

# Southside Early Childhood Center

*Rising Stars*

## Our demographics

**School manager:** LaVilla Brevard      **Began at school:** 2002      **Years in district:** 10      **In education:** 10

**Grades served:** Pre K      **Enrollment:** 250      **Economic status:** 95.5% free & reduced lunch

**Diversity:** .12% White, 67% African-American, 20% Hispanic, 1% Other

**Number of teachers:** 8      **Classified:** 25      **Administrators:** 1      **Counselors:** 0      **Media specialists:** 0

**Other:** 3 Special Education Teachers, 1 Full-time School Nurse, 1 Speech Therapist, 1 School Psychologist, 1 Parent Coordinator and Interim Physical and Occupational Therapists

## Our mission

The mission of Southside Early Childhood Center is to provide quality early childhood education so that every child entering kindergarten is ready to learn.

## Our facilities

**Date main building was built:** 1954      **Date of renovations:** 1999

**Square feet:** 28,074      **Number of computers:** 34      **Number of classrooms:** 26

## Our school programs

- **Four-Year-Old Kindergarten** – Our four-year-old Kindergarten program classrooms operate on a full-day schedule. The program follows the High/Scope, Everyday Math and Open Court preschool curriculum and is designed to meet South Carolina’s Early Learning Standards. Before the child begins the program, he or she is tested with the readiness screening program called Dial 4. Acceptance into the program is based on age-eligible children qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch or Medicaid. Children with developmental delays documented through state-approved screening assessments or children with medically documented disabilities who do not already qualify for special need services are also considered for enrollment.
- **The Preschool Disabilities Program** – The preschool disabilities program serves special needs children age three through five, educating approximately 48 children with morning and afternoon sessions. The children must be assessed for placement into the program. All types of disabilities are represented in the classes, ranging from mild disabilities, such as speech, to children who are profoundly handicapped. Each child has an Individualized Education Program to address the specialized needs of the student. Many of these children attend one session in Preschool Disabilities classes and the remainder of the day in another program within Southside, such as the Four-Year-Old Child Kindergarten Program.

- **The Lancaster Early Head Start Program** – The Lancaster Early Head Start Program offers comprehensive child development services to families with children birth to age three. There are two components offered, a center-based component and a home-based component. The center-based program is housed within three separate classrooms, serving a total of 48 children. There is one teacher for every four students. The home-based component serves 24 additional families, eight of whom include prenatal mothers. Both components are designed to offer comprehensive services to the families, including training in positive child discipline, early child care and development, preventive health services, child and family mental health issues, children’s dental care needs, and prenatal issues. Quality childcare is provided for the center-based children.
- **Head Start Program** – The Head Start program is also housed at Southside Early Childhood Center. It is a NAEYC Accredited Program that provides comprehensive educational, health, nutritional, social services to economically disadvantaged children and their families. This program serves approximately 94 three- and four-year-olds. It is operated by Carolina Community Action.

### Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

The core focus of our school is to provide a learning environment that fosters all areas of child development. A research-based preschool curriculum is used that focuses on critical child development skills, approaches to learning, language and literacy, mathematics, social/emotional development and physical health and development. Our curriculum is aligned with the South Carolina Early Learning Curriculum Standards.

### Our parents/parent support programs

Parent involvement is a vital part of our program. Parents volunteer in the classroom, attend field trips and participate in fundraisers. Parents also serve on the PTA and Policy Council.

### Our school strengths

- 1) Provides a high-quality early childhood education
- 2) Promotes a positive parent/teacher interaction – teachers complete home visits twice a year and parents are required to attend two conferences at school
- 3) Health and developmental screenings and assessments of students
- 4) Safe and nurturing learning environment
- 5) Concrete and hands-on learning experience

### Our improvement/growth areas

- 1) Receive accreditations through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- 2) Integrate physical education, music, technology and art instruction into the curricula
- 3) Enhance the media center to appeal to visual, auditory and kinesthetic learners