



# Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

May 16, 2019



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

[www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov)

# Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve *05-16-19* agenda
- Approve *02-21-19* minutes



# Inspiration

Susan Harper  
Board Chair



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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# Board Member Updates

Board members report on their recent DECAL-related activities in their districts.



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# Commissioner's Update

Amy M. Jacobs  
Commissioner



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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# Georgia's Language & Literacy Endorsement

**An Initiative from the Office of Governor Brian Kemp**



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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# Language & Literacy Endorsement – Why?

- Literacy skill development begins **before a child is born** and continues through a child's formal education.
- Child care providers have a unique **opportunity and responsibility** to expose children to language & literacy.



# Language & Literacy Endorsement – Why?

- DECAL was charged with developing an endorsement to sit **beside** Quality Rated.
- The vision for the endorsement is to **further focus support** on raising child care literacy standards.





# Language & Literacy Endorsement – What?



- Supports programs in **increasing their practices** around responsive caregiving and appropriate language & literacy development
- Provides **additional recognition** to programs that have already made these investments

# Literacy Policy Recommendations



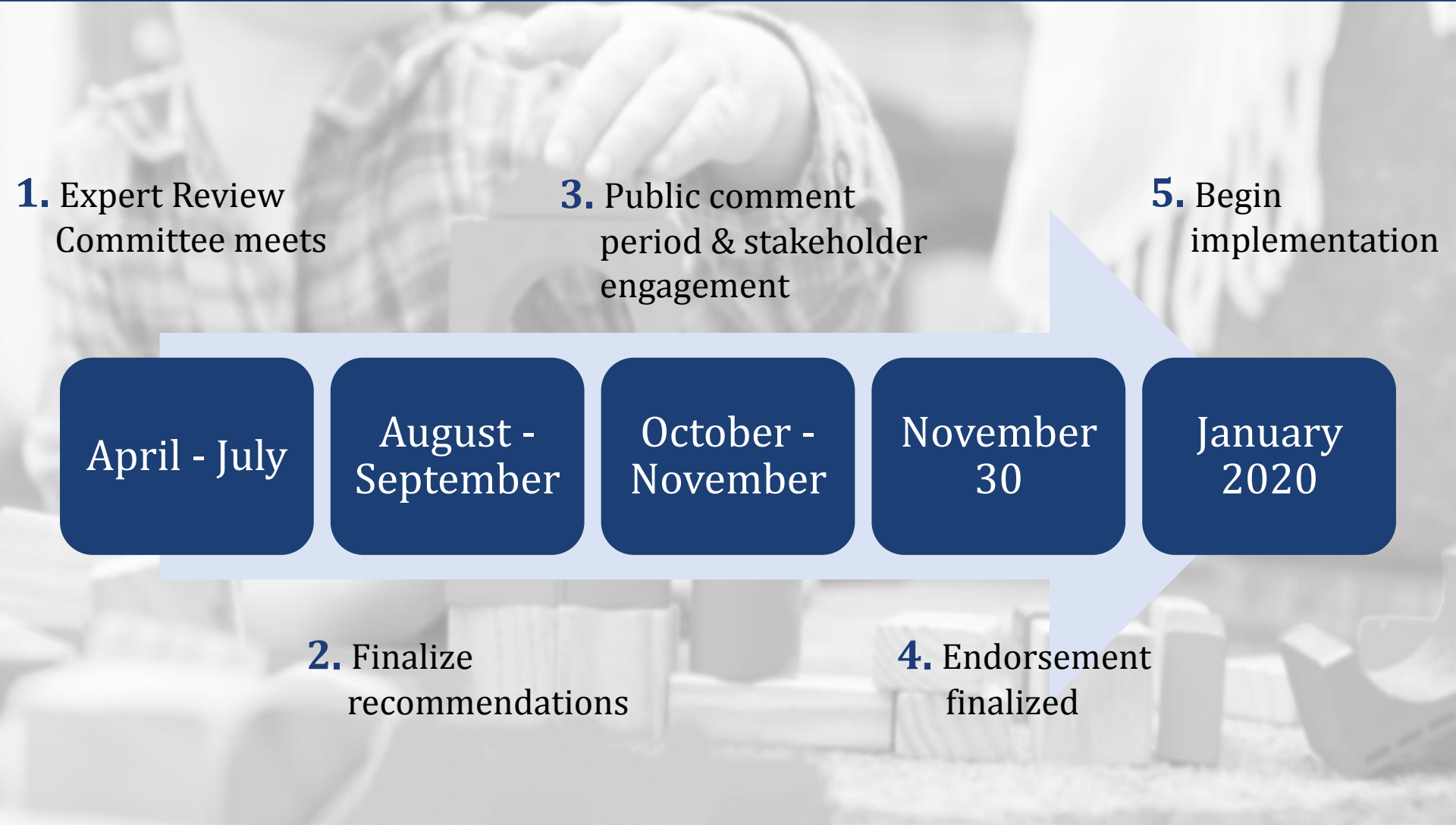
- Georgia will provide these components and build upon them for every child through these **Core Actions**:
  - We will talk with our babies.
  - We will continue to follow the science from infant/toddler through Pre-K.
  - We will measure and act on what matters from Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

# Expert Panel

- Convene a small panel of national and state experts to:
  - Review existing research and provide recommendations for a language & literacy endorsement for Quality Rated
- Make recommendations as to:
  - the appropriateness of instruments
  - how to create an endorsement that both recognizes & supports improvements in appropriate language and literacy instruction



# Timeline



**1.** Expert Review  
Committee meets

**3.** Public comment  
period & stakeholder  
engagement

**5.** Begin  
implementation

April - July

August -  
September

October -  
November

November  
30

January  
2020

**2.** Finalize  
recommendations

**4.** Endorsement  
finalized

# Introducing Dennis Brice, Chief Information Officer

- More than 25 years engineering, strategic thinking, and broad IT experience
- Has held technology leadership roles overseeing significant IT initiatives including the migration of enterprise on-premise applications to the cloud
- Received BS in Industrial Engineering from University of Tennessee
- Has private pilot's license; enjoys flying, tennis, and weight lifting



# Pre-K Teacher of the Year Finalists



Kaela Tustin  
E. Rivers Elementary  
Atlanta Public Schools



Beth Adcock  
Hillcrest Elementary  
Troup County



Jonathan Hines  
Barack H. Obama  
Elementary  
DeKalb County

# Pre-K Teacher of the Year Finalists



Teresa Dixon  
Childcare Network #231  
Rockdale County



Kaysha Smith  
Family Tree Child Development  
Center  
Dougherty County



Heather Williams  
Central Georgia  
Technical College  
Houston County

# Pre-K Teacher of the Year Finalists

- August 2019
  - Teachers will receive a CLASS observation.
  - Teachers will submit a video of a small group activity.
  - Teachers will participate in a face-to-face interview in Atlanta.
- September 2019
  - Winners announced.





# Finance, Legislative, & Administration Update

Rian Ringsrud

Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Administration



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# Finance Update – SFY 2019 Summary

Data as of March 31st	Budget	Expenditures*	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
<b>BY PROGRAMS</b>				
Child Care Services	\$279,614,093	\$207,701,618	\$71,912,475	26%
Pre-K + (HS)	\$367,459,433	\$286,040,386	\$81,419,047	22%
Quality Initiatives	\$68,944,533	\$55,280,011	\$13,664,522	20%
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$111,178,859	\$36,821,141	25%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$864,018,059</b>	<b>\$660,200,875</b>	<b>\$203,817,184</b>	<b>24%</b>

<b>BY FUNDING SOURCE</b>				
State General	\$61,514,778	\$42,324,675	\$19,190,103	31%
State Lottery	\$367,284,433	\$285,917,483	\$81,366,950	22%
Federal	\$432,335,928	\$329,887,018	\$102,448,910	24%
Other	\$2,882,920	\$2,071,700	\$811,220	28%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$864,018,059</b>	<b>\$660,200,875</b>	<b>\$203,817,184</b>	<b>24%</b>

\* Includes encumbrances.

# Finance Update – SFY 2020 Budget

	SFY 19 Budget*	Budget Adjustments	SFY 20 Budget
<b>BY PROGRAMS</b>			
Child Care Services	\$268,460,762	\$326,586	\$268,787,348
Pre-K + (HS)	\$367,459,433	\$11,419,372	\$378,878,805
Quality Initiatives	\$51,779,175	\$0	\$51,779,175
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$0	\$148,000,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$835,699,370</b>	<b>\$11,745,958</b>	<b>\$847,445,328</b>

<b>BY FUNDING SOURCE</b>			
State General	\$61,514,778	\$326,586	\$61,841,364
State Lottery	\$367,284,433	\$11,419,372	\$378,703,805
Federal	\$404,798,159	\$0	\$404,798,159
Other	\$2,102,000	\$0	\$2,102,000
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$835,699,370</b>	<b>\$11,745,958</b>	<b>\$847,445,328</b>

\* Budget reflects an administrative cut-over and may not reflect our current budget for Federal and Other funds.

# Welcome to the new 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower



# 5<sup>th</sup> Floor West Tower

- Legal Services and Audits & Compliance will occupy more than 9,000 square feet of new space.
  - 12 offices
  - 40 cubicles
  - 2 conference rooms (Redwood and Juniper)
    - Juniper set as a meeting style conference room with a boat shaped table
    - Redwood set classroom style



# Quality Innovations & Partnerships Update

Bentley Ponder, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations  
& Partnerships



# Quality Innovations & Partnerships

- Programs and services that reach throughout the department or closely relate to the department's other programs and services.
  - Community Outreach and Partnerships
  - Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships
  - Quality Rated
  - Research & Policy Analysis



# Community Outreach and Partnerships

- Early Education Community Partnership Coordinators began outreach:
  - Partnerships and collaborative meetings
  - ¼ early education programs per region
- Awarded Two-Generation Innovation Grants
  - 2 capacity building grants
  - 2 implementation grants
- Concluded GEEARS partnership
  - Social media campaign increased total followers by 42%



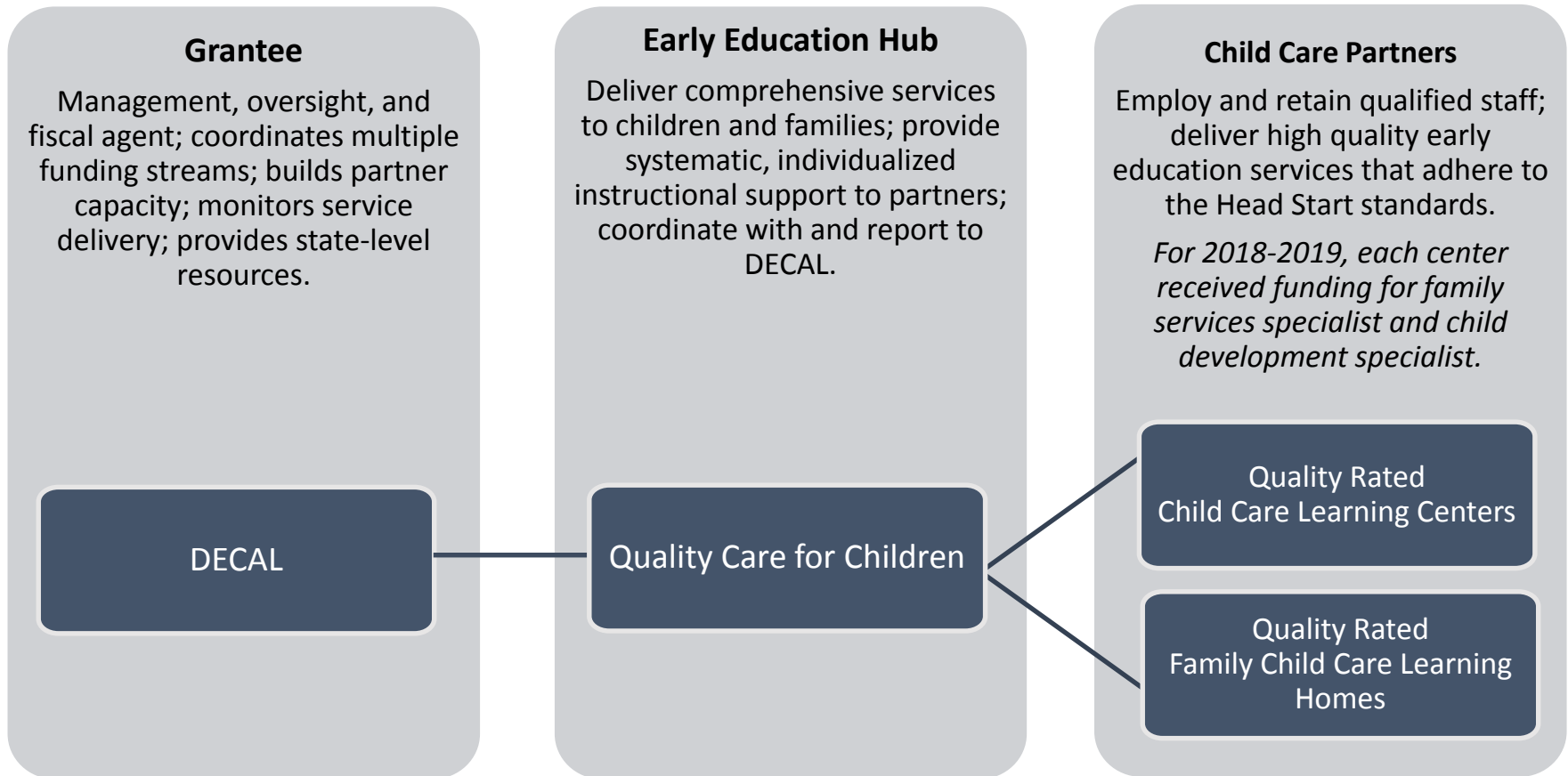


# Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships

- DECAL submitted five-year continuation application April 1.
  - Served approximately 1,000 children in first five years; many more benefited from the program.
- All child care center partners in current grant will continue to provide services.
- Family child care learning home partners will continue to support children whose home language is Spanish.
- All hub services will be provided by Quality Care for Children.



# New Model

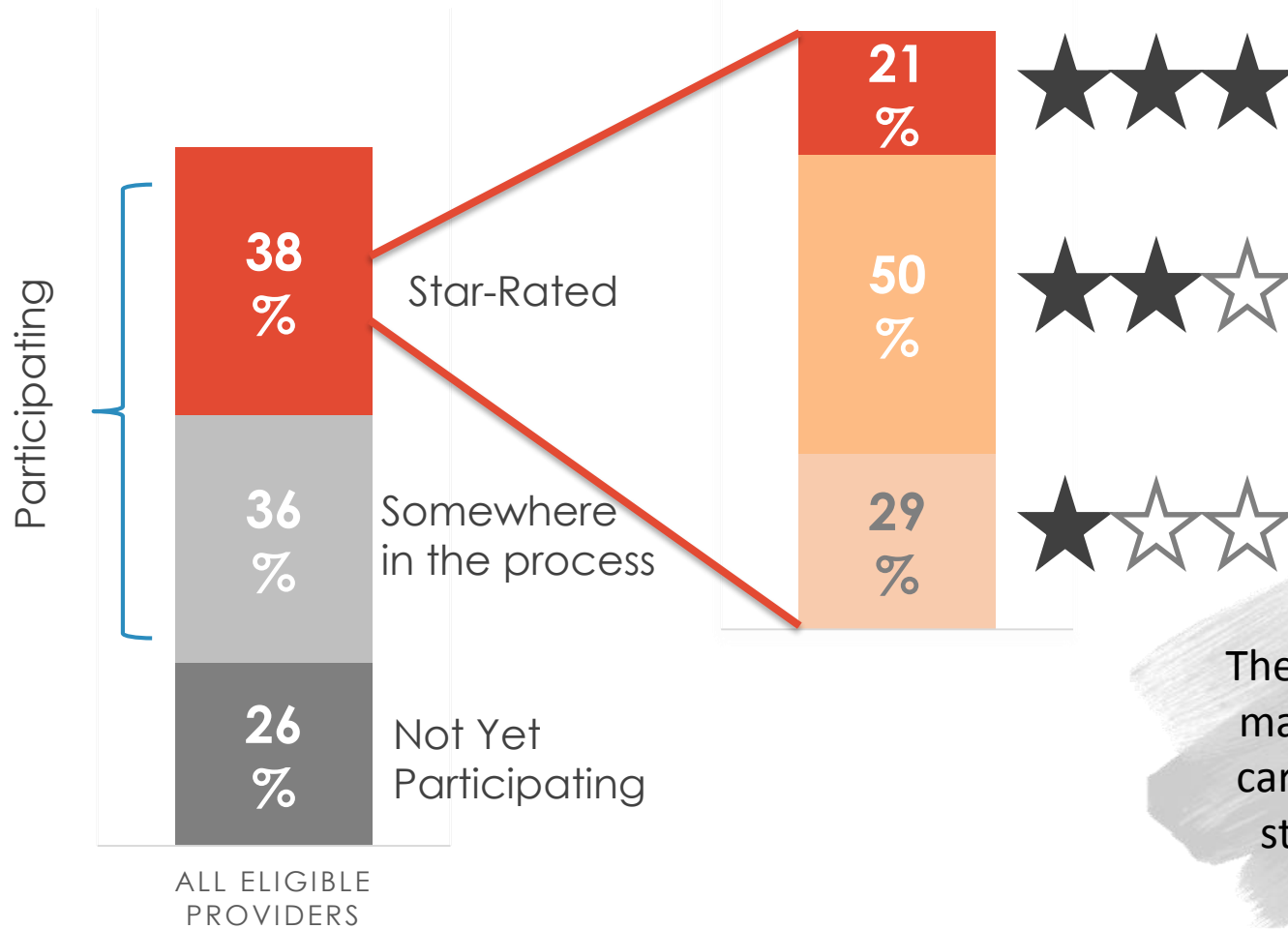


# Quality Rated in the 2019 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

- 249 programs rated
- 448 observations conducted led to a rating
- 31 days of initial reliability observations
- 17 days of reliability recheck observations



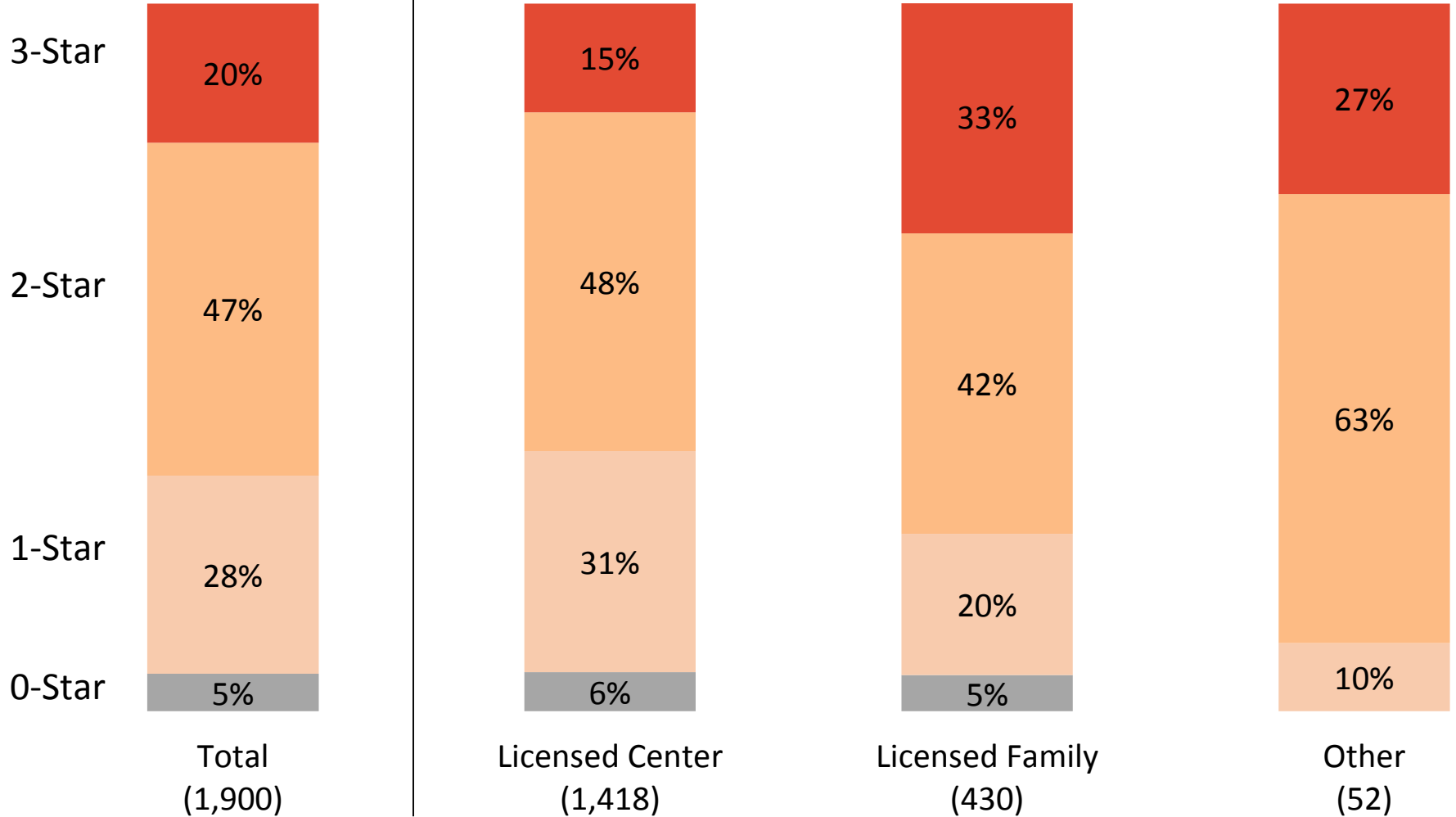
# Of the 4,702 eligible programs in Georgia, **1,803** are Star-Rated.



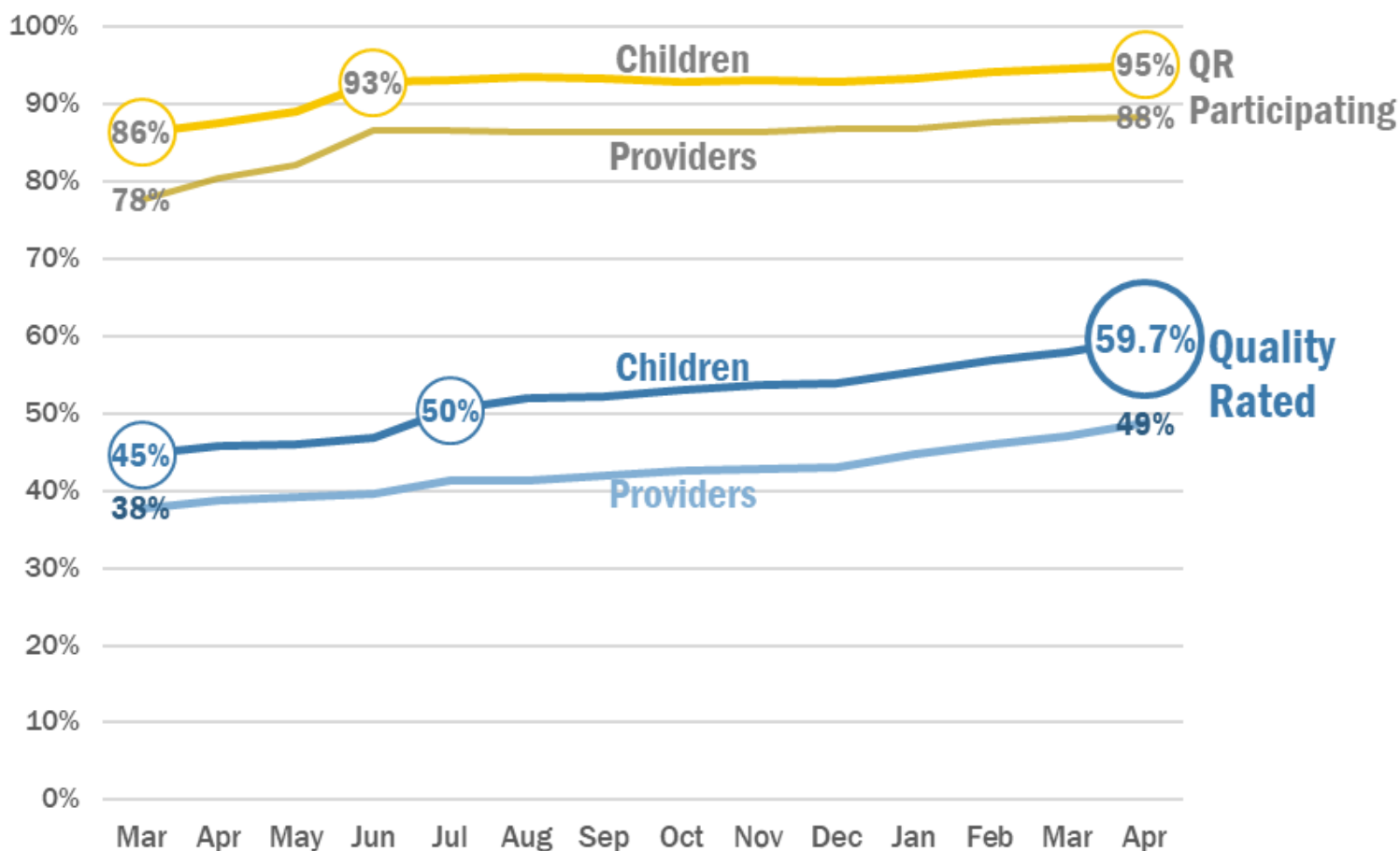
# Distribution of Ratings (including 0-Star)



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning



# Nearly **60%** of children receiving subsidies are in **Quality Rated** care. **49%** of **CAPS providers** are Quality Rated.



# Research and Policy Analysis

- Continued to provide research, evaluation, and data support throughout the department
- Administered DECAL's CCDF Research and Evaluation Grant
- Supported Georgia's Preschool Development Grant
- Concluded three collaborative research studies:
  - Quality Rated Validation
  - Georgia's Pre-K Waitlist Study
  - Georgia's Pre-K Longitudinal Evaluation: Findings from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade year



# Quality Rated Validation

Denise Jenson, Director of Quality Rated  
and  
Randy Hudgins, Director of Research and  
Policy Analysis





# What is validation?

- Validation is....operationalizing an ongoing process to use data and research to make informed decisions about a program, process, or system, in this case about Quality Rated.

# Study Description

- The goal of the Validation Study was to provide Georgia's early childhood leaders with high-quality information about Quality Rated that can be used to strengthen the system.

# Study released in four reports over the past two years



**Fall 2017:**  
What Makes Up a  
Quality Rated Star  
Rating?



**Winter 2018:**  
A Further Look at  
the Programs in  
Quality Rated



**Fall 2018:**  
Provider  
Perceptions of  
Quality Rated



**Spring 2019:**  
Ratings, Quality,  
Child Outcomes,  
and Work  
Climate

# Quality Rated Validation Study

## 4th Report

- Report 4 examines if Quality Rated star ratings are related to:
  - Independent measures of quality
  - Children's development over the school year
  - Work climate

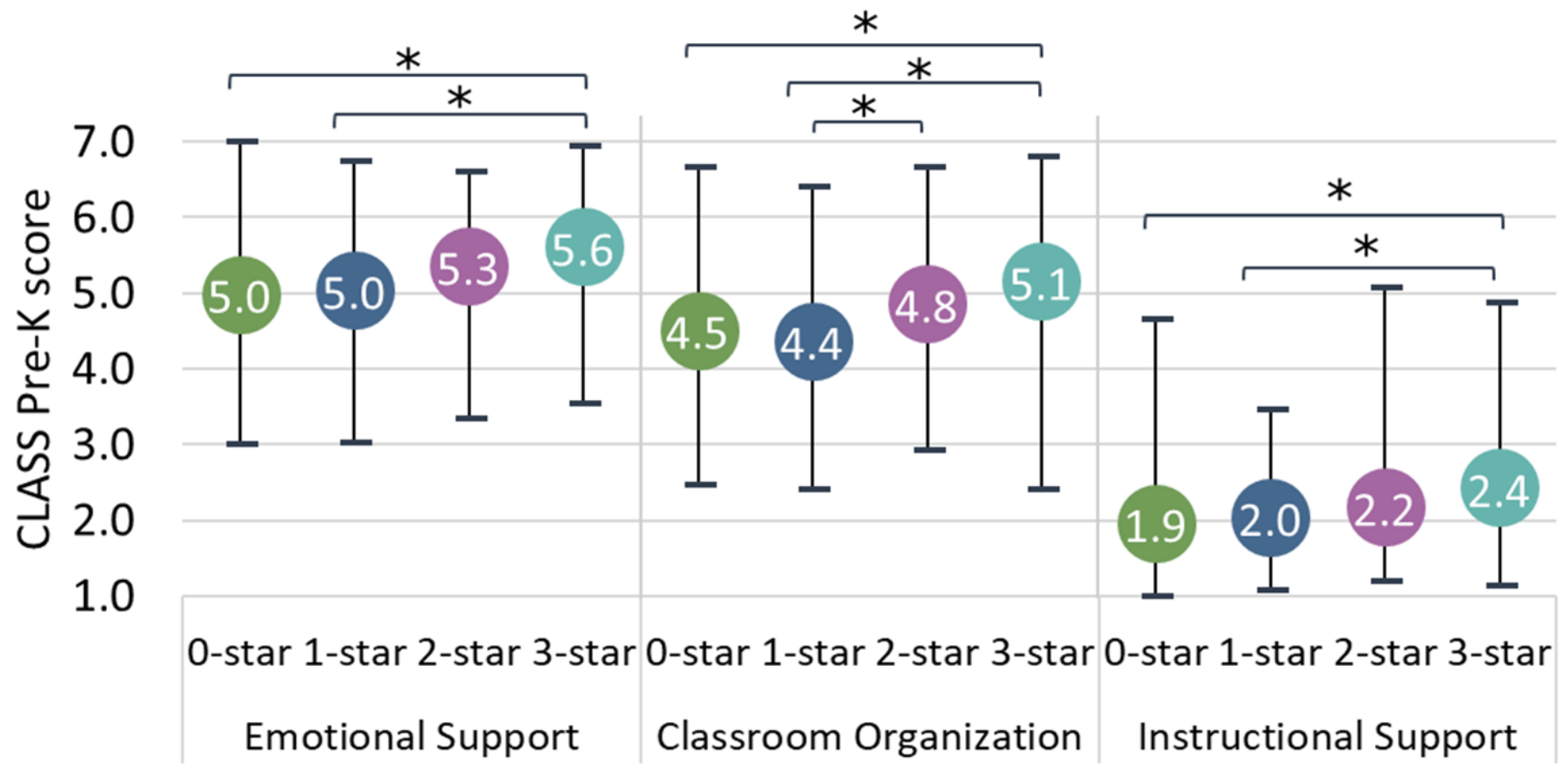
# Key Findings

## 1. Are Quality Rated Star Ratings related to independent measures of quality?

Center-based programs and FCCLHs with the highest Quality Rated star rating were generally of higher quality than lower-rated programs.

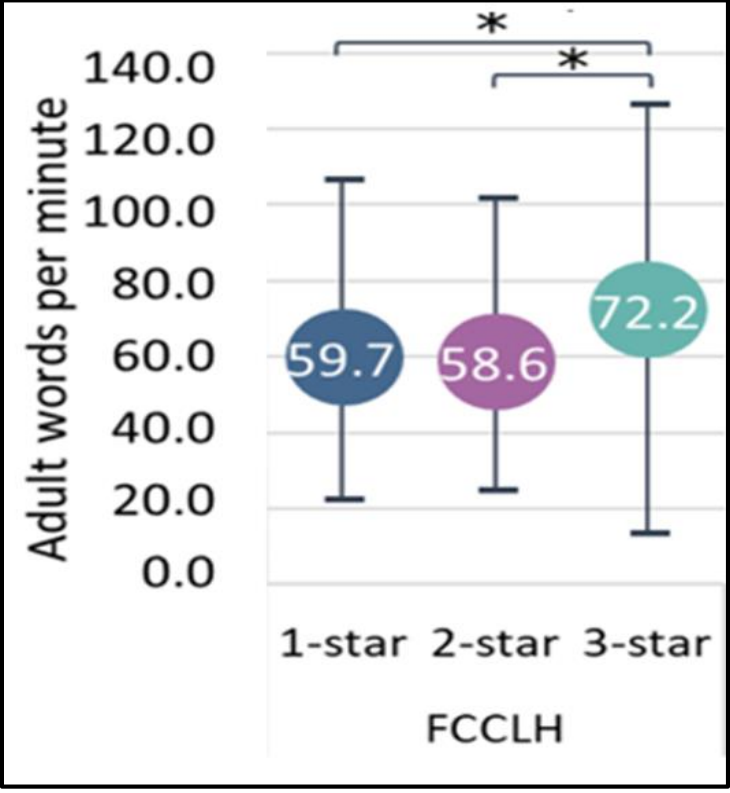
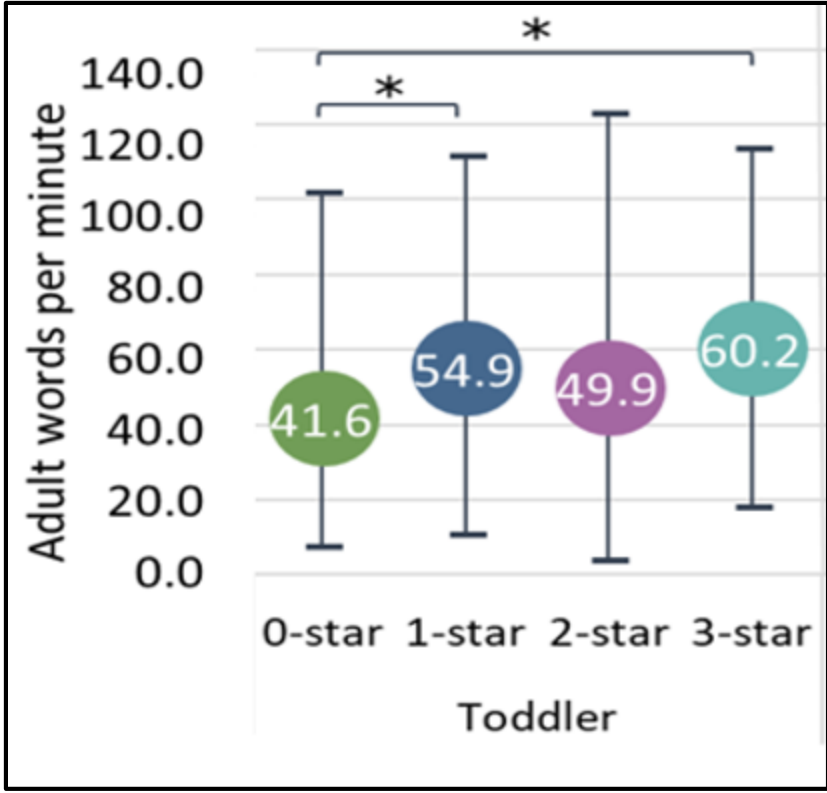
We did not find evidence of differences at every level of star rating or on every independent measure of quality.

In each domain, classrooms in 3-star programs scored higher than classrooms in 0- and 1-star programs.



Source: Validation study team data collection in center-based programs, 2017-18 school year

Toddler teachers in 1- and 3-star programs spoke more words per minute than those in 0-star programs. FCCLH providers in 3-star programs spoke more words than other FCCLH providers.



Source: Validation study team data collection in center-based programs, 2017-18 school year; Validation study team data collection in FCCLHs, 2016-17 and 2017-18 school year

## Key Findings *(continued)*

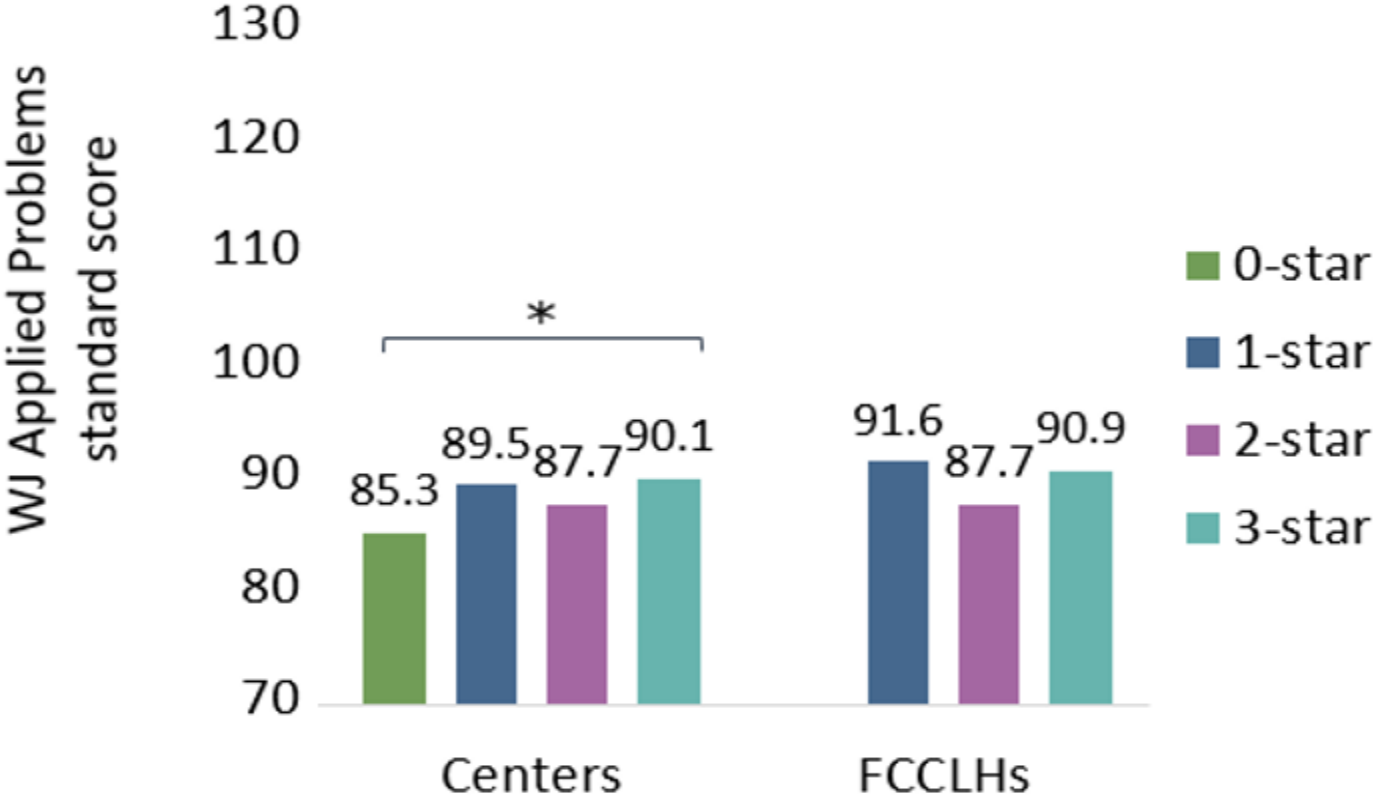
### 2. Are Quality Rated Star Ratings related to children's development?

Preschool children in higher-rated programs had stronger skills than children in lower-rated programs in some, but not all, domains.

The star rating was not associated with infants' or toddlers' outcomes.

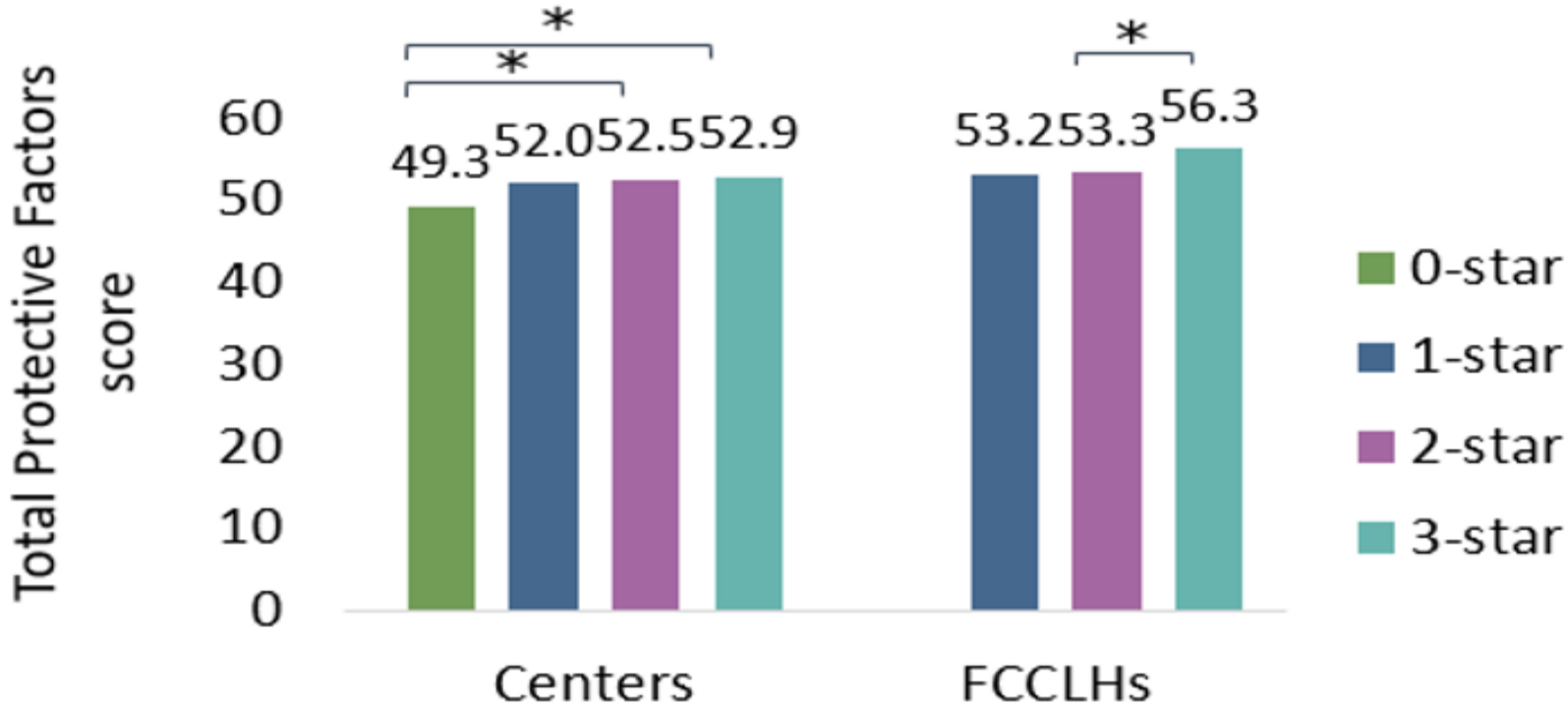


# Preschoolers attending 3-star programs had higher early math skills compared to those attending 2- and 0-star programs.



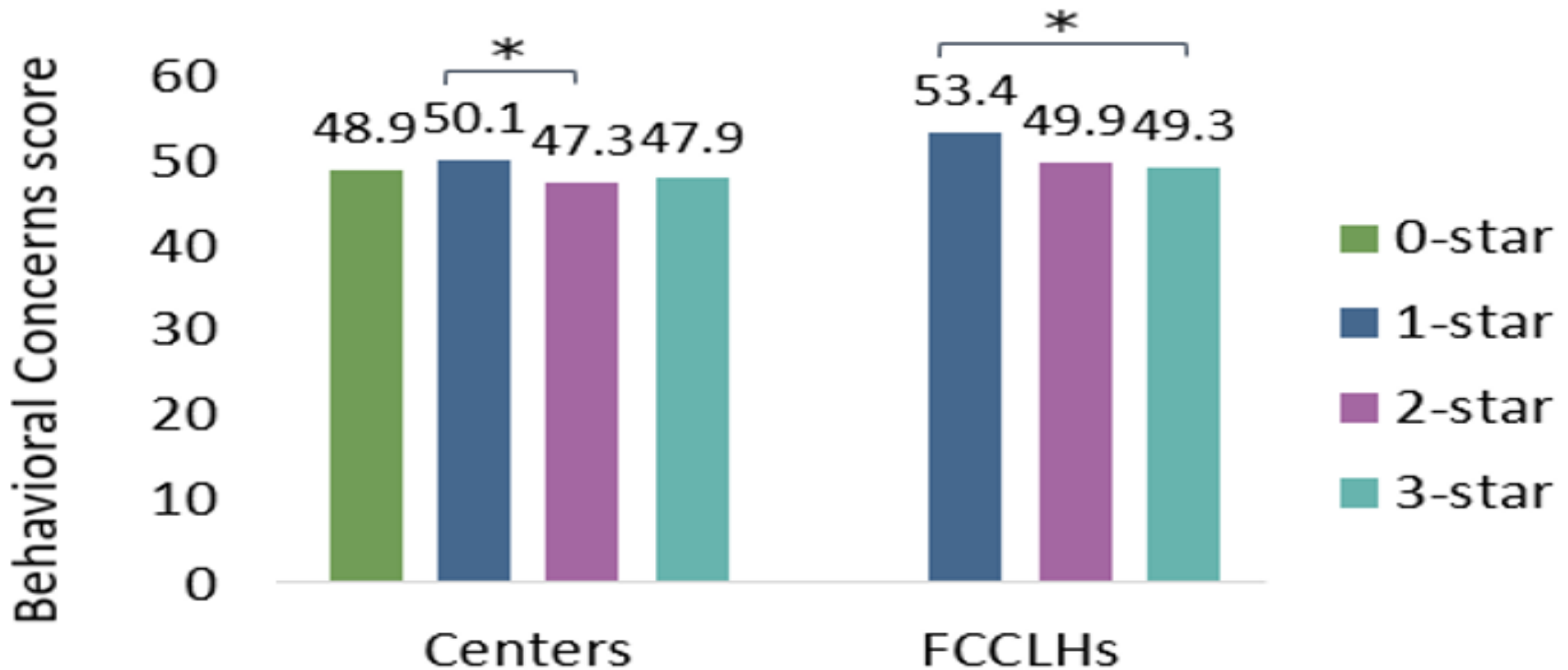
Source: Validation study team data collection in center-based programs, 2017-18 school year; Validation study team data collection in FCCLHs, 2016-17 and 2017-18 school year

Preschoolers attending 3- and 2-star programs had stronger social skills than those attending 0-star programs.



Source: Validation study team data collection in center-based programs, 2017-18 school year; Validation study team data collection in FCCLHs, 2016-17 and 2017-18 school year

Teachers reported fewer behavioral concerns for preschoolers attending 3- and 2-star programs than those attending 1-star programs.



Source: Validation study team data collection in center-based programs, 2017-18 school year; Validation study team data collection in FCCLHs, 2016-17 and 2017-18 school year

## 3. Are Quality Rated Star Ratings Related to Work Climate?

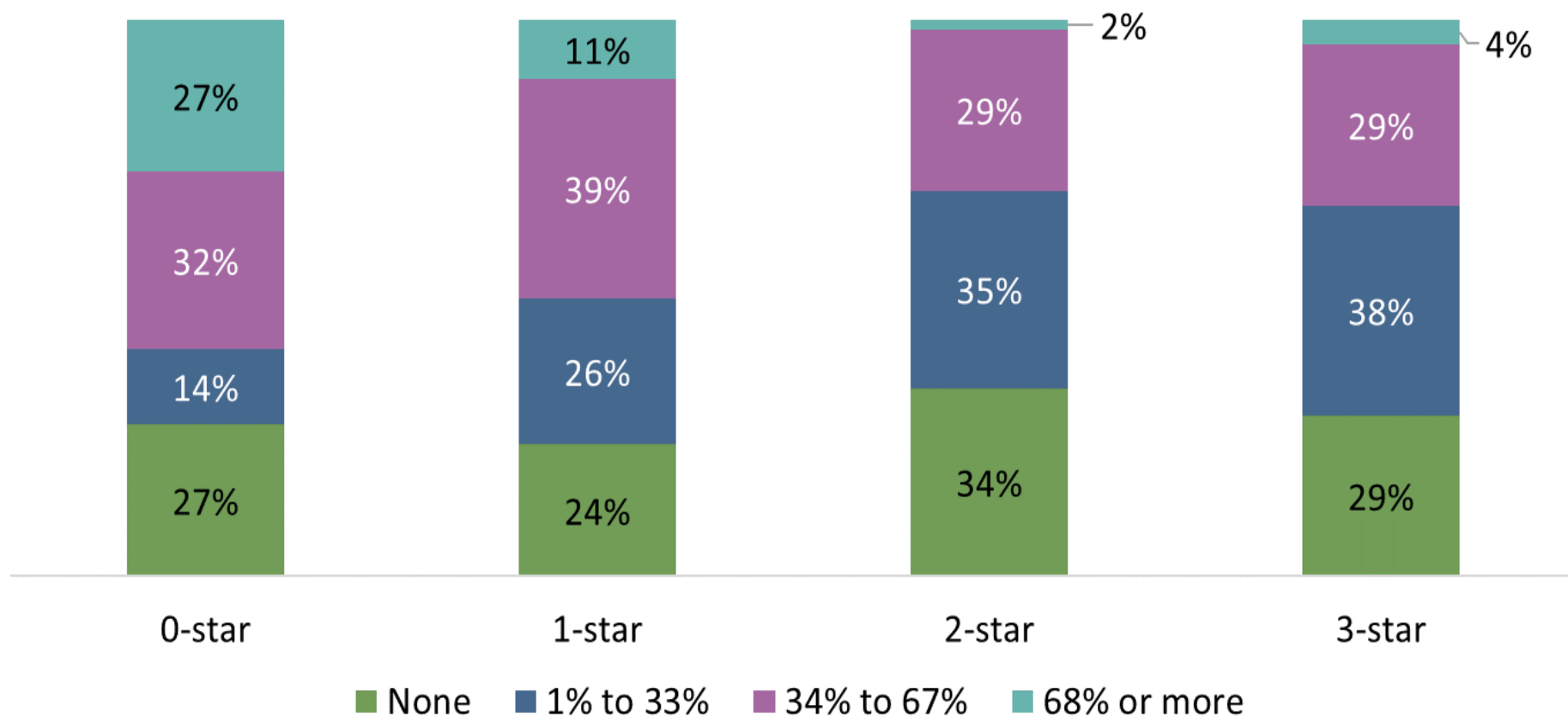
Center-based staff in 2- and 3-star programs tended to have higher indicators of a positive work environment, particularly turnover, wages, and benefits.

Job commitment was very high on average and 3-star preschool teachers were significantly more committed than 0-star preschool teachers.

# Work Climate Measures: Surveys

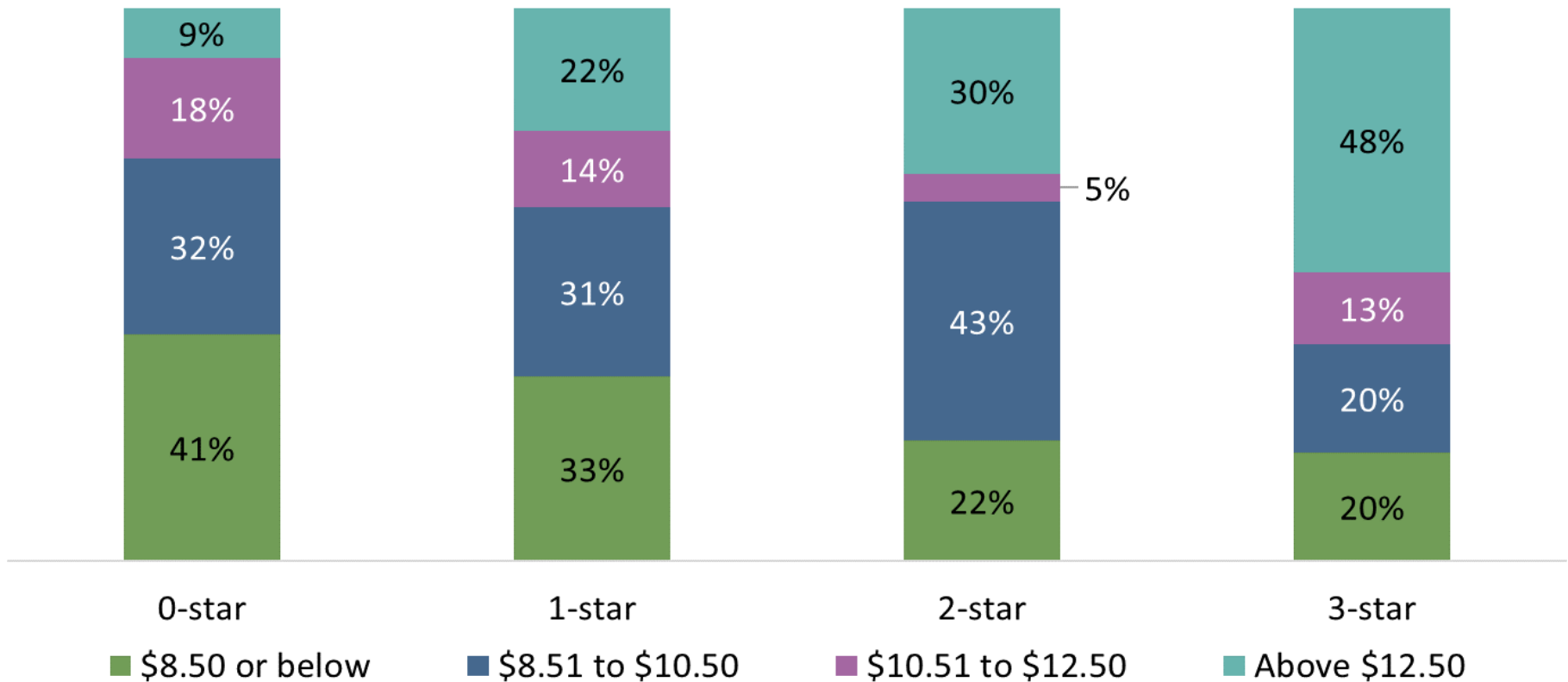
- Center Directors:
  - Perceived Stress Scale
  - Job commitment
  - Teacher turnover
  - Entry level teacher hourly wages
  - Employee benefits
- Preschool and Toddler Teachers:
  - Perceived Stress Scale
  - Job commitment
  - Employee benefits
- FCCLH Providers:
  - Perceived Stress Scale
  - Job commitment

# Lead teacher turnover: Significantly more 0-star center-based programs fell into the highest category of lead teacher turnover than 2- or 3-star programs.



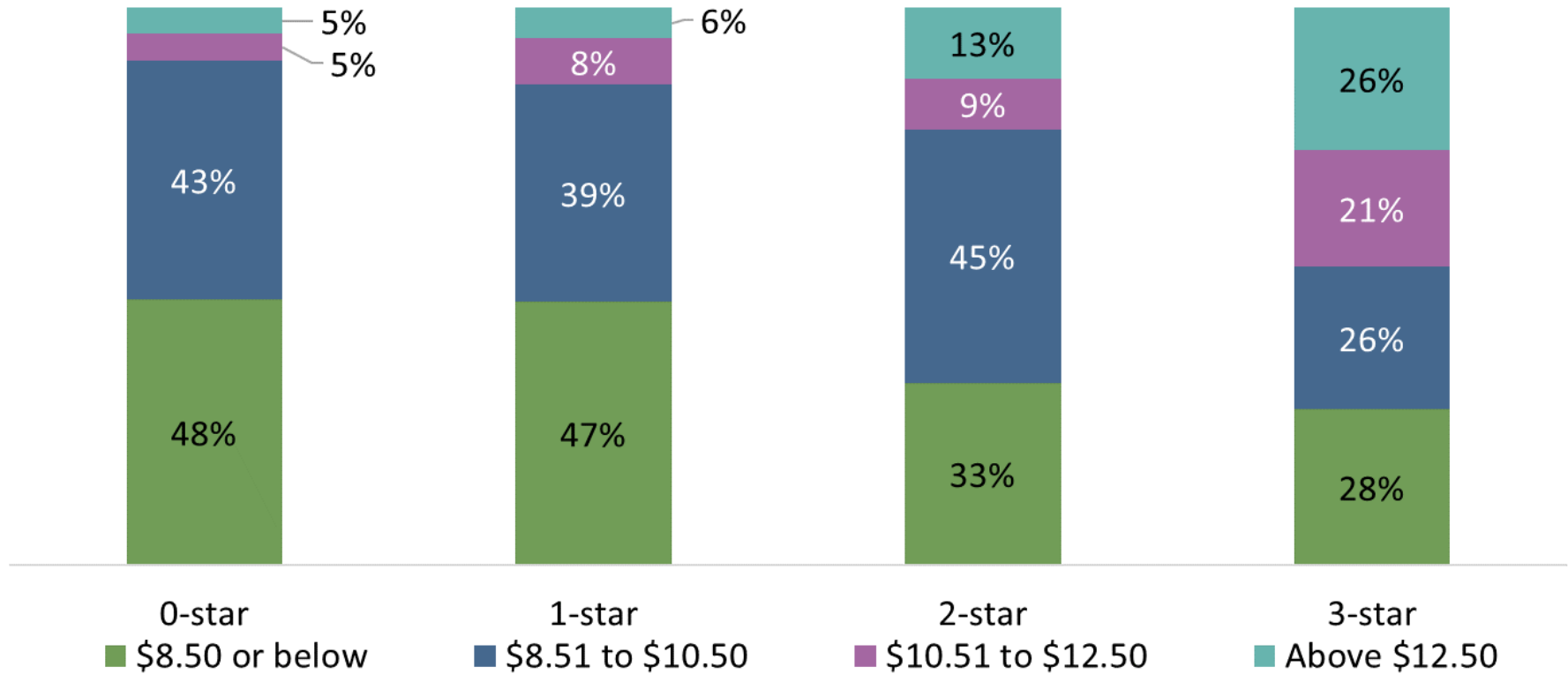
Source: Child Trends' director questionnaire, winter 2017–2018

# Entry-level preschool teacher hourly wages: Significantly more 3-star center-based programs paid entry-level preschool teachers an hourly wage above \$12.50 than 0- or 1-star programs.



Source: Child Trends' director questionnaire, winter 2017–2018

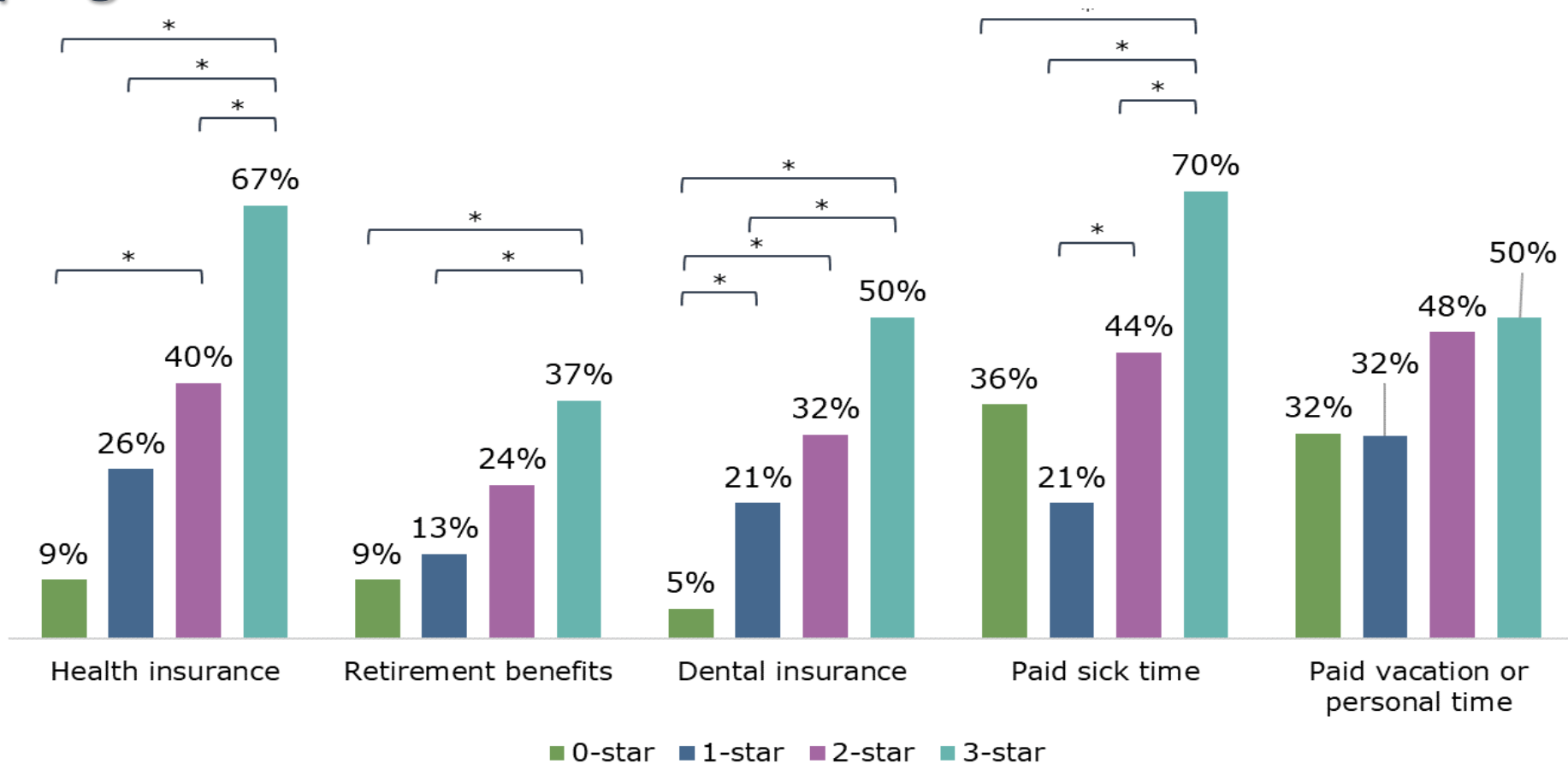
# Entry-level toddler teacher hourly wages: Significantly more 3-star center-based programs paid their entry-level toddler teachers an hourly wage above \$12.50 than 0- or 1-star programs.



Source: Child Trends' director questionnaire, winter 2017-2018

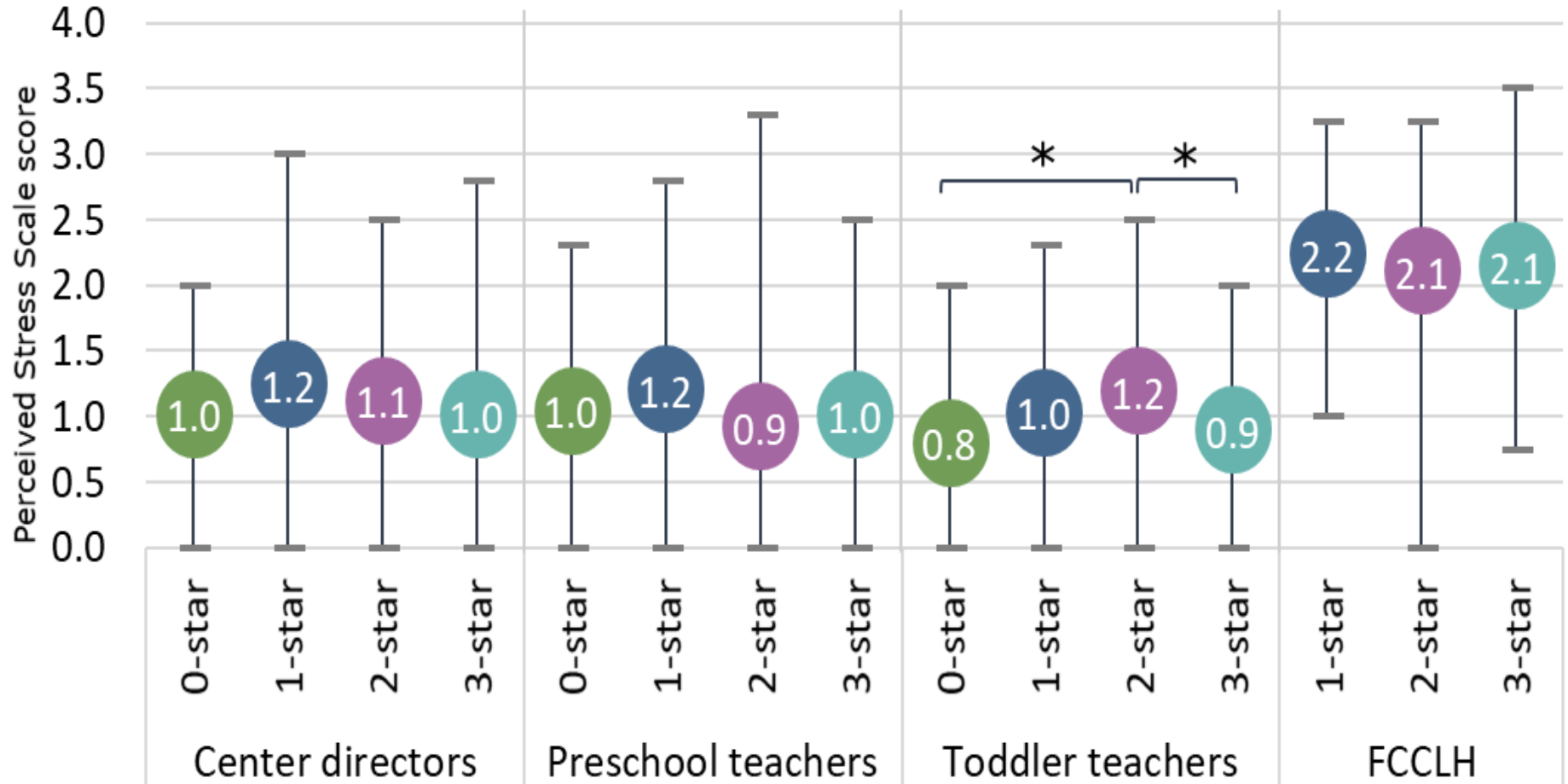


# Benefits: Preschool teachers in higher-rated programs were more likely to have benefits than those in lower-rated programs.



Source: Child Trends' director questionnaire, winter 2017–2018

# In general, perceived stress did not vary by star rating.



Source: Child Trends' director questionnaire and teacher questionnaires, winter 2017–2018; Child Trends' provider questionnaire, winter 2016–2017 and winter 2017–2018

# Quality Rated Validation Study 4<sup>th</sup> Report Summary Findings

1. Center-based programs and FCCLHs with the highest Quality Rated star rating were generally of higher quality than lower-rated programs.
2. We did not find evidence of differences at every level of star rating or on every independent measure of quality.
3. Preschool children in higher-rated programs learned more than children in lower-rated programs in some, but not all, domains.
4. In center-based programs with higher star ratings, the work climate was better in terms of turnover, wages, and employee benefits.

# Quality Rated Validation Study 4<sup>th</sup> Report Recommendations

- Continue current revisions to the rating system
- Move to ITERS-3 and FCCERS-3
- Focus quality improvement efforts for infants and toddlers
- Continue supporting programs once they are rated
- Continue efforts to improve compensation for the early care and education workforce
- Continue to focus on all areas of children's development



# Child Care Services Update

Pam Stevens  
Deputy Commissioner of Child Care Services



# School Age Projects

- Why look at school age?

2,762 Centers  
in Georgia

Quality Rated is  
designed for  
infant, toddler,  
preschool, & Pre-  
K classrooms

Over 45% of  
CAPS  
Scholarships

# School Age Projects *(continued)*

- School Age Quality Improvement Project
- School Age Data Project



# School Age Quality Improvement Project

- **December 2017-School Age Survey** – Distributed to 241 child care centers with afterschool programs
  - 41 Providers responded
  - 31 Providers included their contact information
- **March 2018 – 5 Focus Groups**





# Focus Group Findings

- More training and technical assistance is needed specifically geared toward the school age population.
- Finding a skilled workforce to provide consistent, professionalized care for this age group is difficult.
- Behavioral challenges within the school age group hinder quality and teacher retention.
- The teachers in these classrooms rarely have time to plan, and most identified Pinterest and the Internet as the most utilized resources if activities are planned.

# School Age Quality Improvement Project

- **November 2018** – School Age Quality Improvement Project Kick-Off
  - Collaboration with the Georgia Statewide School Age Network
  - Six 2- and 3-star Quality Rated providers selected to participate
  - Afterschool and Youth Development Standards Training
  - Best Practices Training
- **December 2018**
  - Initial School Age Program Quality Assessment observations
- **January – June 2019**
  - Quality Relationships Training
  - Sites received TA from Quality Coach
  - Family and Community Partnerships Training
  - Final SAPQA observations

# School Age Data Project

## Summer 2019

- Cross-divisional project
  - CCS
  - QIP (Quality Rated & Research)
- 50 school age classrooms
  - QR Assessors using SACCERS (School Age Child Care Environment Rating Scales)
  - CCS consultants using DECAL's child care licensing rules
  - For data gathering purposes only
  - \$200 incentive for participating programs
    - Funded by the Mott Foundation through the Georgia Statewide School Age Network
    - Incentive to be used for materials for school age classrooms

# School Age Data Project

## What We Hope to Learn

- Quality
  - Small sample
  - Volunteer participation
- How compliance relates to quality
- Next steps
  - Professional development
  - Research

***BREAK***  
***(10 minutes)***



# Head Start State Collaboration Update

Allison Setterlind  
Head Start State Collaboration Director



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# HSCO Updates

- HSCO Grant Application-Year 3
- Georgia Head Start Association Conference
- Special projects-focus on health



# Head Start and Health

- The number of children up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care, according to the relevant state's EPSDT schedule for well-child care, nearly doubled from the beginning of enrollment to the end of the year in Georgia Head Start programs.





# Georgia Child Care Safety Summits



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# Federal Programs Update

Elisabetta Kasfir  
Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs



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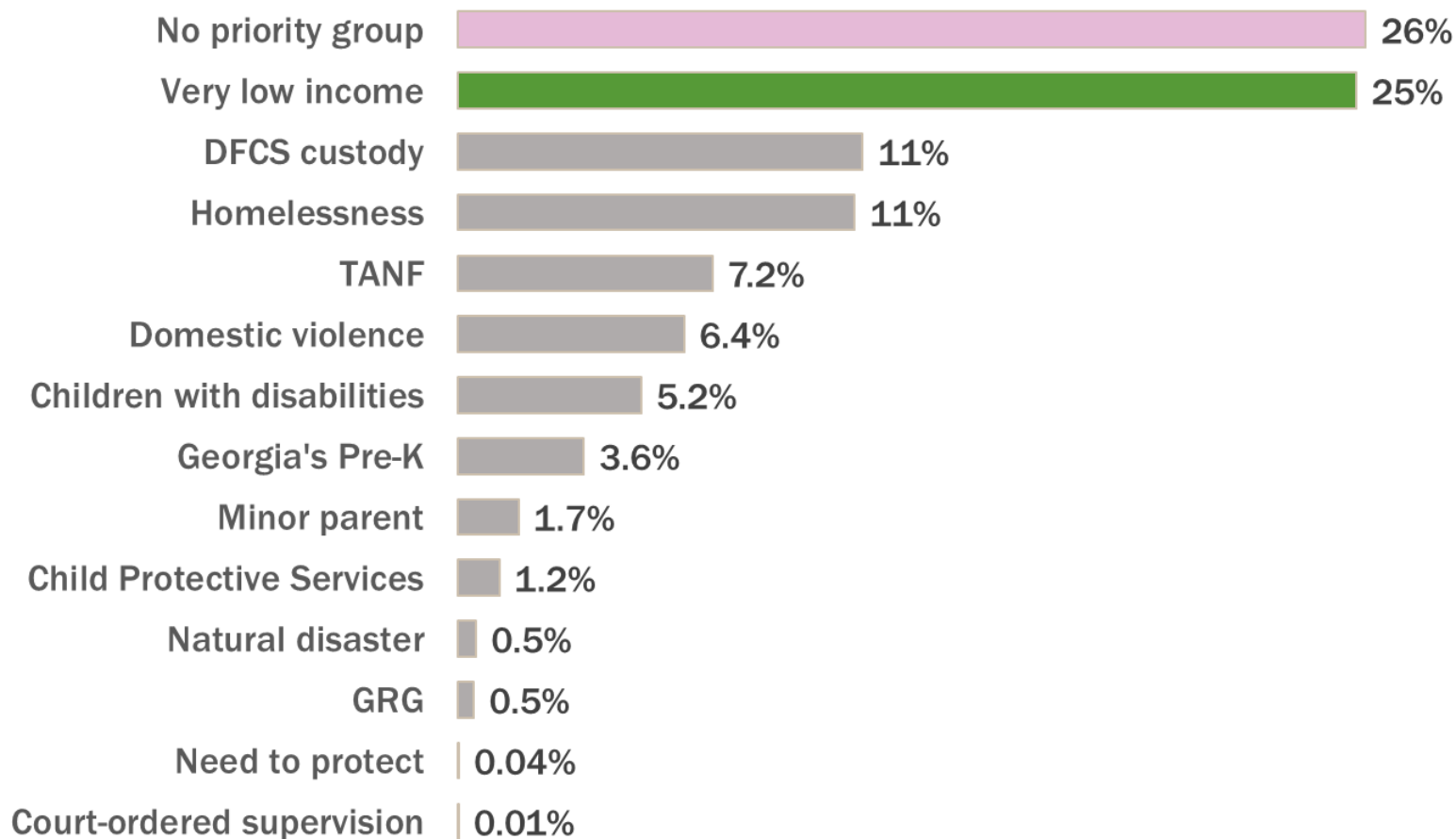
# CAPS Overview

- Over 64,000 children with an active CAPS scholarship as of May 1.
- Corresponds to more than 50,000 children paid for on a weekly basis.
- 3,000 children are also funded through Quality Rated Subsidy Grants.

For cases approved *since July 1*:

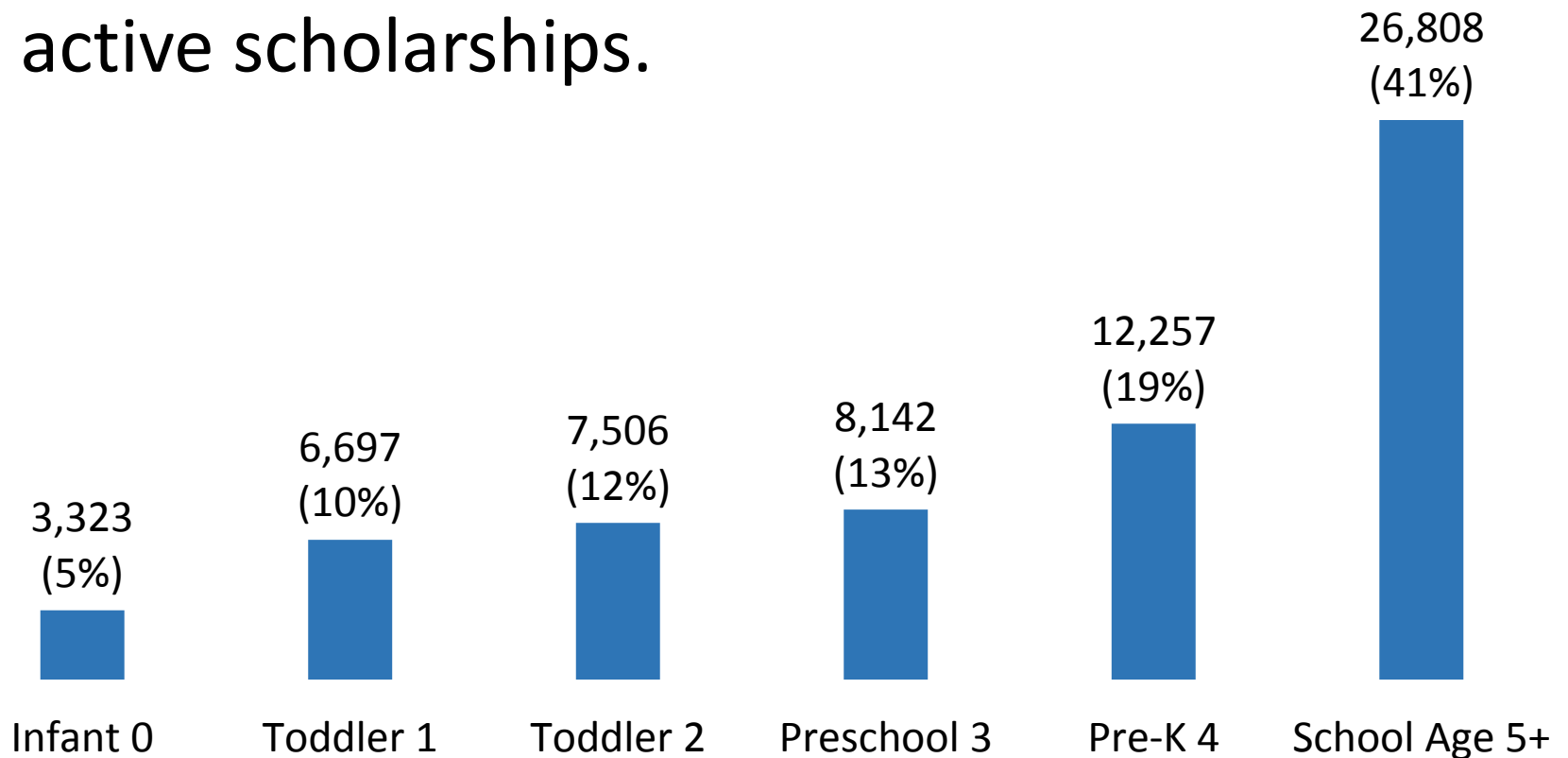
1 out of 4 children have **no priority group**.

1 out of 4 children are **very low income**.



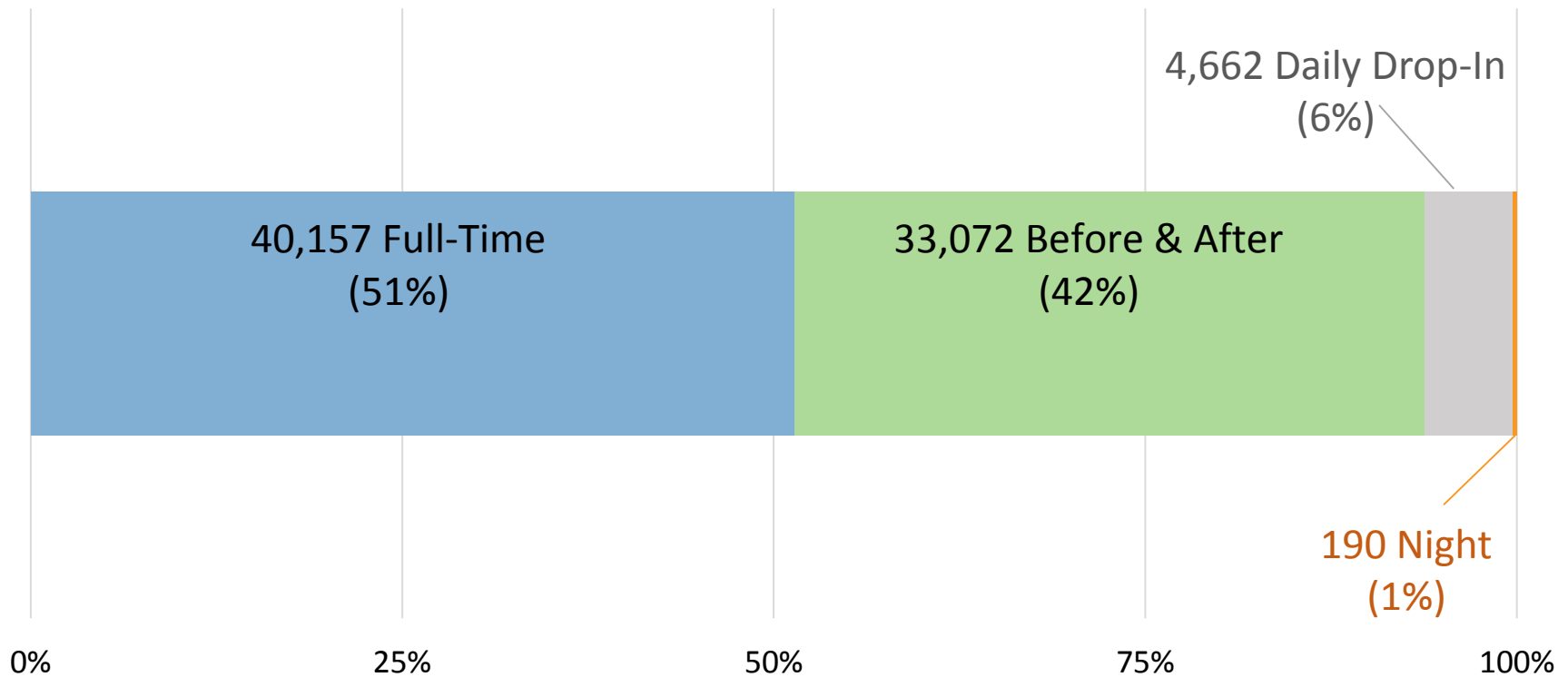
# Age Groups Served

64,730 children have active scholarships.

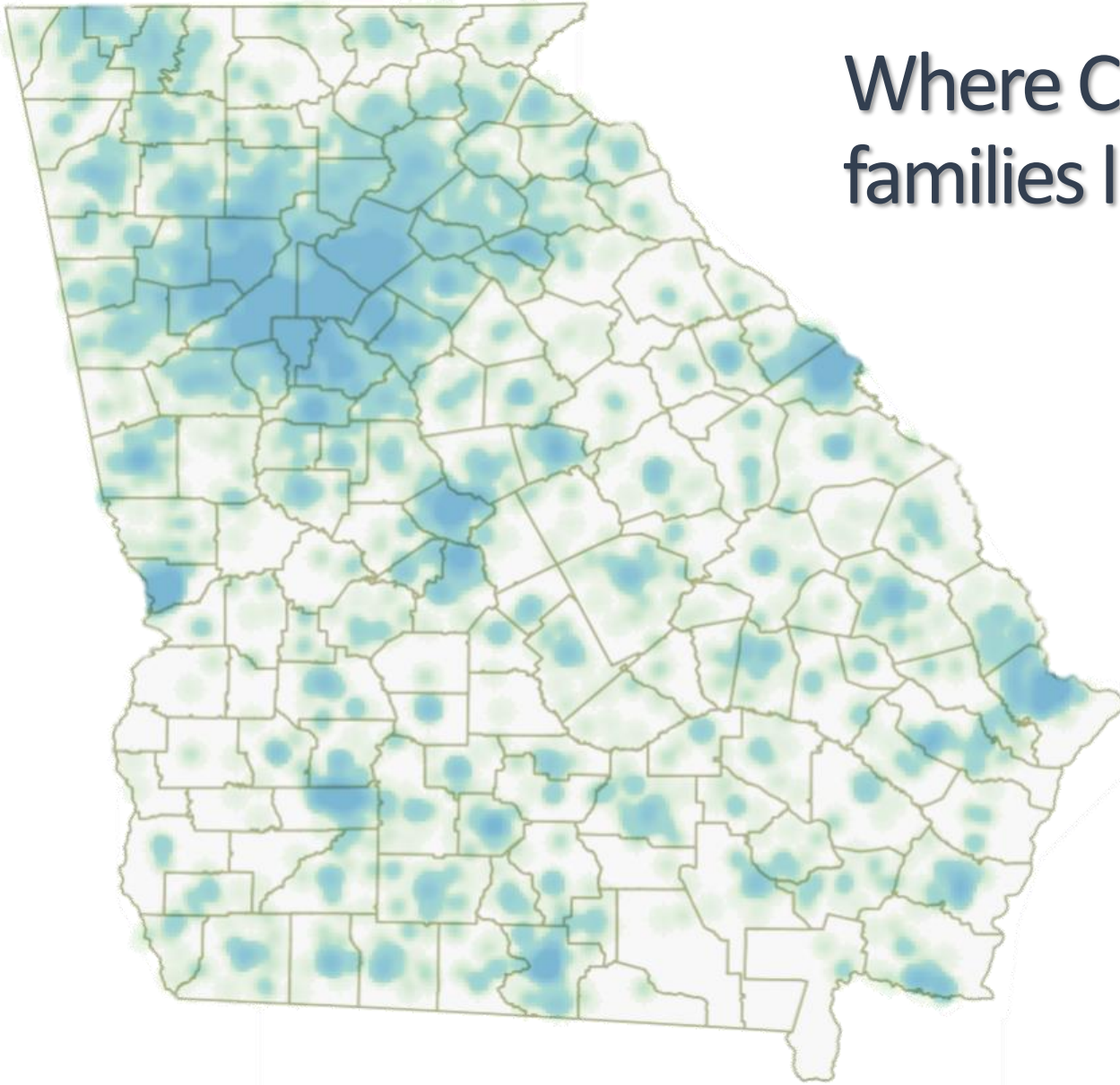


# Types of Care

The majority of CAPS scholarships are for full-time or before & after care.



# Where CAPS families live...



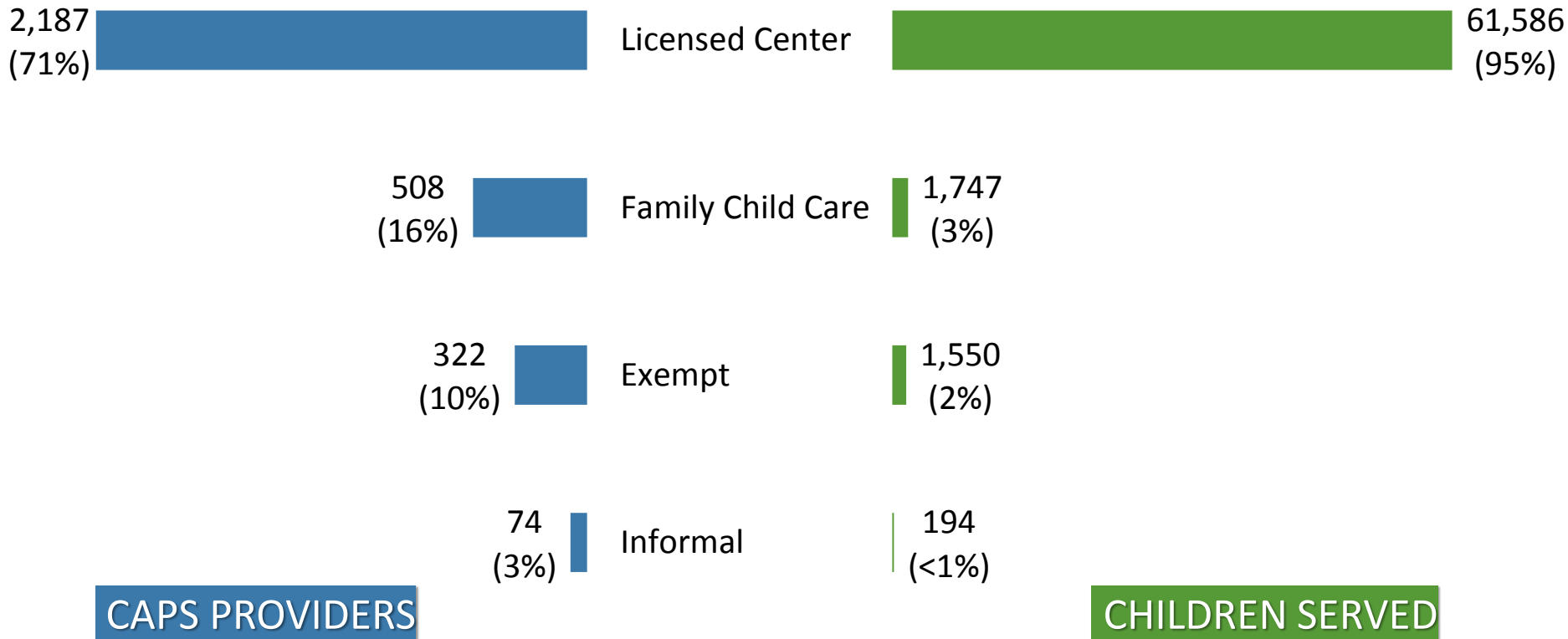
# CAPS Providers

- 3,090 child care providers are serving CAPS children.
- 87% of CAPS providers are licensed.
- 137 CAPS providers have also been awarded Quality Rated Subsidy Grants.
- All eligible CAPS providers must be Quality Rated by the end of 2020.

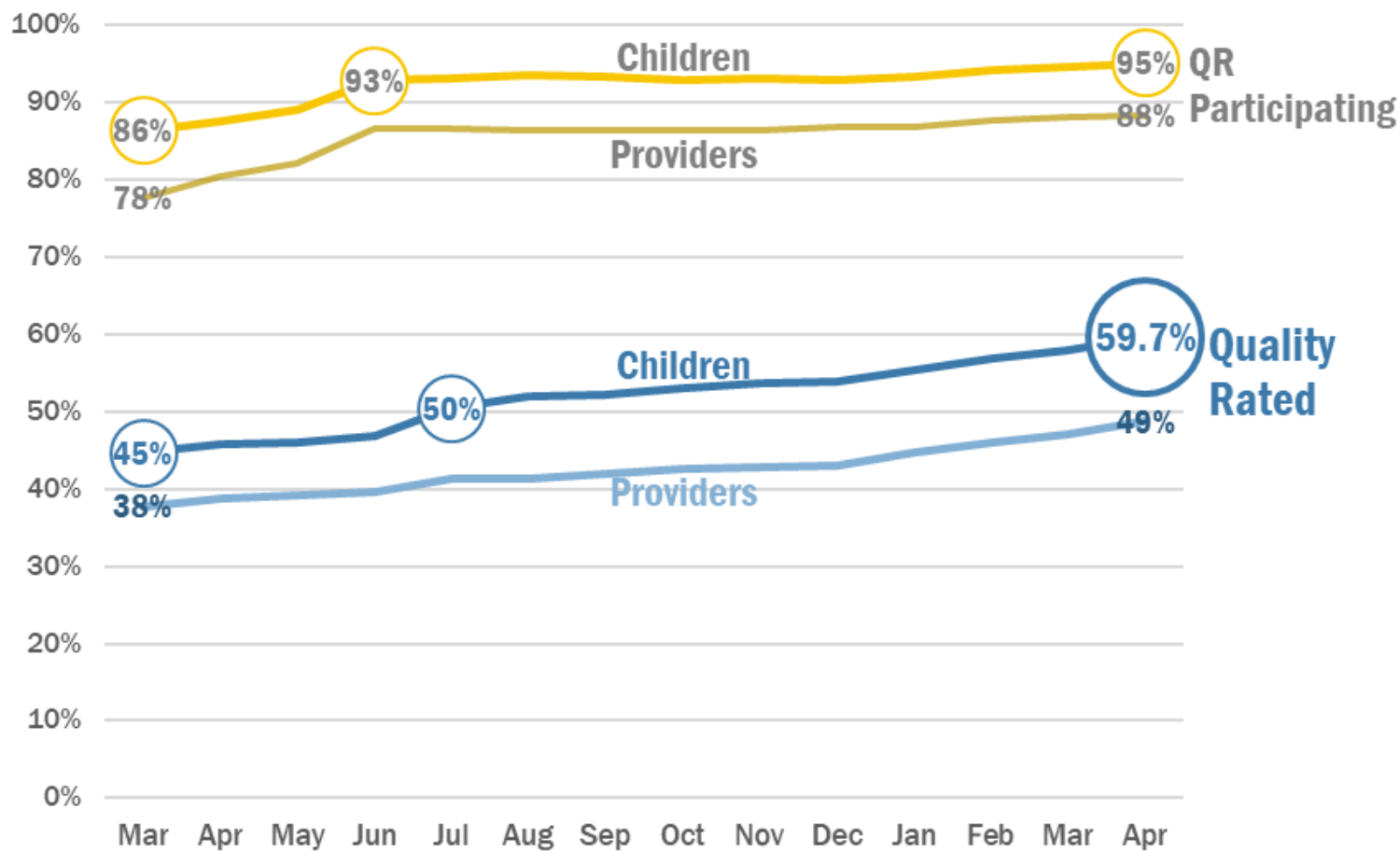


# Provider Types & Children Served

Most children receiving CAPS scholarships are in center-based care.



# Nearly 60% of children receiving subsidies are in Quality Rated care. 49% of CAPS providers are Quality Rated.



# CAPS Workload

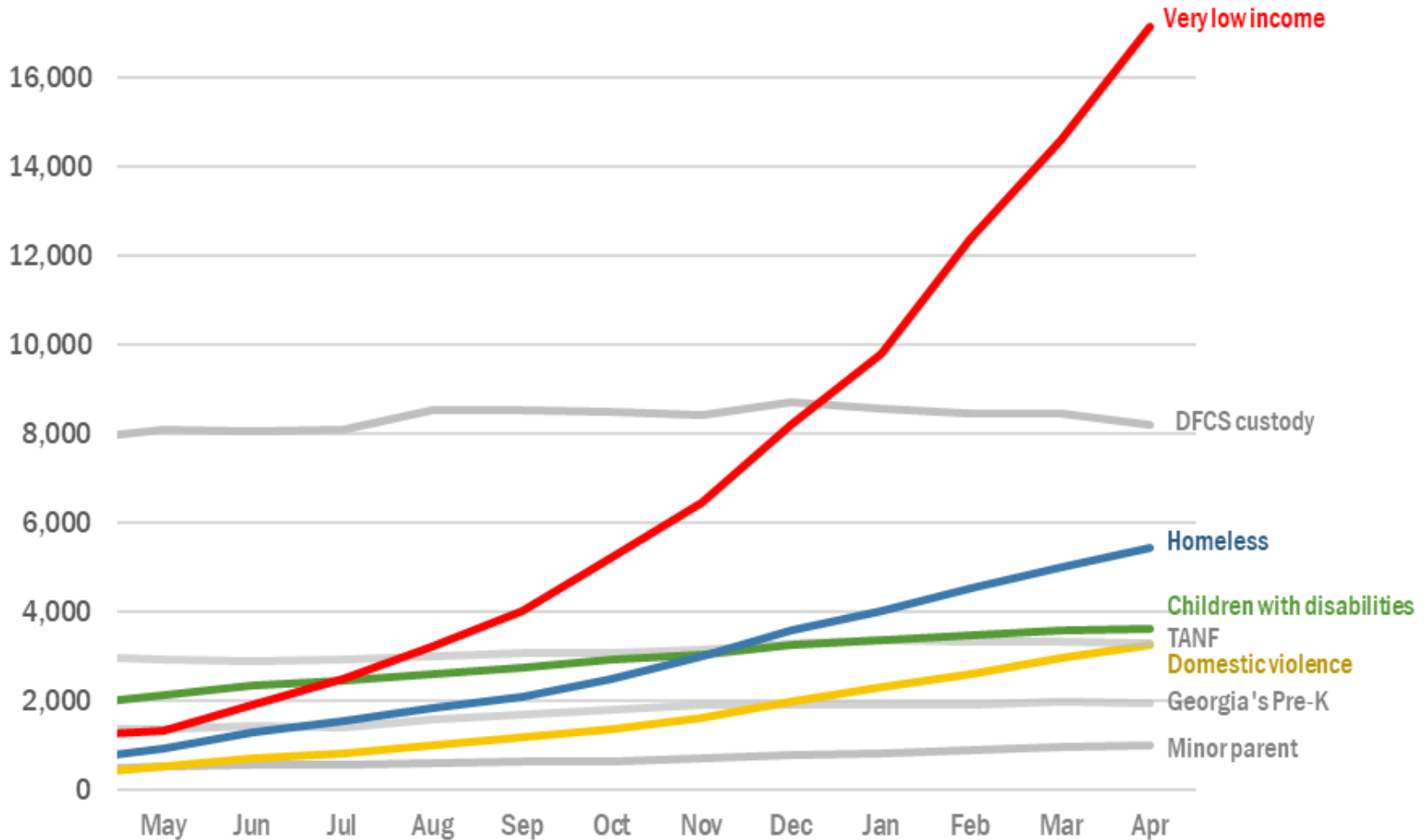
- 8,000 applications processed per month
  - Approval rate: 22.5%
- Over 1,800 redeterminations processed per month
  - Renewals approved: 83%
- Over 3,000 changes processed per month

# New CAPS Texting Feature

GA CAPS ALERT:  
Welcome! For Customer  
care, call  
[833-442-2277](tel:833-442-2277). Msg &  
data rates may apply.  
Reply STOP to stop,  
HELP for help

GA CAPS ALERT: Time to  
renew CAPS schlrshp,  
ending on 4/28/2019.  
Submit new applctn at  
[gateway.ga.gov](http://gateway.ga.gov).  
Questions?  
[833-442-2277](tel:833-442-2277) ext.  
[93049](tel:833-442-2277), M-F 8a-5p.

# Very low income is the fastest growing priority group, followed by homelessness.





# Report on Georgia's Pre-K Enrollment

Susan Adams  
Deputy Commissioner for Pre-K and  
Instructional Supports



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government



Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

[www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov)

# Pre-K Waitlist Study Overview

- Study conducted by University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG)
- Two components:
  - Focus groups with Georgia's Pre-K Directors
  - Family Survey

# Focus Groups

- Five focus groups, 39 participants:
  - 35 participants were from private centers.
  - Three of the five focus groups indicated at least one public school Pre-K program director.
- Counties:
  - Clayton
  - Chatham
  - DeKalb
  - Fulton
  - Rockdale/Newton/Walton



# Highlighted Focus Group Findings

- Focus group participants **perceive** that parents **think** that public school systems provide higher quality education than private child development centers.
- Focus group participants note that some parents and caregivers are misinformed about the cost of Georgia's Pre-K.

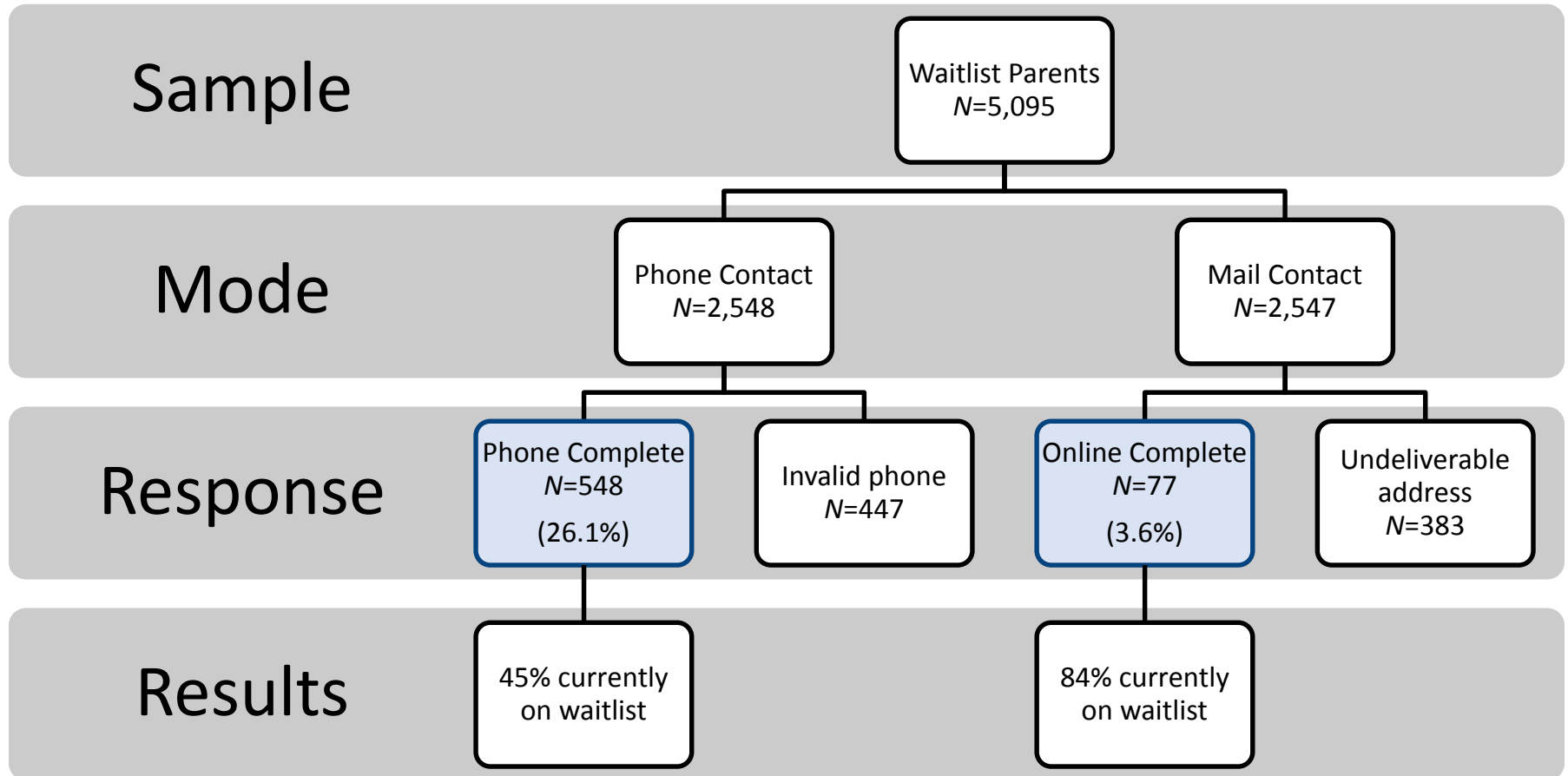
# Highlighted Focus Group Findings *(continued)*

- Focus group participants expressed three areas of waitlist concern:
  - Inaccurate or out-of-date rosters
  - Lack of access to the waitlist itself by Georgia's Pre-K directors
  - Use of waitlist information to determine Georgia's Pre-K locations
- Focus group participants stated a desire for:
  - Joint professional development among private and public Georgia's Pre-K centers
  - Waitlist sharing and access
  - Greater community collaboration

# Survey

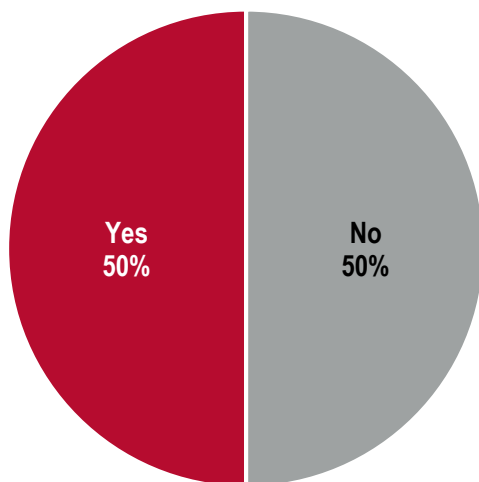
- The Carl Vinson Institute of Government collaborated with DECAL to develop a 17-item survey.
- Survey items covered four general categories:
  - Georgia's Pre-K waitlist status
  - Pre-K program preferences
  - Pre-K program selection
  - Respondent demographics
- Purpose:
  - Examine perceptions of the waitlist experience
  - Examine the effectiveness of two modes of contacting Pre-K waitlist parents

# Survey Mode Comparison



# Waitlist Status

Do you have a child currently on a waiting list? (N=624)



Why not? (N=307)

My child is currently enrolled in a lottery-funded Georgia Pre-K classroom 48%

My child is currently enrolled in another preschool/Pre-K program 38%

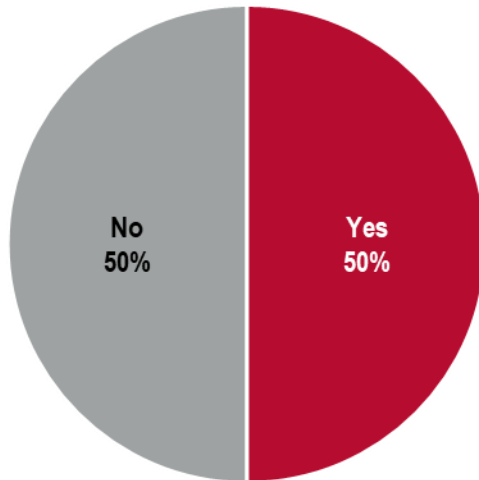
I do not have children this age 7%

I am no longer interested in enrolling my child in a lottery-funded Georgia Pre-K classroom 2%

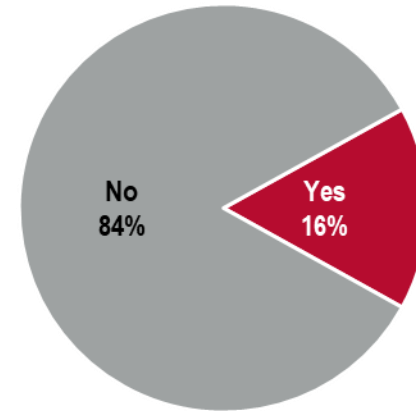
Other reason 4%

# Waitlist Status *(continued)*

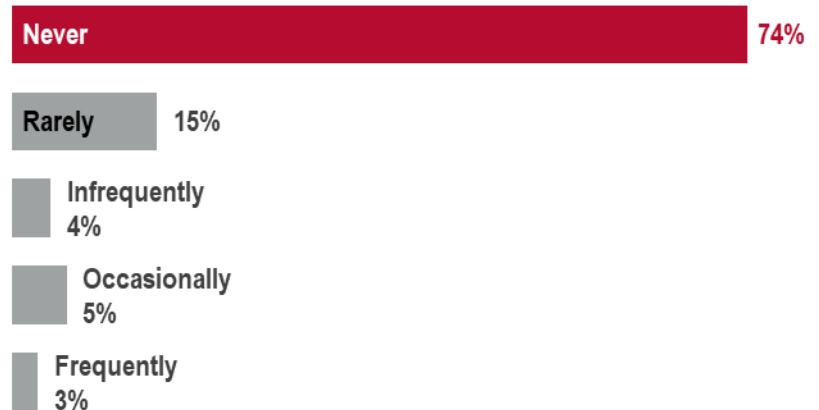
Do you have a child currently on a waiting list? (N=624)



My child is on more than one lottery-funded Georgia Pre-K waitlist. (N=310)

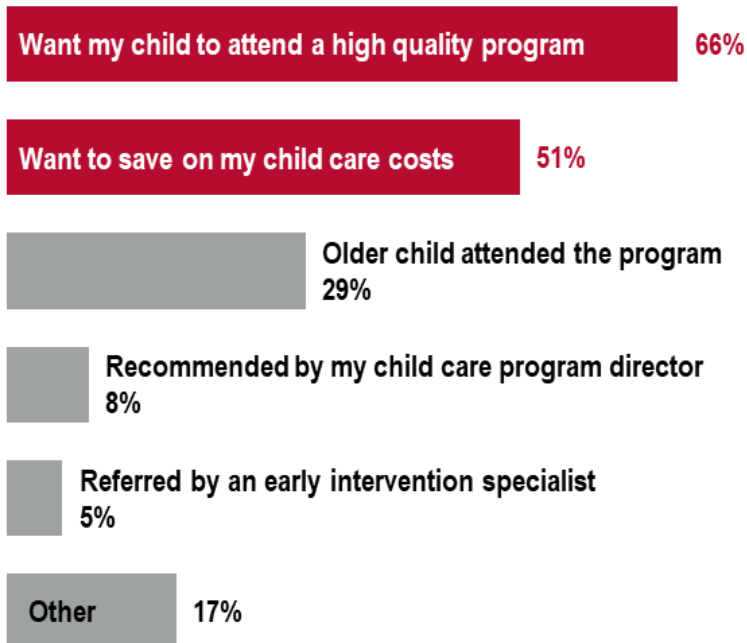


I receive updates about my child's waitlist status... (N=310)

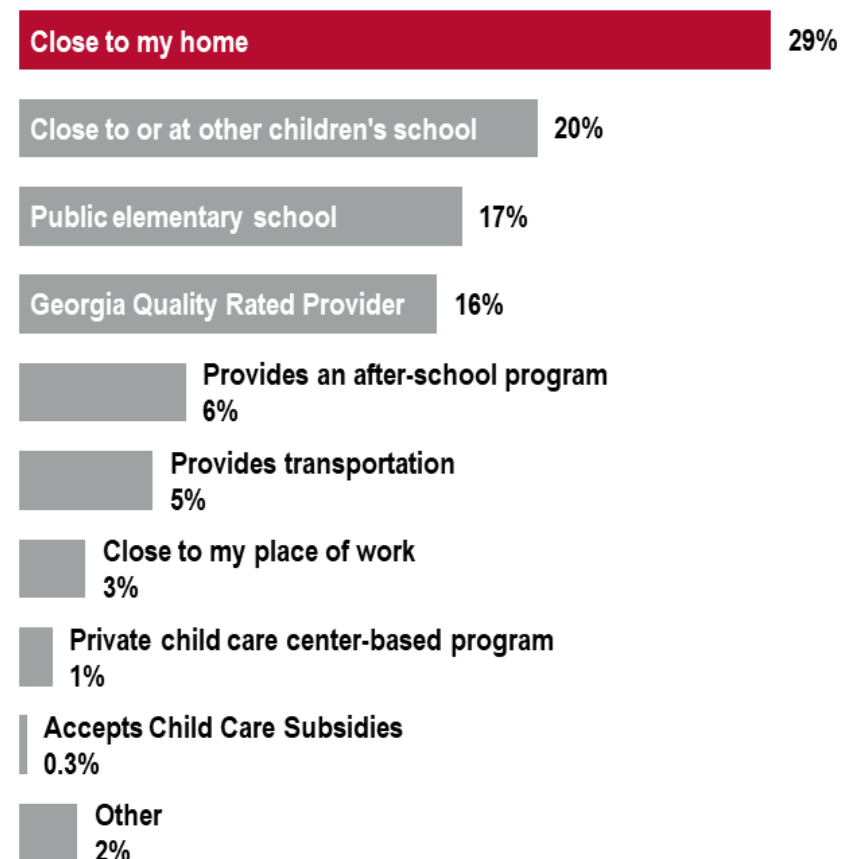


# Program Preferences

Why would you like to enroll your child in a Georgia Pre-K program?  
(N=312)

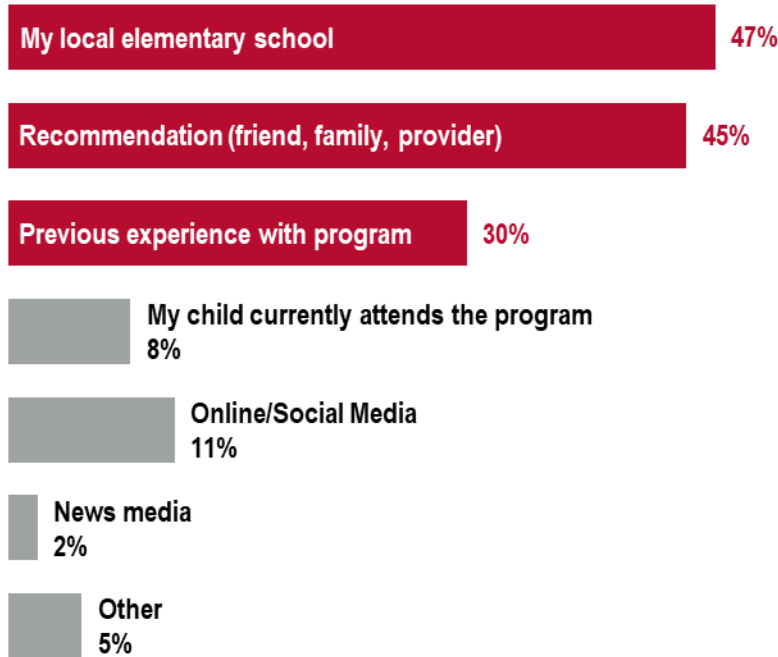


The most important reason in selecting a Georgia Pre-K program.  
(N=311)

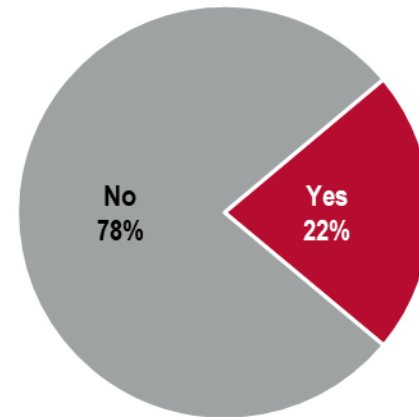


# Program Selection

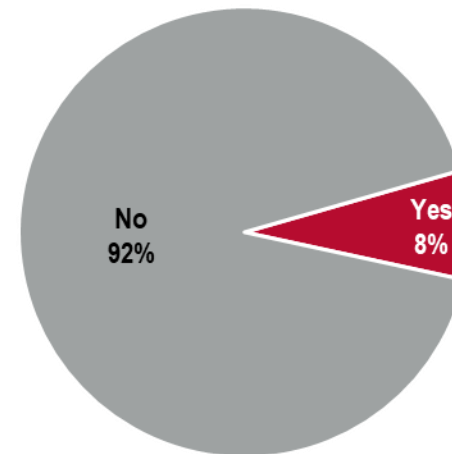
How did you find out about the program(s)? (N=311)



Used Georgia's Pre-K Provider Search (N=311)



Used 1-877-ALL GA KIDS (N=306)





# Recommendations

- Increase support for collaboration among public and private Georgia's Pre-K providers
  - May address long waitlists at public schools & open classroom seats at private center-based programs
- Strengthen communication among public and private Georgia's Pre-K providers and families
  - Development a communications template
- Encourage joint professional development on the local level while also providing opportunities for professional development at the state level

# Next Steps

- Post study and share with Pre-K program providers
- Create a Georgia's Pre-K "help ticket" for families searching for a Pre-K slot
- Develop waitlist communication resources

# Lunch

*(Pick up as directed)*

## Committee Meetings

*Programs – Oak*

*Budget/Finance – Willow*

*Quality Innovations and Partnerships – Cypress*

The public is welcome to attend/observe committee meetings but may not participate in the committee's discussion.

# Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

# Public Comment

May 16, 2019

# Election of Board Officers



# Committee Reports

- Budget/Finance
- Programs
- Quality Innovations and Partnerships

## Board Meeting Dates 2019

~~February 21, 2019~~

~~May 16, 2019~~

August 15, 2019

November 21, 2019