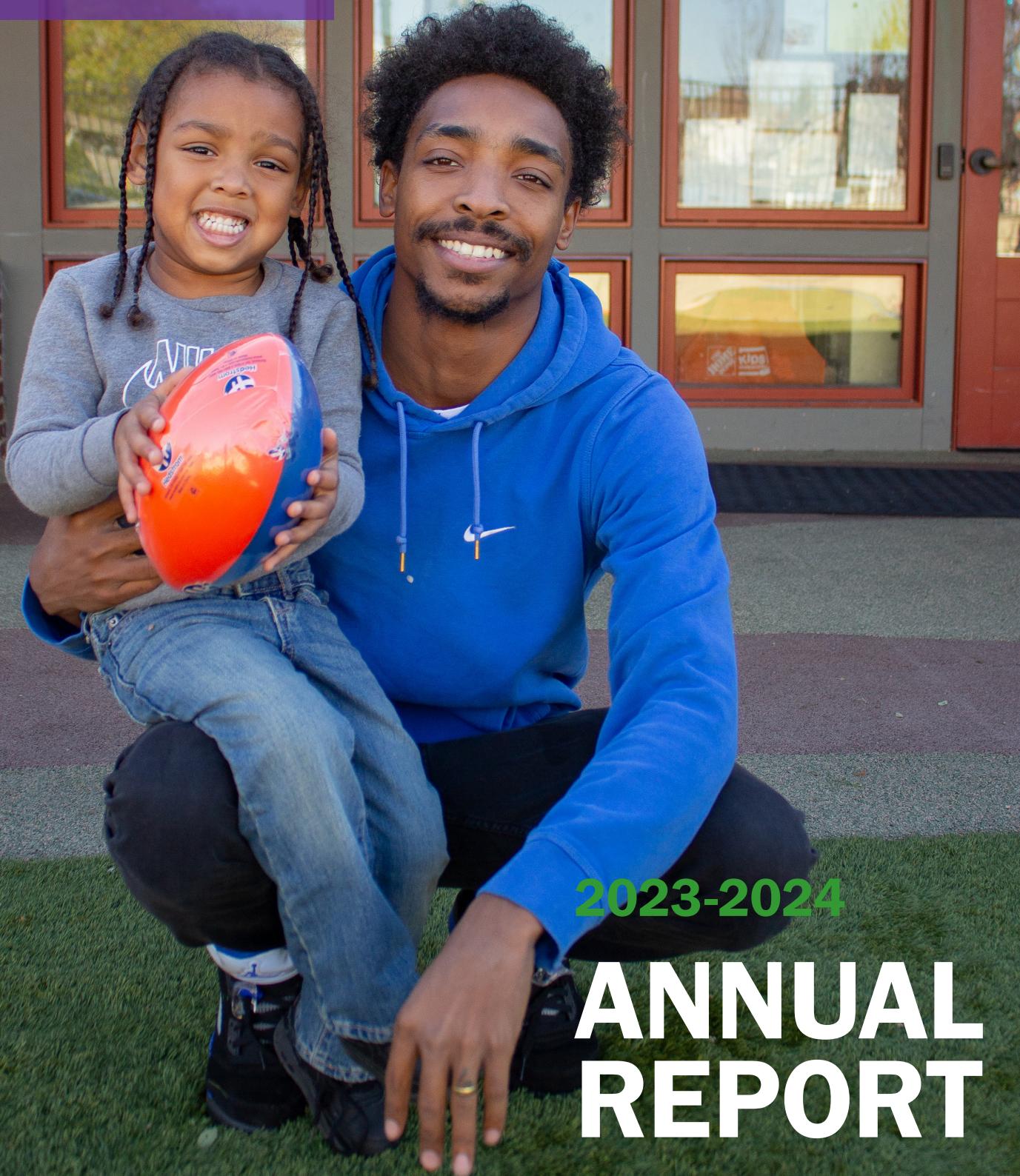




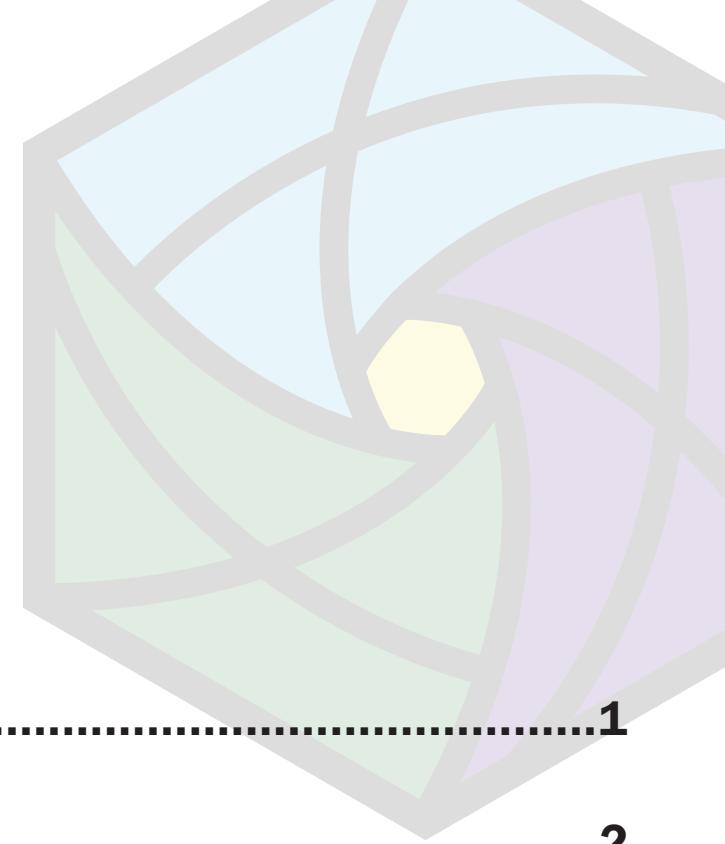
Alliance Center  
for Education



2023-2024

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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## Alliance Center for Education

**Our success is dependent on the many people who come together to ensure the best for the children and families we are privileged to serve. We thank each of our staff, families, volunteers, partners and members of our community who are committed to making the future brighter for children in our area. It is because of you that we are able to support these families and ensure students have what they need to be successful in school and life.**

**The 2023-24 school year was a year of continued resilience and perseverance on behalf of our staff, students and families. Our children made huge strides this year in their growth and development and we are exceptionally proud of our staff and families for their hard work and dedication in ensuring our students have everything they need to thrive.**

**We hope you enjoy this recap of the 2023-24 program year, filled with information and highlights from our programs and activities.**

### OUR MISSION

**Our mission is to provide high quality education and support for children in need through partnership with their families.**

# ABOUT US

## ALLIANCE CENTER FOR EDUCATION

Alliance Center for Education, affectionately known as AC4Ed, was formerly known as Bethlehem Center of Charlotte until a rebranding in 2020. Bethlehem Center was founded in 1940 by the United Methodist Women in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Charlotte to provide much-needed childcare and support to mothers during World War II.

This support was greatly needed and expanded over the next several years. In 1956, services expanded into the Southside, Brookhill, and Wilmore Communities, offering Charlotte's first free kindergarten programs, activities for school-age children and other family enrichment services. Today, AC4Ed operates in 12 Center locations across Charlotte, serving more than 800 families annually.

Our vision is to positively affect the future of children at risk by improving their economic mobility through education. Our individualized approach and focus on relationship-building with our children and their families has positively impacted thousands of children over the years.

We still treasure our strong, continued relationship with the United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women, now known as the United Women in Faith. We are grateful for their dedication and passion for serving communities in need.

Additionally, we thank our supporters, community and families for trusting in us throughout these many years!



# OUR PROGRAMS

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AC4Ed is Charlotte's largest nonprofit provider of Early Childhood programming, and we utilize the Head Start approach offering education, comprehensive services, and home visitation resources for expectant mothers and children from birth to five, that promote early learning and development, health, and family well-being. Our afterschool programs focus on supporting curriculum and individual student progress through partnership between our staff, teachers, students, and families.

## Early Head Start

*(ages birth until 3 years old)*

Our programs feature family-centered services for low-income families designed to support the development of children and help parents be their best and become self-sufficient, with home- and center-based options.

This program is tailored to the needs of infants and toddlers, promoting physical, cognitive, social and emotional development. This early educational foundation sets these children up for continued growth and development, and success in school and life.

The model supports mothers and fathers in their roles as parents and teachers of their children. Programs help families meet their personal goals and find stability in the areas of housing, continued education and financial security through a wide array of services and community resources.

## Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten

*(ages 3 to 5 years old)*

Our Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten programs actively engage parents in services that support early learning and development, health and family well-being.

Serving children from three to five years old in eligible families, our early childhood education programs are provided at no cost. The strengths of the program include building relationships, learning through creative play and structured lessons that build on each child's needs and abilities.

Comprehensive services are a cornerstone of our program and engage families in their child's education as well as helping fulfill their own goals. Our family case managers help create goals for the whole family and connect them to the needed community support and resources.

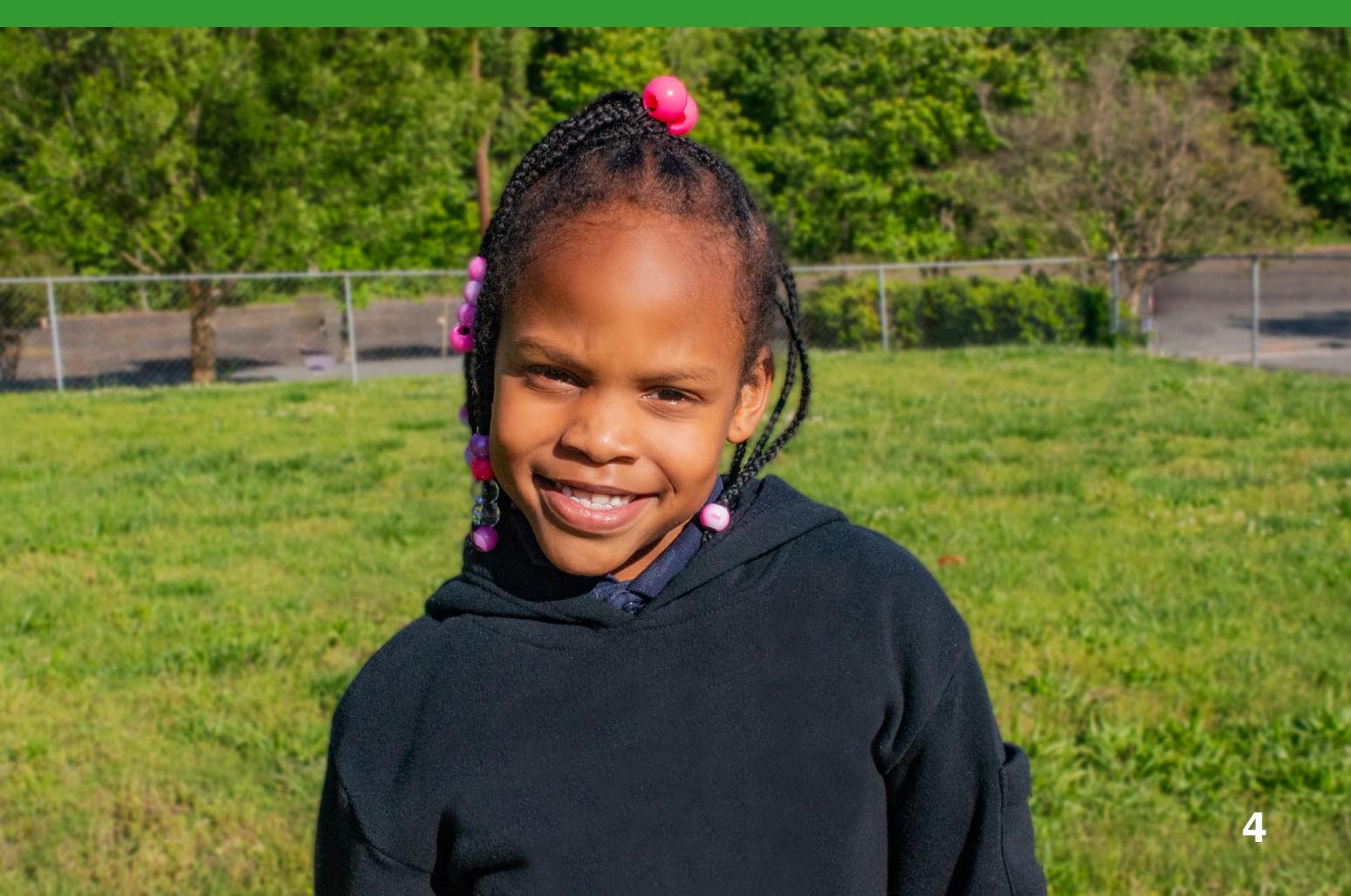
## After School

*(K-12 students)*

Our programs promote positive youth development and support social, emotional, cognitive and academic development, with a focus on physical activity and life skills development.

Through supportive and engaging programming, students are encouraged to explore their interests, support their communities, and set goals for their futures. Programs are tailored to be age-appropriate and support the curriculum of students at all grade levels.

As with all of our programs, families are a crucial part of our team. Parents and students set goals and work with our staff to remove any barriers that may stand in the way, setting everyone up to succeed.



# OUR LOCATIONS

AC4Ed is pleased to be in twelve locations across Charlotte. In addition to our own locations, we have entered into partnerships with many churches, recreation centers and Charter schools to serve a wide array of families.

## Locations:

Brightwalk Community  
McAlpine Community  
Mulberry Community  
Oaklawn Community  
Plaza Community  
Southside Community  
Stephanie Jennings  
Southview Rec Center  
Avondale Presbyterian  
Movement Eastland  
Movement Freedom  
Movement Southwest

1240 Badger Court, Charlotte, NC 28206  
8310 McAlpine Park Drive, Charlotte, NC 28211  
6450 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, NC 28214  
1920 Stroud Park Court, Charlotte, NC 28206  
6015 Barrington Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215  
2617 Baltimore Avenue Charlotte, NC 28203  
3320 N Sharon Amity Road, Charlotte, NC 28205  
1720 Vilma Street, Charlotte, NC 28208  
2821 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209  
5249 Central Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28212  
2701 Freedom Drive, Charlotte, NC 28208  
150 Osprey Point Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217



# PROGRAM INFORMATION

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

As Mecklenburg County's largest non-profit provider of early childhood educational services, we are privileged to serve children and families from across the Charlotte area. Our early childhood programs include students in Early Head Start (birth to three), Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten (three to five).

### Students Served

AC4Ed is the Head Start provider for Mecklenburg County and also operates additional classrooms funded by Meck Pre-K and NC Pre-K. Many of these classrooms are blended with Head Start students, however, some are solely-funded by Meck Pre-K.

70 Early Head Start  
549 Head Start/Pre-K  
47 Meck Pre-K (stand-alone)

Attendance across all programs for the year was 81.7%, just shy of the target goal of 85%.

### Meals Served

AC4Ed participates in the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program, or CACFP, that provides nutritious meals and snacks to children and adults in approved programs. Over the 2023-24 year, 58,287 breakfasts, 59,177 lunches, and 58,018 snacks, totaling 175,482 meals were served to students in our programs.

### Transportation

To help ensure access to quality early childhood education, AC4Ed operates five bus routes to transport students to and from our center locations. The goal of transportation services is to reduce absenteeism, and provide safe and timely transport.



## Enrichment Activities

As part of our programming, we seek to provide enrichment activities for students and families to expose them to a wide variety of arts, literacy, and cultural experiences, as well as provide an opportunity for them to engage in creative play. During this program year, we were pleased to partner with many museums, companies and stores to enrich our student's education. Below are some of the highlights.

### Head Start/Pre-K

- o Charlotte Mecklenburg Library (Multiple Studies)
- o Nascar Hall of Fame (Wheels/Simple Machines Studies)
- o SeaLife Aquarium (Water Study)
- o ImaginOn: Pigs is Pigs Performance (Multiple Studies - PNC Sponsored)
- o Discovery Place Nature Museum (Insects Study)
- o Just Play (Exercise Study)
- o UNCC Botanical Gardens (Trees Study)
- o CPCC Parr MakerSpace (Simple Machines Study)
- o Local CMS/Charter Schools (End of Year Celebration)

### Early Head Start/Home Visitation Socializations & Workshops

- o Getting to Know Others
- o What is School Readiness
- o Family Screening Day
- o Arts & Crafts
- o Parent to Parent Discussion
- o Movie Nights
- o Hot Chocolate Sip & Paint
- o Baby Storytime
- o Fine Motor Development
- o Curriculum Treasure Hunt
- o Sensory Play
- o Understanding Developmental Milestones
- o AC4Ed Education Night @ ImaginOn
- o End of Year Celebration (Nevin's Waterpark)



## Parent Engagement

One of the cornerstones of the Head Start model is parent and family engagement. Parents are highly encouraged to participate in their student's education by being present whenever possible through event participation and classroom volunteerism. We are pleased to have had such a great response from our parents and families.

Throughout the program year, a series of workshops aimed at promoting child and family success are held with a number of topics. This year, our families indicated a preference for workshops aimed at financial literacy. In response, we hosted a series of workshops in partnership with the Ballantyne Rotary Club and First Horizon Bank to promote and emphasize the importance of financial literacy as it relates to personal budgeting, proper use of credit, among others.

Additionally, our parents hold elections at the beginning of every program year to elect parents to serve on our Policy Council which provides input on critical decisions related to our structure and program design. We are grateful to each member of the policy council for their service, leadership, and dedication to the betterment of our programs for all the children at Alliance Center for Education.

## Participation Impact

In the 2023-24 program year, our Head Start program provided 334 parent and volunteer hours. These parents and volunteers served as assistance at events and in our centers assisting our classrooms and staff with lessons and activities. Their investment of time and talents are crucial to our success and we are beyond grateful for their participation.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

### Partnership with Charlotte Bilingual Preschool

Year two is in the books! Our AC4Ed-CLTBP partnership classrooms knocked it out of the park, again, this year! This partnership yielded increases in dual-language student outcomes in all areas, except for the minimal decreases in physical, Spanish language, and Spanish literacy outcomes; which is not a major concern at this time. The outcomes data continue to show that our partnership model works and underscores the cognitive, social-emotional, language and literacy acquisition, and school-readiness benefits of having a dual-language Head Start model. We are excited to see what successes year three will bring!

TSG Final Results Comparison	Summer 22/23	Summer 23/24
Social-Emotional	97.4%	98.1%
Physical	100%	96.2%
Language	84.5%	89.4%
Cognitive	89%	95%
Literacy	92.6%	96.5%
Math	91%	96.2%
Spanish Language	87.6%	85%
Spanish Literacy	85.7%	84%



### Volunteer Day with PNC

We are lucky to be a partner with PNC Bank and their Grow Up Great program. In April 2024, a group of volunteers helped with several projects at our Stephanie Jennings Center.

The Grow Up Great Program is PNC's early childhood initiative that works to prepare children for success in kindergarten and life. Since its inception in 2004, the initiative is dedicated to serving children from birth to age five, particularly underserved children, by empowering and supporting their caregivers and teachers.



During April, they host a GREAT Month where their staff engage directly with local early childhood providers to directly give back to the children and centers. We were happy to host a local group of Charlotte-based PNC Bank employees

for volunteer activities in April 2024. They helped with necessary projects like our landscape improvements, they served in the classroom reading to our students and tackled many other needs from the staff and maintenance team.

Big thanks to PNC for being a partner and helping our children grow up great!



## Early Head Start Program Results

The Summer Checkpoints for the EHS Education Data for Program Year 2023-24 have revealed both areas of strength and potential challenges. During Pre-Service training, EHS teachers received targeted instruction in Language/Literacy and Mathematics, indicating a focus on these areas.

Professional assessment suggests that some teachers may require additional support in documenting student progress in the Mathematics and Literacy domains.

Furthermore, a concerted effort will be made to provide teachers with additional support during Practice-based Coaching (PBC) sessions and in-service trainings, with particular emphasis on Mathematics and Literacy.

On a positive note, EHS Classrooms have access to various resources that can directly support Social/Emotional development outcomes, such as “I’m Moving, I’m Learning” and “Feeling Buddies.” These resources have been utilized, and teachers have received additional support through coaching and Pre-Service trainings.

The chart displays data collected from the Summer TSG Checkpoint of EHS Children Meeting/Exceeding Widely-Held Expectations. Please note: For the Summer Checkpoints, the goal is for 85% of children enrolled are meeting/exceeding widely-held expectations.

Domains	Summer 2024
Social/Emotional	89%
Physical	76%
Language	76%
Cognitive	82%
Literacy	61%
Mathematics	76%



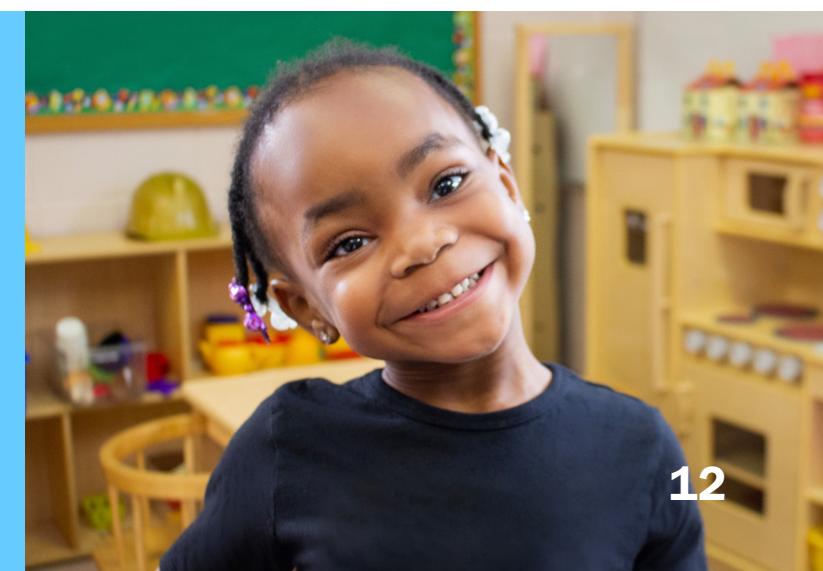
## Preschool Program Results

Our developmental focus for the 2023-2024 program year was on Cognitive Development. This intentional focus is crucial for the overall development of the child because cognitive development is related to how children think, explore, and figure things out. It is the development of knowledge, skills, and problem-solving that help children think about and understand the world around them.

At the close of the last program year, 64% of our Head Start students were meeting or exceeding the Cognitive Development widely held expectations. According to the data from our final TSG checkpoint, not only did our student outcomes in Cognitive development increase by twenty-one percent (21%)... student outcomes increased overall!

The chart displays data collected from the Summer TSG Checkpoint of Preschool Children Meeting/Exceeding Widely-Held Expectations. Please note: For the Summer Checkpoints, the goal is for 85% of children enrolled are meeting/exceeding widely-held expectations.

Domains	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
Social/Emotional	81%	88%
Physical	81%	84%
Language	72%	83%
Cognitive	64%	85%
Literacy	81%	90%
Mathematics	78%	88%



# AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 2023 Financial Review

**Alliance Center for Education receives funding from a variety of sources, including governments, grantors, foundations, corporations, faith-based partners, and individuals. We also rely on our partners and community to provide us with in-kind contributions, and have been blessed with donations of space in which to provide our services at below the market rate, gifts of diapers and needed supplies, and the gift of our volunteers and families' time and talents.**

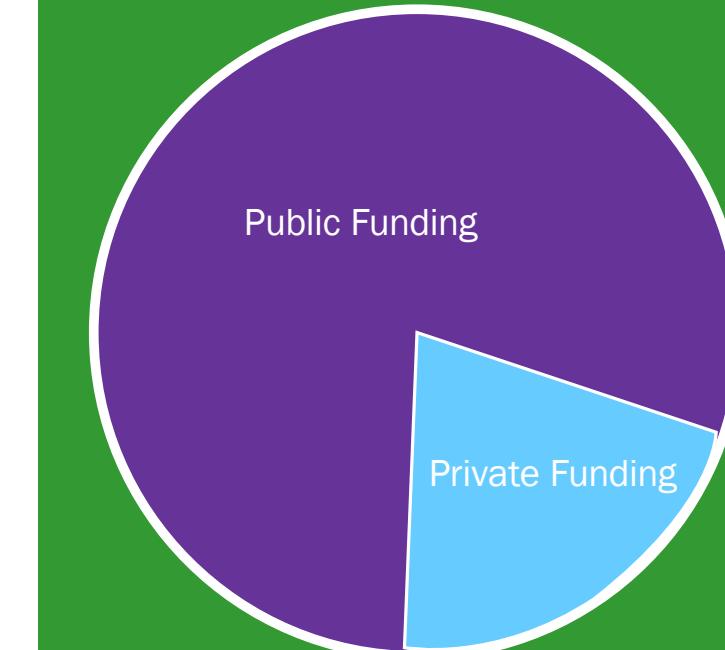
**We are grateful for all of the many contributions and investments in our programs that help guide us towards the fulfillment of our mission and vision. We owe our success to the generosity of so many in our community,**



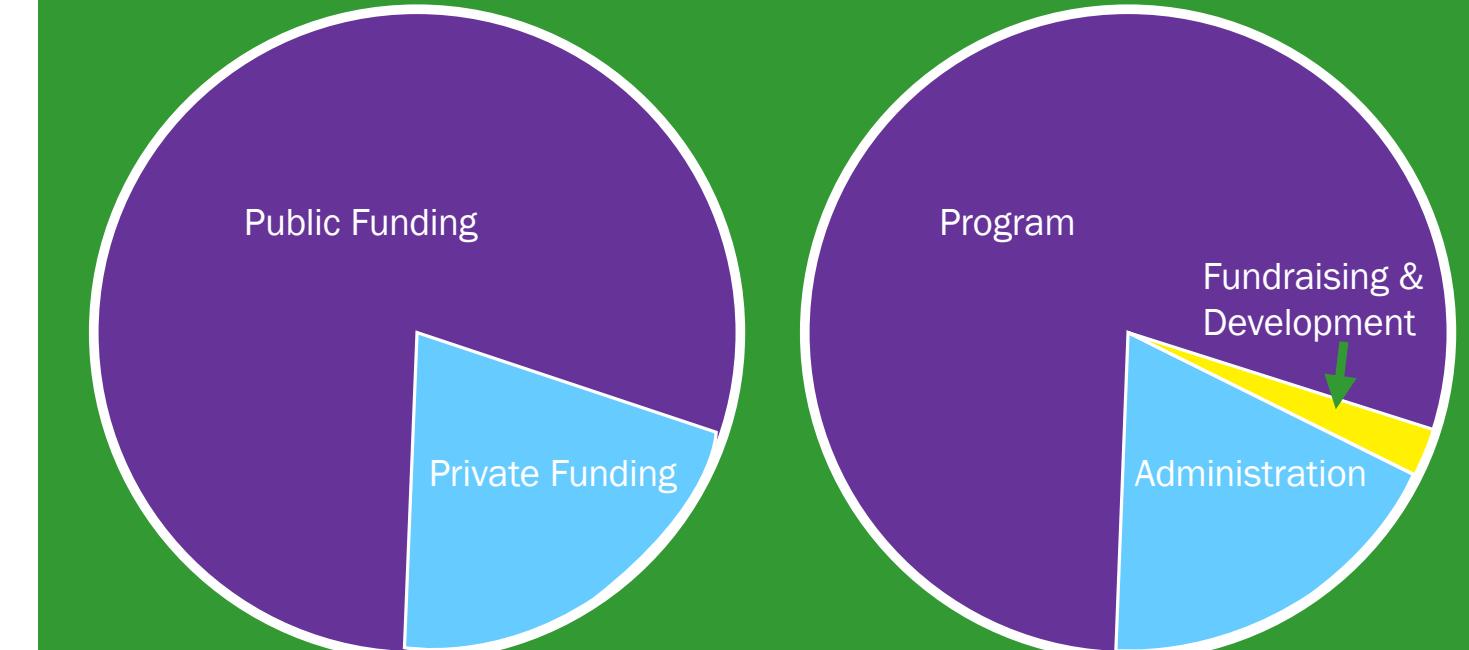
### Fiscal Year 2023 Statement of Activities

Revenues		Expenses		Total
		Program	Administration	
US DHHS - Office of Head Start	Public	\$8,536,817		\$8,536,817
Meck Pre-K	\$697,008		\$697,008	
NC DHHS - USDA	\$431,277		\$431,277	
Mecklenburg Co. - Behavioral Health Division	\$303,622		\$303,622	
NC Pre-K	\$175,329		\$175,329	
City of Charlotte	\$90,000		\$90,000	
In-Kind Contributions		\$1,898,619	\$1,898,619	
Faith-Based Support		\$24,995	\$24,995	
Foundations		\$67,000	\$67,000	
Individual & Corporate		\$43,366	\$43,366	
Fundraising		\$106,929	\$106,929	
Interest & Other Earned Revenue		\$153,603	\$153,603	
Total Revenue	\$10,234,053	\$2,294,512	\$12,528,565	
Net Asset Balance 12/31/2022				\$3,170,822
Net Asset Balance 12/31/2023				\$3,052,078
Total Gain in Net Assets				(\$118,744)

### Revenues



### Expenses



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Andy Belk
<b>Vice President</b>	Anthony Stradford
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jorge Manjarres
<b>Secretary</b>	Michelene Mathews

## Members

Alexandria Addison	Samantha Dunbar	Jorge Manjarres
Maudre Addison	John DeMicco	Michelene Mathews
Andy Belk	Stephanie Jones	Anthony Stradford
Taylor Barbour	Kim Langstaff	Ronda K. Williams

## Ex-Officio Members

Bishop Ken Carter	Joanie Strohm
Diann Back	Rev. Dan Pezet

## LEADERSHIP

<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Jared Keaton
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	Brian Luckadoo
<b>Director of Human Resources</b>	Shalina Berger
<b>Director of Development</b>	Katie Wayne
<b>Director of Early Childhood</b>	Elisha Wilson
<b>Director of Out of School Time</b>	Georgett Johnson



# Alliance Center for Education

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**704.375.1417 | ac4ed.org**