



EARLY EDUCATION FUNDING

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

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Helson Francisco-Salgado started in the Berks County Intermediate Unit Early Intervention (BCIU EI) program in December 2020, first receiving services in an EI Specialized classroom with integrated speech therapy and sign-language as his communication mode. After progress in the EI classroom, he transitioned to a Head Start (HS) classroom in the fall of 2022. During the summer, before he transitioned into the HS classroom, a special education itinerant teacher worked with him in the home to further support his hesitation in communicating with unfamiliar peers and adults. Within a few sessions, Helson was verbally communicating over 100 utterances with the itinerant teacher. When starting in the Head Start classroom in the fall of 2022, the itinerant teacher, speech therapist, and HS staff worked collaboratively to develop a low-tech lanyard of pictures allowing Helson to communicate with peers and staff. His first interactions were limited to only communications with a few individuals,

but once comfortable he quickly began interacting with peer groups and the whole class. To further his communication, an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device replaced the low-tech lanyard of pictures, allowing Helson to verbally communicate while also being supported by supplemental aids, as needed.

Helson's family has played an integral part in his educational journey. Helson is now an active participant in the Head Start classroom. He has established peer relationships and has progressed academically. He can meaningfully engage with his teachers and peers across a variety of settings. All the crucial skills Helson has developed will play an integral role during his upcoming transition to kindergarten. The BCIU EI Program recognizes the important contributions Helson and his family have contributed to his educational progress! Additionally, the EI Special Education services and all staff members' contributions ensured Helson is one of the many PreK success stories.

PRESCHOOL EARLY INTERVENTION

Preschool Early Intervention (EI) provides special education services to preschool age children in Berks County. EI offers a continuum of services – individual therapy services, supports in an early childhood community location, services in an EI specialized classroom with integrated therapy services, or any combination of services.

3,024
students

22
specialized classrooms

BCIU provides services including coaching and consultation to students in **234** early childhood environments in Berks County including **33 Head Start** and **23 Pre-K Counts** classrooms.



Head Start (HS) provides Pre-K education and comprehensive services to children ages 3-5 years for families who are living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level. HS is funded federally and by the state.

685*
students

40**
classrooms

* HS Students: 610 seats are federally funded and 75 are state funded.

** HS Classrooms: 35 federally funded and five are state funded.

PA Pre-K Counts

Pre-K Counts (PKC) education with supplemental services to children ages 3-5 years for families who are living at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. PKC is funded by the state.

280*
total students

16
classrooms

* 243 students are served in BCIU-operated PKC classrooms. And 37 students are served in STAR 4 child care, BCIU partner classrooms.