

**Section 11: Summary of Findings – Year 4**

The Community Assessment analysis of demographic data and population trends confirms the need for affordable, comprehensive early childcare programs in the service area to meet the needs of low-income families and their children. Quality early childhood services will increase the resiliency, growth and development of our youngest and most vulnerable population as well as make an impact on poverty in the community.

The following is a summary of significant findings for this year. Goals and objectives based on assessment findings that are within the scope and budget parameters of the program will be proposed for inclusion in appropriate plans (short- and long-term).

***Staff Turnover - Jasper***

*The challenge to staff centers with qualified teachers continues in all counties of the service area but is most significant at the Jasper center. The Jasper Learning Center (Hamilton County) had a turnover rate of 50% for both Head Start and Early Head Start teachers in both fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Currently, the Jasper turnover rate is 57%. The overall agency-wide turnover rate is 12%.*

***Local Pre-K Serving Majority of 4 Year Olds***

*Over the past 5 years, the county LEAs and private providers have largely served four year old VPK children which continues to impact the number of four year olds served in our program. See chart on page 32. Most recently, we have been notified that county LEAs will be increasing the number of VPK classrooms for the 2018-2019 school year as follows:*

<b>County LEAs</b>	<b>Current # LEA VPK Classrooms</b>	<b># VPK Classrooms LEA is Adding Upcoming School Year 2018-2019</b>	<b>TOTAL # of LEA VPK Classrooms for 2018-2019</b>
Columbia County	13	6	19
Hamilton County	3	1	4
Lafayette County	2	1	3
Suwannee County	12	<b>currently discussing</b>	at least 12

***Difficulty Enrolling a Majority of 4 Year Olds***

*It has become increasingly difficult to enroll a majority of four year olds in each classroom of 20 children. This school year, we were able to enroll 148 four year olds (according to class age) at the beginning of the year and, currently, 130 four year olds are enrolled (according to class age).*

***Obesity / Overweight***

*The data presented indicates this health factor remains a concern in the service area across all age ranges. (See Section 4 Health Indicator Table, Section 4 Childhood Obesity and the 2013-2014 parent responses, Table 12 Overweight Children)*

The Community Assessment serves as the cornerstone for program planning to address the needs of Head Start and Early Head Start children and families in the service area. The information compiled in this report will also assist the program and program partners to better collaborate in implementing programs and services.