

**Family Resource Agency of North Georgia  
Head Start – Early Head Start – Georgia Pre-K**

**Funded Enrollment: 782 Head Start (includes 60 Pre-K) – 232 Infants/Toddlers/Pregnant Moms**

- Service Area: Six (6) Northwest Counties of Georgia**

<b>County</b>	<b>Early Head Start</b>	<b>Head Start</b>	<b>Head Start/ Pre-K Blended</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Catoosa	32	88	20	157
Chattooga	48	91		139
Dade	24	51		61
Murray	16	57		70
Walker	32	159	40	228
Whitfield	80	276		359
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1014</b>

- Centers/Classrooms/Staffing**

- 23 Centers – 7 are collaborative partnerships with other child care providers or school systems
- 43 Head Start Classrooms with 17 Three Year olds or 20 Four Year Olds; One Teacher and One Assistant Teacher per class
- 29 Early Head Start Classrooms with 8 Birth to Three Year olds and Pregnant Women; Two Teachers per class
- Pre-K: 3 classes of 20 four (4) year olds with one Pre-K Teacher & one Assistant Teacher per class
- Most classrooms operate 6.5 hours; 6 classrooms are Full day – up to 11.5 hours per day
- Number of staff employed - 254: Head Start – 162 staff; Early Head Start – 92 staff
- EHS Expansion was merged into the existing EHS program to make a total of 232 EHS slots; HS slots are 782

- Budget**

Funding for the program comes from several sources:

**2011-2012 Expenditures:**

Head Start	\$ 5,615,604
Early Head Start	\$ 3,398,946
CACFP - Head Start (meals)	\$ 438,295
CACFP – EHS (meals)	\$ 136,233
Georgia Pre-K	\$ 175,670
Client Fees	\$ 83,705
One Time Supplemental Funds – Head Start Body Start Playground Grants	\$ 68,488

**2012-2013 Proposed Budget**

Head Start (includes .0072% COLA increase)	\$ 5,655,551
Early Head Start (includes .0072% COLA increase)	\$ 3,396,028
CACFP - Head Start (meals)	\$ 450,372
CACFP – EHS (meals)	\$ 142,054
Georgia Pre-K	\$ 170,115
Client Fees for Before & After Care - projected	\$ 87,784

- **Regulatory standards**

**All aspects of the program comply with or exceed Head Start Performance Standards.**

Other regulatory bodies/accreditation:

Georgia Bright From the Start: Department of Early Care and Learning - Licensing (DECAL)

National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation (NAEYC)

- **Monitoring Reviews**

- Federal Tri-annual Monitoring Review – October, 2010 – No findings
- Georgia DECAL licensing reviews – Ongoing  
17 centers voluntarily licensed Findings: No critical findings
- Annual Audit -- No audit findings
- NAEYC Accreditation – Ongoing - 17 Centers Accredited
- Georgia Bright From the Start – Quality Rated certification – six (6) centers in process

- **School Readiness**

Family Resource Agency assesses and utilizes information gathered throughout the year on children’s status and progress across domains of language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical well-being and motor development and social and emotional development that will improve their readiness for kindergarten. The program uses Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment which is based on 38 research-based objectives that include predictors of school readiness and are aligned with state standards, state early learning guidelines, Georgia Pre-K Content Standards, and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. It supports dual-language learners as well as children with special needs. Parent and family outcomes are also evaluated to provide support for family engagement in preparing children to be ready for school. School Readiness Goals have been developed by the program in conjunction with the Board of Directors, Policy Council and the local school systems and are ongoing for children ages birth to five. (School Readiness Goals can be accessed under the tab for School Readiness at [www.fragahs.com](http://www.fragahs.com))

- **Assessment**

Teaching Strategies GOLD online system was utilized by both Head Start and Early Head Start for ongoing assessment of children’s skill levels. Observation data is collected and entered in the online database and reports are run to aggregate and analyze progress.

The ongoing assessment of preschool Head Start children and Early Head Start infants and toddlers includes collection of data on five (5) domains of children’s learning and development and legislatively mandated areas contained in the IM-0018.

FIVE DOMAINS OF SCHOOL READINESS:

Cognition and General Knowledge  
Physical Development and Health  
Social & Emotional Development

Language and Literacy  
Approaches To Learning

Teaching staff in both programs utilize the information on children’s skill levels to develop lesson plans which meet the individual goals of each child including those who are Dual Language Learners and have special needs. Children’s progress in each of the assessment areas must be evaluated to determine strengths and areas for development in the program curriculum. This information is used by the program to plan training for staff and any necessary changes in the curriculum. Assessment provides individualized instruction for each child to insure school readiness.

Overall for school year 2011-2012 children made significant progress towards school readiness over the year as demonstrated by the Outcomes reports. Our children, as a whole, progressed in all Areas of Development: Social-Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy and Math. At the beginning of the year, 36% of all children were below and 64% were meeting or exceeding expectations in all Areas of Development; by the end of the year, 15% of all children were below and 85% were meeting or exceeding in all Areas of Development.

- **CLASS**

The program uses CLASS – the Classroom Assessment Scoring System – observation results to help improve program quality and outcomes. CLASS focuses on the quality of teacher-child interactions and data gathered is used for program improvement and planning professional development.

- **Screening**

The Denver II was used to screen children upon enrollment to identify potential developmental concerns. The Devereaux DECA was used for behavioral, social and emotional area screening as needed.

- **Family Service Activities**

Family Service Specialists must insure that full enrollment is achieved by the first day of class in August and maintained throughout the year. They make regular contact with families throughout enrollment, tracking attendance, completion of required health and dental screenings/exams, and progress on ongoing family goals. All information is entered into the ChildPlus database, which allows supervisors, monitors and coordinators to track required activities for completion by deadlines.

- **Parent Involvement Activities**

Parent meetings occur monthly to provide parent input into program planning, parent education activities, classroom curriculum, and center activities. Parents are involved in setting goals for their child(ren) and family. Parents are also elected to serve on Policy Council, a committee which provides oversight and approval of program activities and policies. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom and work at home with their children and to apply for Head Start staff positions. Volunteering is an important aspect of parent involvement. During 2011-2012 there were 399 volunteers in Head Start/Early Head Start.

- **Male Involvement**

Meetings are held in each county for the male involvement figures in the childrens' lives to encourage active participation by fathers/male role models in the child(ren)'s development. Various topics and activities were planned for each meeting. Meetings were arranged and conducted by the agency's Fatherhood Specialist.

- **Disabilities**

We serve disability children in all of our classrooms and work collaboratively with local school systems and community agencies to have children with special needs referred to Head Start. During 2010-2011 11% of our Head Start and 10% of our Early Head Start slots were filled by children with diagnosed disabilities. Many additional children received services through the "Response to Intervention" process which provides the services for a year before a formal diagnosis occurs. We have agreements with all of the local school systems and Babies Can't Wait to provide the special needs services to these children. We also have classrooms operated collaboratively with the local school systems to provide inclusive classrooms for moderate to severely involved disability children.

- **Some unique highlights of the program**

- [Park Creek, Pioneer, Cloud Springs, Ringgold Primary & Pennville HS](#) are collaborative inclusive special needs classrooms with local schools; jointly staffed and/or served by both Head Start and school special needs staff.
- [Whitfield Dalton Day Care & Kids Station Learning Center](#) are collaborative partnerships blending EHS, HS and day care services.
- There were [165 Spanish speaking](#) families in the program.
- The [Male Involvement Program](#) is designed to encourage active participation by fathers and male role models in their child(ren)'s development.
- The [Pre-Natal Program](#) serves pregnant moms to provide preparation for motherhood; includes education on birth, SIDS, child development, health, nutrition and parenting and the program also insures that proper pre- and post-natal health care is obtained by the pregnant woman.
- [High School Teen Parenting Program](#): Early Head Start provides centers in two local high schools to provide pre-natal care to teen moms and support them in completion of high school; provides care and education for their infant/toddler while they attend school. There are also collaborations with other high schools.
- [Battlewood Head Start](#) is a Head Start/Early Head Start center located in a HUD housing complex serving the families who qualify for HUD housing.

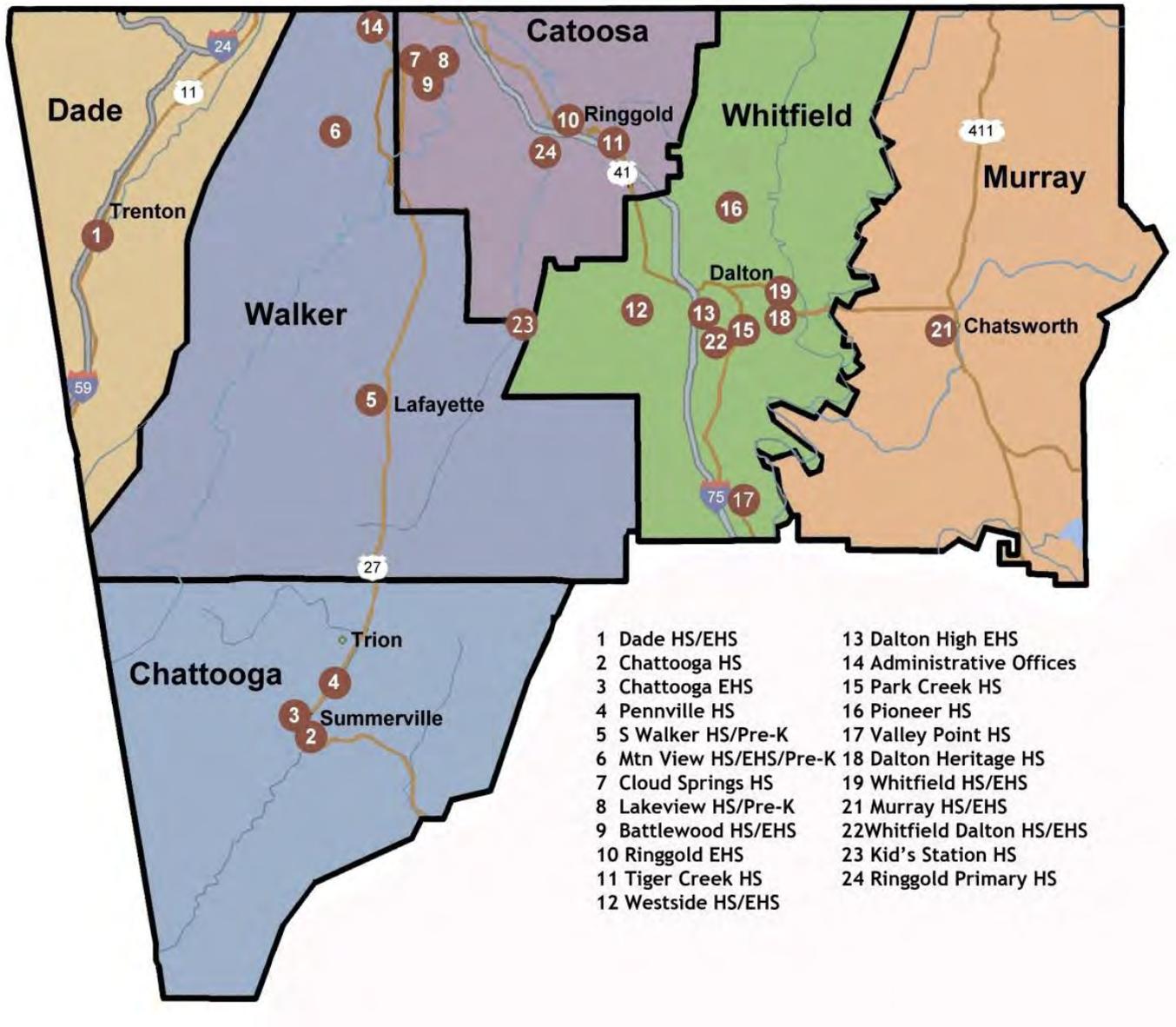
- **Program Information Report – 2011-2012 Program Year:**

Criteria	Early Head Start	Head Start
Total number of Children enrolled	298	961
Total number of Pregnant women enrolled	28	<del>                    </del>
Average Monthly Enrollment	100%	100%
Percentage of over income children served (due to special circumstances)	4%	8%
Children enrolled less than 45 days (may not have been enrolled long enough to receive medical/dental services) *	12	83
Children receiving up-to-date age-appropriate health care **	82%	96%
Children up-to-date on all appropriate immunizations	98%	100%
Children receiving dental screening	99%	96%
Children receiving routine developmental, sensory, behavioral screenings	100%	100%
Children with diagnosed disability	28	111
Total number of families enrolled	253	883
Families who received some type of assistance, education and/or intervention	107	247
Number of homeless families served	6	7

\*Percentages for health services deduct the children enrolled less than 45 days

\*\*Well-baby checks completed after the week of the check-up date (i.e., 6-Week Well Baby Check) are not included in the count and account for the lower percentage in Early Head Start.

Following is a map of our service area:



- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Dade HS/EHS           | 13 Dalton High EHS         |
| 2 Chattooga HS          | 14 Administrative Offices  |
| 3 Chattooga EHS         | 15 Park Creek HS           |
| 4 Pennville HS          | 16 Pioneer HS              |
| 5 S Walker HS/Pre-K     | 17 Valley Point HS         |
| 6 Mtn View HS/EHS/Pre-K | 18 Dalton Heritage HS      |
| 7 Cloud Springs HS      | 19 Whitfield HS/EHS        |
| 8 Lakeview HS/Pre-K     | 21 Murray HS/EHS           |
| 9 Battlewood HS/EHS     | 22 Whitfield Dalton HS/EHS |
| 10 Ringgold EHS         | 23 Kid's Station HS        |
| 11 Tiger Creek HS       | 24 Ringgold Primary HS     |
| 12 Westside HS/EHS      |                            |

WEBSITE: [www.fragahs.com](http://www.fragahs.com) (directions to centers available on website – Service Area Map)