



Explorers Academy

2018-2019 Annual Report



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Our Mission

Provide comprehensive services for young children and their families to achieve school readiness and lifelong success

Our Vision

Encourage, empower, and educate all children

Our Values

Children First | Respect | Positivity | Empathy | Competence

This is *Explorers Academy*!

Becoming Explorers Academy in 2017, we continue to provide early childhood education in Yellowstone and Carbon counties. A Head Start program, Explorers Academy offers quality early education in the community by employing proven developmental techniques that increase the chance for student success in school. Never a one-size-fits-all approach, our program identifies distinct needs of each child as well as those of the child's family *and* works to nurture and further develop academic and social growth and sustainability. Explorers Academy is a preschool system tailored for childhood success and preparation for kindergarten.

THOSE WE SERVE

As a Head Start program, Explorers Academy serves the most vulnerable children and their families in Yellowstone and Carbon counties, giving them a place in their community to succeed.

Income Eligibility

The majority of children admitted to Explorers Academy are from families whose income is at or below the federal poverty line. It is a requirement for us to offer enrollment to these children first.

Foster Children

Also automatically eligible for our program are foster children; regardless of their foster family's income. We served 60 (11%) foster children this year alone!

Public Assistance

If a family receives, or would qualify to receive in the absence of childcare, public assistance benefits, their children automatically qualify for our program.

Experiencing Homelessness

Children from families that are currently experiencing homelessness are automatically eligible for the Explorers Academy program. We also assist in securing housing for these families!

With Disabilities

At least 10% of enrollment slots are reserved for children with disabilities.

FAMILY SERVICES

Here at Explorers Academy, we believe that children's parents are their most important teachers. By this belief, and with a focus on each child's learning and overall success, we partner with community agencies and refer families to various community resources. We also offer classes and workshops for our families (all of our Family Services staff are certified in *The Incredible Years Basic Parenting* program). Community resources accessible through our program include:

- ★ Emergency Assistance
- ★ Health Education
- ★ Budgeting Classes
- ★ Parenting Classes
- ★ Asset Building
- ★ Housing Assistance
- ★ Trauma-informed Care Training
- Employment Training ★
- Educational Opportunities ★
- Marriage Education ★
- Goal Setting ★
- Nutrition & Cooking Classes ★
- Counseling, Mental Health ★

LEADERSHIP

Head Start programs, such as Explorers Academy, are guided by a governance structure that includes a Board of Directors, a Policy Council, and a management staff. Not only does this structure ensure that Explorers Academy meets and properly tends the community's needs, it also allows for parents to have a voice in decision making.

Board of Directors

A dynamic group of community members volunteering their time and expertise on a monthly basis, our board of directors always includes: an accountant or financial manager; an early childhood education/development specialist; an attorney familiar with issues pertaining to those we serve; members with children currently or formerly enrolled in our program; and members with expertise in education, business administration, or community affairs. We are grateful to our board members for their leadership, vision, and active participation in planning for the agency throughout the years!

Board Members

⇒ *Dr. Erin Allen*
⇒ *Jessica Gaard*
⇒ *Sue DeVries*
⇒ *Eric George*
⇒ *Lynette Schwalbe*
⇒ *Genia Castro-Waller*
⇒ *Daniel Brooks*
⇒ *Chase Brown*
⇒ *Heidi Jensen*
⇒ *Jennifer Stark*

Involved in and responsible for fiscal and legal commitments.

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Policy Council

Made up of elected parent representatives from each classroom as well as appointed community representatives, the Explorers Academy policy council assists in making decisions related to program direction. Members of our policy council play a critical role in building relationships between Explorers Academy and the community by being both the voice of classroom parents and the voice of the council when reporting to parent committees.

Policy Council Members

- ⇒ *Paul Law*
- ⇒ *Jennifer Sheaffer*
- ⇒ *Micki Morrow*
- ⇒ *Stephanie Adkins*
- ⇒ *Lynda Pancich*
- ⇒ *Gary Jones*
- ⇒ *Daniel Brooks*
- ⇒ *Doug Anderson*
- ⇒ *Ryen Thomsen*
- ⇒ *Jon Osier*
- ⇒ *Diane Kron*
- ⇒ *Rebecca Kittock*
- ⇒ *April Park*
- ⇒ *Leigha McGarvey*

Responsible for program direction.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

A dynamic team of committed professionals who strive for excellence in all areas of the Explorers Academy program, our management staff is focused on creating an environment of excellence, compliance, innovation, and transparency.



Jeremy Welch
Executive Director



Traci Wimmer
Head Start
Director



Karin Fitzgerald
Education Director



Anna Mason
ERSEA Director



Mandy Hurr
HR Director



**Christopher
Belcher**
Operations Director



Megan Martin
Community
Relations Director

*Management
staff assumes
responsibility
for day-to-day
functioning of
Explorers
Academy.*



Janice King
Family, Community
Partnership
Director



Kathy Huck
Nutrition



Richard Geiger
Finance Director

BY THE NUMBERS

Not only do we measure a child's and family's success at Explorers Academy by being present for and active with them on a daily basis—allowing for an intimate understanding of each particular individual, we also measure their (and our) success in numbers.

Enrollment and Operations

3,611 cumulative operating days

138 Staff

21 Teachers

20 Assistant Teachers

404 total families

439 children enrolled

208 part-time

152 full-time

23 total classes

231 children received
preventative health care

439 children have ongoing health care

437 with current immunizations

428 children with accessible dental care

Percentages, Deliverables

34% of parents reported an increase in
their relationship with their children

15% of children received special
education services (IEP)

40% of those enrolled were
referred by partner agencies

55.7% of children received mental health services

8% of children received individualized health plans

85% average attendance

88.9% received services needed

78% received parenting education

35,256 breakfasts served

22,178 snacks provided

42,338 lunches served

Community Involvement

6 local institutions provided manpower

280 former Head Start parents

542 individuals volunteered their time Financial assistance from **26** institutions


11 partner agencies from the community

33 golf sponsors

Community Involvement

If you would like to donate, volunteer or view a list of community partners, please visit our website at www.explorershs.org or contact Megan Martin at meganm@explorershs.org

As a non-profit agency, Explorers Academy relies on support from our community to be able to provide quality services to our children and families. 20% of our operating budget must be provided through community support. We are fortunate to have a community that provides monetary, material and time donations. Our supporters ensure our children and families have what they need to achieve school readiness. Our community partners and our volunteers are caring individuals who give their time and talents to make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.



Donating to Explorers Academy is an investment in our community. Every dollar contributed to early childhood education has a \$7 payback to our economy (Ludwig and Phillips 2007). Investing in our early learners supports children in developing school readiness habits as they enter kindergarten, making them much more likely to be successful and develop into productive citizens giving back to our local economy.

Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2018 and 2017

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 321,114	\$ 290,918
Restricted cash	64,724	67,053
Investments	158,847	143,365
Accounts receivable, net	10,000	
Grant receivables	22,572	134,570
Prepaid expenses	17,603	27,899
Total current assets	<u>594,860</u>	<u>663,805</u>
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>2,147,976</u>	<u>890,995</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 2,742,836</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,554,800</u></u>
Liabilities and net assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 110,067	\$ 184,607
Accrued payroll and benefits	85,496	100,109
Advances from grantors	17,966	
Current portion of long-term debt	19,517	
Total current liabilities	<u>233,046</u>	<u>284,716</u>
Long-term liabilities		
Notes payable, net of current portion	<u>614,416</u>	
Total liabilities	<u>847,462</u>	<u>284,716</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted		
Operating	316,607	312,036
Property and equipment	1,514,043	890,995
Temporarily restricted	64,724	67,053
Total net assets	<u>1,895,374</u>	<u>1,270,084</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>\$ 2,742,836</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,554,800</u></u>