This report, required by the Oregon legislature, describes the state's Head Start prekindergarten program and the program's achievements during the 2001-2003 period. The report delineates the federal and state funding for the program during this period, and the number of programs, classrooms, and children served, noting that 61 percent of all eligible children are served, a considerable increase from the 5 percent served in 1988. A pie chart depicts the average cost per child/family for child health services, family services, and child services. The report also summarizes information on risk characteristics of many of the children and families served, emphasizing that Head Start prekindergarten family income eligibility levels are lower than the federal eligibility level for free/reduced lunch in public schools and that more than two-thirds of Head Start prekindergarten families are employed, participate in training programs, or attend school. Information is then presented on the following characteristics of Head Start children/families in Oregon: (1) ethnicity; (2) children's dominant language; (3) child health screening results; and (4) child disabilities incidence. Findings of the 2002 Oregon Kindergarten Readiness Survey are presented to illustrate how well the Head Start prekindergarten is meeting its goal of preparing children to enter kindergarten comparable to their peers. Findings from the national Family and Child Experiences Survey are then presented to show Head Start's effectiveness in improving disadvantaged children's literacy and social skills. The report concludes by outlining a long-range plan for the Oregon Head Start prekindergarten program, noting that the state's current budget shortfall does not allow for state expansion in 2003-2005, and identifying possible program economies while maintaining program quality. A map showing the locations of the state and federally funded Head Start prekindergarten programs in Oregon completes the report. (KB)
Oregon Head Start
Prekindergarten

INVESTING
in
OREGON'S
FUTURE

Report to
Oregon's
Seventy-Second
Legislative
Assembly

ORS 329.165

Oregon Department of Education
Department of Community Colleges
And Workforce Development
Fifteen years ago, Oregon made a promise to its most vulnerable low-income children. The promise was to support their families with quality comprehensive services in education, child health, parent involvement, disabilities, community partnerships to prepare these children for school and give them a head start in breaking the cycle of poverty.

More than **EIGHTY THOUSAND** children have benefited. In 1988, **5%** of Oregon’s eligible 3-4 year olds were served. In **2001-03**, we are serving **61%**. There are approximately **6,212** eligible children still unserved. Our investment is critical to Oregon’s future.
OREGON HEAD START PREKINDERGARTEN

Two Funding Streams – One Program

OREGON

2001-2003
$55,244,351 (after reductions)

7,546 Children (42%)

FEDERAL

2001-2003
$93,079,788

10,454 Children (58%)

OREGON HEAD START PREKINDERGARTEN

2001-2003
Total $148,324,139

31 Programs
36 Counties
594 Classrooms
18,000 Children in 2001-2003
61% of all eligible children are served
Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten
INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS
Based on National Head Start Component Percentages
2001-03 Oregon Average Cost per Child/Family: $7,716

*Disability Services: Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten reserves 10% of total enrollment for children with disabilities. Additional services are accessed through the Oregon Department of Education's Regional Early Childhood Special Education program on an as-needed basis. 80-85% of total funds cover personnel costs, salary, and fringe. National percentages from Pelavin Research Center, Washington, DC 8/29/00
This summary report gathers relevant information describing “risk” characteristics of many of the children and families served by the Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten programs. In addition to preschool education services for children, Oregon Head Start PreK provides health and family services where appropriate. For families with health and other issues that need professional services, referral and follow-up to community resources are made ensuring needed treatment and ongoing services are provided. Statistical data included in this summary was gathered from the 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002 Program Information Reports (PIR) provided by local Oregon Head Start PreK programs at the end of each school year.

SERVICE TO LOWEST INCOME / HIGHEST NEED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten provides comprehensive preschool education and family support services. Oregon’s lowest income, highest need 3- and 4-year old children and their families are eligible for the program.

Families having incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible. For example, in 2003 a family of four could not earn more than $18,400. In 2001, when the federal poverty level for a family of four was $18,100, 77% of Head Start families made less than $15,000 per year.

In addition to income, “family need” is assessed through a priority rating process developed by local programs. Risk factors included in this fact sheet are selected examples of rating priorities.

Families participate in the program on a voluntary basis. Parents enroll because they want their children to have high quality preschool education services that will prepare them for school. Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten programs serve 9,740 children and families and are funded with state and federal dollars. Currently there are approximately 6,212 unserved children and families who are eligible for the program. Most Oregon Head Start Prekindergartens have long waiting lists of eligible children and families.
FAMILY INCOME

Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten eligibility is lower than federal eligibility for free and reduced lunch in public schools. The family income for a child who qualifies for free lunch in public schools may be too high to qualify for enrollment in a Head Start PreKindergarten program.

Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2002:

- A family of four is eligible for Oregon Head Start PreKindergarten at an annual income of no more than $18,100.
- A family of four is eligible for free lunch at an annual income of no more than $22,945.
- A family of four is eligible for reduced lunch at an annual income of no more than $32,653.

FAMILY EMPLOYMENT

More than two-thirds of Head Start PreK families are employed part-time or full time, participate in training programs and/or attend school.
FAMILY ETHNICITY

Oregon Head Start PreKindergarten programs serve multiple ethnic populations reflective of state demographics.

### Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>1999-00</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaskan Native</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>.01%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>N/A%</td>
<td>N/A%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Children's Dominant Language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>1999-00</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Languages</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>.02%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>.01%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>.03%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Child Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1999-00</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children who completed medical screening</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children completing medical screening diagnosed as needing treatment</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children diagnosed as needing treatment who received treatment</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Medical Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing Difficulties</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision Problems</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Abuse &amp; Neglect</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (sickle cell, high lead levels, diabetes, seizure underweight, HIV/AIDS and low birth weight)</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Dental Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1999-00</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children who completed a dental exam</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children completing dental a dental exam diagnosed as needing treatment</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children diagnosed as needing treatment who received treatment</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Drugs/Alcohol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1999-00</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children prenatally exposed to drugs/alcohol</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Homeless

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1999-00</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children who are homeless</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHILD DISABILITIES

Children identified with a disability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1999-00</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-00</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commonly Diagnosed Disabilities

- Emotional/Behavioral Disorders
- Speech and Language Impairments
- Non-Categorical Developmental Delays
- Other (health impairment, mental retardation, hearing impairment including deafness, orthopedic, visual including blindness, learning disabilities, autism, traumatic brain injury, multiple disabilities including deaf/blind)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1999-00</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emotional/Behavioral Disorders</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech and Language Impairments</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Categorical Developmental Delays</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Head Start Students Score High on Three Critical Readiness Dimensions

In the 2002 Oregon Kindergarten Readiness Survey, Head Start students scored big on three major dimensions. The impact for children served in Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten is significant. Head Start’s goal of preparing children to enter kindergarten comparable to their peers is being achieved.

**PHYSICAL WELL-BEING:**
- Physically healthy, rested, and well nourished
  - 2000: 91.2% Head Start, 94.5% State
  - 2002: 97.0% Head Start, 97.8% State

**LANGUAGE USAGE:**
- Communicates needs, wants, and thoughts verbally (in child’s primary language)
  - 2000: 83.9% Head Start, 89.5% State
  - 2002: 88.5% Head Start, 91.6% State

**APPROACH TO LEARNING:**
- Enthusiastic and curious in approaching new activities
  - 2000: 90.3% Head Start, 92.4% State
  - 2002: 90.8% Head Start, 94.3% State
KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS

Head Start is one of the most successful early childhood programs in America. As our state's premier early childhood education program, Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten is helping approximately 61% of Oregon's most disadvantaged children enter school "Ready To Learn." National and state studies indicate that Head Start narrows the school readiness gap between disadvantaged children and their peers.

The Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES)

The FACES evaluation is an integral part of Head Start's system of program performance accountability. The FACES project began in the spring of 1997 and is ongoing. This study provides data indicating Head Start's success and identifies areas for improvement.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the FACES study collects data annually on a nationally representative sample of Head Start programs, classrooms, teachers, parents and children. The study examines the quality and effect of Head Start.

FACES answers the question: Does Head Start enhance children's development and school readiness?

Study results showed that Head Start:

- Narrows the gaps between disadvantaged children and all children in vocabulary and writing skills during the Head Start year;
- Improves the social skills of Head Start children; and
- Leads to continued improvements in word knowledge, letter recognition, math skills and writing skills by Head Start children relative to other children during the kindergarten year.

Areas for improvement identified in the study included:

- Letter recognition; and
- Book and print concepts

Key steps have been taken to address these areas and include an early literacy initiative as well as additional funds to support improvement in teacher credentials. These steps have as their primary outcome improving teaching, learning and assessment in the areas of language development, literacy, and numeracy (children's understanding of number concept).
STEPS TOWARD THE FUTURE
OREGON HEAD START PREKINDERGARTEN
CHILDREN ARE
READY FOR SCHOOL

RECOGNIZE letters and words

WRITE letters

SHOW familiarity with storybooks, understanding of print and comprehension of stories

COUNT and solve simple number problems

DEMONSTRATE social/emotional competence

FACES: The Family and Child Experiences Survey
National Head Start Study
Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten
Investing in Oregon’s Children

Long-Range Plan

July 2003 – June 2005

Guiding Principles:
- Maintain Quality Programs within the required Performance Standards
- Adhere to Performance Standards and income eligibility
- Maximize state and federal resources to serve the maximum number of children
- Maintain and build upon existing federal/state partnership

July 2003 – June 2005 Serve maximum number of children and maintain program Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Served by federal HS*</th>
<th>Children Served by OR HS PreK**</th>
<th>Total Served</th>
<th>Percent Served</th>
<th>Oregon Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10,454</td>
<td>6,692</td>
<td>17,146</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>$53.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Federal Head Start
**Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten

July 2003 – June 2005

Expansion Plan
Oregon’s current budget shortfall does not allow for state expansion in 2003-2005. The federal Head Start is not anticipating any expansion funds for 2003-2004. If there are additional federal dollars available for expansion in 2004-2005, Oregon will work with federal partners to secure funds for Oregon.

Next Steps: Considerations for Possible Economies While Maintaining Program Quality

Work in partnership with Region X federal office to:
- Review all program costs
- Look for ways to maximize state/federal dollars
- Review all program child/adult ratios, consider, where feasible, when there are three (3) funded staff in a classroom reducing to two (2)
- Where more than the minimum number of days required, reduce to the minimum required by Performance Standards
- Analyze job descriptions and workloads for administrative and support staff, then combine positions where possible
- Examine program delivery models to ensure efficiencies e.g. site-based vs. home-based or combination model
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