

Early Childhood Education Services HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START/ECEAP

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ABOUT HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS

The Olympic Kitsap Peninsula Early Learning Coalition increased its capacity this year to support early learning partnerships by conducting four WaKIDS Early Learning Collaboration Steering Committee meetings in Forks, Port Townsend, Quilcene and Bremerton; sponsoring the Washington State Tribal Relations Training at the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Center; coordinating home visiting resources and training; and supporting First Steps Family Support Center, on behalf of the Coalition, to apply for the Satterberg Foundation grant and promote racial equity for all children. The Coalition also manages Thrive Washington foundation grant, the ABCD dental access grant, and the Department of Early Learning Infant and Toddler Consultation services project.

During 2014-15 in Head Start, ECEAP & Early Head Start our total funded enrollment was 535, and 741 children ages pre-natal to age 5 were actually served in full-day child care, part – day preschool, home visiting services, and community child care programs. We are located in:

- 17 public schools/college
- 9 community agencies

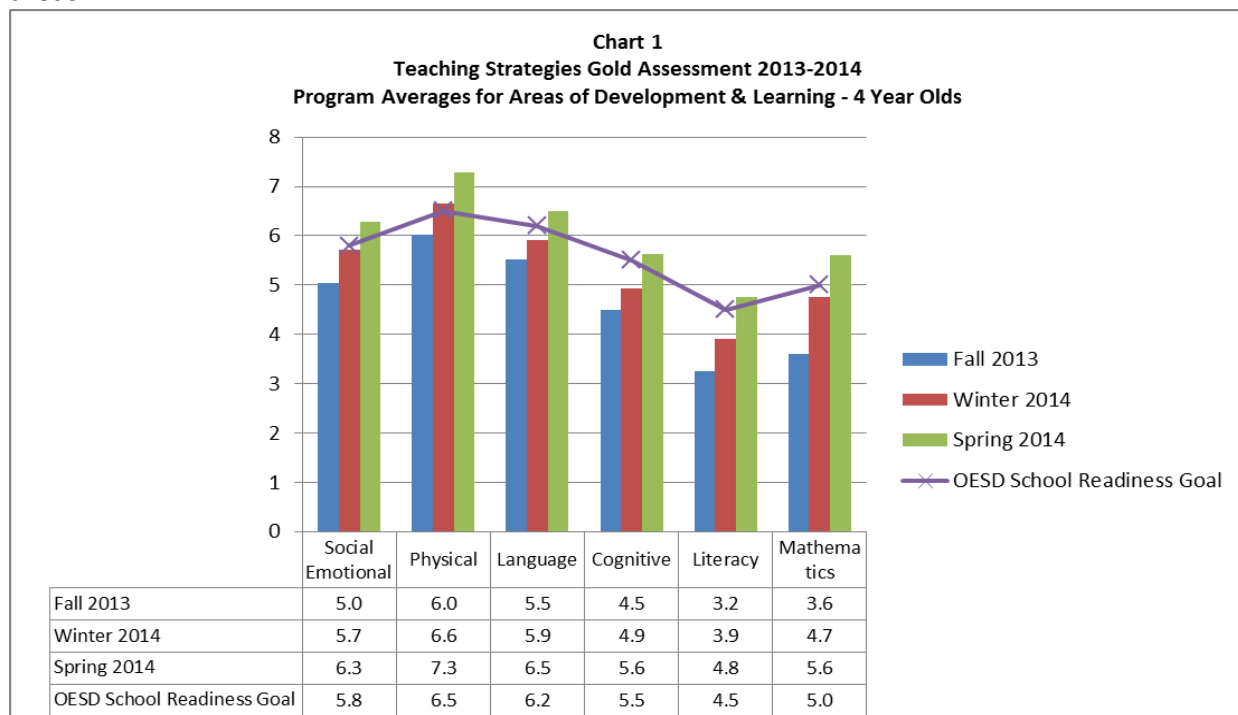
The Creative Curriculum and TS GOLD assessment systems support instruction and learning, and we exceeded the program School Readiness Goals for 4 year old children in 2015:

TS Gold Domain	School Readiness Goal	2015 Program Average
Social-Emotional	5.8	6.4
Physical	6.5	7.2
Language	6.2	6.6
Cognitive	5.5	5.8
Literacy	4.5	5.1
Mathematics	5.0	5.9

We also achieved some extraordinary accomplishments this year including the expansion of parent education opportunities and increased participation by Guatemalan families, and the expansion of Early Head Start to include new partnerships with community child care providers serving infants and toddlers.

Effectiveness

Chart 1 Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment shows the progress of four-year-olds over the three assessment periods in 2013-2014. Children made progress in all six areas of development and learning, and by spring exceeded program benchmarks for the School Readiness Goals in all areas.



Background Information

For 22 years, Olympic ESD 114 has provided Head Start (federal), Early Head Start (federal) and ECEAP (state) early learning services in four Kitsap County school districts. These comprehensive services for children pre-natal to age five focus on school readiness and are provided in the context of home visiting, part-day preschool, full-day child care and community child care.

Olympic ESD 114 is one of 4 agencies and tribal nations providing these coordinating early learning services in Kitsap County: Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Suquamish Tribe and Kitsap Community Resources. Supporting Washington State's Early Learning Plan, our focus is expanded to promote Pre-Natal to Grade 3 (P-3) educational partnerships between early learning and school district elementary schools. Our center-based programs are located in 13 schools, 3 community child care centers, Olympic College and Givens Community Center. Home-visiting services are provided to 132 families through partnerships with Kitsap Housing, Department of Social and Health Services, Holly Ridge Center, Kitsap Public Health District, Kitsap Adult Center for Education, Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center and Discovery High School.

Our programs provide:

- Well-qualified, trained and experienced teachers, home visitors and caregivers who embrace developmentally appropriate practices and promote instructional learning that is rich in language, literacy, science, math and the arts, and support the social, emotional and cognitive development of all children;
- A teen parent child care program at Discovery Alternative High School to support young parents as they balance parenting with attending high school classes;
- A researched-based curriculum and on-going assessment system (Teaching Strategies GOLD and AEPS) that informs and supports the individual learning and development of each child, incorporates the culture of each family, documents the growth and progress of each child, and provides accurate and relevant data to share with families and kindergarten teachers;
- Access for children to health and special services that includes on-going documentation of their physical growth, sensory screenings, support to families in establishing regular and on-going medical and dental care, and referrals to Holly Ridge Center and school districts for disabilities services; and
- A focus on engaging parents as their child's first and most important teacher, providing opportunities for parents to be involved, and helping parents to access community social services to eliminate barriers to actively supporting their child's learning.

Early Learning Leadership and Sustainability

Olympic ESD 114 serves as the fiscal lead agency and is a member of the Olympic-Kitsap Peninsulas Early Learning Coalition which is comprised of school district, special education, early intervention, community agencies, tribal nations, public libraries, community colleges, parenting education organizations, public health and other organizations from Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and North Mason Counties.

This Coalition developed key strategies for sustainable funding in early learning, and to date has leveraged over \$946,762 for early learning services for our Region, with a special emphasis on resources and services to communities and school districts in the rural and remote areas and addressing achievement gaps and disparities. This last year the Coalition supported 2 WaKIDS pilot projects to develop strategies for school districts to partner with community child care programs to share data and provide increased coordination as children transition from preschool to kindergarten.