

2021-2022

Annual Report



Launch



A Year of Partnerships

Launch experienced a phenomenal year! This year, we ensured that 750 school-age and preschool students had equitable access to the highest quality learning and care. We know that investing in our youth will yield brilliant outcomes in their lives and society.

With our local partners, we achieved milestones that made a significant impact on our students and families, including:

- Expanding our services to provide support, facilitated group sessions, and resources **to children aged 0-3 and their caregivers** with Program for Early Parent Support
- Working with families to understand financial barriers to Launch programs, which led us to provide **168 families with tuition assistance**
- **Engaging the holistic child in field trips and enrichment activities** from our partners Double Dutch Divas, Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle Aquarium, Animal Encounters for STEM Enrichment, Olympic National Park, Museum of Flight, The Nature Vision Science Program, Burke Museum, and so many more

We look forward to increasing our advocacy efforts at the legislative level to access more resources for the children and families we serve. We also encourage our community to support Launch's efforts to increase teacher compensation so we can attract and retain more childcare workers to meet the demand for our programs.

We can only accomplish our work because of the support of our incredible children, families, volunteers, staff, and supporters like you. Thank you!

- Dr. Angela Griffin, CEO



**"At Launch,
I learn to be kind."**

-LAUNCH STUDENT



About Launch

Our Mission

Lead the charge to brilliant outcomes for the children of our community by ensuring equitable access to the highest quality learning and care.

Our Work

Founded in 1977 by a group of families who simply wanted a safe, nurturing place for their children to go after school, Launch serves more than 1,000 children every year through our early

learning, before & after school, and summer programs for ages 3-12. A core focus of our work is to ensure that all children have equitable access to high-quality, enriching programs. We are also expanding our services to the caretakers and parents of infants to ensure that families in our community are fully equipped to raise a happy, healthy child.

Our vision is to create a world in which a young person's race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, first language, religion, or ability does not affect their outcomes.

Locations

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS
(AGES 3 - 5)

SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS
(AGES 5 - 12)

Delridge Community Center ●

Sanislo Elementary ●

Highland Park Elementary ●●

Montlake Elementary ●

Miller Community Center Annex ●

Madrona Elementary ●●

Leschi Elementary ●

Beacon Hill International School ●●

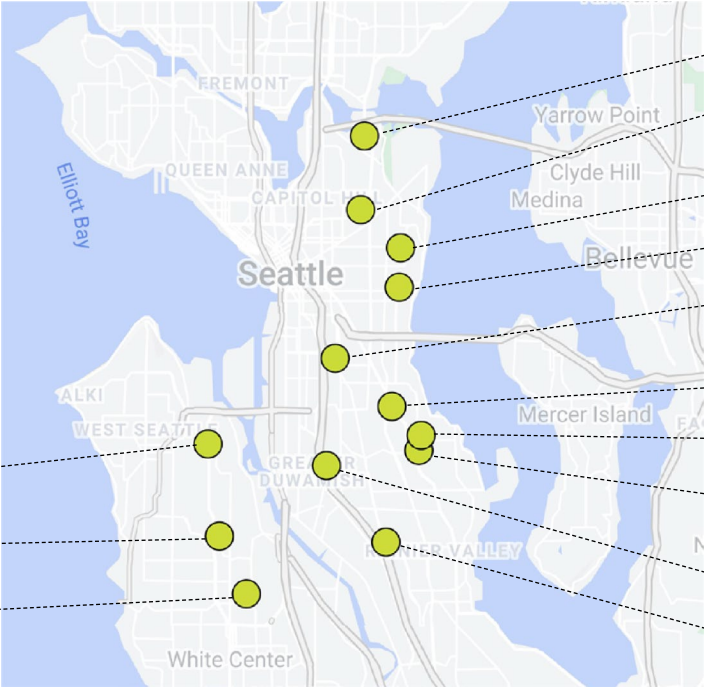
Launch Office

Hawthorne Elementary ●

Rainier Community Center ●

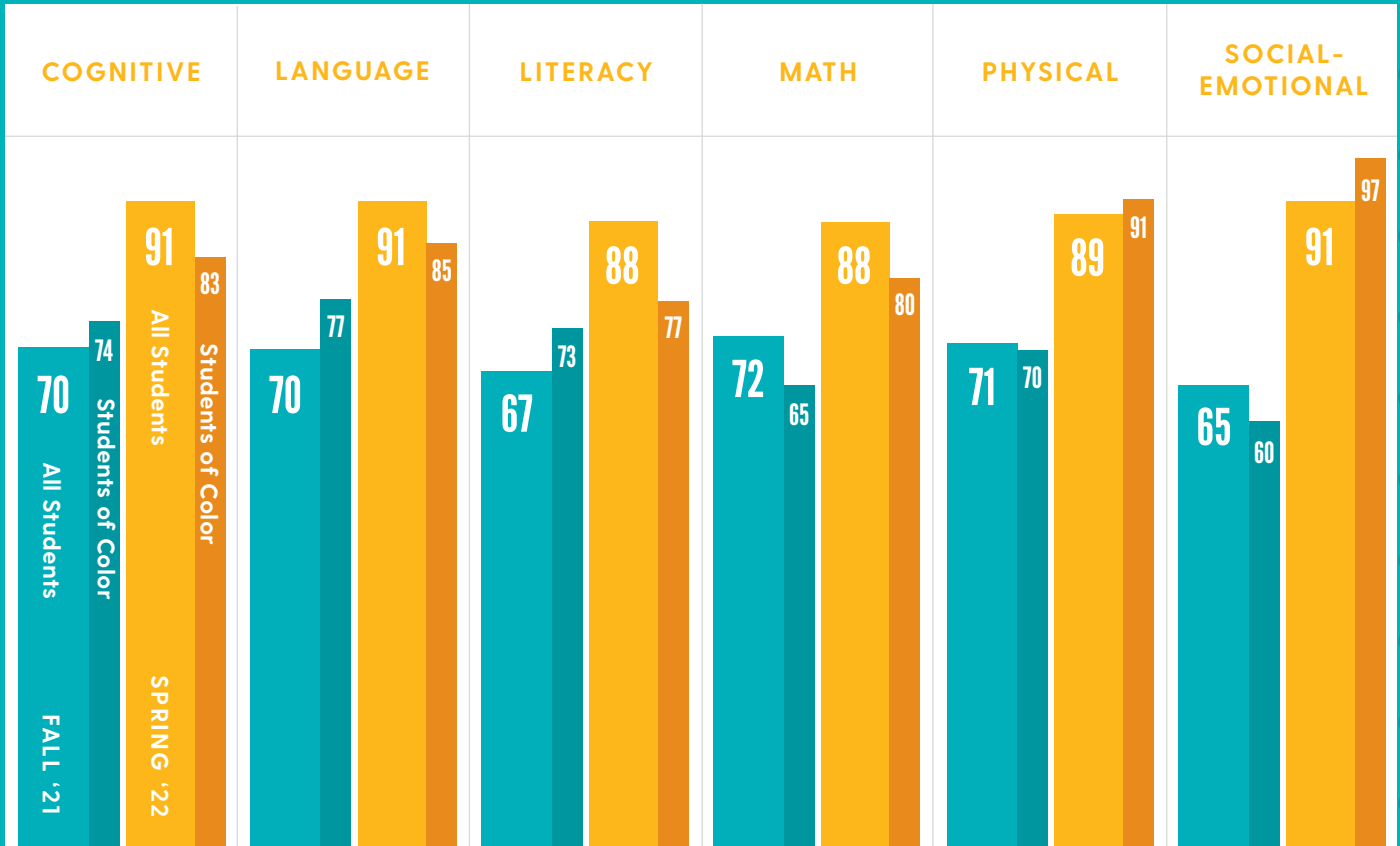
Maple Elementary ●

Kimball Elementary ●



Preschool Outcomes

The percentage of preschoolers meeting or exceeding age-level expectations increased from fall to spring in 6 KEY KINDERGARTEN-READINESS AREAS:



Numbers represent the percentage of preschoolers meeting or exceeding age-level expectations



FALL '21
All Students/Students of Color



SPRING '22
All Students/Students of Color

COGNITIVE	▲ 21%
LANGUAGE	▲ 21%
LITERACY	▲ 21%
MATH	▲ 16%
PHYSICAL	▲ 18%
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL	▲ 26%

increase for all students



FROM FALL '21 TO SPRING '22,
OUR PRESCHOOLERS SHOWED
**increased ability to meet
or exceed age expectations**
IN 6 KEY KINDERGARTEN-
READINESS AREAS



It Takes a Village

My child has attended Launch since her preschool years. After returning to work post-COVID shutdown, I, like most, struggled with the cost of full-day care after only needing after-school care for so many years. It was a very difficult adjustment for me and my household. I needed to return to work, but without having care for my child, I could not do so. Launch stepped up and offered the support I needed with financial assistance so that my child would be able to attend Launch's program, allowing me to work. While she was at Launch, she was well cared for. She received help with her homework, which was also a huge concern of mine. She was able to interact with her peers and learn positive skills that helped her with her social/emotional processes. I am grateful to all the wonderful staff and leadership at Launch that has been part of the **village** that has helped me raise my child. This is her last summer with Launch as she is entering middle school. However, I am hopeful that she can continue her journey with Launch and pay it forward by volunteering at Launch or supporting the work Launch does in the future.

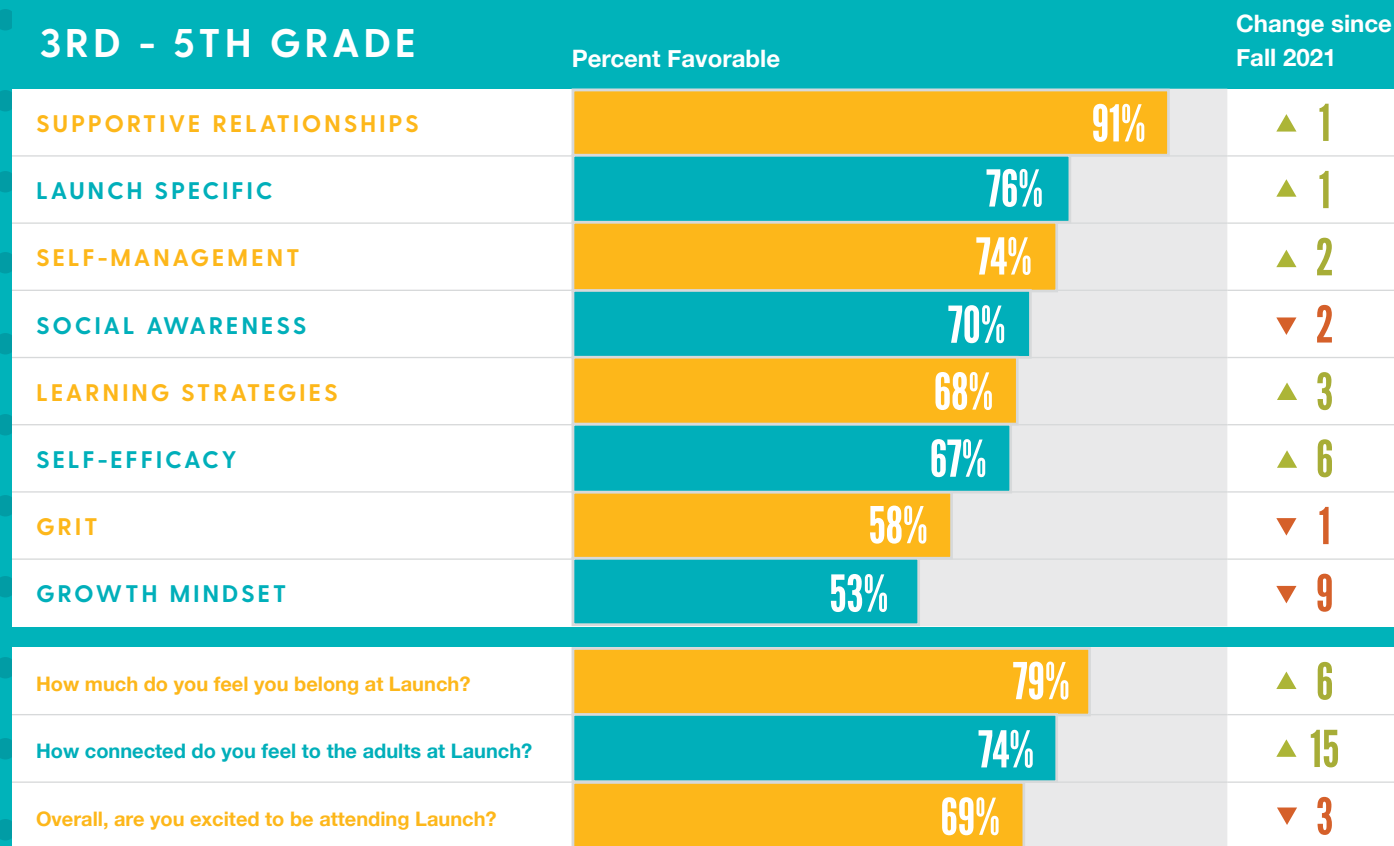
- Sharail, Launch Parent

School-Age Outcomes

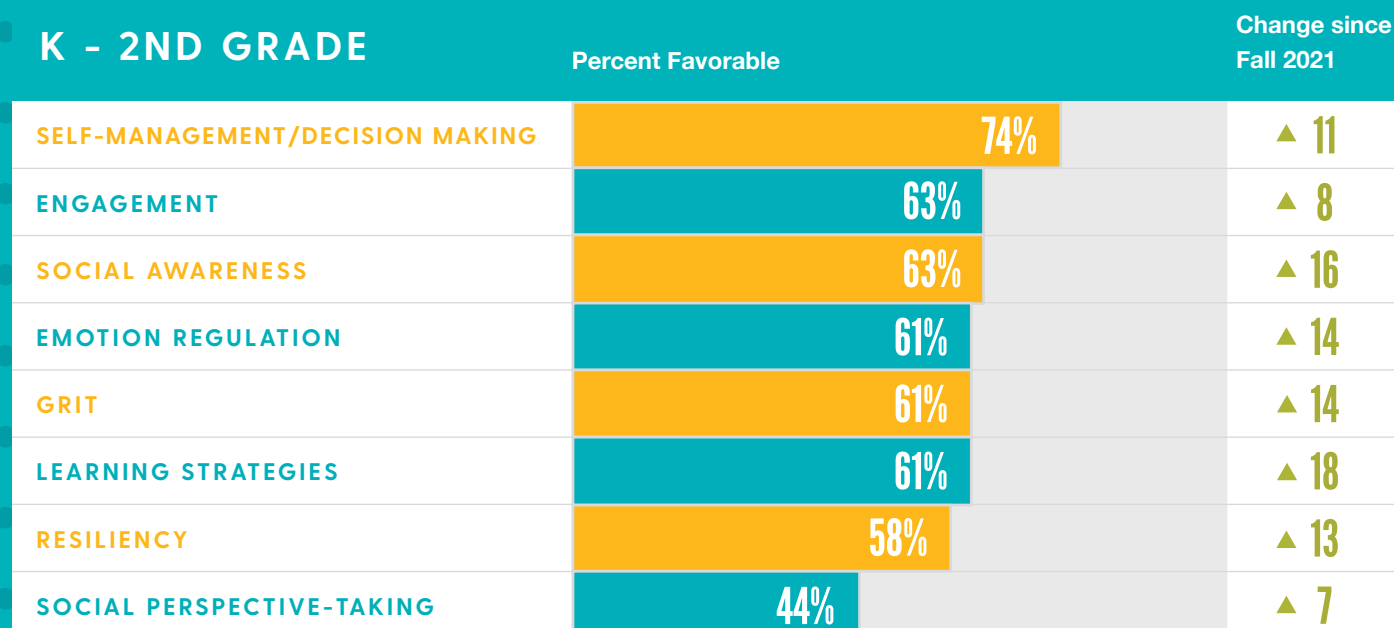
Last year, Launch piloted a new social-emotional assessment tool in our K-5 classrooms called Panorama. In Panorama, 3rd-5th graders complete a survey about their perceptions of their social-emotional skills. For K-2nd grade students, teachers fill out surveys according to their perceptions of students' skills.

Now that we're out of the pilot year, we're excited to share our results! These results reflect the changes in Launch students in just the pilot year – we anticipate future growth in the upcoming years!

3RD - 5TH GRADE



K - 2ND GRADE



"I've grown to learn stuff
from my past mistakes."

-LAUNCH STUDENT



Demographics

44%

OF FAMILIES
WERE LOW- TO
MODERATE-INCOME
(household income < 80% of
the King County median)

TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED ▼

FY 21-22

730

SUMMER '21

360

SCHOOL YEAR

573

OF THE
FAMILIES
WE SERVED
DURING FY
21-22

49%

WERE
ESSENTIAL
WORKERS

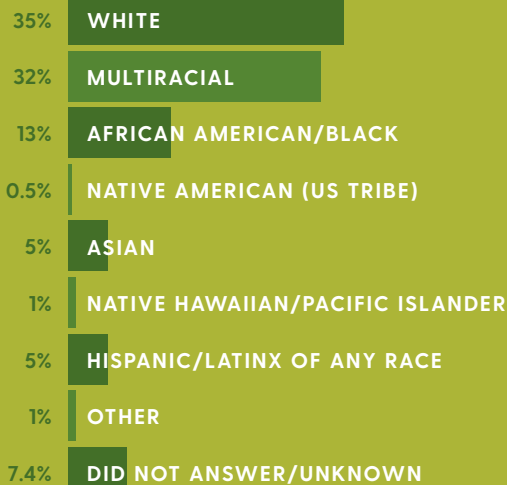


56%

OF OUR
STUDENTS ARE
CHILDREN OF
COLOR



ETHNICITY & RACE



18%

OF FAMILIES SPOKE A
NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE
AT HOME

5%

OF STUDENTS WERE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
LEARNERS



30

LANGUAGES
SPOKEN BY
LAUNCH
FAMILIES

4%

OF FAMILIES
NEEDED
INTREPRETATION/
TRANSLATION
SERVICES

168

FAMILIES
RECEIVED
SUPPORT
FROM
LAUNCH

LAUNCH PROVIDED
\$237,825

IN DIRECT TUITION
ASSISTANCE TO
FAMILIES
an increase of 50%
from last year



Our Partnerships

Community Organizations

Launch partnered as a founding organization for the Greater Seattle Child Care Business Coalition (GSCCBC). We work together with a shared mission: to change policy, receive funding, and strengthen business practices for childcare in the Greater Seattle area. This year, we achieved a milestone in augmenting childcare workers' compensation with \$3 million in public funding from the City of Seattle. It was a significant step toward increasing wages and honoring childcare providers' work in our community. King County and the State of Washington invested in a similar funding model — a model that recognizes teachers as critical to society's infrastructure!

We are excited to continue working with the GSCCBC to advocate on behalf of our sector at the local, state, and federal levels.

Program Partnerships

During the summer, Launch had wonderful partners who brought joy, learning, and growth to Launch students. Students had an eye-opening introduction to our planet's diversity by meeting animals from Woodland Park Zoo and Seattle Aquarium. Then, Animal Encounters for STEM Enrichment and Olympic National Park offered children fun experiences to interact with wildlife. Kids studied birds with Seattle Audubon Society, learning about birds' role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Launch kids virtually blasted off to outer space with the Willard Smith Planetarium and enjoyed sights at the Museum of Flight. Additionally, kids sharpened their photography abilities at Youth in Focus, increasing their 21st-century skills. We also partnered with Double Dutch Divas, and the physical activity kept kids' hearts and minds healthy.

Furthermore, our teachers received in-depth professional training from Pamela Bond, a Coast Salish educator. Teachers learned how to develop an anti-racist, anti-bias curriculum through an Indigenous lens — helping the youth peer at the natural world from a Native perspective. The Nature Vision Science Program taught second graders about the use of native plants by First Peoples; shared Coast Salish Sea Orca lifestyles with the older grades. We also partnered with the National Park Service Traveling Trunks Program to teach upper elementary students the cultures of Clatsop and Chinookan, the original peoples. Furthermore, the Burke Museum invited Launch students to hear lively Native American storytelling and view the cultural objects of long-held Coast Salish traditions.

Thank you to our partners for your commitment to helping students thrive!

School's Out Washington

As one of the longest-serving childcare providers in the Seattle community, we have reputable knowledge about what kids need in the early learning and school-age space. School's Out Washington advocated for Launch to be one of the first afterschool program participants on Washington's Early Learning Action Coalition, a state-level coalition appointed by the governor to monitor the accountability for outcomes of kids in early-age and school-age childcare programs. Our combined efforts increase access to opportunities for children experiencing poverty and racial oppression. We believe in equity for every child — every child deserves quality youth programs that support the holistic self.

We are grateful for the partnership: our unified voices have the power to inspire change for the children in our communities.



**“The teachers are
what I love
the most about
Launch”**

-LAUNCH STUDENT



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Jo Hamer

Jo Hamer loves working at Launch because of its commitment to serving the diverse needs of every kid in our community. Launch works towards racial equity by incorporating vendors, curriculums, and activities that truly reflect Launch’s vision to use equitable practices.

To achieve Launch’s vision, Jo reaches out to diverse vendors in the community to support student needs and establish partnerships that will impact best practice needs for staff. Moreover, Jo loves to coach teachers and leaders to bring their best selves and what they are interested in to inspire our diverse Launch students!

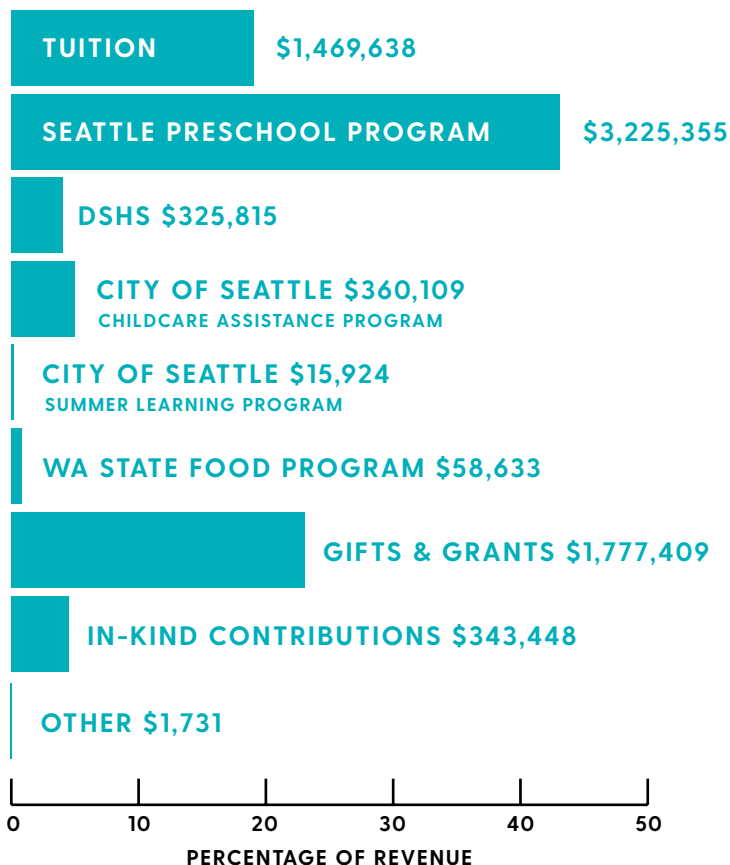
At Launch, Jo loves her coworkers, especially those who have been here a long time. There is a strong sense of family when people stick around. You can tell people are committed to the mission because they live it and breathe it.

Beyond the tight-knit Launch staff, Jo is also grateful for the relationships she can build with the community and is proud of the relationships that are still going strong. She is still in contact with the very first kindergarteners she taught at Kimball; in fact, they are high school seniors this year! Many prior Launch students still carry Launch with them — they remember teachers and specific moments that positively impacted them. They share with her how much they feel that all kids should have a Launch program. Some students are even waiting for the moment they turn 18, so they can work at Launch!

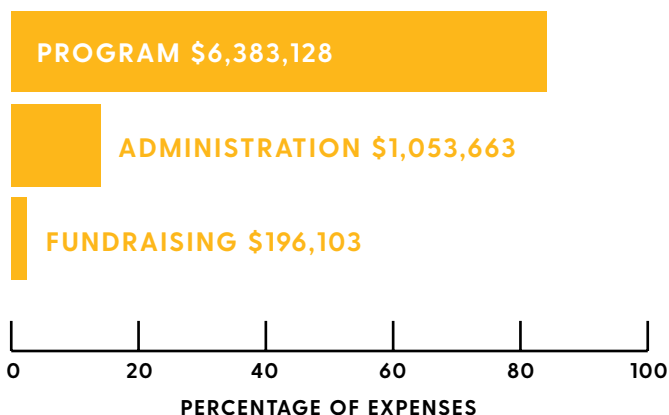
About Jo: Jo Hamer has worked at Launch for almost 13 years. She started as a teacher at Maple for a few months, moved to be the Program Director at Kimball for 10 years, and then became our Training and Compliance Director. When Jo started, she was eager to develop a training program for Launch, as there was no professional development department. Now, she directs internal training and has become a State Trainer who can offer STARS training hours for all staff.

Financials

Revenue: \$7,578,062



Expenses: \$7,632,894



We Rely on Launch

We are a 3-person low-income family living paycheck to paycheck in Seattle, and lately, every day is a struggle. As a working mother with a partner who is an essential worker, our family depends on wages to keep a roof over our heads and food on the table to make it work in an increasingly unaffordable city.

The teachers care about students and safety. Throughout COVID, they have been incredibly respectful of families and health. Staff members work so hard daily to provide a safe space for children to grow, learn and play. Leadership are excellent communicators; they are transparent and dedicated to equity and racial justice as a core value of Launch's programming.

Launch is the most affordable, flexible childcare option in Seattle. Childcare costs are insurmountable for the typical family, but because of Launch's flexibility, we paid full price when we could or a sliding scale and scholarships when needed. We have always appreciated that we can make payment arrangements and continue to get quality care for our son.

For our family of limited means, we rely on Launch, and against all odds, they always manage to be there.

I can't express enough that Launch is more than childcare and summer camp; its existence is a political act that addresses equity and social justice issues. We must have safe, affordable, quality childcare for low-income families to work and survive. This cannot be a privilege for the elite few but is critical to meet basic human rights. We must do all we can to help programs like these thrive in our community.

- Sara, Launch Parent



**“A wonderful place for
kids to be creative,
socialize, and grow.”**

-LAUNCH PARENT



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