

Christina School District ECAP

Annual Report to the Public

November, 2017

The Christina ECAP program offers free preschool for high-risk, low income 4 year olds that reside in the Christina School District. The program receives funding from the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) to provide full day programming for 70 students. The DDOE provides an annual grant of \$497,000. To qualify for the program, the family must reside in the Christina School District, the student must turn four years of age by August 31st and the family must qualify under the 2017 Poverty Guidelines. The ECAP program is modeled after the federal Head Start program and is required to follow the Head Start Performance Standards.

The purpose of the program is to increase access to comprehensive early childhood services for 4 year olds who are income eligible and to improve the lives of children and families. The goal is to prepare students for kindergarten by developing academic readiness, social emotional, and both gross and fine motor skills. The Big Day for Pre-K Curriculum, Handwriting without Tears, and the Second Step Curriculum all support the goal of Kindergarten Readiness.

The ECAP programs encourages parent involvement through volunteering, participating as members of the Policy and Parent Committees, and supporting their child's growth and development. The Head Start regulations require the program to have a Policy council to share the responsibility of overseeing the high quality services to children and families. Parents and community representatives are empowered to participate in shared decision making process and 51% of the policy council is made up of parents.

The Christina ECAP program collaborates with DE READ ALOUD, The Foster Grandparent Program, New Directions Early Head Start and Parents as Teachers. The program also collaborated with the Christina School District Adult Education Program, providing ESL classes on site at the Christina Early Education Center.

The Christina Early Education Center was awarded a STAR 5 rating from the Delaware Office of Early Learning ranking it as one of the top preschool programs in DE and making it the first totally inclusive Preschool program to receive the STAR 5 rating.