

# SIU CARBONDALE HEAD START 2024 - 2025 ANNUAL REPORT





## SIU Carbondale Head Start Mission

SIU Carbondale Head Start is a federally funded program for income eligible families with preschool children three to five years of age.

## SIU Carbondale Head Start Slogan

Educating Children, Empowering Families, Strengthening Communities

## SIU Carbondale Head Start Program Goals

Goal #1: Provide all children high quality early childhood experiences that promote school readiness for successful transition to kindergarten

Goal #2: Promote resilience within all students, families, and staff in order to increase social-emotional competencies and outcomes

Goal #3: Work collaboratively with families to identify and remove barriers to family engagement and increase opportunities for families to become fully involved in their children's developmental and educational processes

Goal #4: Work with families, staff, and local education agencies to implement practices to reduce child absenteeism to stimulate positive educational and health outcomes and better prepare children for success as they transition to kindergarten

Goal #5: Foster the growth and development of its staff through individualized, job-embedded professional development, mental health support, and daily classroom support

Goal #6: Provide center-based Early Head Start services, converting slots as funding becomes available for childcare partnerships

Goal #7: Adopt a comprehensive approach to dental health, promoting family dental hygiene practices, providing increased on-site services, and assisting families in advocating and arranging care for children in a limited dental market

## The Year In Review

SIU Carbondale Head Start is pleased to provide this required annual report (Head Start Act, 2007), which is a snapshot of program information and performance occurring July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

The 2024-25 program year was the fifth year in the five-year grant cycle. The program provided center-based services to 339 children at four centers (Carbondale, Murphysboro, Marion, and Carterville at John A Logan College.)

The program supported 43 children with a documented disability during the school year, far exceeding the federal requirement of 10% of cumulative enrollment. This number included 26 children who were referred for evaluation by the program after screening results indicated need for additional supports.

SIU Carbondale Head Start transitioned 169 children to kindergarten, of which 84% met developmental expectations. Program-wide child outcomes indicate that children have increased skills in all learning domains, demonstrating the program's commitment to school readiness and child success. This year, the program partnered with SIU Touch of Nature to pilot a Forest School program off-site (Makanda) with a classroom from the Carbondale center. The pilot went exceptionally well and the program has plans to expand opportunities for our students and families to learn at SIU Touch of Nature.

The program's commitment to meeting children's health needs was a program strength this school year. The program staff worked with 15 families to acquire health insurance and establish a medical home in the community. Other health related outcomes were 31 children caught up on preventative and primary health care, according to state well childcare schedule, 270 children received professional oral health preventative exam/care, and 46 children received oral treatment during the school year.

SIU Carbondale Head Start has a strong 54-year history as a provider of quality pre-school child development and family services in Jackson and Williamson Counties, and we look forward to many more years serving the community.

Laura Lindsey  
Interim Executive Director

## SIU Carbondale Head Start Community Assessment Summary

Below are the key points from SIU Carbondale Head Start's 2024-2025 Community Assessment:

- \*SIUC Head Start's service region is Jackson and Williamson counties, located in the southern most region of Illinois. Both counties are mostly rural but include the first and second largest cities in the area.

- \*The population of both counties has remained steady from 2021 through 2024, including children ages birth through five-years old. Demographics have also remained steady in both Jackson and Williamson counties with most of the population being white (average 67.1% and 82.3% respectively) and English-speaking (85.4% and 99.7%).

- \*Poverty rates have increased in both counties, approximately 4% in Jackson County and 6% in Williamson County. Williamson County has seen a relatively significant increase of children living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (+15%). Jackson County has seen a similarly significant decrease in children living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (-17%).

- \*Median household incomes in both counties are lower than the state and national averages, with the percentages of households receiving public assistance being higher than the state average. Primary employment industries in both Jackson and Williamson counties are the following areas: educational services, retail trade, manufacturing, health care, social services, and food services. Unemployment rates have remained steady in both counties and are nearly equivalent to the state average.

- \*Across the two counties, Head Start totals 290 slots for children three- to five-years old with an additional 1,081 PreK slots available through ISBE classrooms. Licensed childcare providers, both centers and in-home, offer an additional 823 spaces for children 3-5.

- \*As identified by families, staff, and community stakeholders:

- Community Strengths: parks, schools, family, churches, diversity, connection, doctors, neighbors, helpful people, support groups, resources

- Community Challenges: transportation, gun violence, affordable childcare, lack of family events, domestic violence, medical specialist, affordable medical care, drugs, crime, dental care, food accessibility, job stability

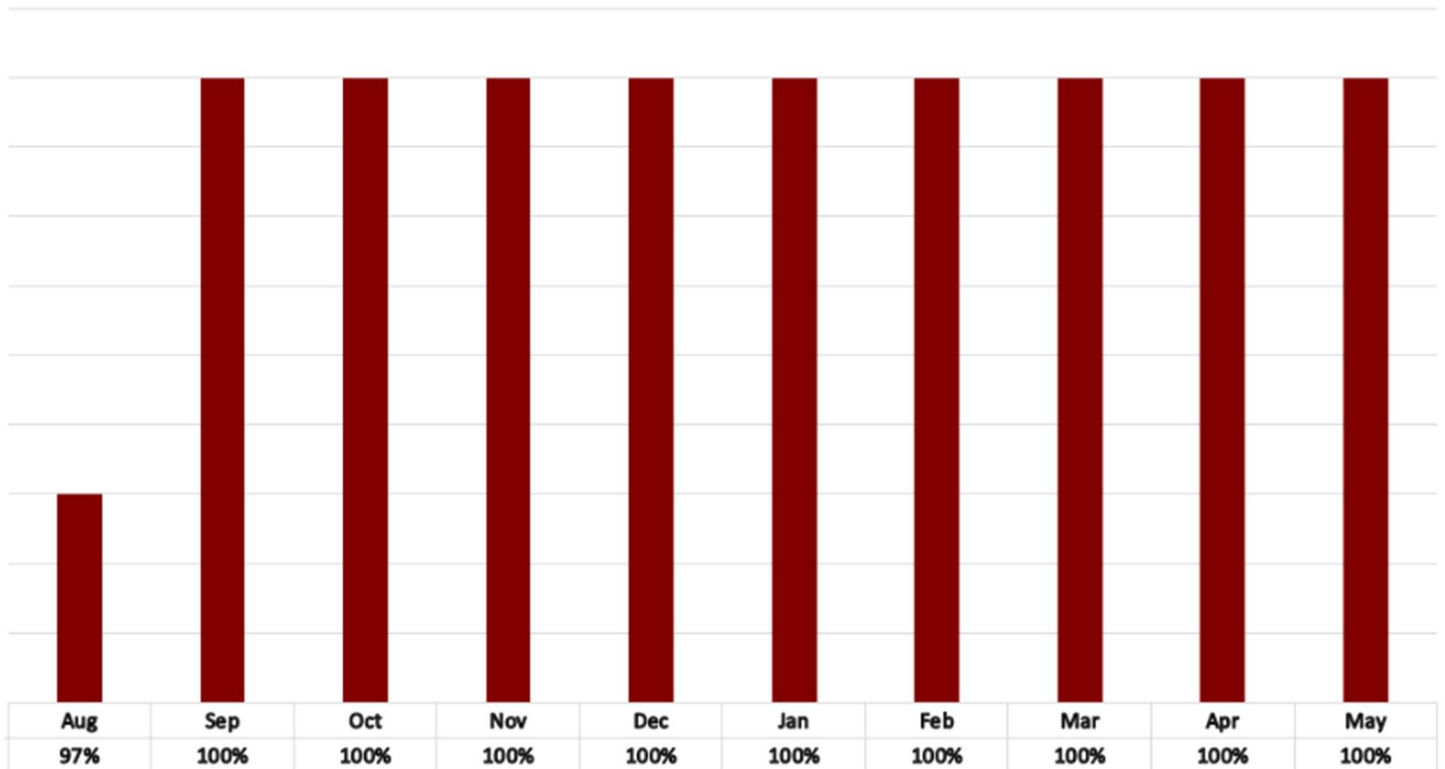
## Funded Enrollment

Enrollment slots are divided between four centers within Jackson and Williamson Counties

| Site          | Full-Day   | Half-Day  | Totals     |
|---------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Carbondale    | 104        | 30        | 134        |
| Marion        | 54         | 0         | 54         |
| Murphysboro   | 36         | 30        | 66         |
| John A. Logan | 36         | 0         | 36         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>230</b> | <b>60</b> | <b>290</b> |

The following graph captures the number of children enrolled monthly, including vacancies of less than 30 days and slots reserved for foster and/or homeless children

### Monthly Enrollment

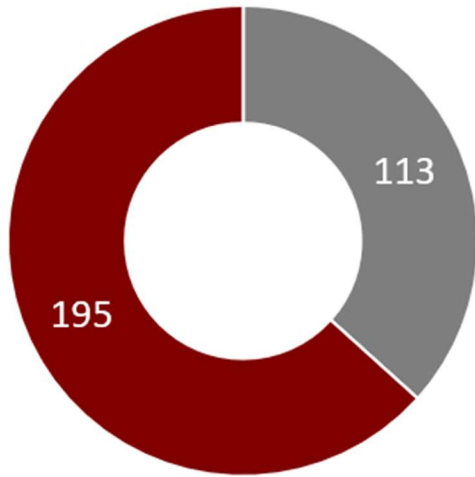


The program is funded to serve 290 children and their families and remained fully enrolled in the 2024-25 school year. Throughout the year, the program served a total of 339 children, consisting of 308 families.

## SIU Carbondale Head Start Families

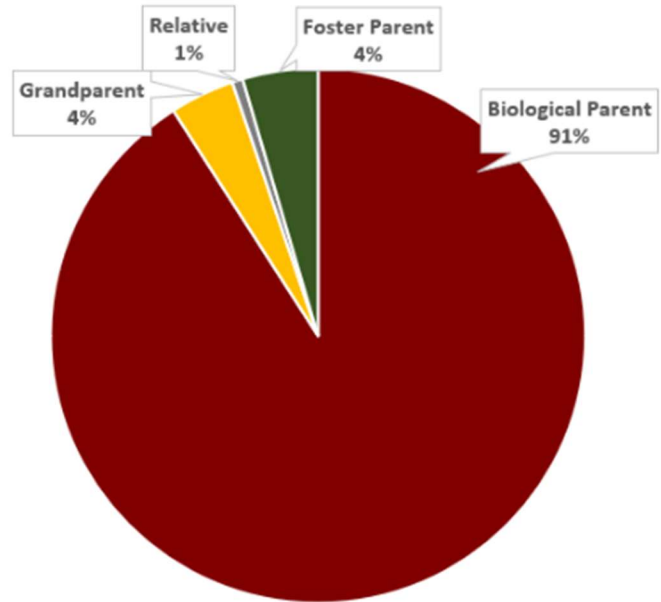
308 families were served in 2024-25. Below is information regarding those families.

Family Composition



■ One Parent Families ■ Two Parent Families

Parent Composition

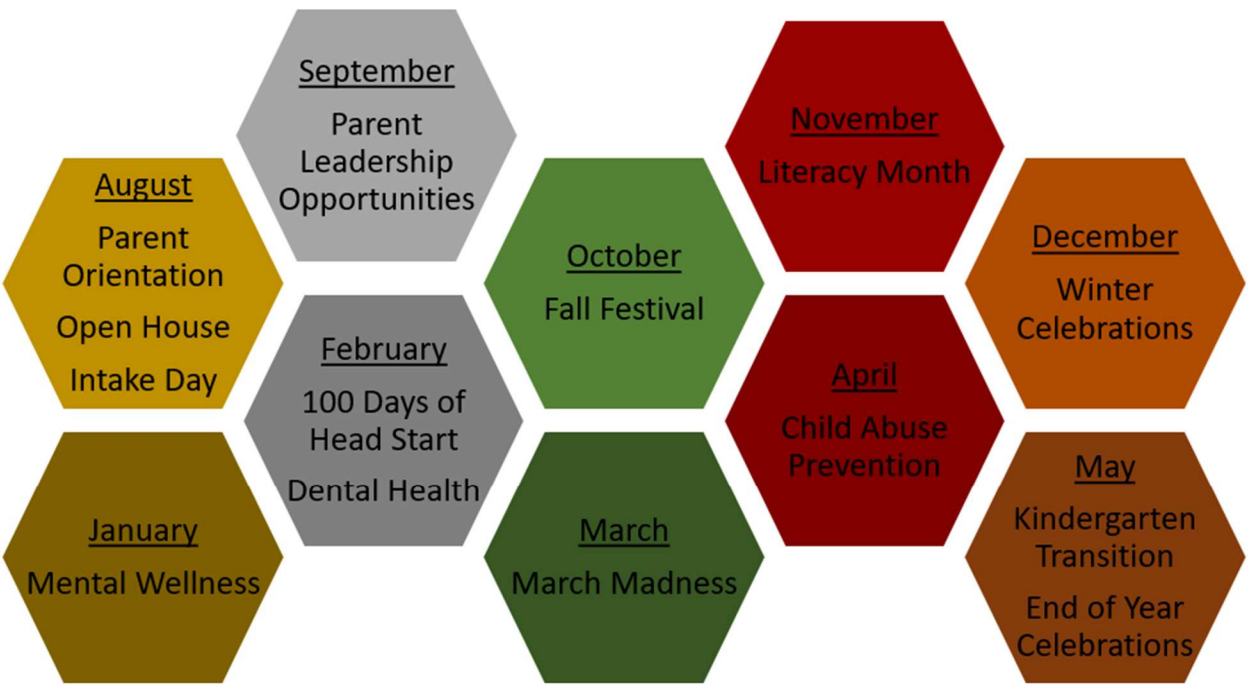


| Primary Eligibility Category | Percentage of Children Served |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Income Eligible              | 5%                            |
| Public Assistance            | 75%                           |
| Foster Care                  | 6%                            |
| Homeless                     | 11%                           |
| Over Income                  | 3%                            |



SIU Carbondale Head Start recognizes that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. The program makes intentional efforts to support families to become active partners in their child’s educational experiences. Families participate in activities throughout the program year, including opportunities to become directly involved in the program’s decision-making process.

The visual below represents the primary families involvement activities throughout the program year.



SIU Carbondale Head Start Children

339 families were served in 2024-25. Below is information regarding those children.

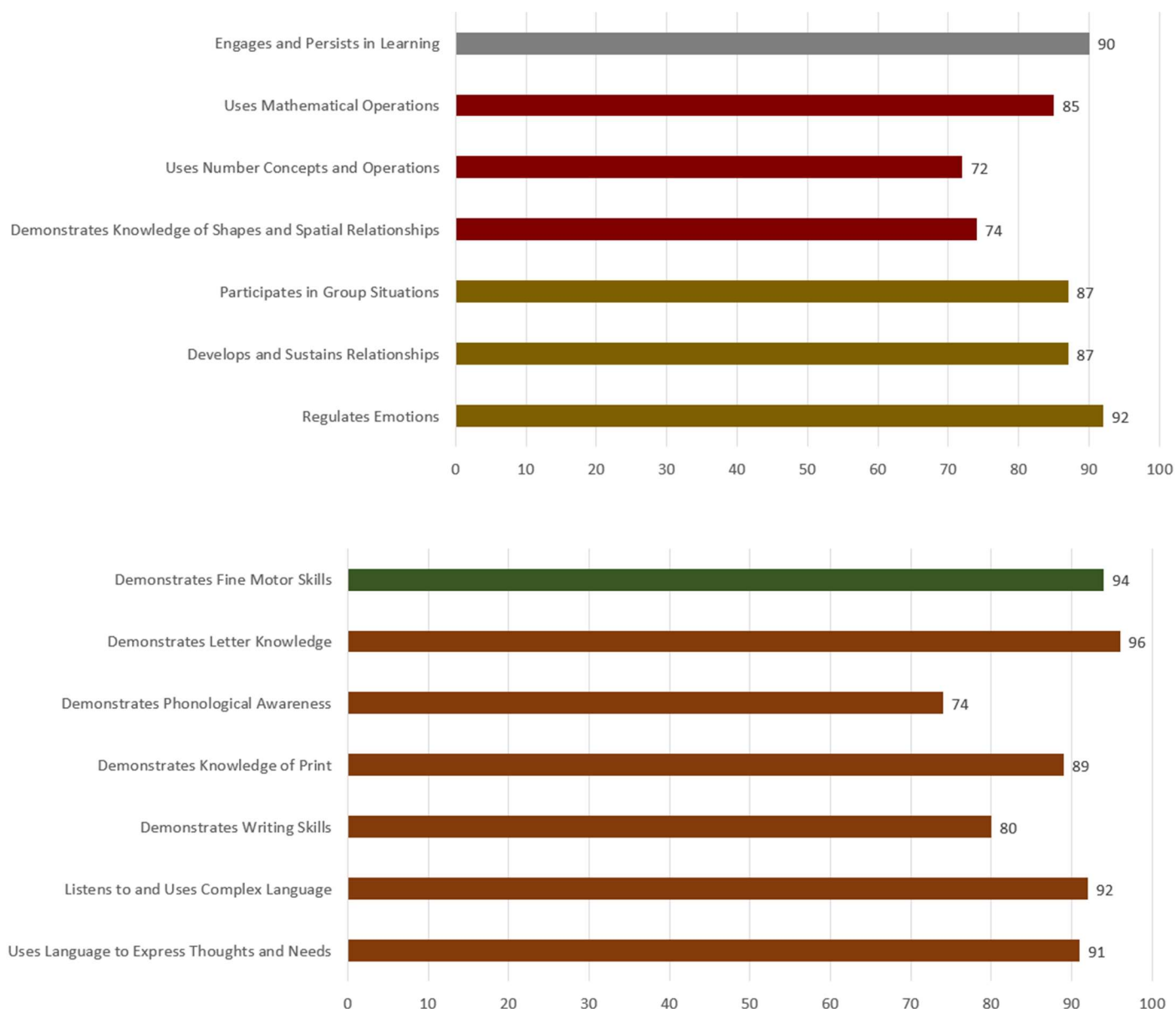
Meeting the health and nutrition needs of Head Start children is a primary concern. In addition, the program provides comprehensive health services such as preventative vision and hearing screenings, height and weight monitoring, and fluoride varnish. We work closely with families to connect them with medical and dental services in the community.

| Medical Services Provided | % of Children Received |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Medical Exam              | 99%                    |
| Dental Exam               | 83%                    |



Preparing children for academic and social success in kindergarten and beyond is central to Head Start services. Every employee of Head Start plays a role in preparing children and families for success after leaving the program.

The program continues to use Creative Curriculum 6<sup>th</sup> Edition to implement developmentally appropriate activities in the classroom. The program also uses Teaching Strategies Gold to document student progress and assess school readiness outcomes. Each child's school readiness outcomes are evaluated three times per year. Outcomes are used to coach education staff to enhance school readiness in the classroom and plan for program training opportunities. The percentage of children meeting or exceeding school readiness and developmental goals is documented below:



## SIU Carbondale Head Start Funding

### 2024-25 Awarded Funds

| <b>Operations</b> | <b>Training and Technical Assistance</b> | <b>Supplemental</b> |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| \$4,449,407       | \$41,317                                 | \$61,497            |

### 2024-25 Proposed Budget

|                       | <b>Operations</b> | <b>Training and Technical Assistance</b> | <b>Supplemental</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries              | \$2,399,169       | \$2,565                                  | \$18,000            |
| Fringe Benefits       | \$1,075,547       | \$0                                      | \$0                 |
| Travel (Out of State) | \$9,053           | \$7,853                                  | \$0                 |
| Equipment             | \$0               | \$0                                      | \$0                 |
| Supplies              | \$46,980          | \$773                                    | \$22,906            |
| Contractual           | \$295,568         | \$0                                      | \$0                 |
| Other                 | \$218,599         | \$26,370                                 | \$15,000            |
| Indirect Charges      | \$404,491         | \$3,756                                  | \$5,591             |

### Expenditures

|                       | <b>Operations</b> | <b>Training and Technical Assistance</b> | <b>Supplemental</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries              | \$2,251,644       | \$0                                      | \$0                 |
| Fringe Benefits       | \$1,048,121       | \$0                                      | \$0                 |
| Travel (Out of State) | \$2,851           | \$11,693                                 | \$0                 |
| Equipment             | \$0               | \$0                                      | \$0                 |
| Supplies              | \$164,735         | \$138                                    | \$21,722            |
| Contractual           | \$151,881         | \$10,641                                 | \$19,743            |
| Other                 | \$425,684         | \$15,089                                 | \$14,441            |
| Indirect Charges      | \$404,491         | \$3,756                                  | \$5591              |

# SIU Carbondale Head Start Audit Findings

An external audit for was conducted in Fall 2024. Head Start was selected as one of the units of SIU to audit and was found to be in compliance with state and federal laws. Below is the cover sheet of the report. The full report can be found at <https://app.fac.gov/dissemination/report/pdf/2024-06-GSAFAC-0000355523>



## **Plante & Moran, PLLC**

Suite 300  
537 E. Pete Rose Way  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-3578  
Tel: 513.595.8800  
Fax: 513.595.8806  
[plantemoran.com](http://plantemoran.com)

### **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Honorable Frank J. Mautino  
Auditor General  
State of Illinois

and

Board of Trustees  
Southern Illinois University

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinions***

As Special Assistant Auditors for the Auditor General, we have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities, fiduciary activities and the aggregate discretely presented component units of Southern Illinois University (the "University") a component unit of the State of Illinois, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Southern Illinois University's basic financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of other auditors, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities, fiduciary activities and the aggregate discretely presented component units of Southern Illinois University as of June 30, 2024 and the respective changes in its financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In April 2024, the program completed a Focus Area Two monitoring review from the Administration for Children and Families.

The program was found to be in compliance with all standards. Below is the cover sheet of the report.



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Office of Head Start | 4th Floor – Switzer Memorial Building, 330 C Street SW, Washington DC 20024 [eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov)

### Program Performance Summary Report

**To: Authorizing Official/Board Chairperson**

Ms. Carol Greenlee

Southern Illinois University

1906 N Illinois Ave

Head Start

Carbondale, IL 62901 - 5609

**From: Responsible HHS Official**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Khari M. Garvin".

**Date: 05/07/2024**

**Mr. Khari M. Garvin**

**Director, Office of Head Start**

From April 15, 2024 to April 19, 2024, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Focus Area Two (FA2) monitoring review of Southern Illinois University. This report contains information about the grant recipient's performance and compliance with the requirements of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) or Public Law 110-134, *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*.

The Office of Head Start (OHS) would like to thank your governing body, policy council, parents, and staff for their engagement in the review process. Based on the information gathered during this review, it has been determined that your program meets the requirements of all applicable HSPPS, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

In Spring 2024, the program also completed a CLASS Video monitoring review from the Administration for Children and Families.

The program was found to be in compliance with OHS Competitive Thresholds. Below is the cover sheet of the report.



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Office of Head Start | 4th Floor – Switzer Memorial Building, 330 C Street SW, Washington DC 20024 [ecalc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov](mailto:ecalc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov)

**Results from CLASS® Video Review Observation**

**To: Board Chairperson**  
*Ms. Carol Greenlee, Board Chairperson*  
*Southern Illinois University*  
*1900 N Illinois Ave*  
*Carbondale, IL 62901-5609*

**From: Responsible HHS Official**

*Khari M. Garvin*  
**Date: 04/19/2024**  
**Mr. Khari M. Garvin**  
**Director, Office of Head Start**

Thank you for your support during the recent Office of Head Start CLASS® Video review conducted from **01/24/2024** to **04/11/2024** of your Head Start program, Grant #**05CH011588**.

Observations were conducted in preschool center-based classrooms using the 2008 Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®). The CLASS® tool looks at three domains and ten dimensions of teacher-child interactions and measures those observed interactions on a seven-point scale. Please share these results with the appropriate governing board, policy council, management, staff, and stakeholders.

The Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) include thresholds for each CLASS® domain(s). These quality thresholds represent the expectations of the Office of Head Start (OHS) for the quality of the learning environment in every Head Start program. These thresholds do not relate to competition, but instead reflect a quality improvement focus on teacher-child interactions, with support from OHS. The competitive thresholds reflect the minimum score that programs must achieve in each CLASS® domain. For the upcoming FY24 monitoring year, scores from CLASS® observations will be used in the Designation Renewal System (DRS) determinations using the competitive thresholds.

| DOMAIN                 | YOUR PROGRAM'S SCORE | Quality Threshold | Competitive Threshold |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Emotional Support      | 6.0859               | 6                 | 5                     |
| Classroom Organization | 5.6667               | 6                 | 5                     |
| Instructional Support  | 4.1354               | 3                 | 2.3**                 |

**\*\*The competitive threshold for Instructional Support is 2.3 for CLASS® reviews conducted through July 31, 2025, and then raises to 2.5 for CLASS® reviews conducted on and after August 1, 2025.**

## SIU Carbondale Head Start Community Partnerships

SIU Carbondale Head Start strives to strengthen partnerships with community organizations and local education agencies through the increase in overall number of Interagency Agreements/Memorandums of Understanding. We recognize the important role we play in connecting families with these community resources and the impact it has on supporting our mission of educating children, empowering families, and strengthening communities.

### **Our Community Partnerships Include:**

- \*Adult Education & Family Service Providers
- \*Archway, Inc.
- \*Carbondale Family Literacy Program
- \*Centerstone of Illinois
- \*Children and Family Connections #22
- \*Children and Family Connections #24
- \*Christian Social Services
- \*Department of Children & Family Services
- \*Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department
- \*Gateways to Opportunity Registry
- \*Illinois Department of Human Services
- \*Jackson County Health Department
- \*Jackson County Housing Authority
- \*Man-Tra-Con
- \*Partnership for Resilience
- \*Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
- \*Shawnee Health Services
- \*Southern Region Early Childhood Programs

### **Local Education Agencies Include:**

- \*Carbondale Elementary District #95
- \*Carterville School District #5
- \*DeSoto Elementary District #86
- \*Giant City School District #130
- \*Herrin School District #4
- \*Marion School District #2
- \*Murphysboro School District #186
- \*Tri-County Special Education Agency
- \*Unity Point School District #140
- \*Williamson County Education Services

## SIU Carbondale Head Start Program Governance

Program Governance, consisting of Policy Council and Governing Board, is foundational to Head Start programs.

Policy Council is primarily made of parents of currently enrolled parents, along with community representatives. This ensures that parents have real decision-making authority and keeps the program's focus grounded in family needs and community priorities.

Governing Board has legal and fiduciary responsibilities. This group provides financial oversight, ensures compliance with federal, state, and local regulations, and oversees continuous quality improvement initiatives.

We recognize the vital role that Policy Council and Governing Board plays in ensuring the program's ongoing efforts to provide quality comprehensive services.

### **Governing Board Members:**

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| *Carol Greenlee    | *E. Ryan Hall  |
| *Cheryl Walton     | *Will Stephens |
| *Christopher Swims | *Ryan Reed     |

### **Policy Council Members:**

- \*Samantha Stout- Carbondale Parent Representative
- \*Olivia Campbell- Carbondale Parent Representative
- \*Dionna Deville-Johnson- Carbondale Parent Representative
- \*Wilma Vaughn- Alternate Carbondale Parent Representative
- \*Shatara Travis- Alternate Carbondale Parent Representative
- \*Anna Sloan- Marion Parent Representative
- \*Tessa Leach- Marion Parent Representative
- \*Elias Jackson- Alternate Marion Parent Representative
- \*Cerena Fleener- John A Logan Parent Representative
- \*Katelyn Davila- Alternate John A Logan Parent Representative
- \*Catherine Phoenix- Murphysboro Parent Representative
- \*Guadalupe Lopez- Murphysboro Parent Representative
- \*Dillion Phoenix- Alternate Murphysboro Parent Representative
- \*Sonya Clark- Jackson County Community Representative
- \*Deborah Golden- Jackson County Community Representative
- \*Imani McHenry- Jackson County Community Representative
- \*Deborah Wills, Williamson County Community Representative





Southern Illinois University  
CARBONDALE