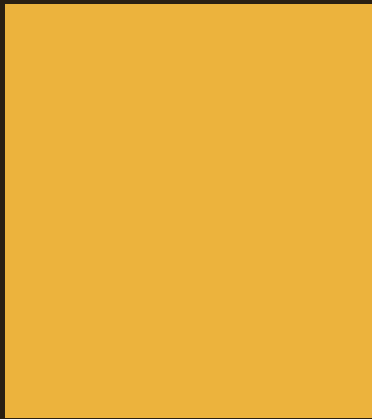




Early Childhood Education

Board Administrative Report

September 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: 995 Enrolled: **798** (80.2%)
(Report 2001)

Head Start Home-based:

Slots: 72 Enrolled: **44** (61.1%)
Total Head Start Slots: 1,067
Head Start total Enrolled: **801** (78.9%)
(Report 2001)

Early Head Start:

Slots: 108 Enrolled: **99** (91.7%)
(Report 2001)

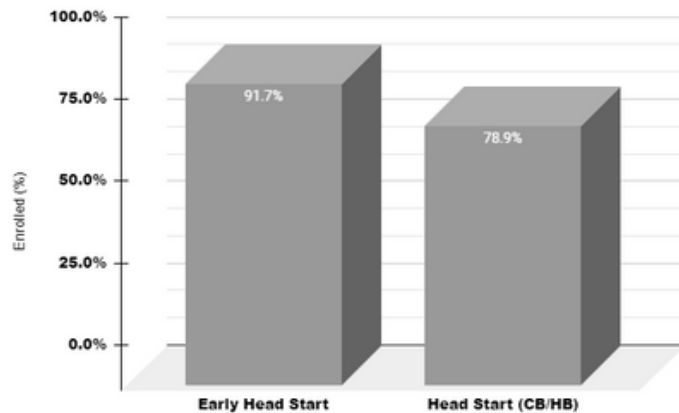
Total HS and EHS Slots: 1,175

Total HS and EHS Enrolled:

941 (80.1%)

September Enrollment Percentages

September Enrollment



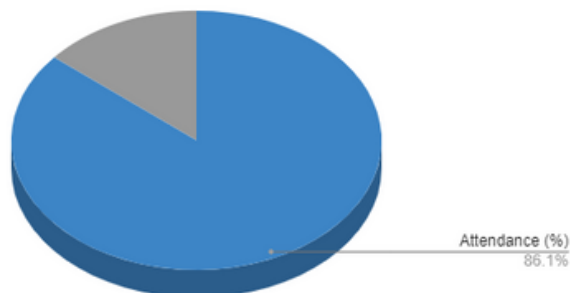
MEAL COUNTS

Program	Breakfast	AM Snack	Lunch	PM Snack
Head Start	11,384	736	10,685	10,436
Early Head Start	0	0	0	0

September Attendance - Head Start

September Attendance

Head Start



Office of Head Start attendance requirement: 85%

PSD attendance: 86.1%

(Report 2301)

ERSEA REPORT

JOE VEGA-SMITH

ERSEA Data

Attendance Percentages by Site

***Office of Head Start Attendance Requirement is 85%**

Chaparral	District Office	Avenue J	Highland	Manzanita	Mesquite	Ocotillo
87.60%	83.93%	86.85%	83.24%	87.80%	86.26%	86.70%
Palm Tree	Site 18	Tamarisk	Tierra Bonita	Tumbleweed	Wilsona	Yucca
84.09%	85.55%	81.88%	82.33%	86.30%	88.58%	87.45%
September 2023 Program Attendance Total:			85.61%			

Enrollment Breakdown by Category

0-100%	101-130%	Over-Income	Foster	Experiencing Homelessness	Public Assistance	TANF
170	58	56	50	15	494	181
21.0%	7.0%	7.0%	6.0%	2.0%	58.0%	27.0%

ERSEA Updates

Recruitment

Family Service Advocates (FSA) focused on recruiting parents to become Policy Committee representatives for their sites and to participate in the monthly Policy Committee meetings. Representatives for the Policy Committee will engage in developing and approving the program budget, newly hired staff, and program policies and procedures throughout the year.

FSAs continued to recruit and enroll for all program options: Head Start Center-based, Head Start Home-based, Early Head Start Home-based, California State Preschool, Wrap-around program for Head Start and California State Preschool.

PSD-ECE will continue recruiting by participating in community organized events during the weekend and throughout the month to increase enrollments. In addition, Family Service Advocates are monitoring children dropping from the program and replacing those spots within 19 days (California State preschool) or 30 days (Head Start) according to the guidelines for each program.

Policies & Procedures and Selection Criteria

ERSEA policy and procedures were updated in the month of September. The ERSEA area is moving forward with beginning the Selection Criteria focus meeting for program year 2024-2025. The Selection Criteria focus group will review 2023-2024 trends, challenges, changes in the community, TK enrollments, high risk children and families and other variables. The goal is to have a current and accurate Selection Criteria that will enhance the process of families enrolling in the program.

MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES REPORT

AMY WILLEY

Mental Health & Disabilities Data

IEPs and IFSPs



Total for September: 76

IEP & IFSP Percentage Total: 7.9%

Office of Head Start disabilities requirement: 10%

Referrals

of Disabilities Referrals Submitted this Month: 14

of Concerns based ASQ/ASQ-SE Head Start: 183

Early Head Start: 15

Mental Health Referrals Submitted: 3

Mental Health & Disabilities Updates

The Mental Health and Disabilities area supported the Health Team with the Mommy Social for EHS families held in September. Participants were provided with mindful art packets that included markers, crayons, water colors, paint, paper, color mixing chart, an art canvas and a mindful coloring book. Families had the opportunity to create art and socialize with other EHS families. Support materials for sleep and self-regulation were also available for families to promote their child's social-emotional development in the home environment. (Goal 3)



EDUCATION REPORT

ELIZABETH MORA

Education Data

In-Kind - Parent Engagement Updates

For the month of September, we only received In-Kind submissions for 530 children in our program out of 937 children enrolled. We need to increase this number to make progress towards our annual In-Kind goal.

We will continue to look for ways to increase In-Kind submissions from parents in the upcoming months.

Classes	Children ⓘ
65	530

Education Updates

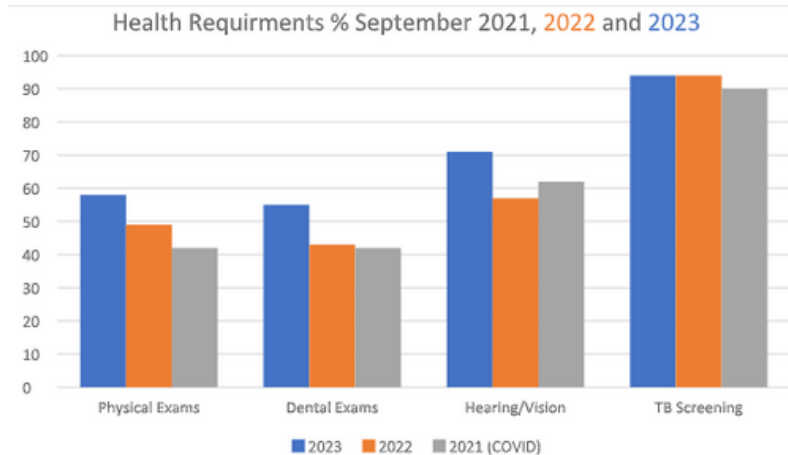
September was a busy month. Teachers had their first Home Visit with families. At the Home Visit, teachers familiarize the families with the Early Childhood Education program. They review the classroom expectations, the Parent Handbook and go over the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQs). The ASQ is a questionnaire that families are given so they can rate their child's development based on research-based questions. This helps teachers have an idea of the children's strengths and areas of need. Based on these results, teachers can individualize the children's learning, make recommendations for families to support children at home and also discover a need for a referral to Disabilities and/or Mental Health or any other component within our program or, if needed, a community resource.

The purpose of the Home Visit, aside from completing the ASQs, is to see each child in their home environment and see the interactions of the family with the child in their home. Teachers also learn about the families, interests, beliefs and customs. This helps teachers address diversity in a respectful and authentic manner to embrace the differences in their unique classrooms.

HEALTH REPORT

VICTORIA ERMILIO, MSN, RN, CSN

Health Data



Medical Administration

Palmdale School District Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program recognizes the importance of building strong and healthy communities. We are proudly supporting new and pregnant mothers by providing them a monthly opportunity to meet and socialize with other women who are experiencing similar parenting experiences. ECE offers childcare and transportation so that all moms may have the opportunity to attend. In addition to socialization, the health team offers education and community resources. The September socialization included a CPR/First Aid class and lunch. We had a total of 25 participants.

During socialization, we invite our moms to shop from our FREE ECE boutique. The boutique offers free a variety of free items such as, diapers, baby wipes, new infant clothing, bibs and formula. We also raffle off larger items like strollers and car seats.



FAMILY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & PROGRAM GOVERNANCE REPORT

PAULINA PANDURO

Program Governance

The first Policy Committee meeting was held with the newly elected representatives for the 2023-2024 school year. The Executive Meeting took place on September 21st and three parents along with staff were present to review the Policy Committee agenda. The Policy Committee meeting was held virtually Wednesday, September 27th. A total of twelve members were present, eight (8) members were voting. There were no recommendations or action items to approve.

Elections took place for the three Sub-Committees: The Executive Committee, Representatives to the Superintendent's Advisory Council, and Representatives to the Policy Council for CCRC.

1. Executive Committee–

- a. Chairperson – E. Diaz (12 votes)
- b. Vice Chairperson- L. Leija (12 votes)
- c. Secretary – C. Pinto (12 votes)
- d. Treasurer- L. Mitchell (12 votes)
- e. Sergeant at Arms – S. Alejandre (12 votes)

2. Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council –

- a. Y. Cruz (12 votes)

3. CCRC Policy Council–

- a. C. Gomez, L. Mitchell (12 votes)
- b. S. Alejandre (12 votes)

Parent Meetings

The first Parent Meeting at each school site took place the first two weeks of September. Parents were sent flyers in advance about the various positions for the site committees. The positions included Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Policy Committee Representative and Alternate. Fifteen Parent Meetings took place. Sixteen Parent Representatives and Alternates were elected and seventeen Parent Officers were elected. One hundred and fifty-two parents were present at the various parent meetings for the month of September.

(Goal 3)

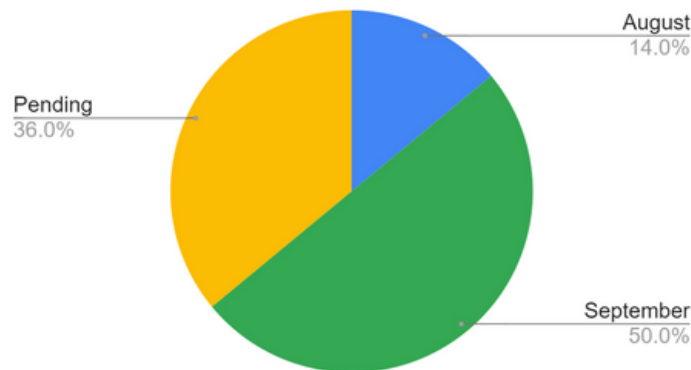


NUTRITION

LILLIE BIGLER, MS, RDN

Nutrition Data

Meal Observations for 23-24 August to October



Safe and Nutritious Meals

The Nutrition Department works continuously to ensure children receive safe and nutritious meals. By the end of September, the Nutrition Department had completed 64% of the first round of CACFP Meal Observations for the 2023-2024 school year. (Goals 1, 2, 3)

The Nutrition Department attended the virtual CACFP Head Start Boot Camp conference, which included a comprehensive range of topics tailored to the unique needs of Head Start programs, such as understanding meal modifications and family style dining.



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



Welcoming all Antelope Valley residents
in need of food assistance to attend our
FREE client choice distribution.

2023 AVPH Food Pantry

EVERY 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY
8AM - 11AM
first come, first serve

*With the exception of November and December

July 14 and 28	October 13 and 27
August 11 and 25	*November 3 and 17
September 8 and 22	*December 8 and 15

**44226 10th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534**

SCAN
HERE



EMERGENCY HOT MEALS
1ST AND 3RD FRIDAYS, 10AM - 12PM
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE

For more information or to arrange donations, please contact
Ashley Orellana at (661) 942-4719 ext. 222 or aorellana@avph.org
or Jacqueline Johnson at (661) 942-4719 ext. 226 or jjohnson@avph.org

Don't forget
your reusable
bags!



Funded by USDA SNAP, an equal opportunity
provider and employer. Visit
www.CalFreshHealthyLiving.org for healthy tips.

Damos la bienvenida a los vecinos del Valle del Antílope que necesiten ayuda a la distribución GRATIS de alimentos de su elección (usted escoge lo que necesita).

2023 AVPH Food Pantry

Cada 2^o y 4^o Viernes del mes

8AM - 11AM

Se atiende en orden de llegada

*Con la excepción de Noviembre y Diciembre

14 y 28 de Julio

13 y 27 de Octubre

11 y 25 de Agosto

3 y 17 de Noviembre*

8 y 22 de Septiembre

8 y 15 de Diciembre*

44226 10th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534

ESCANEA
AQUI



COMIDA CALIENTE DE EMERGENCIA
CADA 1^o Y 3^o VIERNES, 10AM - 12PM
SE SIRVE EN ORDEN DE LLEGADA

¡No olvide sus
bolsas
reciclables!



Para mas información o para organizar donaciones por favor contacte
Ashley Orellana al (661) 942-4719 ext. 222 o aorellana@avph.org
o Jacqueline Johnson al (661) 942-4719 ext. 226 o jjohnson@avph.org



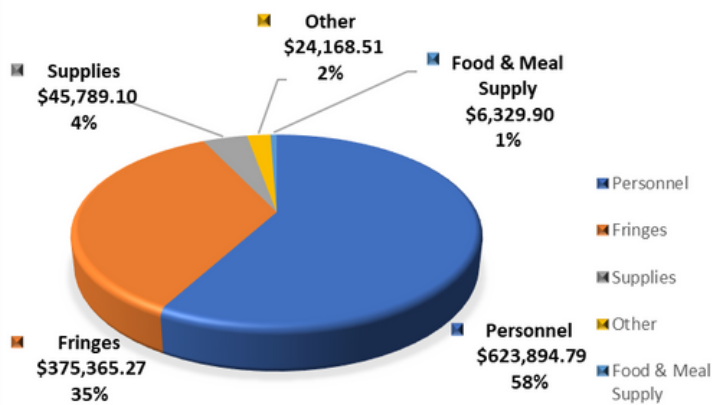
Financiado por SNAP del USDA, un proveedor y empleador que ofrece oportunidades equitativas. Para consejos saludables, visite www.CalFreshHealthyLiving.org.

FISCAL REPORT

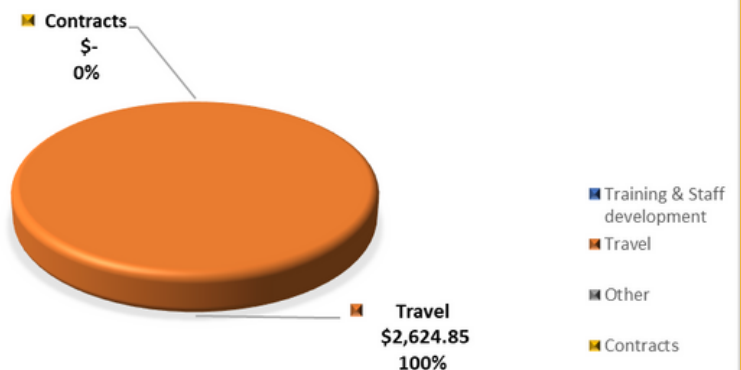
M. CARMEN SERRANO

Expenditures for Head Start, Head Start Training & Technical Assistance, Early Head Start, Early Head Start Technical & Training Assistance Programs

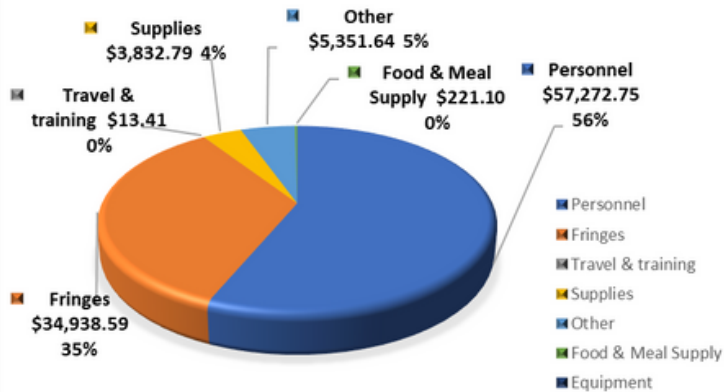
SEP 2023 HS B EXPENDITURES



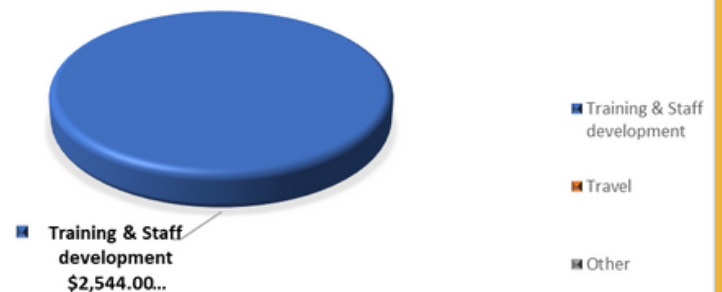
SEP 2023 HS T&TA EXPENDITURES



SEP2023 EHS B EXPENDITURES



SEP 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 Supply costs.

Palmdale School District Early Childhood Education NFM Goal



In-Kind 2023 Goal:

\$3.5 million

Current Amount Collected:

\$894,151.02

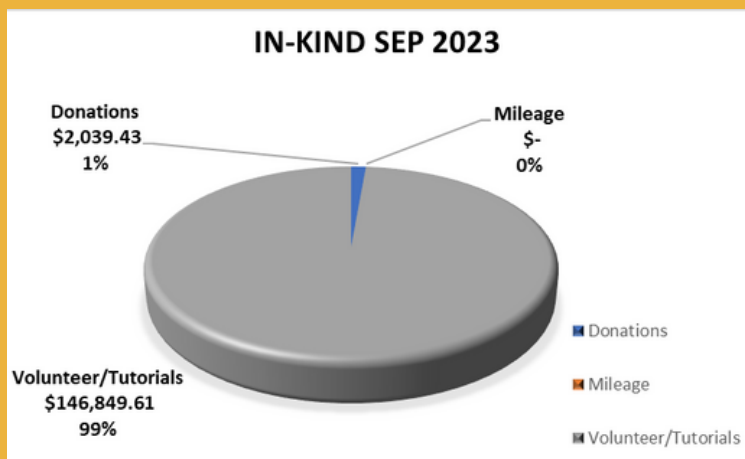
In-Kind Needed per month:

\$291,000

Progress Towards Goal:

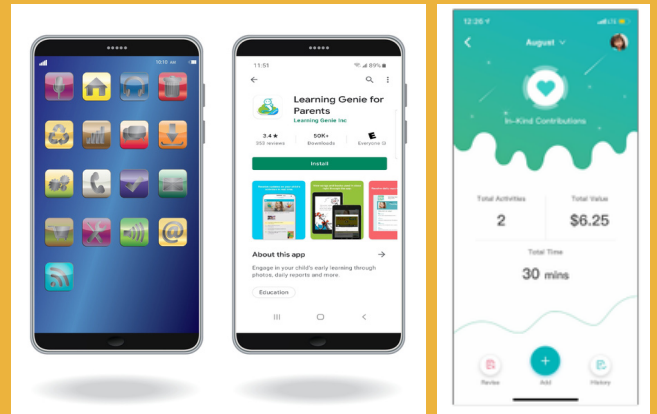
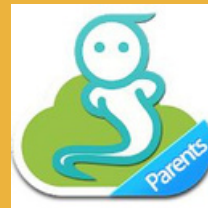
26%

In-Kind Parent Volunteer & Activity Submissions



Parents and Families can submit tutorials for In-Kind right from their phone or tablet with the Learning Genie App.

This includes Parent Meetings!



HEADSTART In-Kind

Turn in your In-Kind

Top class wins a medallion every month!

Log into Learning Genie and input your in-kind. Every month the class with the most hours will win a medallion for each student. At the end of the year the classes with the most hours for the year will earn a trophy.

You may download the Application

Or you may log in: <https://web.learning-genie.com>

Need assistance on training please contact your site FSA

Office (661) 273-4710

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 In-Kind submission.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

CHRIS BURTON & LISA FOWLER

Care and Supervision: (1302.47 Safety Practices)

Safety, compliance, and Care and Supervision is very critical in our program. As we regularly visit the sites, we are constantly checking on the safety in our classrooms and outside playgrounds. We observe instruction to ensure quality teaching is taking place and students are learning, we check to ensure the classroom is in ratio, and the environment is safe inside and outside the classroom. In addition, we attend the Socializations with the Home-Based program to ensure quality interaction is taking place.

Safety prevention is a big focus in our program, unfortunately though, accidents do happen. The Supervisors work with the Health Team to support teachers in submitting accurate Incident Reports for any head or serious injury requiring medical attention. Supervisors keep track of any trends or patterns that need immediate attention. Support is provided to the staff to diminish any potential injuries or hazards inside and outside the classroom.



Unusual Incident Reporting

Unusual Incident Reporting is when something unusual happens such as a child having to seek professional medical attention, closing a class due to staff shortage, no access to water, broken toilets, or no electricity, for example. Unusual Incident Reports are sent to our Grantee and Community Care Licensing within 24 hours.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

CHRIS BURTON & LISA FOWLER

Informal Visits

As we conduct our weekly visits to check on overall safety of the site, ratios, quality instruction, and fidelity to the curriculum, we have observed superb activities in action. Teachers incorporate technology, music, hands-on application, high-level interaction, and STEAM activities to align with the Creative Curriculum studies. Below are several examples of student learning in the various programs that we provide.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

Federal Funding and the Head Start Program

At the end of September, the United States came close to a government shutdown, which would have impacted funding for federal programs. The Head Start program is one of the federally funded programs that is dependent on federal funding approved through the United States Congress. Our current 2023 contract is funded through December 2023, which is when our current grant ends.

We hope Congress will be able to pass a budget prior to the end of the 2023 year to fund our new grant cycle, which begins in January 2024. Our program is working on our budget to set aside funds to ensure we are able to operate in January 2024, whether or not the federal budget has been approved. This will be achieved by postponing some classroom flooring replacement projects and postponing payment of indirect funds to the school district until the new budget is approved. We will provide updates as they are available.

Learning Genie - Volunteer Hours

This is a friendly reminder to enter your hours in the Learning Genie app for any time spent:

- Attending site parent meetings and Policy Committee meetings
- Attending parent workshops
- Getting the meal cart for the classroom
- Reading a book with your child (talk about their favorite part of the book, the characters, guess what will happen next, etc.)
- Teaching your child how to do personal care routines (i.e. properly brushing teeth, washing their face, potty training, brushing/combining hair, washing hands, getting dressed, etc.)
- Taking a walk and talking about the colors of the cars you pass or the colors of the leaves on the trees
- Talking about safety when out on a walk, at the park, in the store

These are just a few examples of activities that can count towards Non-Federal Match hours.

We only have three more months before we start a new cycle, so please be sure to enter your time!

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS!

Maximum hours per week is now 28 hours. That is an average of 4 hours per day.



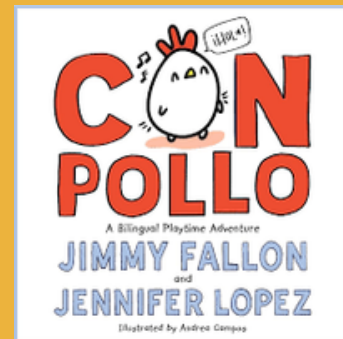
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

In-Kind Activity

Book of the Month: September

Our first book to share with families this year is Con Pollo written by Jimmy Fallon and Jennifer Lopez. This book has a very cute chick that goes through a variety of activities. The book translates these activities to Spanish creating a fun Spanglish experience and a nice introduction to basic Spanish vocabulary for all children. Our Education Team created puzzle cards for parents to cut out for **In-Kind** and to utilize with their children to reinforce the dual language vocabulary.

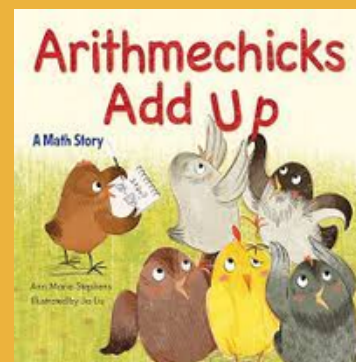


Scan the QR Code
for the YouTube
Read Aloud of the
story.



Book of the Month: October

This month we are sending a Math focused book called Arithmechicks Add Up by Ann Marie Stephens Illustrated by Jia Liu. This is a very cute story about baby chicks that go to the park and solve math problems at the park. The Education Team has created a game board for children to count up to 10 using one to one correspondence. This game board gives parents an opportunity to gain some in-kind as they prepare the pieces for the children to use.



Scan the QR Code
for the YouTube
Read Aloud of the
story.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

ALL SUPERHEROES NEED FLU AND COVID-19 VACCINES!



***TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT GETTING FLU AND
COVID-19 VACCINES!***

California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch



IMM-1443 (7/23)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 Testing – What You Need to Know

When should you test?

If you feel sick and have symptoms of COVID-19

- Test right away. If your first test is negative, test again 1-2 days later.

After exposure

- Even if you don't feel sick, test after exposure and again 3-5 days after last exposure.

Before visiting those at high risk

- Test just before visiting individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness (older adults or people with weakened immunity).

When traveling

- Follow CDC travel recommendations.



Positive test?

- **Stay home.** Let your work or school know, follow their guidance and COVID-19 isolation recommendations to prevent spreading the virus to others.
- **Ages 12 or older?** Get FREE medications for COVID-19 that are safe and highly effective at preventing serious illness, when taken within 5-7 days of symptom onset.

Negative test but still have COVID-19 symptoms?

- **Wear a mask.** Check with your work or school for further guidance.
- Test again in 1-2 days.

Need more tests?

- You may be able to get FREE tests with medical insurance at your local drugstore (in-store or online).
- Purchase from your local drugstore or pharmacy (in-store or online).
- **Expiration Update:** Most at-home tests have FDA extensions and can be used longer than the dates printed on the boxes.

Where else to test?

- Visit MyTurn, or for those without health insurance, find a no-cost testing site online or call (833) 422-4255 or 211.



Scan the QR code to see
interactive links on this flyer



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

COVID-19 Updates

Pruebas de COVID-19 – Lo que debe saber

¿Cuándo debe hacerse una prueba?

Si se siente enfermo y tiene síntomas de COVID-19

- Hágase una prueba de inmediato. Si la primera vez el resultado es negativo, hágase la prueba nuevamente uno o dos días después.

Después de haber estado expuesto

- Incluso si no se siente enfermo, hágase una prueba cuando sepa sobre la exposición y de tres a cinco días después de la última exposición.

Después de viajar

- Si utilizó transporte público o estuvo en espacios con muchas personas, es posible que haya estado expuesto. Hágase una prueba de tres a cinco días después de regresar.

Reuniones grandes

- Hágase una prueba antes de asistir a reuniones grandes en espacios cerrados o visitar a personas con riesgo alto de contraer enfermedades graves (adultos mayores o personas con baja inmunidad). Considere hacerse una prueba de tres a cinco días luego de la reunión o evento.



¿La prueba dio positivo?

- **Quédese en casa.** Informe a su trabajo o a su escuela, siga sus indicaciones y recomendaciones de aislamiento por COVID-19 para prevenir la propagación del virus a otras personas.
- **¿Es mayor de 12 años?** Obtenga medicamentos GRATUITOS para la COVID-19, los cuales son seguros y altamente eficaces en la prevención de enfermedades graves si se toman dentro de los cinco a siete días del comienzo de los síntomas.

¿La prueba dio negativo, pero tiene síntomas de COVID-19?

- **Use mascarilla.** Consulte en su trabajo o escuela para obtener más indicaciones.
- Hágase una prueba nuevamente en uno o dos días.

¿Necesita hacerse más pruebas?

- Puede obtener pruebas GRATUITAS con su seguro médico en su farmacia local (en tienda o en línea).
- Compre en su farmacia local (en tienda o en línea).
- **Aviso sobre el vencimiento:** La mayoría de las pruebas hogareñas tienen extensiones de la FDA y pueden utilizarse por un periodo de tiempo más largo del que figura en la caja.

¿Dónde más se puede realizar la prueba?

- Visite MyTurn o, si no tiene seguro de salud, localice un sitio de pruebas sin cargo en línea o llame al (833) 422-4255 o 211.



Escanee el código QR para ver los enlaces interactivos de este folleto



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

Utility Bill Assistance



LIHEAP
CLEARINGHOUSE

Keywords



[HOME](#) [STATE PROGRAMS](#) [TRIBAL PROGRAMS](#) [WHO WE ARE](#) [CONTACTS](#) [DISCONNECT POLICIES](#) [STATE SNAPSHOTS](#)

Need Help With Your Energy Bills?

[Leer en Español](#) | [查看简体中文版](#) | [查看繁體中文版](#)

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs.

Find Assistance:

CALL

Energy Assistance Hotline



Call toll-free 24/7:

1866-674-6327

Representatives are available
Weekdays from 9:00am - 7:00pm (ET)

EMAIL

Energy Assistance Hotline



E-mail:

energyassistance@ncat.org

Include your city, county, and state

SEARCH

LIHEAP Office Search Tool



Search by:

**State
Territory
Tribe**

Maravilla Foundation

5729 E. Union Pacific Ave.
Commerce, CA 90022

This provider offers energy bill assistance and weatherization services to low-income Californians in your area.

Contact Info

Phone: (323) 721-4162

Toll-free: (800) 906-4651

Weatherization Services: (323) 869-4600, (323) 869-4623

Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website: <http://www.maravilla.org/Services/Utility-Assistance>

Additional Office Location

Lancaster Office

43460 Sahuayo Street, Lancaster, CA 93535

By appointment only

LIHEAP Services:

Depending on where you live, you could get help with:

Energy Bill Assistance



Help with paying for home energy bills including electricity, natural gas, propane, fuel oil, or wood.

Weatherization Support



Make your house more energy-efficient to reduce costs.

Crisis Assistance



Priority assistance for households without (or in danger of being without) heating or cooling.

Equipment Repair & Replacement



Assistance fixing your heating and cooling equipment.

Energy Education



Provides resources and strategies to assist in managing home energy usage and bills.

Disaster Assistance



Support during or after a natural disaster.

How to Apply for Services:

- Disconnection Notice: Pick up an application during office hours at their walk-in site
- Call to request an application
- For zip codes: 93243, 93510, 93532-93591, call toll free (800) 906-4651

Documents Required for Energy Services:

Documents required to apply for energy services include current income documents for your household and the most recent utility bill. Additional documentation may be required during the application process. Please contact the service provider for more information.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DR. MELANIE CULVER

Assistance Information 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, and 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 to 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).




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Assistance Information 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.



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Resources from the Department of Public Social Services



**ESSENTIAL
DPSS**

**HOPE is Just One Phone Call Away
(866) 613-3777**

dpss
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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.



**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)).



**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!

(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)).

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

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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.

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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!

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>