

**Investing in our Neighbors
Improving Lives
Strengthening Communities**



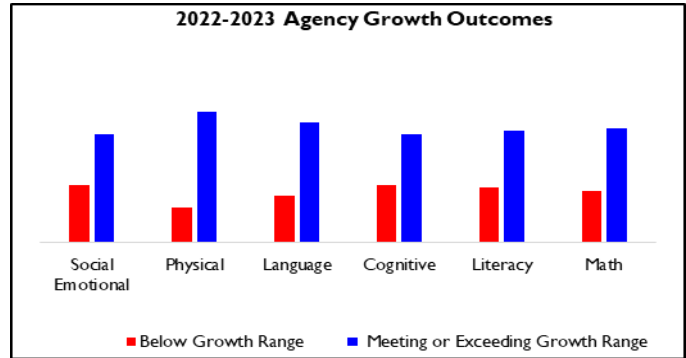
2023

SENCA HEAD START....SOARING HIGH!

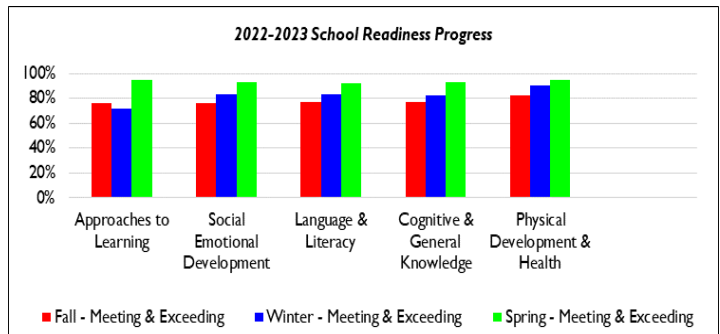
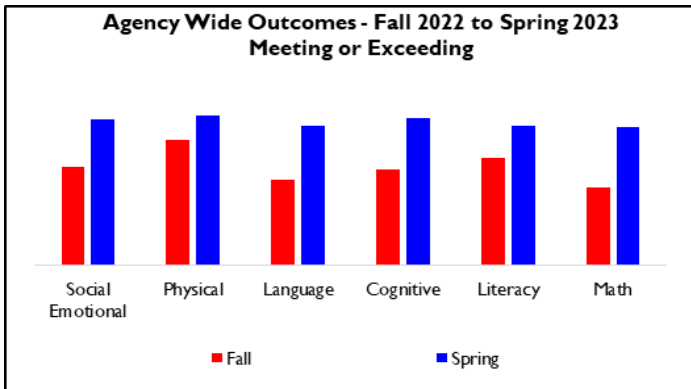
Submitted by: Angela Antholz, Head Start & Deputy Director

SENCA Head Start is a comprehensive child development program which serves children from age 3 to 5 and their families. Head Start is a child-focused program and has the overall goal of increasing school readiness of young children in low-income families. Comprehensive child development, school readiness, and family support are provided and have a direct impact on their future success.

During the 2022-2023 school year, 154 children and 135 families received comprehensive services. Nineteen percent (19%) of enrolled children received special education services. Eighty percent (80%) of enrolled families developed a partnership agreement with 97% of those families meeting their goals or needs. The number of children meeting or exceeding expectations increased across all domains from fall to spring and those same children met or exceeded the expected growth rate for their age. Across all domains 92% of children improved their skills, with the math domain seeing an increase of 133%.



SENCA Head Start has established school readiness goals to ensure services are provided that will help children be successful as they move to public school. Progress on these goals is tracked over the course of the five-year project period. The program is currently in year three and the following graph outlines progress towards these goals this past year.



For more information regarding Head Start please contact Angela Antholz, Deputy/Head Director, 402-862-2411 extension # 107 visit www.senca.org or www.facebook.com/Senca1

**Making a Difference ... Katie Gildersleeve
Head Start Family & Community Partnership Coordinator**

Katie Gildersleeve will be celebrating her 3rd Anniversary as Head Start Family & Community Partnership Coordinator on August 31, 2023. Katie joined the SENCA team when former Family & Community Partnership Coordinator, Mary Jane Gist, retired in 2020 after serving 47 years with the agency.

Katie, a life-long resident of Falls City, is married and has two children. While Katie was familiar with Head Start, both of her children participated in the program, and she served on Head Start Policy Council for a year, a full-time career within the program had never crossed her mind. When a member of the Head Start team told Katie about the job

she was focusing on a degree in psychology and employed at a local hospital in Environmental Safety.

Katie has learned a lot about Head Start and SENCA over the past three years. She has a genuine, heartfelt passion for her work commenting "If I'm not here who will help these families?"



Katie states to be successful in helping children and their families is to "stay open-minded, don't judge, and to treat families the way I want to be treated." "I love our families and our Head Start program!"

Thank you Katie for being a part of the SENCA team!