- Approximately 41% are employed in blue collar work and 58% are employed in white collar work.
- Sales tax collections were at a low in 2010 at \$10,052,325 and in 2016 reached \$14,561,666. Sales tax is a good indicator for both reviewing consumer spending and confidence, and predicting revenue for government agencies.
- The Eagle County unemployment rate is 2.5% as of December 2017.
- The average commute time to work is 20 minutes.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment also posts economic information on their Labor Market Gateway system. (www.colmigateway.com) They report that the top growing occupations in Eagle County are for waiters and waitresses with a median annual wage of \$19,272; retail salespersons with a median annual wage of \$28,986; food preparation including fast food with a median annual wage of \$24,354; cashiers with a median annual wage of \$23,729; and maids and housekeepers with a median annual wage of \$28,780.

The economic data shows that although there is nearly full employment, the largest and growing employment sectors are in middle to low paying jobs.

**Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children
1302.11b1iii**

Children at-risk transportation situations were reviewed by Family Services

Coordinators in winter 2017 to determine parent's schedules based on the ease of drop off and pick up of the child.

- 77% of parents were able to have schedules that allowed the easy coordination of both a 7:50am drop off time and a 2:50pm pick up time.
- 18% of parents had schedules that created difficulties in picking up children at 2:50pm.
- 17% of parents had schedules that created difficulties in dropping off children at 7:50am
- 12% of parents had schedules that created difficulties in both dropping off children at 7:50am and picking up children at 2:50pm.

In February of 2018 a sample of children at-risk schedules were reviewed (n=68). Of the sample, 91% did not have challenges with child drop off or pick up. Eight percent had challenges with drop off in the morning. Forty-one percent of the sample are served by the extended day program.

**Child Development and Child-Care Programs Serving Head Start Eligible
1302.11b1iv**

Eagle County Schools administers nine preschools within nine elementary schools. In addition, Eagle County Schools contracts with the private child care, the Family Learning Center, to offer 15 additional CPP/ECARE slots. Eagle County Schools is the primary child-care provider serving Head Start eligible children in Eagle County. Head Start children are served in blended classrooms at Homestake Peak, Avon, June Creek, Edwards, Eagle Valley, Brush Creek, Gypsum, and Red Hill elementary schools.

Many Head Start eligible children who are not served through the Head Start grant are served by the state-funded CPP/ECARE and/or Eagle County School's special education program. All Head Start enrolled children are able to receive full day/ four day a week services due to blended funding from CPP/ECARE, unless they are three years old with less than three risk factors. An additional 63 children with multiple risk factors are

served through CPP/ECARE funding. Of the 63, 14 are currently served through a contracted arrangement with a private provider, the Family Learning Center. Additional Colorado Preschool Program (ECARE) slots were awarded to the school district in 2013 and 2014, both increasing the quality of services and quantity of children at-risk served. Beginning in the 2016/2017 school year the Colorado Department of Education began to allow children enrolled in special education services to also be enrolled in Colorado Preschool Program. This change has allowed many special education students to benefit from full day services.

Decisions regarding which Head Start children are served through the Head Start grant, and which are served through the CPP (or ECARE) program, and which are put on a waitlist are based on a point system approved annually by the Head Start Policy Council and the Governing Body, the Board of Education for Eagle County Schools. Colorado Preschool Program's eligibility criteria, although in many ways similar to Head Start's, is based on state legislation. See Appendix A for the 2017/2018 Selection Criteria Worksheet.

Through an important partnership with the Vail Valley Foundation's YouthPower365 (formerly known as the Youth Foundation) additional at-risk children are served. The YouthPower365 has a program called the Magic Bus that provides approximately four hours a week of child development services to preschool-age children. This program is delivered directly to the child's neighborhood through their mobile classroom. The program's practices are aligned with the research-based Parents as Teachers program. In addition, the Magic Bus is now licensed and has recently replaced one of its older mobile classrooms with a new mobile RV classroom complete with a bathroom. This will allow the program to serve more remote areas of Eagle County. Referrals to the Magic Bus of waitlisted children are intentional and deliberate, and occur at least annually in the fall. The partnership is strong and reciprocal where Magic Bus staff will also refer children to the school district's preschool programs. The program has the capacity to serve 96 children.

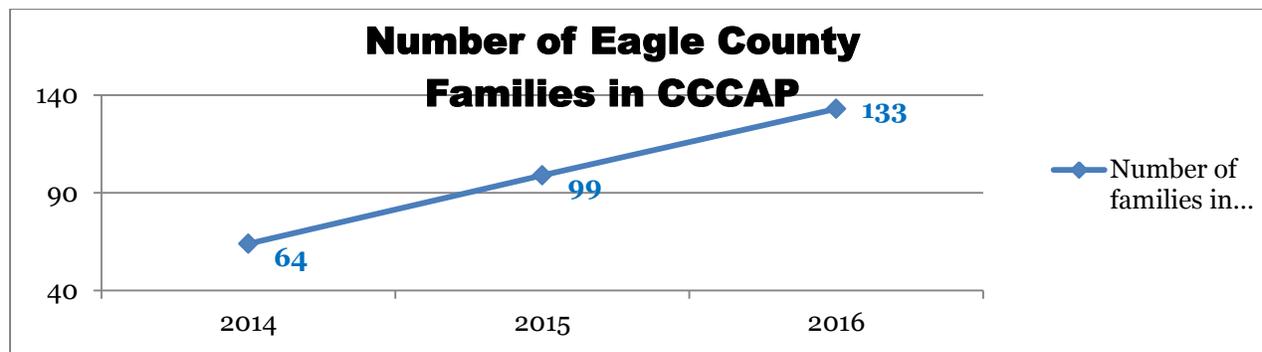
In addition to educational services being provided by other organizations, the services provided by Eagle County Schools were able to expand to Head Start eligible children through the passage of a mill levy increase in November 2016. The mill levy increase allowed Eagle County Schools to begin an extended year and extended day program in the summer of 2017. The summer program, Preschool Plus, served approximately 100 children, 77% of capacity. Sixty-six low-income children at-risk were served in the summer program without cost to the family. The children received nine weeks of services in nine preschools. The program was successful at improving kindergarten readiness with a higher percentage of children who attended the summer program meeting or exceeding “widely held expectations” at the fall measurement checkpoints compared to peers who did not attend the summer program.

The extended day preschool program, also subsidized by the November 2016 mill levy, allows children to receive services after the traditional school day until 5:00 or 5:30. In its inaugural 2017/2018 school year the program served 98 children, with 62 low-income children at-risk receiving subsidized no-cost extended day services.

Youth Power 365 also has another program that allows kindergarteners access to full-day, full-week kindergarten called Success at Six. This program subsidizes the cost of kindergarten based on family income. In 2017/2018 this program served 197 children with scholarships reducing the monthly cost to the family to \$40; 58 children with scholarships reducing the monthly cost to the family to \$70; 69 children with scholarships reducing the monthly cost to the family to \$135; 70. State funding from ECARE also allows subsidized support for full day kindergarten for 58 students. This has allowed the Vail Valley Foundation to reallocate some of their resources to other child/ youth priorities. The monthly tuition for full day kindergarten is \$250 per month. What is not paid for by Youth Power 365 or the parent is subsidized by Eagle County Schools.

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) served 133 families in Eagle County in 2016, more than doubling enrollment since 2014. In 2017 they served approximately 87 families per month. This program assists low income families with the cost of child care

so parents are able to work or attend school. As of February 2018, Eagle County School's preschools serve 12 CCCAP enrolled children with more than half of those served at JCES.



There are other programs that serve low-income children ages 0-3 in the community: Early Head Start (82), Early Head Start/ Child Care Partnership (10), and the Nurse Family Partnership (62). Infant and Toddler Care has been identified as a critical need in the community. Eagle County has 29 child care centers and 18 child care homes.

Community Resources, Availability and Accessibility 1302.11biv
Community Strengths 1302.11bvi

Eagle County has many strengths and resources. The Eagle River Youth Coalition has been compiling and printing a full Resource Directory since 2012, in partnership with the Eagle County Schools' Head Start and Colorado Preschool Program. The Resource Directory is printed in English and Spanish at least annually. The Resource Directory is also available online at www.eagleyouth.org. This Resource Directory is distributed to all at-risk families during the fall home visit.

Resources available to the community are abundant. Emergency Services are plentiful and coordinated. There is strong collaboration between Fire, Ambulance, Hospital, Police, Sheriff, State Patrol, and Private Security organizations. These are coordinated through a Public Safety Council and an EMS Prevention Committee.

The Eagle County Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health and Economic Services house the following programs: Medicaid, Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), Food Stamps, TANF, WIC, Title X Family Planning, Foster Care, Public Health Nursing (including immunizations), Nurse Family Partnership, CCCAP, Child Support, Child and Adult Protective Services, Early Head Start, and LEAP. They also are able to qualify low-income women for discounted prenatal care and Emergency Medicaid. Eagle County also has a Housing and Development Department which coordinates some low income housing projects, deed restricted housing projects, home buying classes, and mortgage down payment programs.

The Eagle River Valley is served by three primary recreation districts: Vail Recreation District, the Avon Recreation District, and the Western Eagle County Recreation District. Together these districts manage ice rinks, swimming pools, indoor and several outdoor soccer fields, baseball fields, and multiple child, youth and adult programs.

Adult educational opportunities are abundant with Colorado Mountain College's campus in Edwards. They offer a full range of educational opportunities including vocational development, two-year degree programs, English as a Second Language (ESL) and General Equivalency Diploma (GED) education services. Some courses offer child care to participants. Colorado Mountain College recently implemented limited four-year degree programming and hopes to further expand four-year degree options in the future. Colorado Mountain College works closely with the Colorado Workforce Center to identify job training needs for emerging sectors. Colorado Workforce Center is located in Edwards.

In addition, Colorado State University (CSU) has an Extension Office in Eagle County. CSU offers adult education in food safety and consumer sciences, financial education, horticulture and master gardening, nutrition classes and more. They coordinate the 4 H program and the County Fair and Rodeo. CSU acts as the Site Coordinator for the parent leadership development program, The Family Leadership Training Institute.

The Eagle River Valley has four large libraries located in Vail, Avon, Eagle, and Gypsum. Each library hosts an extensive children's collection and provides regularly scheduled "story hours" and activities. They also share community space for speakers, presentations, movies, art displays, and meetings. The libraries in Avon, Eagle, and Gypsum are part of the Eagle Valley Library District.

Several medical centers are available in the community. Vail Health is a full service hospital located in Vail. Vail Health offers urgent care in Avon, Beaver Creek and Gypsum. Centura Health offers emergency and urgent care in Avon at the Buck Creek Medical Center. Primary care physician offices include Colorado Mountain Medical (Vail, Avon, Eagle), Drs. on Call (Avon), Mountain Family Federally Qualified Health Center in Edwards and Avon Elementary, and Eagle Valley Family Practice in Eagle. A new Kaiser Permanent Office has also opened in Edwards. In addition, medical specialty care is available.

There is a strong collaborative spirit in Eagle County and there are many coalitions addressing community needs: The Eagle River Youth Coalition, Colorado Gives Day Coalition, The Healthy Eating Active Living Coalition, The Health Services Advisory Committee, The Immigration Integration Coalition, The InteGreat Coalition, The EMS Prevention Committee, The Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council, Speak up Reach out (suicide prevention) Coalition, Community the Cares, Our Community Foundation, and more.

The community has a large and vibrant non-profit sector. The community has more than 150 registered non-profits. Organizations receiving the most referrals from Head Start eligible families are noted here:

- The Bright Future Foundation serves victims of domestic violence and hosts a Buddy Mentor Program.
- CASA provides advocates for children involved with abuse or neglect.

- Catholic Charities assists with immigration related services, and provides victim's assistance at multiple levels. They also host an annual coat drive and have an Eagle location supporting the needs of families with babies.
- The Eagle River Youth Coalition coordinates the activities of multiple youth serving organizations and facilitates a Youth Leaders Council, the educational series "Eat, Chat, Parent" and offers the parenting class, Active Parents of Teens. The organization facilitates, analyzes, and disseminates the results of the high school attitude and behavior survey to identify challenges facing local youth and collaborates in finding solutions. The Eagle River Youth Coalition is the fiscal agent and umbrella organization for the InteGreat! Coalition and the Community that Cares grant.
- The Eagle Valley Family Assistance Fund provides no interest loans and financial counseling to working families.
- Early Childhood Partners provides parenting classes, coaching and consultations for early childhood programs, and provides mental health support to identified children. Early Childhood Partners is the fiscal agent and provides facilitation for the Family Leadership Training Institute.
- The Food Rescue Express provides emergency food to preschool aged children identified as at-risk of hunger.
- Habitat for Humanity has built several homes in the Eagle River Valley over the last several years. In addition, they have a home store, which provides low cost building/home improvement supplies and provides funds for build projects.
- The Literacy Project supports the Raising the Reader Program, youth tutoring, adult literacy, and ESL education.
- The Lions Club provides vision screens and vouchers for eyeglasses and vision exams.
- Mind Springs is the community mental health agency in Eagle County providing a wide range of mental health support services. Mind Springs accepts Medicaid.
- Northwest Colorado Legal Services provides free 15 minute legal consults for low-income persons.
- The Public Safety Council provides CO and Smoke Detectors to families in need.

- The Red Ribbon Project provides education and support regarding sexual health, in addition to free HIV testing and condom distribution
- The Salvation Army provides emergency food, community gardening, emergency financial assistance, and the annual holiday Adopt-a-Family Program.
- SOS Outreach provides life skills education through recreational programming.
- Starting Hearts is a mobile CPR/AED education service.
- Speak Up Reach Out provides Suicide Prevention Education.
- The Swift Eagle Foundation provides emergency assistance to families in crisis.
- Vail Valley Cares Thrifty Shoppes provide low cost clothes and household items. They also use their profits to fund the work of multiple non-profits in the community.
- The Vail Valley Charitable Fund provides financial support to those facing medical crisis, they also are the fiscal agent for the Eagle Smiles program which helps uninsured children access dental care.
- Vail Valley Foundation's YouthPower365 provides multiple programs in the community including Power Hours after school programs, early childhood programs and funding, the Parent Mentor Program and more.
 - Parent Mentors are parents of children enrolled in Eagle County Schools that have applied to become regularly scheduled volunteers in a classroom in their child's school for the course of one school year. Training includes a three-day intensive course, and two hours of professional development weekly on topics of literacy and math instruction, financial literacy, English language instruction and digital literacy.
- Vail Health's Think First program provides head injury prevention resources and education to the community, including bicycle helmets. Think First also partners with Emergency Services to provide and properly install car seats to those in need.
- The Walking Mountains Science Center collaborates with schools to provide place-based education and environmental science education programs. They have a natural science center in Avon. Walking Mountains facilitates the Alliance for Sustainability, and the Climate Action Collaborative. In addition, Walking

Mountains facilitated the Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement which coordinated and facilitated a successful GOCO grant application bringing 1.4 million dollars to improve access, facilities and supports to the west Edwards Community.

Most resources are accessible to Head Start eligible families. The Early Childhood Program's Family Services Coordinators help families navigate programs and applications. Eligibility barriers remain for families without legal documentation for some government programs. Families in poverty may find some programs inaccessible even with subsidies and scholarships due to ancillary costs. Families living in Dotsero and/or Red Cliff may find more difficulties accessing services, as transportation can be limited in these outlying communities. Health insurance premiums for the Affordable Care Act are higher in the mountain region of Colorado than all other locations in the state, creating continued barriers in accessing health services, although premiums have dropped some in late 2014 due to legislative changes.

Significant Changes 1302.11b2

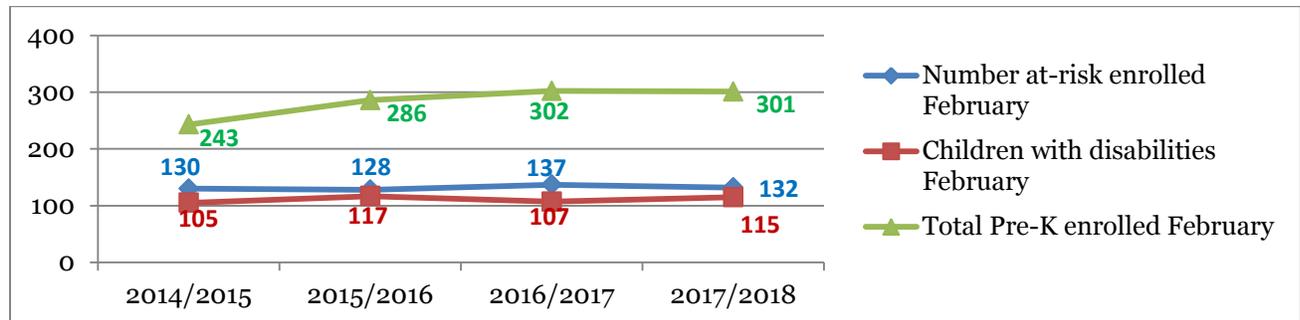
Availability of publicly funded preschool services

As noted previously, state funding has increased for preschool and kindergarten through Colorado Preschool Program and ECARE slots. This funding has allowed some increase in the number of at-risk served. More importantly, CPP and ECARE slots have allowed children more classroom time through the availability of double slots, allowing children to attend four days a week instead of two days a week. In addition, changes at Colorado Department of Education allowed expanded services to many children with disabilities by permitting many children with disabilities to stay full day. Currently Eagle County Schools supports 21 preschool classrooms, one infant classroom and one toddler classroom.

The school district is now currently at physical capacity. However, due to the passage of mill levies in November 2016, initial plans include expansion of Early Childhood Services in



the Eagle area with two additional preschool classrooms, one additional infant room, and one additional toddler room planned for opening in the fall of 2018.



Discussion of demographic shifts and availability of resources

Demographic shifts were discussed beginning on page 5. Data suggests a growing need in the Eagle area which can be mitigated by the introduction of 2 new preschool classrooms in 2018. Data also suggests a potential gap in the Edwards area. Indeed, there are 12 unserved eligible Head Start applicants up-valley. Low unemployment, higher wages, and lower birth rates increase the likelihood that many of the working poor may find themselves over-income for Head Start. However, housing data indicates that more will be eligible due to meeting the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. There are many resources available to low-income families in the community. Although, with a change in policy goals at the Federal level, anxiety and fear among the large foreign born population in Eagle County may reduce the likelihood of families in need attempting to access these resources.

Opportunities to serve diverse economic backgrounds 1302.11b3

Eagle County Schools preschool programs serve families with diverse economic backgrounds. The Head Start program subsidizes services to very low income and / or homeless families. The Colorado Preschool Program sees income as a risk, but not an eligibility factor and provides preschool opportunities for the working poor with additional risks. Eagle County School’s partnership with Eagle County Economic Services allow the preschool program to serve families eligible for CCCAP, providing additional subsidies for working families. Finally, the school district accepts many families from the community with the ability to pay tuition. Tuition is very reasonable

compared to other private providers at \$35 per day for services from 7:50-2:50. In 2017/2018 tuition for full day and extended day together (7:50-5:00) is \$50.

Review of Grantees Long Term Philosophy, Short and Long Range Program Objectives

The program uses the community assessment and other resources to determine long term program philosophy, short and long range objectives. The program reviews the updated community assessment annually with the Policy Council and Governing Body, Eagle County School's Board of Education. In addition, the review of the community assessment occurs as part of the annual self-assessment. Furthermore, the Early Childhood Department has a Strategic Planning Committee which meets monthly during the school year. Portions of the assessment are shared with community groups as appropriate. For example, the Health Section is shared with the Health Services Advisory Committee annually.

The results of the community assessment are used as part of the process for continuous improvement. For example, the section on Education identifies mathematics as an area for continued growth. This information prompted more teacher trainings in in this area. A review of the demographic data prompted the addition of new classrooms at Red Hill Elementary school in 2014 and the expansion of Head Start into Red Hill and Edwards Elementary in 2017/2018.

Please see Appendix D for a copy of the Early Childhood Strategic Plan.

Conclusion and Additional Community Assessment Resources:

This Community Assessment meets compliance requirements for the Head Start program as identified in sections 1302 in the Head Start Performance Standards. The Performance Standards include requirements for the collection and dissemination of specific types of data for the program. Other resources are also available to enhance understanding of community strengths and needs. For additional and complementary information regarding our community please see:

- The Community Commons provides instant access to county level data regarding employment, transportation, veterans, community education levels, housing units and vacancy rates, income levels, Medicare enrollment, SNAP enrollment, etc. This report was referenced on page 34. <https://www.communitycommons.org/maps-data/>
- The Eagle River Youth Coalition’s high school attitude and behavior survey provides information on local youth’s attitudes and behaviors and is administered every-other year. In addition, the InteGreat Coalition completed a Community Asset Map that will be able to be accessed through the Eagle River Youth Coalition. www.eagleyouth.org
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT is the premier source for data on child and family well-being in the United States. This document is produced annually and provides county level data. www.datacenter.kidscount.org/data
- The National Center for Health Statistics helps to measure the CDC’s Health Protection goals. www.cdc.gov/nchs
- The Economic Council of Eagle County/Vail Valley Partnership produces a monthly snapshot of economic indicators within the county. <http://vailvalleymeansbusiness.com/data-center/demographics/> and <http://vailvalleymeansbusiness.com/data-center/eagle-county-economic-profile/>
- The Eagle County Health Improvement Plan for 2017 is available at <http://www.eaglecounty.us/flipbook/chip/index.html> and includes community health indicators and strategic plans for addressing community health needs.
- America’s Health Rankings from the United Health Foundation provides a benchmark report that is the longest-running, comprehensive state-by-state study of our nation’s health. <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/>
- Eagle County Schools created a Facility Master Plan in the winter of the 2015-2016 school year which not only identifies and prioritizes ECS facility needs, but also

includes a comprehensive demographic study with future enrollment projections. This study is located here: <https://www.eagleschools.net/facility-master-plan/>

- The Eagle County Department of Human Services and the Eagle County School District jointly retained Public Works LLC to develop an Early Childhood System Roadmap – this report – to identify principles and best practices essential to a comprehensive early childhood system, to present strategies for building such a system, and to make recommendations specific to Eagle County in pursuing this objective. This report is available here: www.eaglecounty.us/EarlyChildhoodRoadmap/