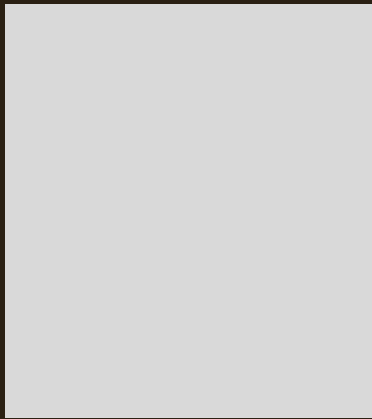




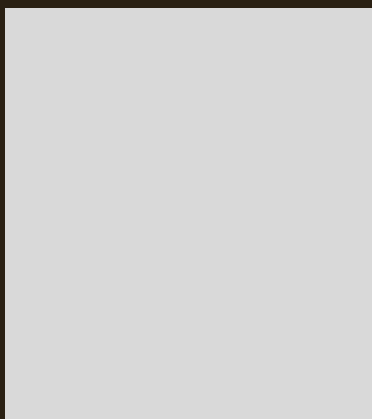
Early Childhood Education

Board Administrative Report

March 2023



***"College and Career
Start Here"***



**WWW.PALMDALESD.ORG
(667) 273.4710 | (661) 273.5139 FAX**

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM GOALS

GOAL #1

Providing Direction - Provide strategic direction to all ECE stakeholders focused on enriching quality interactions to support classroom instruction and learning for all.

GOAL #2

Safe and Affirming School Environments - Promote and create an inclusive, competitive, safe, nurturing environment to support cultural awareness in which families, children and staff thrive.

GOAL #3

Family and Community Environments - Engage and empower diverse families and communities in authentic learning and collaboration through comprehensive services to support the well-being and education of the child.



The Palmdale Promise

Vision: Palmdale will become a district where...Every Student Leaves Ready for Success in High School and Beyond: College, Career, the Global World.

Mission: The mission of the Palmdale School District is to implement our vision with actions and services targeted to students, parents and staff so our students can live their lives to their full potential.

ENROLLMENT, MEAL COUNTS, & ATTENDANCE DATA

ENROLLMENT

Number of Slots

Head Start Center-based:

Slots: 1,035 Enrolled: **983** (95.0%)
(Report 2001)

Head Start Home-based:

Slots: 72 Enrolled: **67** (93.1%)
Total Head Start Slots: 1,107
Head Start total Enrolled: **1,050** (94.9%)
(Report 2001)

Early Head Start:

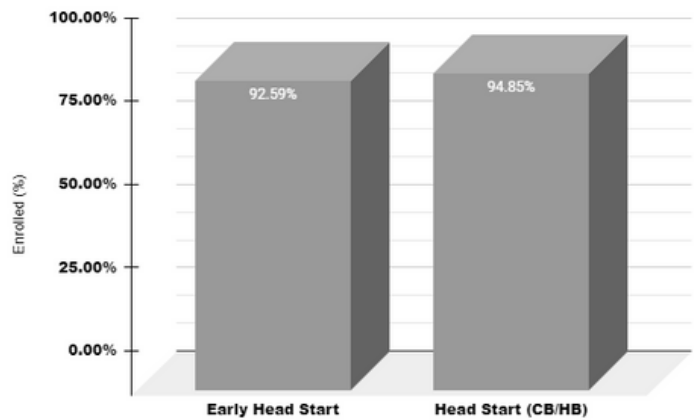
Slots: 108 Enrolled: **100** (92.6%)
(Report 2001)

Total HS and EHS Slots: 1,215

Total HS and EHS Enrolled:
1,150 (94.7%)

March Enrollment Percentages

March Enrollment



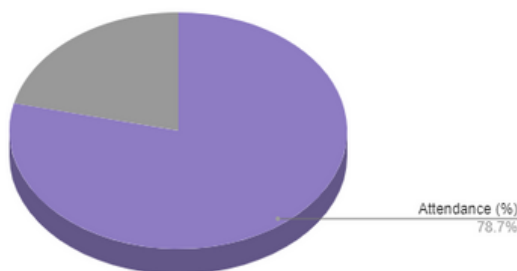
MEAL COUNTS

Program	Breakfast	AM Snack	Lunch	PM Snack
Head Start	10,566	1,033	10,964	10,456
Early Head Start	0	0	0	0

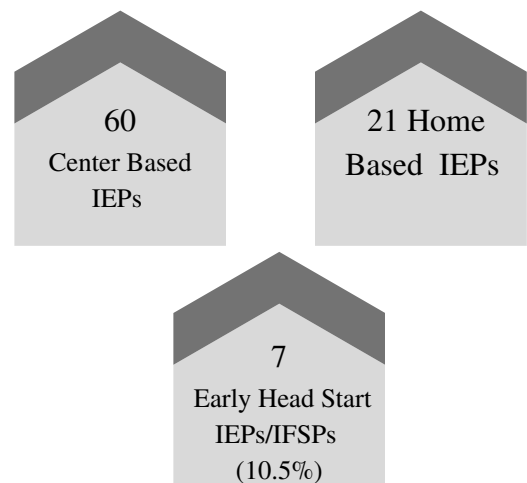
March Attendance - Head Start

March Attendance

Head Start



IEP & IFSP DATA



Office of Head Start attendance requirement: 10%

Total for December: 88 (7.5%)

Office of Head Start attendance requirement: 85%

PSD attendance: 78.7%

(Report 2301)

Referrals sent in March: 9

Concerns: HS-94 EHS-10

ERSEA REPORT

JOE VEGA-SMITH

Average Monthly Attendance for Program Year 2022-2023

August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
83.64%	80.40%	76.47%	72.82%	75.35%	79.23%	76.25%	78.72%		

(Report 2301)

Program attendance for the month of March, 2023 was at 78.72%. The Office of Head Start attendance threshold requires all programs to be at 85% and above. This was an increase of 2.47% from previous month. As a program, we have provided information to families about the importance of good attendance. The Family Service Advocates (FSA's) have been monitoring and following up with attendance and providing support to families.

For the month of March, the Child Plus report 2301 was used to monitor the PSD/ECE sites. The goal is for the overall average percentage at each PSD-ECE meets the 85% and above Head Start attendance threshold. In the month of March, 2023 there have been a slight increase of attendance at PSD-ECE from the previous month. Percentages in green is for the month of March, 2023.

Average Attendance for the Month of March PSD-ECE Sites:

Chaparral Site	District Office Site	Avenue J Site	Highland Site	Manzanita Site	Mesquite Site	Ocotillo Site	Palm Tree Site	Site 18 Site	Tamarisk Site
79.22%	83.33%	80.66%	77.43%	83.63%	71.57%	80.72%	77.52%	78.62%	76.07%
74.76%	64.25%	80.36%	73.77%	77.99%	79.17%	73.55%	79.22%	76.64%	74.20%
78.83 %	81.52%	82.97%	71.52%	85.16%	76.73%	77.38%	78.99%	79.26%	75.20%

Congratulations Manzanita!! Average Daily Attendance for the month of March was at 85%!!!

Tierra Bonita Site	Tumbleweed Site	Wilsona Site	Yucca Site
85.42%	85.14%	82.39%	77.38%
81.31%	78.49%	80.25%	74.61%
81.42%	78.64%	84.26%	75.78%

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
read well by the end of third grade

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
pass important courses

HIGH SCHOOLERS
stay on track for graduation

COLLEGE STUDENTS
earn their degrees

WORKERS
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

Attendance Works
www.attendanceworks.org

ASISTE HOY, LOGRA MAÑANA

LA BUENA ASISTENCIA EN LA ESCUELA SIGNIFICA QUE LOS ESTUDIANTES...

PREESCOLAR
Estudiantes hablan bien y escuchan bien para seguir en la escuela

ESTUDIANTES DE PRIMARIA
Escuchan bien y aprenden en la escuela

SECUNDARIA Y PREPARATORIA
Preparación para la escuela y el trabajo

ESTUDIANTES UNIVERSITARIOS
Obtienen sus títulos universitarios

TRABAJADORES
Trabajan bien en sus trabajos de adultos

Demasiadas ausencias—permitidas o no—pueden impedir que los estudiantes que tengan éxito en la escuela y en la vida. ¿Cuántas son "demasiadas"? 10% del año escolar—o sea, faltando 18 días (2 días por mes)—puede causar que el estudiante se desista.

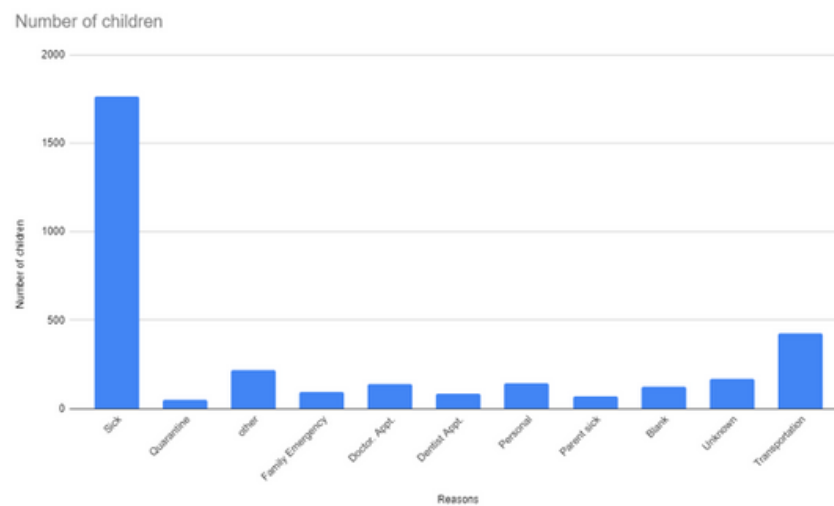
Attendance Works
www.attendanceworks.org

ERSEA REPORT

JOE VEGA-SMITH

Absence Reasons for the Month of March

The chart below details the absence reason provided by parents during the month. Sick and transportation were the most common reasons for absences. Other reasons for were other, personal, doctor's appointment, and personal. This month and the previous month there have been a drop-in quarantine being the reason for absences. Teachers, FSA's and Administrators will continue to monitor attendance.



Enrollment for the Month of March

Option	Caseload	Funded Enrollment	Enrolled	Accepted
EHS HB	1	12	11	0
EHS HB	2	12	12	0
EHS HB	3	12	10	0
EHS HB	4	12	10	0
EHS HB	5	12	12	0
EHS HB	6	12	11	0
EHS HB	7	12	12	0
EHS HB	8	12	11	0
EHS HB	9	12	10	1
EHS HB	No Class	0	0	0
		108	99	1

Early Head Start

Option	Site	Funded Enrollment	Enrolled	Accepted
HS	Chaparral	100	99	1
HS	District Office	15	14	0
HS	First Christian	40	40	0
HS	Highland	20	20	0
HS	HB Lancaster	24	24	0
HS	HB Littlerock	12	10	0
HS	HB Palmdale	36	33	1
HS	Manzanita	40	39	0
HS	Mesquite	40	40	0
HS	Ocotillo	60	58	0
HS	Palm Tree	80	77	0
HS	Site 18	220	196	0
HS	Tamarisk	60	57	1
HS	Tierra Bonita	20	19	0
HS	Tumbleweed	200	198	1
HS	Wilsonia	40	38	0
HS	Yucca	100	94	0
		1107	1056	4

Head Start

ERSEA REPORT

JOE VEGA-SMITH

CLASS Coaching Update

The CLASS Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observation instrument developed to assess classroom quality in preschool through third-grade classrooms.

According to Head Start performance standards 1304.16 the Office of Head Start uses CLASS as part of the designation and renewal of Head Start programs.

OHS Quality CLASS® Thresholds:

The quality thresholds shown below are OHS's expectation for all grantees and sub-recipients regarding the quality of classroom learning environments.

- 6 for Emotional Support
- 6 for Classroom Organization
- 3 for Instructional Support

These thresholds do not relate to competition; however, instead reflect a quality improvement focus on teacher-child interactions. The establishment of quality thresholds is intended to build on existing program quality improvement efforts to enhance classroom interactions beyond any set floor.

PSD-ECE CLASS® Thresholds for Coaching Support:

PSD/ECE has established the following thresholds when determining the classrooms needing coaching support.

- Below 5.9 for Emotional Support domain
- Below 5.9 for Classroom Organization
- Below 2.9 for Instructional Support

Spring Modified Observations:

- Second CLASS® observations will be conducted in those classrooms scoring below the PSD/ECE thresholds (in all three domains) These "Modified CLASS®" observations will be conducted each Spring and are expected to be completed by the last week of April.



ERSEA REPORT

JOE VEGA-SMITH

CLASS Coaching Update

For the month of March 2023, Mrs. Debbie McBee (Education and Implementation Consultant) provided the following one to coaching support and trainings. Five teachers have been identified to participate in one to one CLASS coaching.

MARCH 2023			
DATE	TIME	LOCATION/SITES	TOPIC
Mar 1	TBD	TBD	Classroom Observations
Mar 3	TBD	TBD	Feedback Sessions with Coachees
Mar 6	9:15-11:15 & 12:15-2:15	In Person	HB 101 & PIWI 1
Mar 14	TBD	TBD	Classroom Observations
Mar 16	TBD	TBD	Classroom Observations
Mar 17	TBD	TBD	Feedback Sessions with Coachees
Mar 27	9:15-11:15 & 12:15-2:15		PIWI 2 & PIWI 3
Mar 28&29	TBD	TBD	Classroom Observations
Mar 30	TBD	Onsite Mtg	Revised Coaching (CLASS) Plan
Mar 31	TBD	TBD	Feedback Sessions with Coachees

Family Service Advocates (FSA)

The Family Service Advocates (FSA) are continuing to enroll the returning families/children for PSD/ECE program school year 2023-2024.

The week of March 10 thru March 17th PSD/ECE participated In the CCRC Self-Assessment program year 2022/2023 review. The ERSEA team participated in the ERSEA, Family Partnership, and Education focus group interviews. The Self-Assessment was conduct by an outside consultant.

The Self-Assessment 2022/2023 final report is pending.

The FSA's had their one to one check ins in the month of March the following Child Plus reports were reviewed and monitored:

- 2125- Participation list
- 2210- Enrollment turnover- no vacant spots over 30 days
- 2330- Consecutive Absences
- 2565 -60-day follow-up entries
- Discuss any concerns

EDUCATION REPORT

ELIZABETH MORA

Spring is in the Air!

any of our center based classrooms are gardening and planting a variety of plants including vegetables, flowers, and even grass! Children are looking at what plants need to grow and are learning words like photosynthesis and germination! They are following the life cycle of a plant as they watch their own plants grow!

Some classes are learning about bugs. They are learning about what they eat, where they live and about their life cycle. Some of the bugs they are learning about are, bees, butterflies and ladybugs. It is impressive to hear the children talk about life science/biology and share their thoughts and ideas as they explain what they have learned!

DRDP Observations

The program is gathering observations to complete the 3rd round of DRDPs that will be due in April. Teachers are gathering evidence that document the children's individual growth and development on the DRDP. We can't wait to see the outcomes!

School Readiness Goals

The Education Team is also working on developing new School Readiness Goals that will drive our education program for the next five years, starting in 2024 and ending in 2029. These goals help us make programmatic decisions for the purchase of classroom materials, teacher trainings, curriculum delivery, goalsetting and individualization, to name a few.

We encourage families to continue to read to their children and talk about what the children are learning about. Using open-ended questions with the children is a great way to help them expand their thinking and thought process.

Open-ended questions encourage a complete answer rather than a simple "yes" or "no".

Some ways to begin an open-ended question:

I wonder how that works....

What would happen if...

Tell me about...

How did you do that...

How do you think that happened...

How does that work...

What would happen if...

MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES REPORT

AMY WILLEY

Development Concerns Support and IEPs

During the Month of March, the Disabilities Department submitted 6 referrals to student's designated Local Education Agency (LEA) to support students with developmental concerns. The Disabilities Specialist attended 8 IEP meetings. As the end of the year is approaching, students are receiving a matriculation IEP that helps families navigate through the registration process and how services will be provided as their child begins Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten.

North Los Angeles County Regional Center

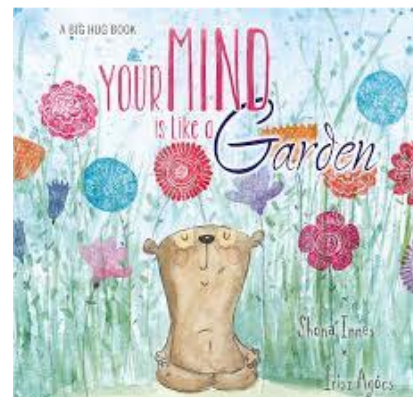
Second Steps Social Emotional Curriculum provides staff with a unit of study that focuses on Transitioning to Kindergarten. The three-week area of study includes **Learning in Kindergarten, Riding the Kindergarten Bus and Making Friends in Kindergarten**. This provides students with skills that support school readiness as children and families begin their transition to Elementary School.

Mindful Moments

March brings in the season of Spring. To support social-emotional development, Mindful Moments for March included items related to gardening. This included guidance on how to start a garden of your own, tips to support mindfulness as you are gardening and mindful breathing (flower breathing).

The book **Your Mind is a Garden** was included for teachers to use with students.

Gardening can be incorporated into mindful activities. However, if that is not an area of interest there are other ways to participate in mindfulness activities that involve nature. California is currently experiencing a super bloom of wildflowers. There are [links](#) and guides to help individuals that are new to wildflower nature walks



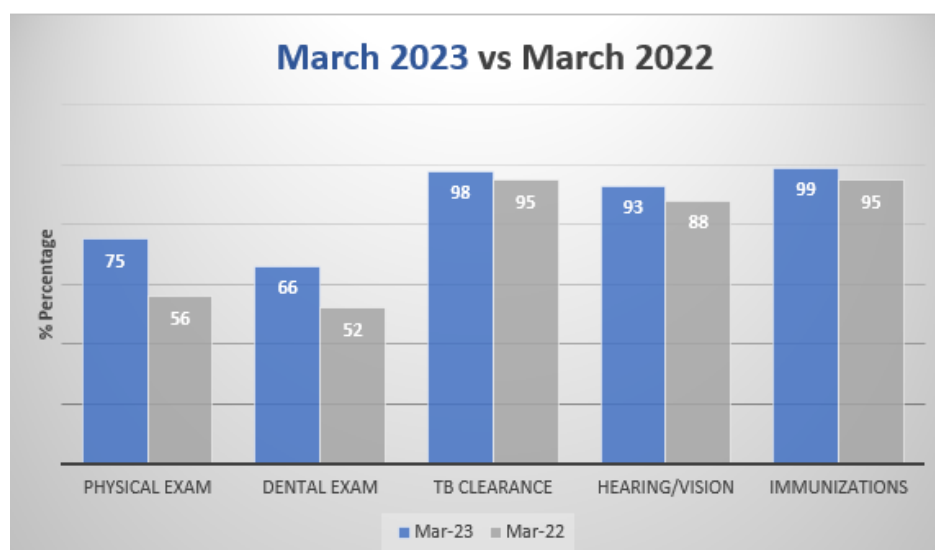
HEALTH REPORT

VICTORIA ERMILIO, MSN, RN, CSN

Physical Exams

The Health Team is collaborating with a local pedodontics to plan a dental event during the summer and again in early fall to acquire dental exams on children who do not established dental homes. The local dentist is going to open his practice on two Saturdays to see Head Start students. They are going to provide oral screening exams, xray and cleaning with fluoride treatments. He will see our uninsured student free of cost and bill the insurance of the other students. He will also provide follow up visits for those students requiring additional treatment.

We are also partnering with a local mobile community clinic to provide MMR, Tdap, Flu and COVID vaccines to staff members who are requesting or missing immunizations. The clinic will also provide wellness screening to the staff such as glucose, cholesterol screening and blood pressure checks. This event is scheduled during the professional development trainings prior to the 23-24 school year. The mobile clinic has also agreed to provide vaccinations and TB skin test for parents wish to be classroom volunteers.



FAMILY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & PROGRAM GOVERNANCE REPORT

PAULINA PANDURO

Program Governance

The Policy Committee met two times in the month of March for both a Special Call Meeting and the regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting. The regularly scheduled Executive Meeting took place on March 27th and 3 parents along with staff were present to review the Policy Committee agenda. PC meeting was held virtually Wednesday, March 29th. A total of 8 members were present, 4 members were voting. The Executive Committee and Policy Committee Meeting met on Thursday, March 30th for a Special Call Meeting. Three of the Executive committee members along with staff met over zoom to discuss program updates and review the agenda and 6 Policy Committee members were present to approve recommendations. The follow recommendations were approved from both meetings:

- Approval of new hire: Noon Duty/ Campus Assistant
 - Approval of the BAR – HS- B-01-2023
 - Approval of PSD ECE Enrollment Reduction of Slots 2023-2024 SY
 - Approval of Early Head Start – Quality Improvement (QI) Application
 - Approval of Head Start – Quality Improvement (QI) Application
 - Approval of Early Head Start- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Application
 - Approval of Head Start- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Application
- (Goal #3)

Spring Second Family Assessment

Family Service Advocates have started follow-up with families at their sites for the Family Self-Assessment spring follow-up. As of now 46% of families in the Head Start and Early Head Start Program have been contacted. The remaining follow-ups will continue to happen until the end of the school year. Family Advocates are also checking in on the progress of family goals. (Goal #3)



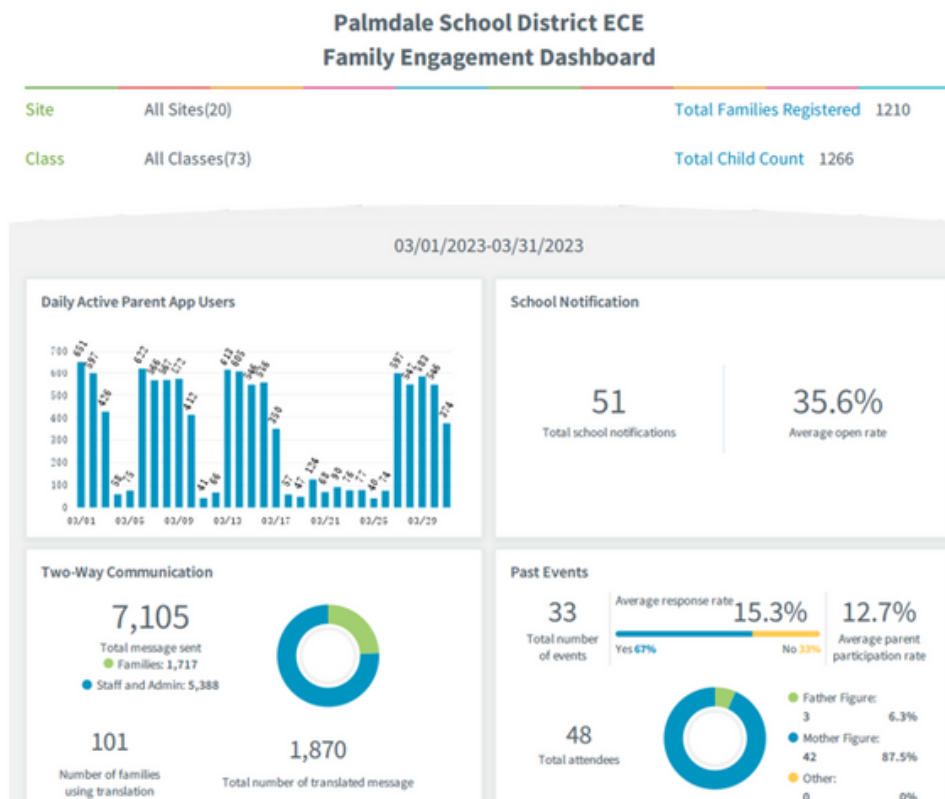
FAMILY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & PROGRAM GOVERNANCE REPORT

PAULINA PANDURO

Learning Genie Communication Report

The Early Childhood Education Office has been using the Learning Genie application as the primary way to communicate with parents of the program. In the month of March, 51 school notifications were sent. Notifications ranged from educational learning packets, resources provided by a community partners, parent meeting notifications, and socialization reminders. Over 35% of parents are actively opening and responding to these notifications. More than 7,000 two-way messages were sent between staff and parents. Lastly more than half of parents are actively opening and using the learning genie app every day! (Goal #3)

Palmdale School District ECE Family Engagement Dashboard



NUTRITION

LILLIE BIGLER, MS, RDN

Safe and Nutritious Meals

The Nutrition Department works continuously to assure that children receive safe and nutritious meals.

In the month of March, the Nutrition Department helped celebrate National Nutrition Month with the theme “Fuel for the Future” by partnering with Family Engagement to host presentations at ECE’s Parent Meetings. The presentations are scheduled between March-April and seven were completed in March. Pictured below is our Nutrition Facilitator Lillie, presenting at Manzanita with FSA Lizette providing translation.

The Nutrition Department also participated in a CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) Audit that included virtual Meal Observation in a few of our Chaparral classrooms. (Goals 1, 2, 3.)

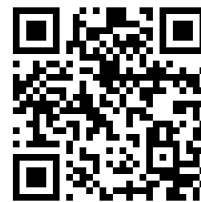


Resources for Free Food in the Antelope Valley



Palmdale School District Menus

Scan the QR Code and select your child's school site. Then click on the ECE menus. District Office, Avenue J, and Tierra Bonita meals are prepared by the "Tamarisk" kitchen staff. Highland meals are prepared by the "Ocotillo" kitchen staff

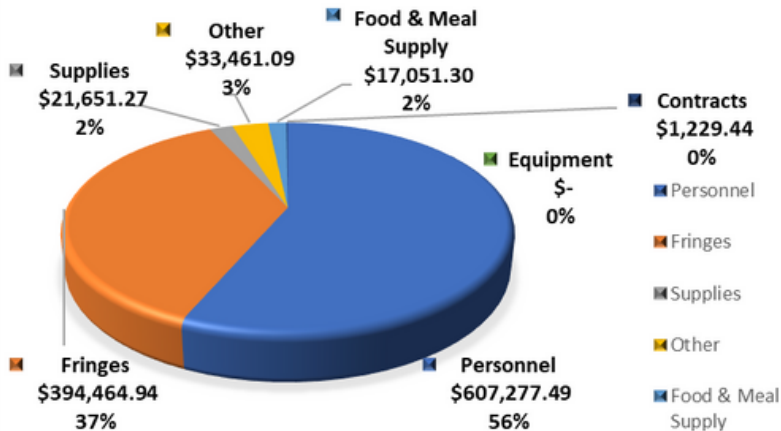


FISCAL REPORT

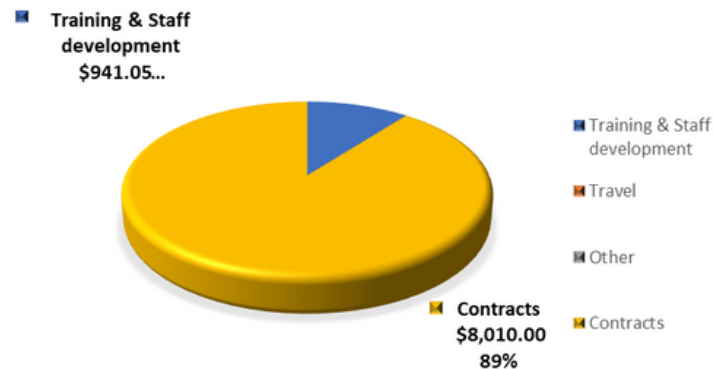
M. CARMEN SERRANO

Expenditures for Head Start, HS T&TA, Early Head Start, EHS T&TA Programs

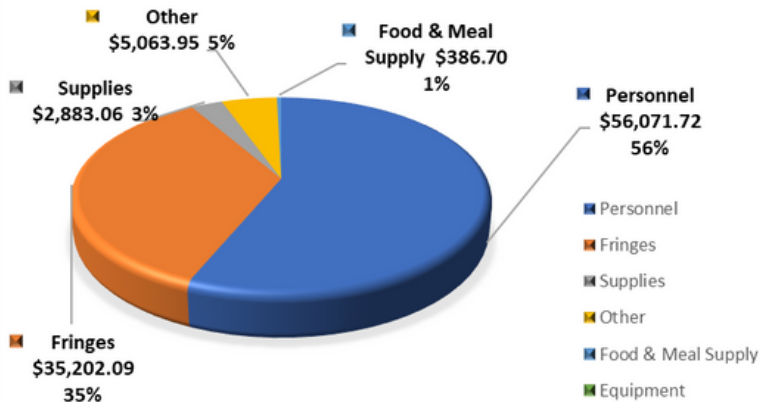
MARCH 2023 HS B EXPENDITURES



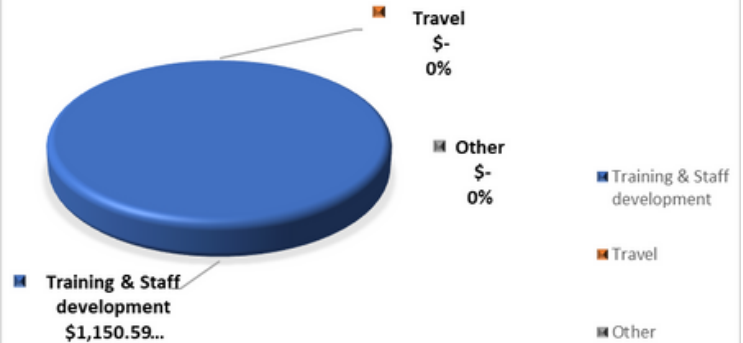
MARCH 2023 HS T&TA EXPENDITURES



MARCH 2023 EHS B EXPENDITURES



MARCH 2023 EHS T&TA EXPENDITURES



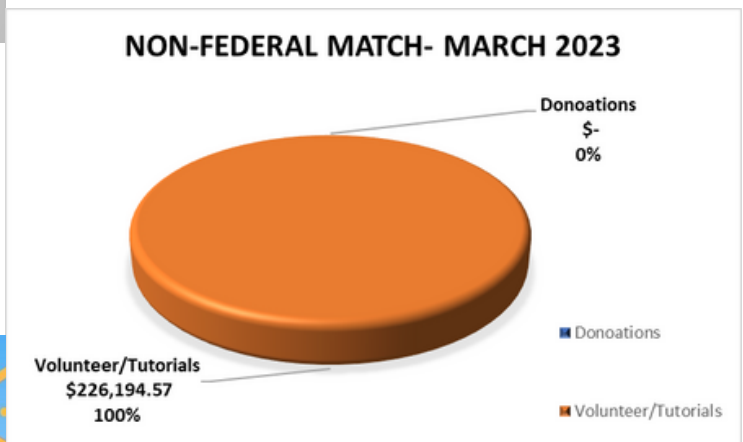
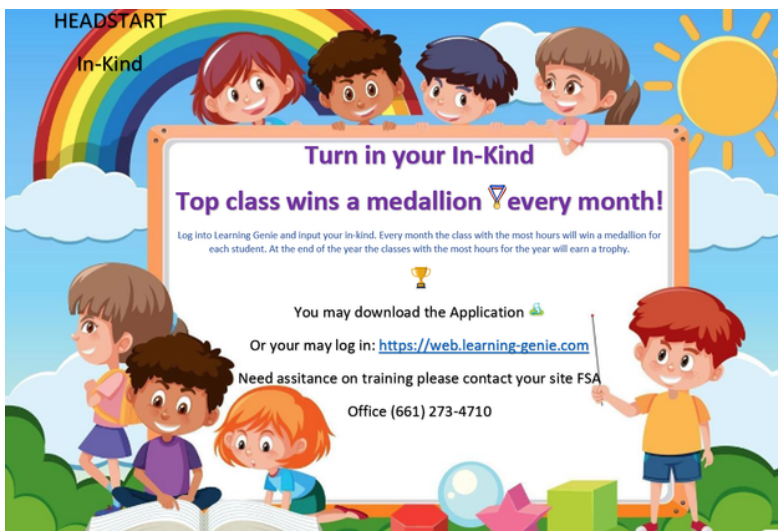
Palmdale School District continues to offer breakfast and lunch through the Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The cost of adult meals, snacks and paper supplies are reflected in the food and meal supplies.

Palmdale School District Early Childhood Education NFM Goal



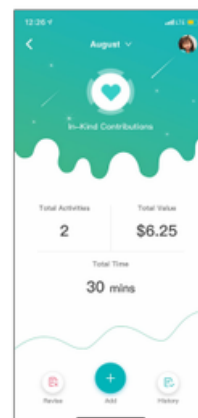
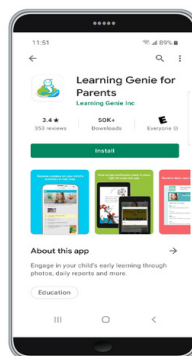
- Our goal for 2023 is to collect close to \$3.5 million in Non Federal Match (NFM)
- We need to average \$291,000 per month.
- We are currently at 6% of our goal.

Non-Federal Match Parent Volunteer & Activity Submissions



We are launching a reward program to encourage parents and children to log in their in kind hours in Learning Genie. We are increasing support for parents and sending constant reminders to boost NFM numbers.

Parents and Families Can Submit Tutorials for In-Kind right from their phone or iPad with the Learning Genie App. **This includes Parent Meetings!**



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

CHRIS BURTON & LISA FOWLER

Incorporating Social-Emotional Development

With the support of our Mental Health/Disabilities Specialist, teachers have been incorporating mindfulness activities and daily check-ins with the students to increase social-emotional development. By incorporating these soothing activities and lessons, students are able to regulate their attention, emotions, and behavior, and to form positive relationships. Activities such as yoga, daily check-ins, breathing exercises, and discussions, students are becoming more aware of their emotions and feelings and able to self-regulate as necessary.



Student Engagement

As the Administrators observe classroom instruction and interactions, we are looking for student engagement and student learning. Below are pictures depicting student learning and student engagement.



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

CHRIS BURTON & LISA FOWLER

Licensing Visits

We are proud to announce as Community Care Licensing (CCL) Analysts make unannounced visits to our ECE sites there have been no violations or findings.

Staff Recruitment and Interviews

Assistant Administrators met, virtually, with several representatives from the Antelope Valley Americas Job Center of California to discuss our hiring needs and possibly having a staff recruitment in April at their facility to recruit potential candidates. ECE currently has many available positions for Teacher Assistants and Sub Teacher Assistants. Please log onto the PSD website to apply (www.palmdalesd.org)

In March, Assistant Administrators interviewed for the position of Teacher Assistants. We are happy to report that several candidates were recommended for hire to fill a few of the opening positions.

"To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and a free mind."
~ Pearl S. Buck



Human Resources Review

Assistant. Administrators and the Director met with the PSD Human Resource Department, the PSD Personnel Commission, and the CCRC CQI Monitor to review 10 random ECE employees' personnel files. The CQI Monitors utilized a tool to respond to questions such as immunization record, updated CPR/First Aid certification, Child Abuse Mandated Reporter training completed, criminal background completed before hire date, references were verified, and that their education meets their job criteria.

New Play Structure

Several of our sites received new play structures and are now ready to be used. Our staff and students have been waiting for this day and are very excited that the time has come to open the entire playground.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

The Office of Head Start Has a New Director

Welcome Khari Garvin, the New OHS Director

We're so excited to share that Khari Garvin starts today as the director of the Office of Head Start (OHS). He brings to this position 20 years of national, state, and local experience designing and leading systems serving children and families in low-income communities.

Mr. Garvin has modeled service at every level of Head Start programming. He served as a program manager in Illinois, an assistant director in North Carolina, and is a proud alumnus of the National Head Start Fellowships program, where he previously worked at OHS. Mr. Garvin was also the executive director for a large, multi-state Head Start grant recipient serving children in rural communities across five states in the Southern, Southeastern, Midwestern, and Great Plains regions of the U.S. As the director of North Carolina's Head Start Collaboration Office, Mr. Garvin convened 55 affiliate grant recipient organizations that served over 28,000 children and families in all 100 counties.



Before joining the Biden-Harris administration, Mr. Garvin served as the president and CEO of the United Way of Greater Greensboro in North Carolina, leading the mission to end generational poverty in the Greensboro metro area.

We're looking forward to Mr. Garvin's capable leadership! We know he will help us to ensure a thriving future for the Head Start program and our children, families, and communities.

Read about Mr. Garvin and other Administration for Children and Families leaders at <https://acf.hhs.gov/about/leadership>

or Scan the QR Code with your phone.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

Preparing for the 2023-2024 School Year

Our Management Team is currently working to plan professional development for for all service areas as we prepare for the 2023-2024 school year. We will be providing training to the Family Service Advocates on updates to eligibility and enrollment processes, updating our Policies and Procedures, removing COVID protocols, providing professional development to our Early Head Start Home-based Teachers and preparing for our pre-service training. We will also be offering CPR classes to parents over the summer! We are excited for the new school year ahead!

Non-Federal Match Reminder

On January 1, 2023, our Non-Federal Match count re-starts. Please be sure to log all activities in the Learning Genie app each week.



If you need assistance getting set up on the Learning Genie app, please contact your assigned Family Service Advocate.

Help us meet our Non-Federal Match Goal each month by logging your volunteer hours and at-home tutorials.

ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

How Head Start Can Help You Access Utilities Assistance

You may have trouble paying for utilities — such as heating, cooling, your cell phone, and internet service — during emergencies and natural disasters. Head Start and Early Head Start family services staff and home visitors can partner with you to:

- Access energy assistance
- Access cell phone and internet service assistance
- Track your progress and celebrate your successes

Scan the QR Code
to go to the
LIHEAP Website



Access Energy Assistance

You may struggle to pay your electric, gas, heating oil, and water bills during an emergency or natural disaster.


- **Contact the utility company.** As a general rule, the best thing to do when you can't pay your bills is to call the utility company and open up a line of communication.
 - You can call and explain your situation and see what kind of arrangements can be made with the utility.
 - Remember to keep a written record that you called and explained your hardship. Write down the day and time of your call, as well as the name of the customer service representative you spoke with.
 - You can also check with your local government to see if a state of emergency has been declared for your community. If so, service shutoffs may be temporarily suspended.
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).** LIHEAP funding was approved to help families with their home energy needs.
 - You can contact your state's or tribe's Low-Income Energy Office to determine your eligibility and apply for energy assistance. Visit the [LIHEAP website](#) to learn more.
- **National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR).** If you need help finding your local Low-Income Energy Office, call the National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) service toll-free at 866-674-6327 or TTY 866-367-6228.
 - You can also visit the [NEAR website](#) or email energyassistance@ncat.org. Remember to include your city, county, a state in your email message.
 - NEAR is a free service for people who want information on how to apply for LIHEAP. This program may pay part of the energy bills of eligible families with low incomes.
- **Ineligible for LIHEAP.** If your income is too high to qualify for LIHEAP but you need help paying for energy bills, a local social services agency or nonprofit organization may have funds to help. Ask your family services staff or home visitor help you find local agencies that can help.
 - You can also contact your gas, oil, or electric company to ask about budget billing programs or new payment options especially for customers with disabilities who are on Supplemental Security Income (SSI).




ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

Access Phone and Internet Service Assistance

Cell phones, landline phones, and internet access are critical services during emergencies and natural disasters. You need them to communicate with others and access information when face-to-face interactions are limited.

- **Contact your service provider.** If you are worried about paying your bill, reach out to your landline phone, cell phone, or internet service company.
 - Ask what kind of arrangements they can make to help you, such as setting up a payment plan.
 - Also ask if the company has decided to waive late fees or suspensions of service during the emergency.
- **Access financial assistance.** If you do not have access to the internet or need help paying for landline phone or cell phone service, your family services staff or home visitor can connect you to [Lifeline](#) . It is a federal program that helps make communications services more affordable. Lifeline gives subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and internet services purchased from participating companies.
- **Access computers at your Head Start program.** Ask program staff if families can use computers and internet access at your program's location during the emergency.

The Affordable Connectivity Program

The [Affordable Connectivity Program](#)  replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program on Dec. 31, 2021. Households enrolled in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program as of that date will continue to receive their current monthly benefit during a 60-day transition period.

Under the new program, if your household is eligible, you can receive:

- Up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service
- Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES INFORMATION



DPSS is committed to keeping the public informed about essential benefits, as well as resources offered by other service organizations in the county. Please help us to share this important information with those in your community who need it most.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CHILD SUPPORT
SERVICES**

**Choose what works
best for YOU:**

**In-person
or Virtual
Interviews!**

Visit our website at cssd.lacounty.gov and click on "appointments" to schedule your in-person or virtual interview!

**CONTACT US
OUR LOCATIONS**

**CONTACT US
OUR LOCATIONS**

(866) 901-3212 **cssd.lacounty.gov**

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES OFFERING VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON APPOINTMENTS

The L.A. County Department of Child Support Services now offers both virtual and in-person appointments. Visit [Child Support Services – Los Angeles County \(lacounty.gov\)](http://Child Support Services – Los Angeles County (lacounty.gov)) and click on "appointments" at the top to select your office location and schedule an in-person or a virtual interview. For more information, call (866) 901-3212 or Live Chat at [Child Support Services – Los Angeles County \(lacounty.gov\)](http://Child Support Services – Los Angeles County (lacounty.gov)).

**THE
METROLINK
LOW-INCOME
FARE DISCOUNT
PROGRAM**

Our new low-income fare discount program offers a 50% discount on ANY Metrolink ticket or pass for riders with a valid California Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

METROLINK

Scan for more information or visit metrolinktrains.com

dpss.lacounty.gov **dpss**

METROLINK'S NEW LOW-INCOME FARE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Metrolink's new Low-Income Fare Program is available now offering Metrolink tickets for free transfers on participating transit agency services in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties. Tickets are only available for purchase from Metrolink ticket machines. Learn more at [Low-Income Fare Discount Program \(metrolinktrains.com\)](http://Low-Income Fare Discount Program (metrolinktrains.com)).

Reading is Key!

ECE is committed to ensuring our students complete our program ready for success in elementary school and beyond! Research shows that "simple access to books is one of the biggest obstacles—and perhaps the biggest opportunity—in equalizing children's literacy. The number of books in a child's home has been shown to be the best predictor of his or her scores on reading exams," (Bridges; Children's Literacy Foundation). In an effort to assist families in increasing the number of books children can access in the home, our program is providing books for children and families. There are many educational benefits to reading with your child at a young age. Here are a few of the key reasons:

Books create warm emotional bonds between adults and kids when they read books together.

Books help kids develop basic language skills and profoundly expand their vocabularies—much more than any other media.

Books are interactive; they demand that kids think. Fiction and nonfiction books widen our consciousness. They give us new ways to think and new ideas. They expand our universe beyond time and place and inspire our own original thoughts.

Books develop critical thinking skills. A book is read by an individual. It has no laugh track or musical score that emotionally primes a reader's reaction. You alone decide what you think about a book and its contents with no one leaning over your shoulder telling you how to think.

Books develop and nourish kids' imaginations, expanding their worlds. Picture books introduce young children to the world of art and literature. Novels and nonfiction books stimulate kids' sensory awareness, helping kids to see, hear, taste, feel, and smell on an imagined level. Books inform our imaginations, inspiring creativity.

Books provide the opportunity to share cultural experiences. When kids read the same book, enjoying a common reading experience, peer bonds are built within a generation. When children, parents, and grandparents share classic books, extended familial and community bonds are formed creating a shared frame of reference.

BOOKS INSPIRE US TO DREAM.

BOOKS GIVE US THE TOOLS TO ACHIEVE OUR DREAMS.



Link to full article, ["Why Do Kids Need Books?"](#)

References

Why Do Kids Need Books? - The National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance (2022)

Bridges, Lois. "Access to Books." *Make Every Student Count: How Collaboration Among Families, Schools, and Communities Ensures Student Success*. Scholastic.com. Scholastic, 2013, pp. 49-67.

Children's Literacy Foundation. "Research." Clifonline.org. Children's Literacy Foundation, 2016.

Palmdale School District Information

TUNE IN to the Palmdale Promise Radio Show

Listen to KUTY 1470 AM or 96.9 FM, Monday through Friday from 6:30-7:30 a.m. to hear helpful information about the Palmdale School District's many departments, programs, and schools.



We Are Hiring!

Join our team and make a difference!

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- Bilingual Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant (Spanish)
185 Days - \$15.33 - \$18.64 hourly
- Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant
185 Days - \$15.33 - \$18.64 hourly
- Substitute Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant
\$15.00 hourly
- Noon Duty/Campus Assistant
182 Days - \$15.50 hourly

Job information and application can be found at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/palmdalesd>

Helpful Resources for Families

Food and Nutrition

DYK? There are #WIC updates in the American Rescue Plan. Families who are already enrolled will see automatic adjustments. Newly eligible families can enroll through their local WIC office:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts?f%5B1%5D=program%3A32> **#InvestingWithFamilies**

Rental Assistance

The American Rescue Plan makes more funding available for people with overdue rent. Additional transitional and permanent housing will also be available for eligible families. Explore the facts:

https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/FACT_SHEET-Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Program_May2021.pdf[PDF, 169KB] **#InvestingWithFamilies**

Tax Credits

For many people, making ends meet throughout the year is tough, and saving regularly may seem unrealistic. Find tips for using some of your tax credit refunds to prepare for unforeseen expenses throughout the year: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/start-small-save-up/start-saving/how-to-use-your-tax-refund-to-build-your-emergency-funds/> **#InvestingWithFamilies**

Discover tips for using ARP tax credits to open a savings account to help you reach your long-term goals, such as owning a home. https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_your-money-your-goals_place-for-savings_tool.pdf **#InvestingWithFamilies**

Energy and Water Assistance

The ARP makes additional funds available for energy and water assistance. Find out whether these emergency assistance funds are available for your family: <https://communityactionpartnership.com/find-a-cap/?cid=fd585d5730f813ab478b1153034908e1&cid=79294566037037bc15f030fd7eaa5a9e>

#InvestingWithFamilies

Emergency Housing Vouchers

Do you need assistance with housing? Learn if your family is eligible to access housing vouchers:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts?cid=fd585d5730f813ab478b1153034908e1 **#InvestingWithFamilies**