

Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

May 18, 2023



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**

BRIGHT FROM THE START

Board Meeting Welcome

Phil Davis, Board Chair



**Georgia Dept
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Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve 05/18/2023 agenda
- Approve 02/16/2023 minutes



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Inspiration

Kathy Howell



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Honoring Kathy Howell



Board Member Updates

Commissioner's Updates

Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner






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ACCESS

Awarding Child Care Education Scholarship Supplements

September 2024

-  **ACCESS** has been extended through September 2024.
-  **CAPS** will continue to pay the full cost of tuition minus the family fee.
-  Families will begin paying their family fee in October 2023



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SMART FROM THE START



Look Again Week

Governor Kemp Proclaimed May 22 - 26, 2023



LOOK AGAIN
GA • USA



NEVER LEAVE A CHILD
ALONE IN A VEHICLE

WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

Future of Georgia Summit

March 13, 2023



Economic Impact of Early Learning



Amy Jacobs
Commissioner,
Department of Early Care
and Learning

Mindy Binderman
Executive Director,
GEEARS

Kelli Henderson
VP, HR Total Rewards,
Allac

Daniela Perry
Vice President,
Georgia Chamber Foundation

#FutureofTalent



Aspen Forum on Children and Families

The Trust and Transformation Equation

April 11-12, 2023



Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

May 4, 2023



Georgia College and State University

College of Education Commencement

May 5, 2023



Finance, Administration, & Nutrition Updates

Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance & Administration



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FY 2023 Budget Comparison

Data as of March 31st	Budget	Expenditures*	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
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BY PROGRAMS

Child Care Services	\$1,312,812,853	\$973,094,930	\$339,717,923	26%
Nutrition	\$148,105,000	\$116,433,673	\$31,671,327	21%
Pre-K + (HS)	\$416,951,632	\$302,344,927	\$114,606,705	27%
Quality Initiatives	\$59,717,661	\$46,199,886	\$13,517,775	23%
Totals	\$1,937,587,146	\$1,438,073,417	\$499,513,729	26%

BY FUNDING SOURCES

State General	\$61,541,817	\$44,566,931	\$16,974,886	28%
State Lottery	\$408,900,881	\$302,202,686	\$106,698,195	26%
Federal	\$1,466,681,294	\$1,091,032,685	\$375,648,609	26%
Other	\$463,154	\$271,115	\$192,039	41%
Totals	\$1,937,587,146	\$1,438,073,417	\$499,513,729	26%

* Includes encumbrances.

Finance Update FY 2023 Budget Summary – Q3



Amended FY 2023 – HB 18

	Original FY 2023 Appropriation	Amended FY 2023 Appropriation	Change
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BY PROGRAMS

Child Care Services	\$327,996,336	\$327,996,336	\$0
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,000,000	\$0
Pre-K + (HS)	\$401,075,881	\$409,075,881	\$8,000,000
Quality Initiatives	\$61,414,822	\$61,414,822	\$0
Totals	\$938,487,039	\$946,487,039	\$8,000,000

BY FUND SOURCES

State General	\$61,436,817	\$61,436,817	\$0
State Lottery	\$400,900,881	\$408,900,881	\$8,000,000
Federal	\$475,649,841	\$475,649,841	\$0
Other	\$499,500	\$499,500	\$0
Totals	\$938,487,039	\$946,487,039	\$8,000,000

Amended FY 2023 Appropriation



Pre-K Program

State Lottery Funds Change			
FY 2023	AFY 2023	Increase	% Change
\$400,900,881	\$408,900,881	\$8,000,000	2%

Increase

- Increase formula funds to reflect an increase in the employer contribution for State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) from 18.534% to 29.454% of salary for lead and assistant teachers at public Pre-K providers = \$8,000,000

Amended FY 2023
Appropriation



FY 2024 – HB 19

	Original FY 2023 Appropriation	FY 2024 Appropriation	Change
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BY PROGRAMS

Child Care Services	\$327,996,336	\$329,093,994	\$1,097,658
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,000,000	\$0
Pre-K + (HS)	\$401,075,881	\$443,965,064	\$42,889,183
Quality Initiatives	\$61,414,822	\$61,414,822	\$0
Totals	\$938,487,039	\$982,473,880	\$43,986,841

BY FUND SOURCES

State General	\$61,436,817	\$62,534,475	\$1,097,658
State Lottery	\$400,900,881	\$443,790,064	\$42,889,183
Federal	\$475,649,841	\$475,649,841	\$0
Other	\$499,500	\$499,500	\$0
Totals	\$938,487,039	\$982,473,880	\$43,986,841

FY 2024 Appropriation



Child Care Services

State General Funds Change			
FY 2023	FY 2024	Increase	% Change
\$61,436,817	\$62,534,365	\$1,097,658	1.79%

Increase

- Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2023, to address agency recruitment and retention needs = \$51,848
- Reflect an adjustment in TeamWorks billings = \$195
- Reflect an adjustment in Merit System Assessment billings = \$71
- Increase funds to reflect an adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 66.02% to 65.89% = \$1,045,544

FY 2024
Appropriation



Pre-K Program

State Lottery Funds Change			
FY 2023	FY 2024	Increase	% Change
\$400,900,881	\$443,790,064	\$42,889,183	10.7%

Increase

- Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2023, to address agency recruitment and retention needs = \$202,326
- Reflect an adjustment in Merit System Assessment billings = \$2,782
- Reduce formula funds for training and experience for Pre-K teachers= \$(178,981)
- Increase formula funds for classroom operations and redirect existing funding to Pre-K lead teacher salaries = \$14,035,636
- Increase funds to adjust the state base salary schedule to increase salaries for certified Pre-K teachers and assistant teachers by \$2,000 = \$20,647,514
- Increase formula funds to reflect an increase in the employer contribution for State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) from 18.534% to 29.454% of salary for lead and assistant teachers at public Pre-K providers = \$8,179,906

FY 2024
Appropriation



DECAL Legislative Update

House Working Group on Early Education

Focus on policies to expand access to Pre-Kindergarten.

HB 538 GA Early Literacy Act

Requires teachers in licensed childcare facilities to receive training on developmentally evidence-based literacy instruction.

SB211 GA Council on Literacy

Creates the Council to conduct a comprehensive review of birth to postsecondary literacy programs.



Happy Helpings Start-up Grants

- Start-up grants offered to expand access to meals in unserved or underserved areas
 - \$300k allocated as part of amended FY22 budget
 - \$195k disbursed in FY22
 - \$105k to be disbursed FY23
 - Expanding access to nutritious meals and snacks in Georgia counties where meal sites were not available last summer.
 - Up to \$10,000 per project offered to new & experienced sponsors.
 - Application Deadline on May 15.
 - Awards announced on June 1.



Happy
Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

Areas of Need – 74 counties

- Bacon
- Baldwin
- Banks
- Ben Hill
- Berrien
- Bleckley
- Brantley
- Camden
- Charlton
- Chattahoochee
- Clinch
- Cook
- Crawford
- Dade
- Dawson
- Dodge
- Dooly
- Emanuel
- Evans
- Forsyth
- Gilmer
- Gordon
- Greene
- Habersham
- Hall
- Hancock
- Haralson
- Harris
- Heard
- Irwin
- Jeff Davis
- Jenkins
- Johnson
- Jones
- Laurens
- Long
- Lumpkin
- Marion
- Meriwether
- Miller
- Montgomery
- Murray
- Oconee
- Oglethorpe
- Peach
- Pickens
- Pierce
- Pike
- Pulaski
- Putnam
- Quitman
- Schley
- Screven
- Stewart
- Talbot
- Taliaferro
- Taylor
- Telfair
- Towns
- Treutlen
- Troup
- Turner
- Twiggs
- Union
- Ware
- Warren
- Wayne
- Webster
- Wheeler
- White
- Wilcox
- Wilkes
- Wilkinson
- Worth



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Grant Requirements

Each project will have a budget of up to \$10,000 for the period of June-August 2023.

Requirements:

- Must be an approved experienced or new Happy Helpings sponsor in good standing prior to receiving funds. Payments will be made before or by June 30, 2023.
- Must sign a grant agreement amendment with DECAL.
- Must agree to operate a Happy Helpings meal site in one or more of the underserved or unserved counties. *Failure to serve meals in at least one of the designated counties during FY23 will result in returning the funds to DECAL.*
- Must use grant funds on allowable Happy Helpings' costs.
- Must submit meal claims within 30 days.
- Must submit the Happy Helpings start-up grant application by May 15, 2023. Start-up grant applications will be evaluated using a point-scoring system.
- Must have the ability to share project outcomes including how funds were used by September 30, 2023.



Federal Programs Updates

Elisabetta Kasfir, Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs



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DECAL's Five Strategic Goals

- Align, integrate, and coordinate programs to improve school readiness for children birth to five in Georgia.
- Continue to increase the quality and accessibility of early care and education for children birth through school age in Georgia.
- Develop, professionalize, and retain a highly skilled workforce for the early care and education industry.
- **Expand Two Generation (2Gen) approaches to better support children and families.**
- Enhance the use of technology and data to better support our stakeholders.



CAPS and Two Generation (2Gen) Approaches

Approaches

- Family Centered Coaching
- **Find Help Georgia**
- Student Parent Priority Group and other Initiatives focused on student parents

Introducing...

- Amy Roys is our new CAPS Development & Partnerships Director
- Amanda Tarpley is one of our two CAPS Family Support Directors



Find Help GA Resource and Referral Portal

Amanda Tarpley, CAPS Family Support Director of Operations



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www.FindHelpGA.org

**Find Help Georgia is a
collaboration between**



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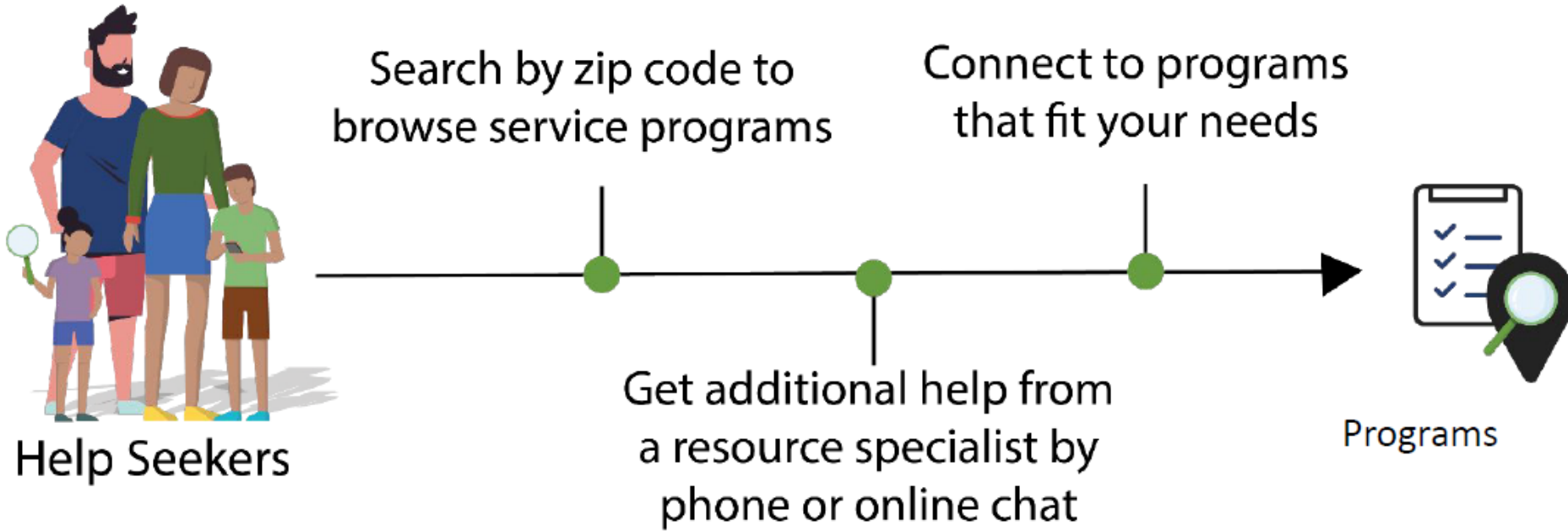


Prevent Child Abuse
Georgia™



Technical College
System of Georgia

Making it Easier to Navigate the System



Help is just a click, chat, or call away.



Find Help GA - Community site

- Allow for community members (families, students, etc.) to navigate anonymously and connect directly with programs



Staff sites - separate sites for each partner group (DECAL, PCA GA, etc.)

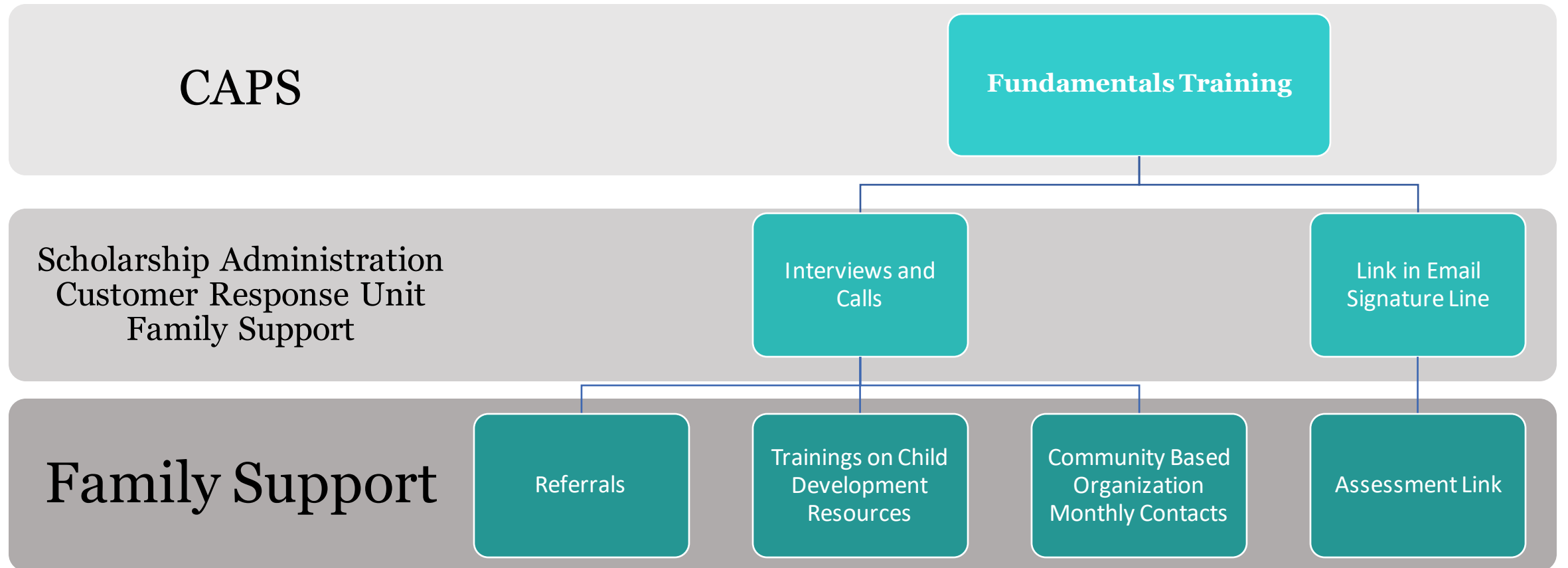
- Allow team collaboration
- Staff can navigate on behalf of families, clients, students
- Coordination of care for families and clients



Goals and Purpose of Find Help Georgia

- 2Gen Approach to support the **whole** family
- Connect families with **resources** in Georgia
- Provide **ease of access** to families who are in need
- Educate **Community Based Organizations** (CBO's) about Find Help Georgia

CAPS Strategies





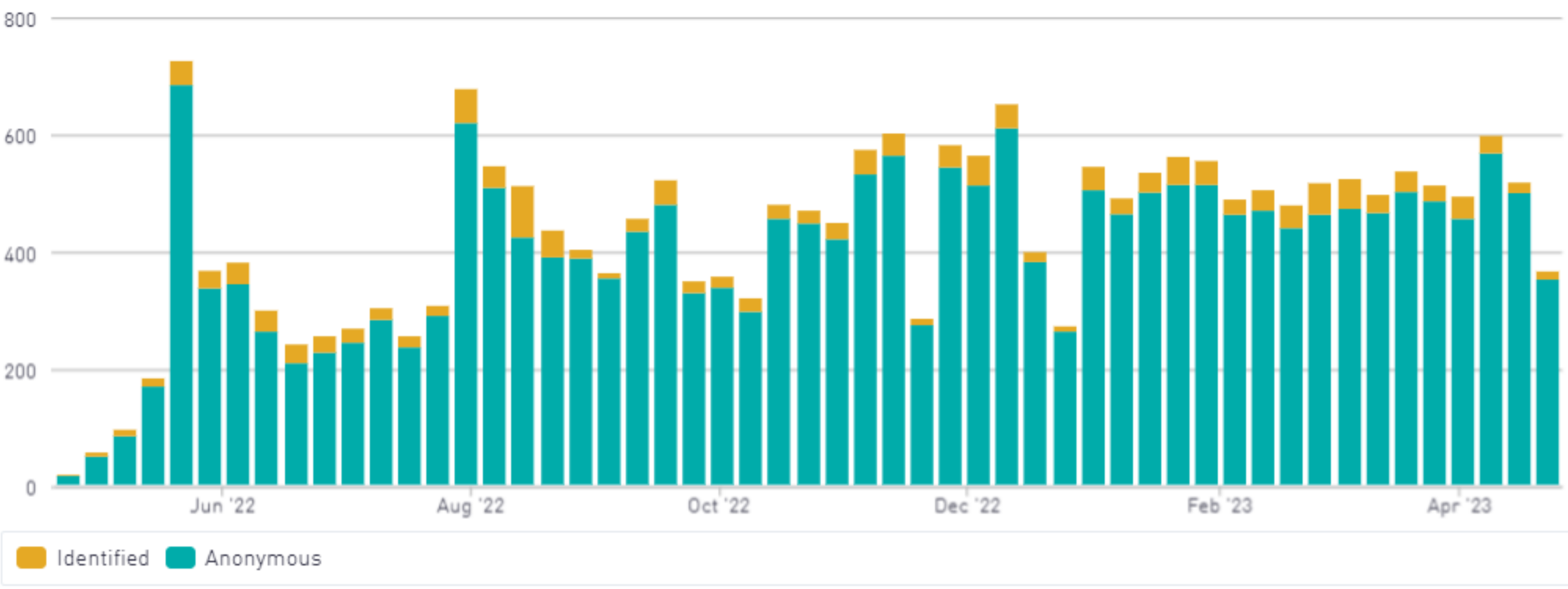
Awareness Campaign

April 2022—April 2023

FIND HELP

Community and Staff Sites User Activity by Month

① Users | 365 Days



①

843

Distinct Identified Users

①

16,853

Distinct Anonymous Users

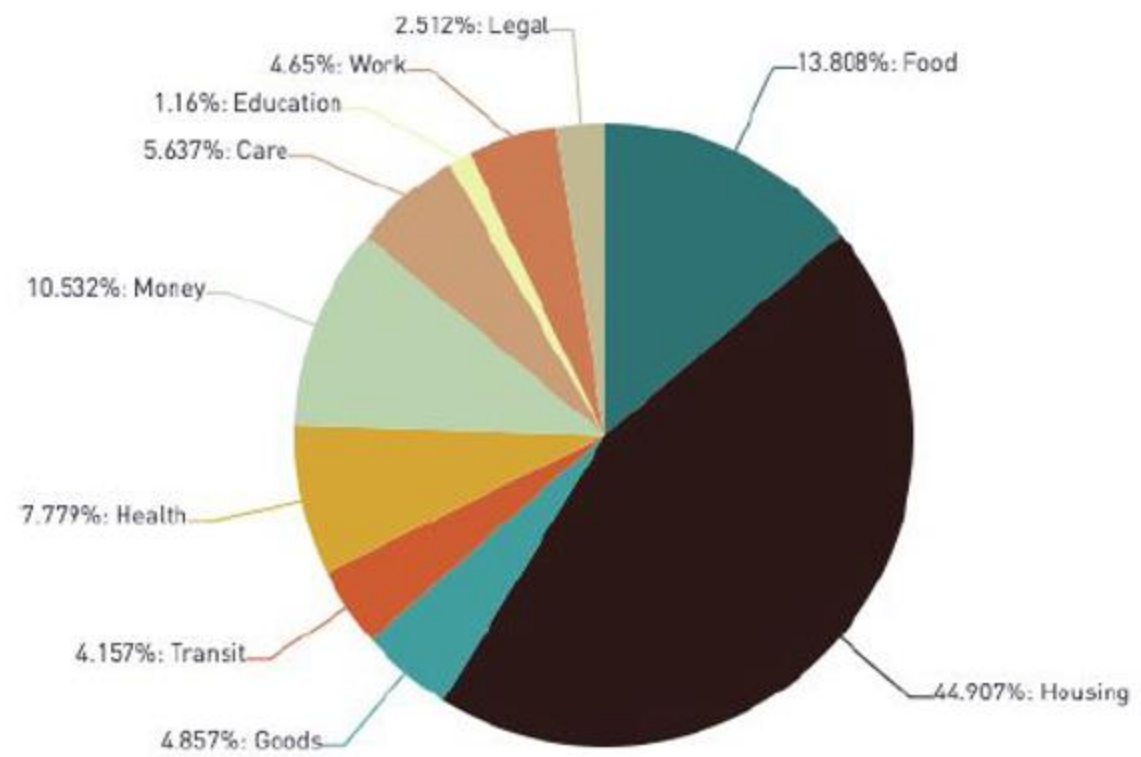
Community and Staff Sites Searches by Month

55,638
Average per month=4,279



Community and Staff Sites Search Categories by Trend

① Searches by Category | 2022-03-01 to 2023-03-31



Help Paying for Housing	3108
Help Finding Housing	1676
Help Paying for Childcare	1496
Food Pantry	1364
Emergency Shelter	1341

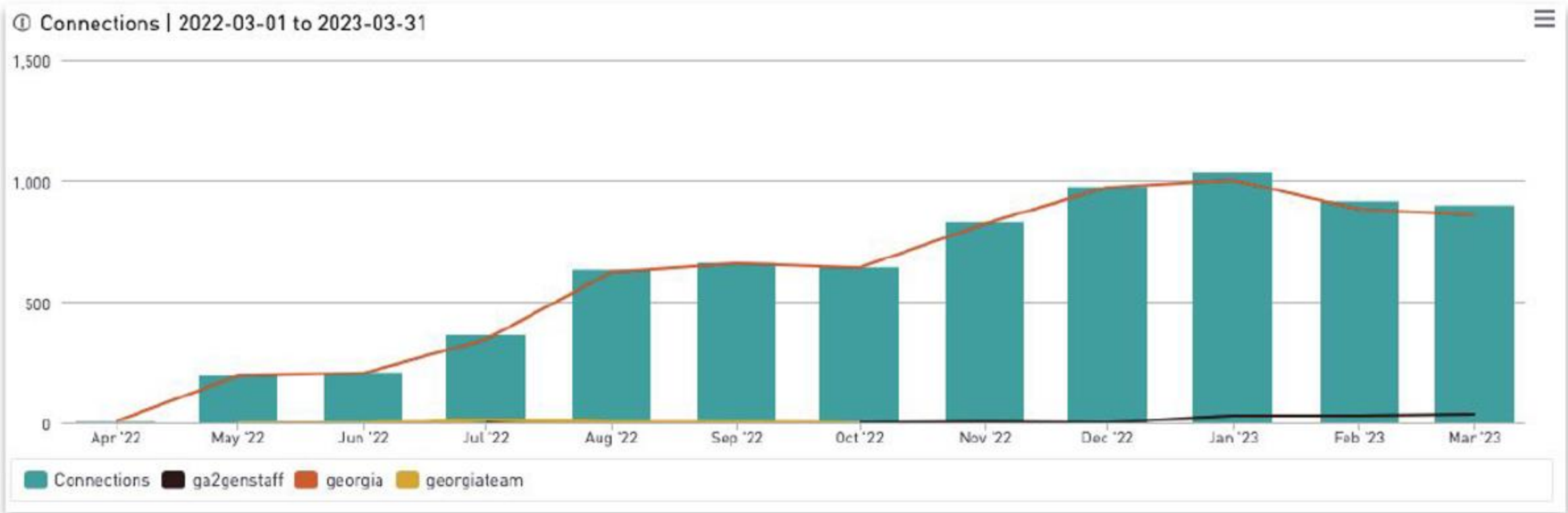


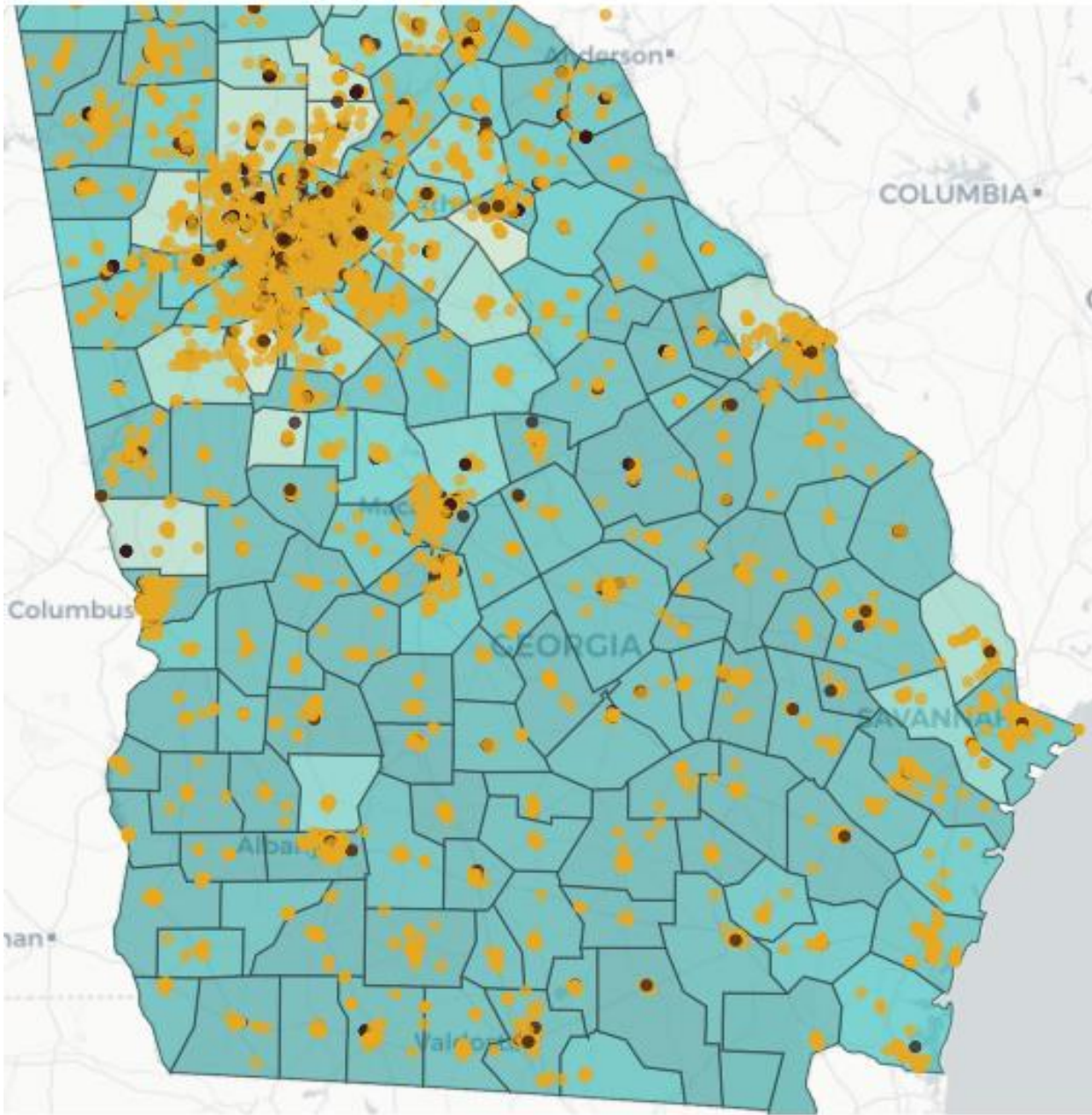
Engagement Campaign

May 2023

FIND HELP

Community and Staff Sites Connections by Month





- Social Vulnerability Index (**SVI**)
- **Black** indicates *claimed* programs
- **Yellow** indicates *unclaimed* programs





Future Plans for Additional Partners

FIND HELP

Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports Updates

Susan Adams, Deputy Commissioner for Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports



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May 1st-5th

#littlekidsbigfeelings
#DECALCMHWeek2023

**Children's
Mental
Health
Matters**



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Puppet Shows



Regulating Emotions



“Free Your Feels” Friday



Classroom Visits: Board Members



Classroom Visits: Legislators



State Representative
Katie Dempsey



State Representative
Tonya Miller



Classroom Visits: Legislators



State Representative
Phil Olaleye



State Senator
Brian Strickland



Classroom Visits: DECAL Staff



Children's Mental Health Week 2023



Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Updates

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) Pilot:

- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) is a prevention-based service provided by a trained mental health professional to help guide and support caregivers (families, teachers, childcare providers) to provide optimal social and emotional development for young children.
 - 10 health professionals will obtain certification in May 2023
 - Pilot Sites: Macon, Atlanta, Savannah

DECAL is represented on the Multi-Agency Treatment for Children (MATCH) Committee:

- The state MATCH team facilitates collaboration across state agencies to explore resources solutions for complex and unmet treatment needs for children.



Break

Ten Minutes



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Longitudinal Study of Georgia's Pre-K Program

Susan Adams, Deputy Commissioner for Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports
Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships



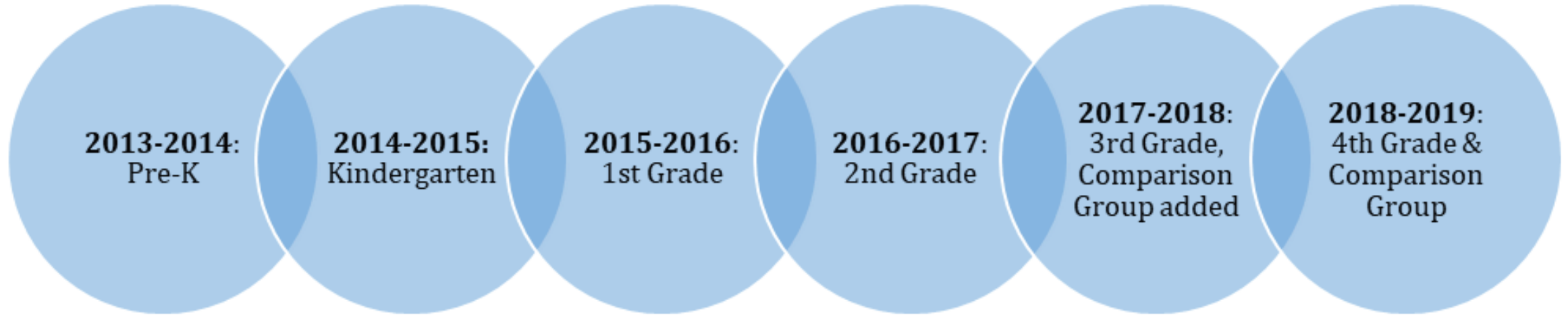
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Georgia's Pre-K Evaluation Overview

- In 2013, DECAL commissioned FPG Child Development Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill (FPG) to conduct a longitudinal study of Georgia's Pre-K program
 - Continues earlier evaluation work conducted by FPG
 - Conducted at the request of the Georgia General Assembly
- Study followed a representative sample of children who attended Georgia's Pre-K in the 2013-14 school year
 - Researchers followed the children through their 4th grade year
 - Study include biannual child assessments and annual classroom observations
- DECAL is releasing the final study report in May 2023



Study Timeline



Study Sample

Study Year	Total Children	DLL Subsample	Classrooms	CLASS Obs
Pre-K	1,169	139	199	199
Kindergarten	1,034 (88%)	118 (85%)	822	196
Grade 1	969 (83%)	119 (86%)	777	296
Grade 2	951 (81%)	116 (83%)	786	280
Grade 3	857 (73%)	109 (78%)	718	256
Grade 4	715 (61%)	72 (52%)	754	228



Study Components

- Standardized child assessments that measure skills across key learning domains (language, literacy, math, social-emotional, etc.)
 - Assessments administered twice a year
 - Assessment battery adjusted for children's ages across the study
 - “Standardized” means that children's scores can be compared to a nationally representative sample



Study Components cont.

- Observations of classroom quality that measure the quality of teacher-child interactions
- Inclusion of a subsample of dual language learners (English-Spanish)
- Comparison sample of children who did not attend any pre-k added in 3rd grade year and followed through 4th grade
- Annual teacher surveys, family surveys, and administrative data



Longitudinal Study of Georgia's Pre-K Program

Final Report
Pre-K through 4th Grade



UNC | FRANK PORTER GRAHAM
CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Advancing knowledge to
transform children's lives

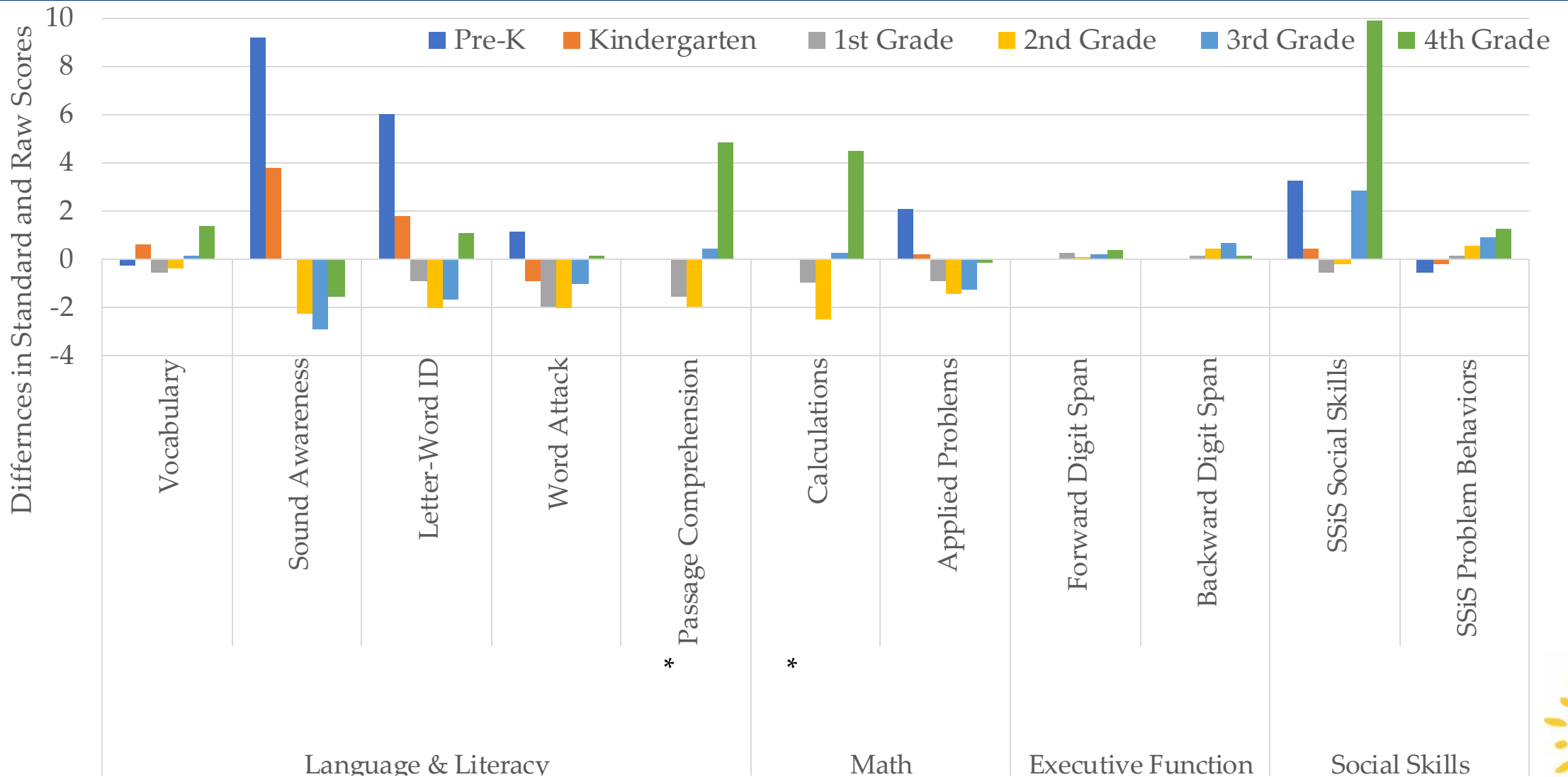
Study Findings

Key Analyses

- Within-grade comparisons (fall to spring growth)
- Longitudinal patterns of growth from Pre-K through 4th grade
- Classroom quality
- Comparison sample



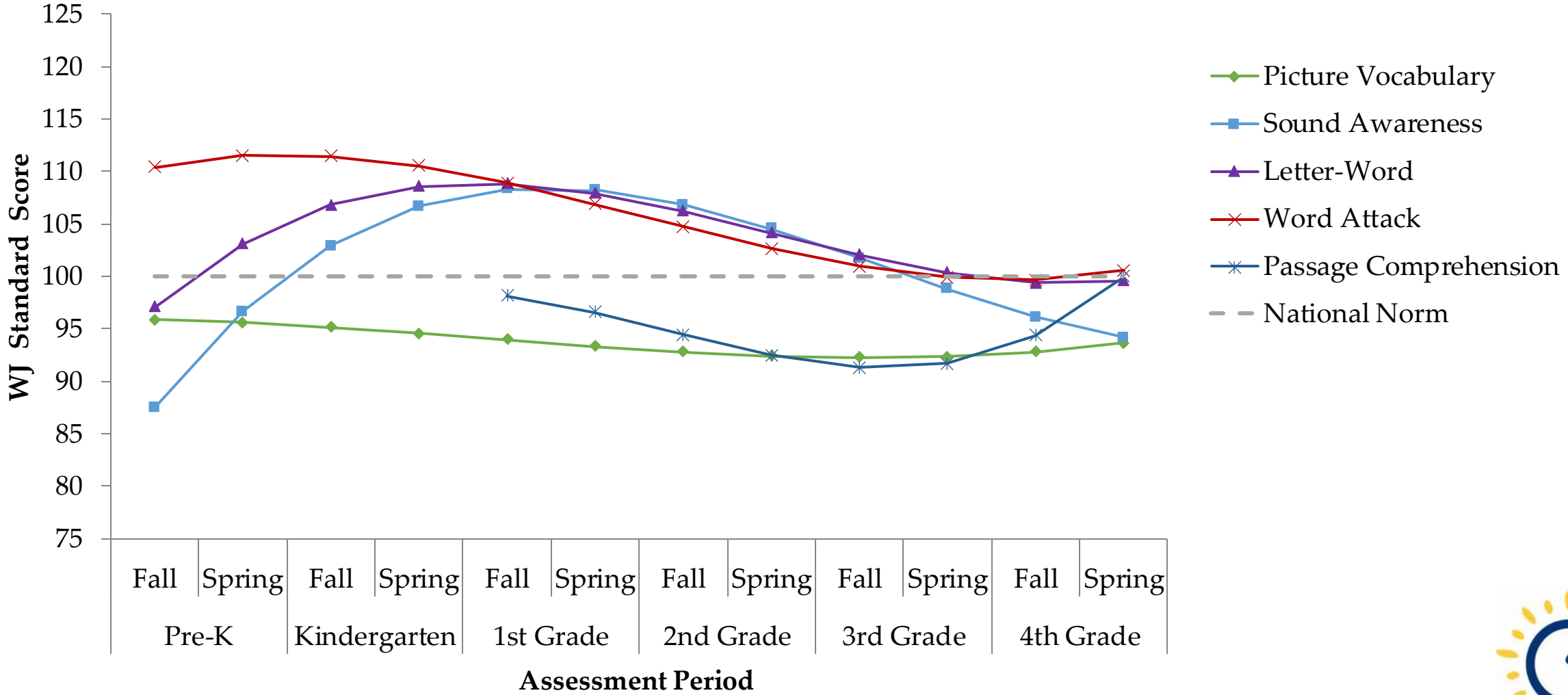
Within Grade Comparisons



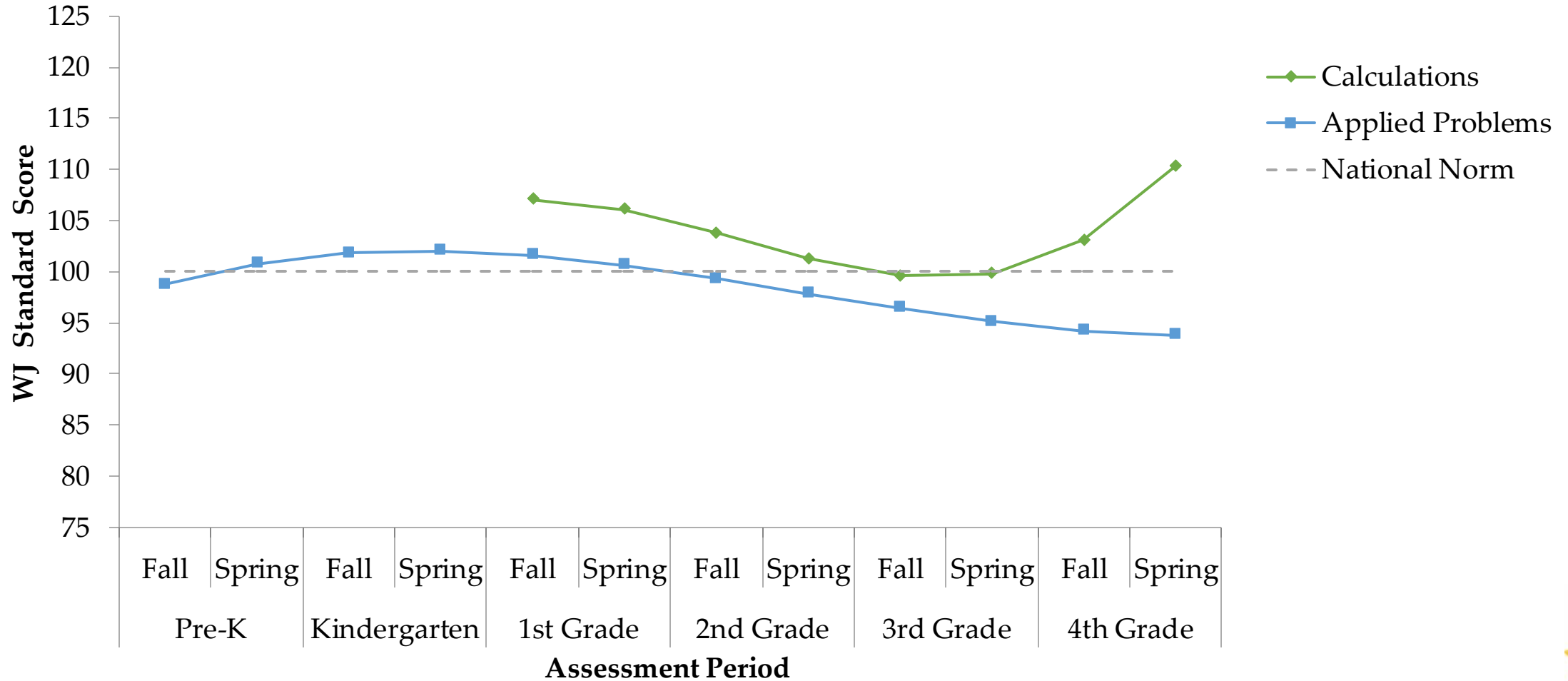
* = Not Administered Pre-K & Kindergarten



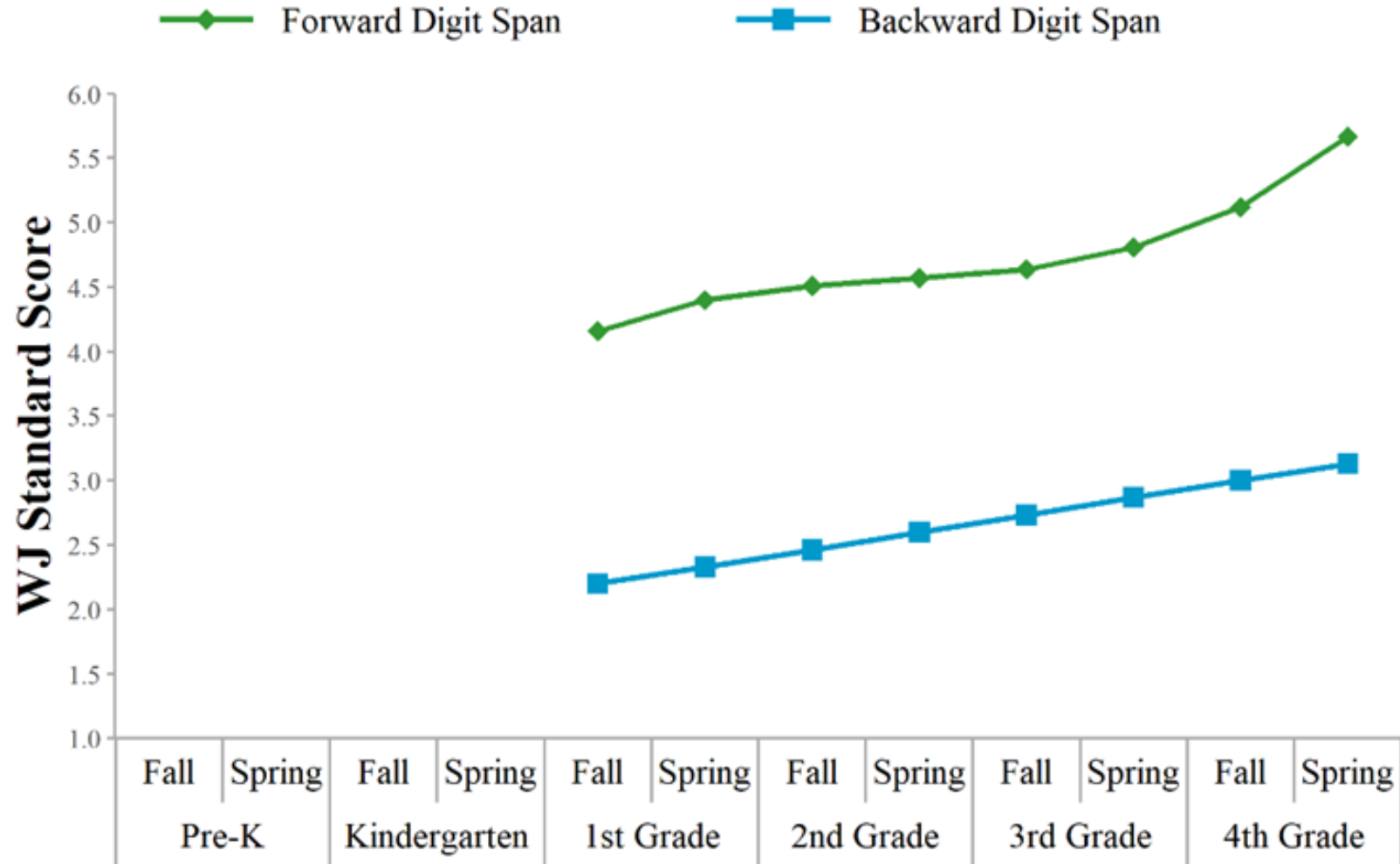
Longitudinal Findings (Lang & Literacy)



Longitudinal Findings (Math)



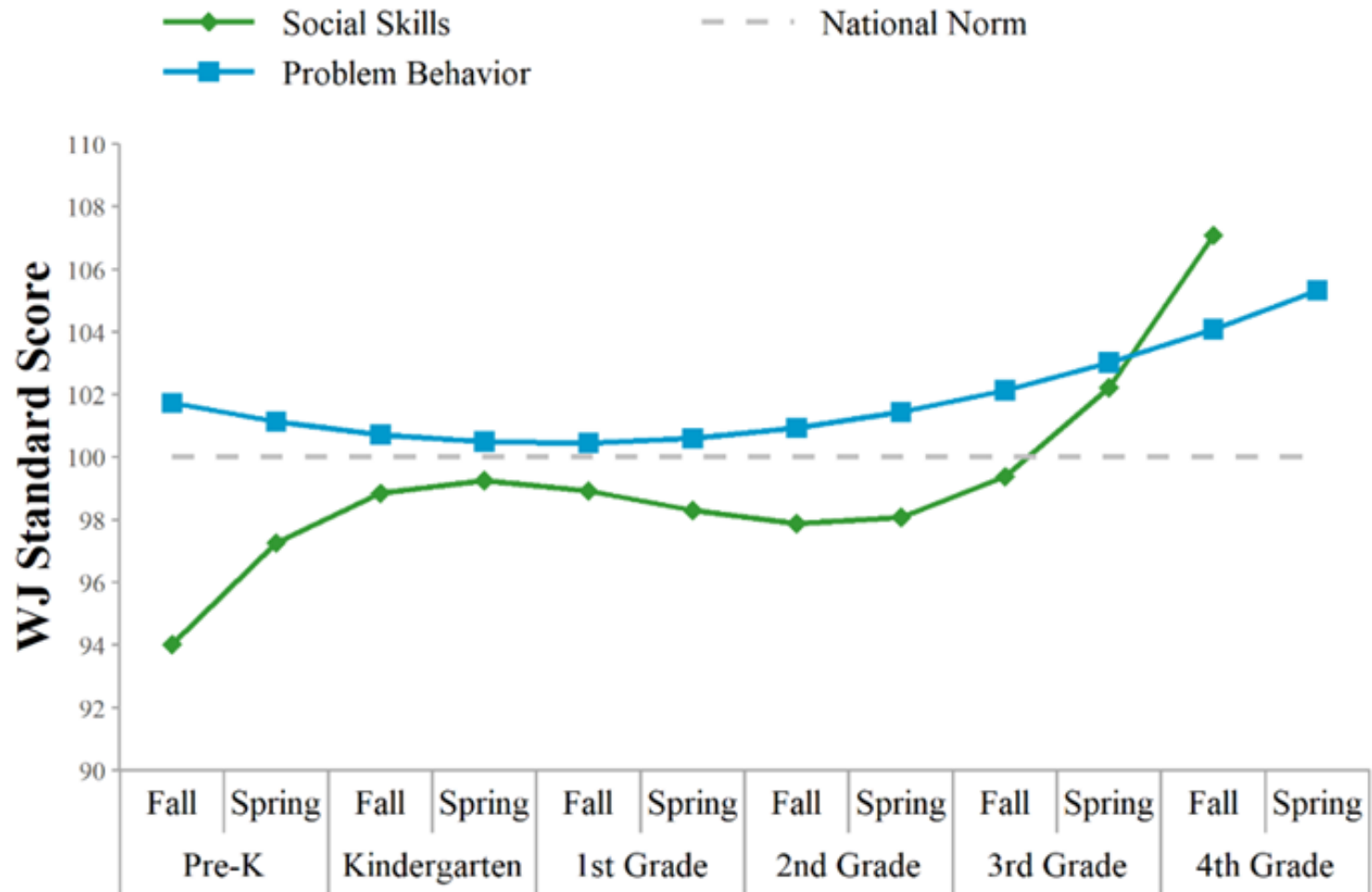
Longitudinal Findings (Executive Function)



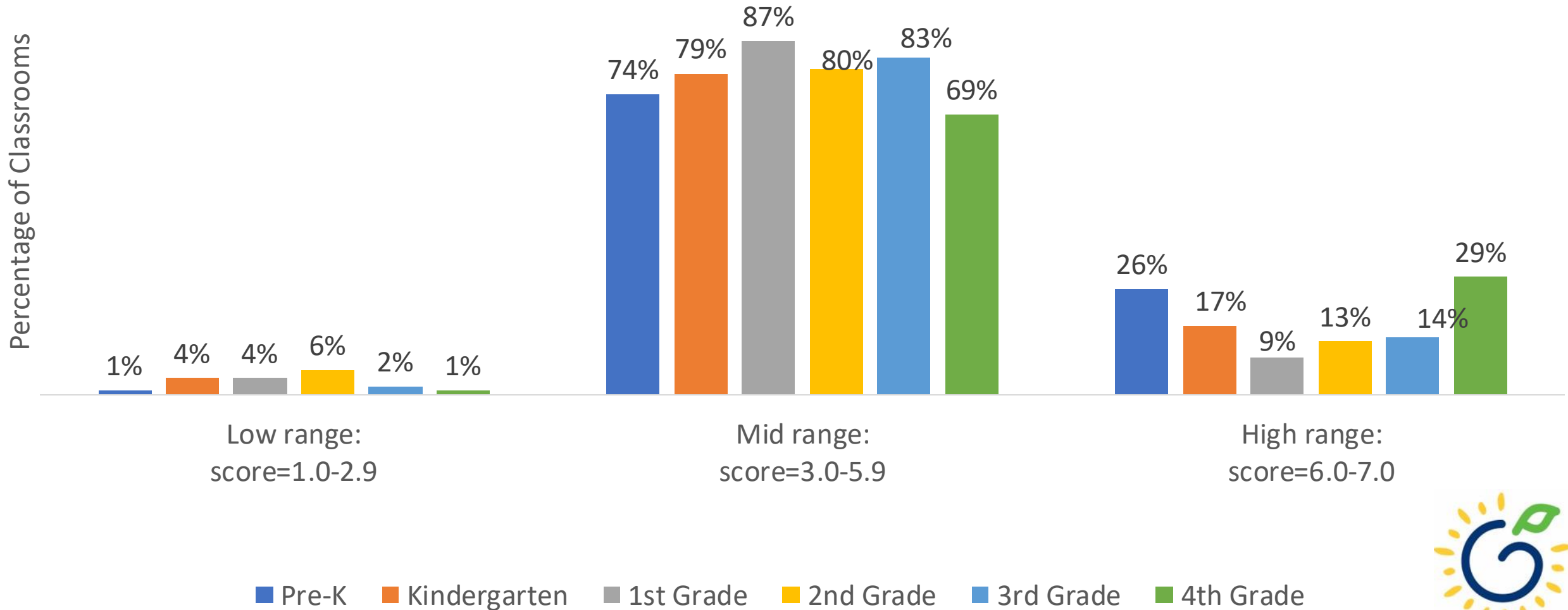
Note: Digit Span measures produce raw scores, not standardized scores - national averages are not available.



Longitudinal Findings (Social Skills)



Classroom Quality (CLASS)



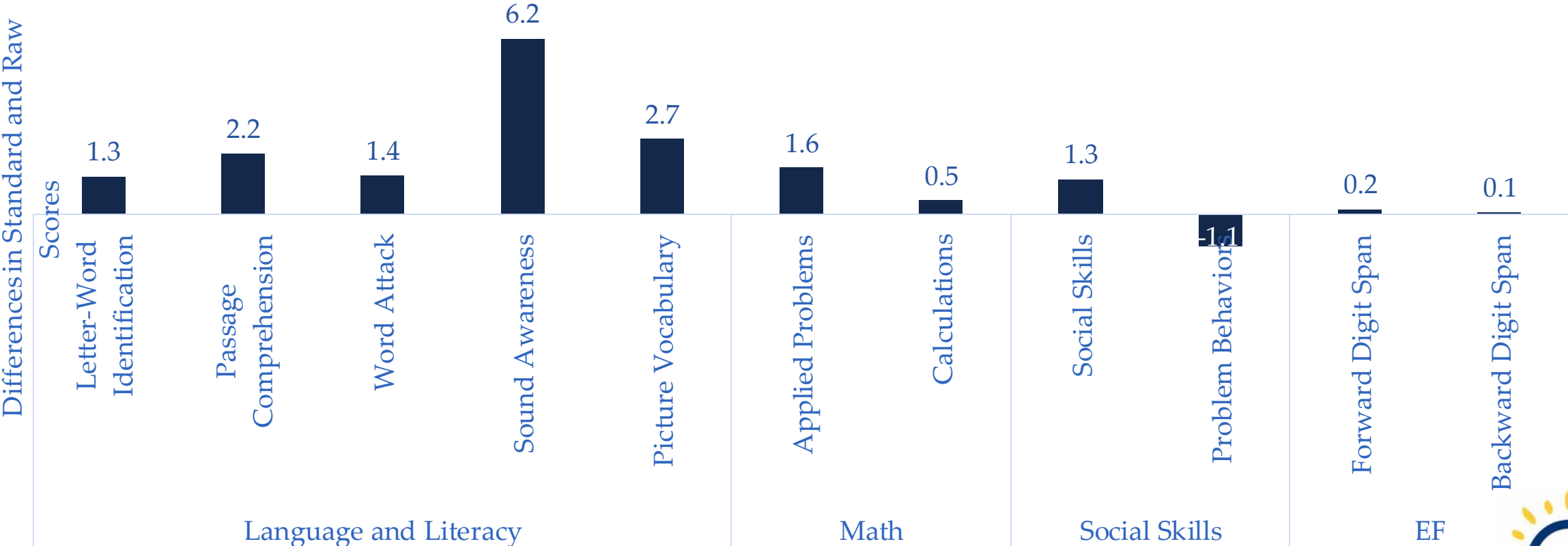
Comparison Group

- Children who attended Georgia's Pre-K Program had **significantly better scores on all language and literacy outcomes in 3rd and 4th grade** compared to children who did not attend any pre-k program
- The greatest difference between the comparison and Pre-K groups is related to auditory processing skills that underlie decoding and spelling as basic skills for acquiring literacy
 - This was also the skill in which children showed the greatest gains during Pre-K, which was sustained through 4th grade
- This is not an “apples to apples” comparison



Pre-K Group versus Comparison Group Outcomes

The Georgia's Pre-K group had better language, literacy, and executive function outcomes. Differences in Sound Awareness skills were the greatest – about ½ a standard deviation.



Selected Findings

- Most within-grade gains were in Pre-K and 4th Grade
- By 4th grade, children scored at or above the national average on six of the nine standardized assessments
- Scores for the vocabulary measure have been below the national average throughout the study
- Dual language learners were slightly below the national norm for language and literacy skills measured in English, and well below the national norm for skills measured in Spanish
- Classroom quality was in the moderate to high range
- More classrooms fell in the high-quality range in Pre-K than any other grade



General Conclusions

- A key strength of Georgia's Pre-K Program is building foundational language and literacy skills for reading
- Vocabulary development is an area of growth for children ages birth to five, but also kindergarten to 4th grade
- While classroom quality is highest in Pre-K, it is relatively consistent throughout the study and slightly higher with a change in measures in 4th grade



Next Steps: Georgia's Pre-K Language Study

Research Questions:

1. What Pre-K practices and contextual factors support children's language skills in Georgia's Pre-K classrooms?
2. Is there variation in children's language experiences within classrooms?
3. Do student characteristics predict differences in language experiences?

Sample: 146 classrooms and 663 children



Language Supports Study 2022-23 Sample

- Stratified random sampling approach to ensure balanced representation across 6 regions of the state
- 25 sites were randomly selected in each of the 6 regions
- 1 classroom randomly selected per site
- 4-5 children per classroom
- 53% rural classrooms/sites

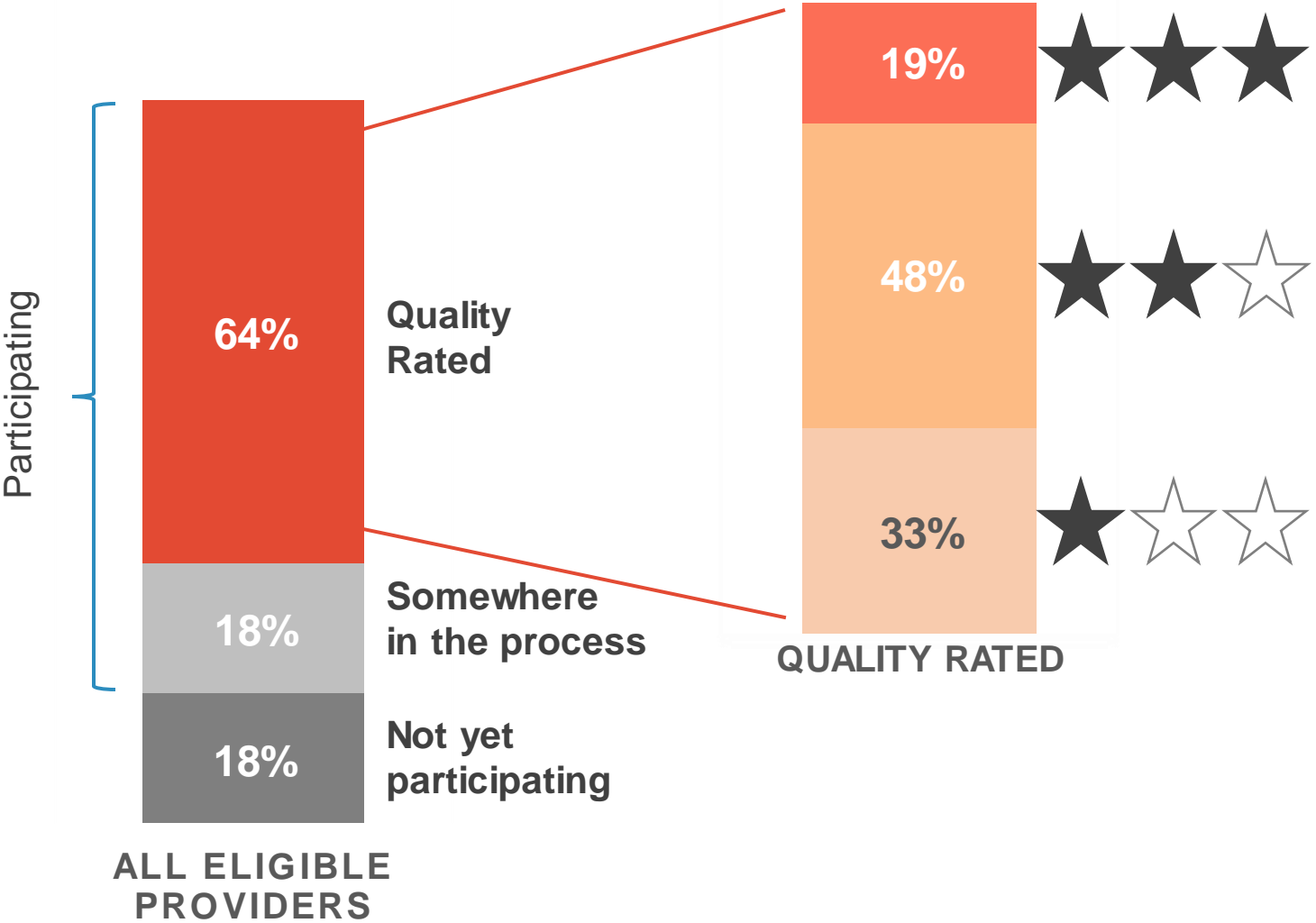


Quality Innovations and Partnerships Updates

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships

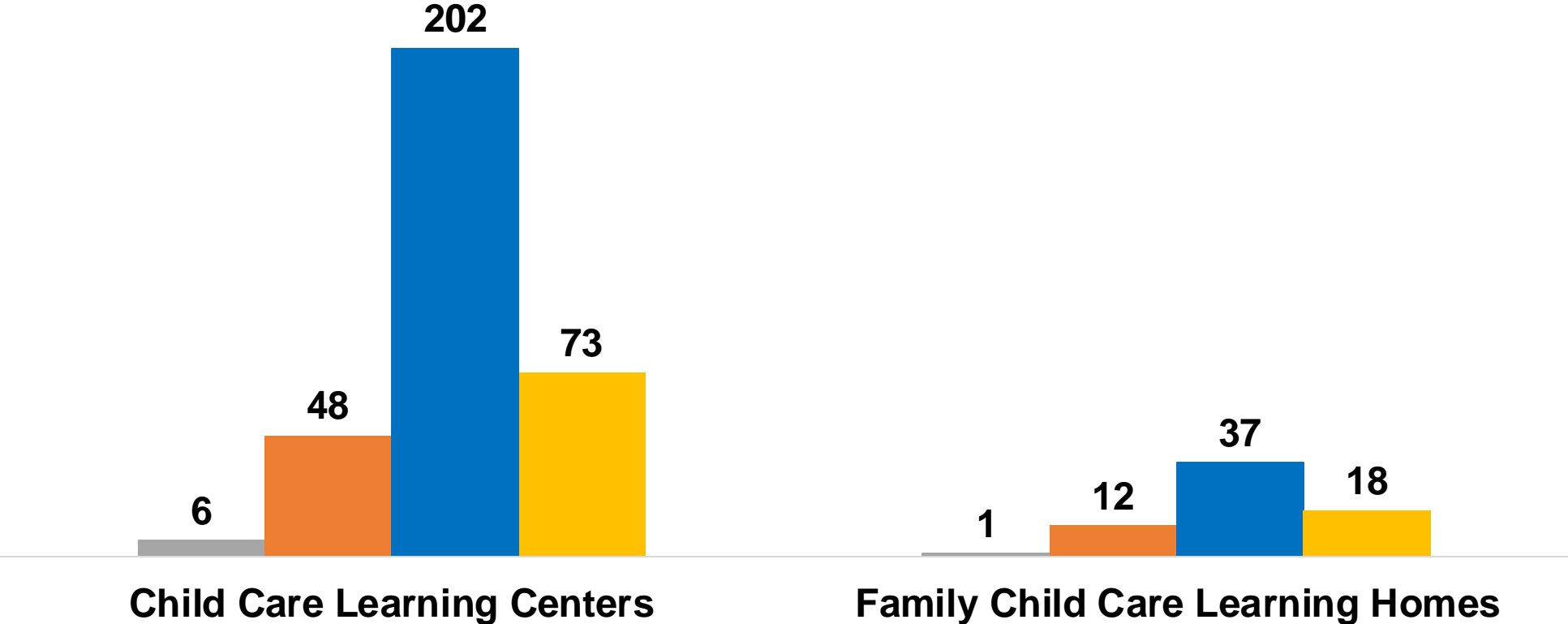


Of Georgia's 4,504 eligible providers, **2,888** are Quality Rated.



2023 Cohort 1 Ratings

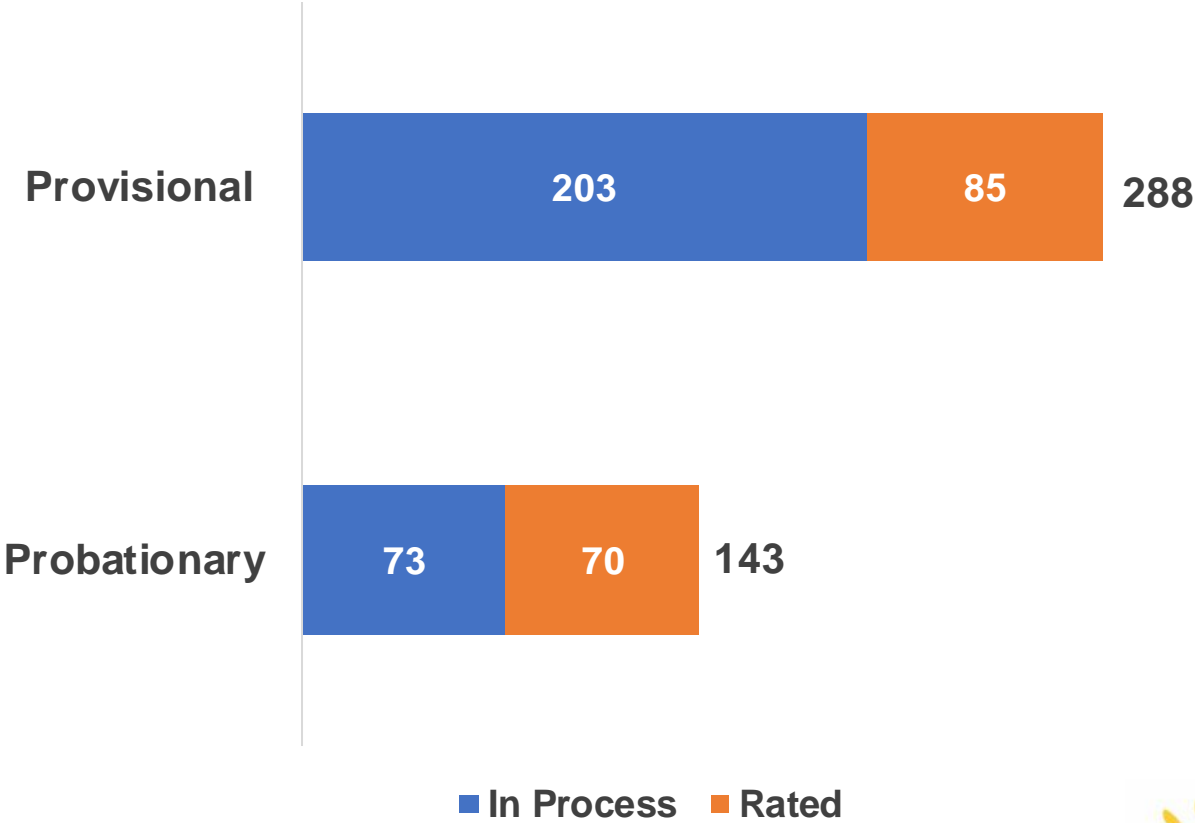
■ Not Rated ■ 1-star ■ 2-star ■ 3-star



Provisional and Probationary Providers

Provisional Status: Allows newly licensed programs and programs new to CAPS to be CAPS Scholarship-eligible for a limited time while achieving a star rating.

Probationary Status: CAPS providers who do not earn enough points to rate can continue participating in the CAPS program for a limited time while improving their quality rating outcomes.



Quality Rated Week, April 24-28

QR Week Resolution, social media activities, site visits, and a virtual celebration

Thank You, Quality Rated Providers!



You are the keys to Quality Rated's success because you maintain high standards for quality early care and education.

That's why we're celebrating you during #QRWeek!

#QRWeek
April 24-28

CALi Says:

All Quality Rated providers meet or exceed demanding care and education standards. Learn more at www.QualityRated.org.



Quality Rated Week Legislative Site Visits



**Senator Jason Esteves @ Open
Arms Lutheran Child Development
Center of Buckhead**



**Senator Elena Parent @ Little Tots
Academy in Decatur**



Quality Rated Week Legislative Site Visits



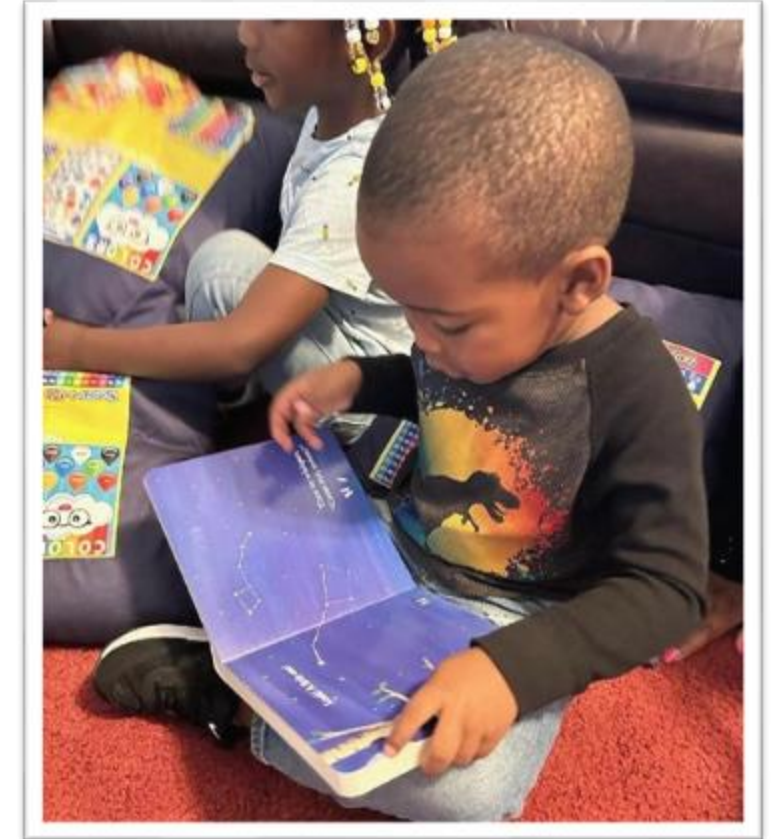
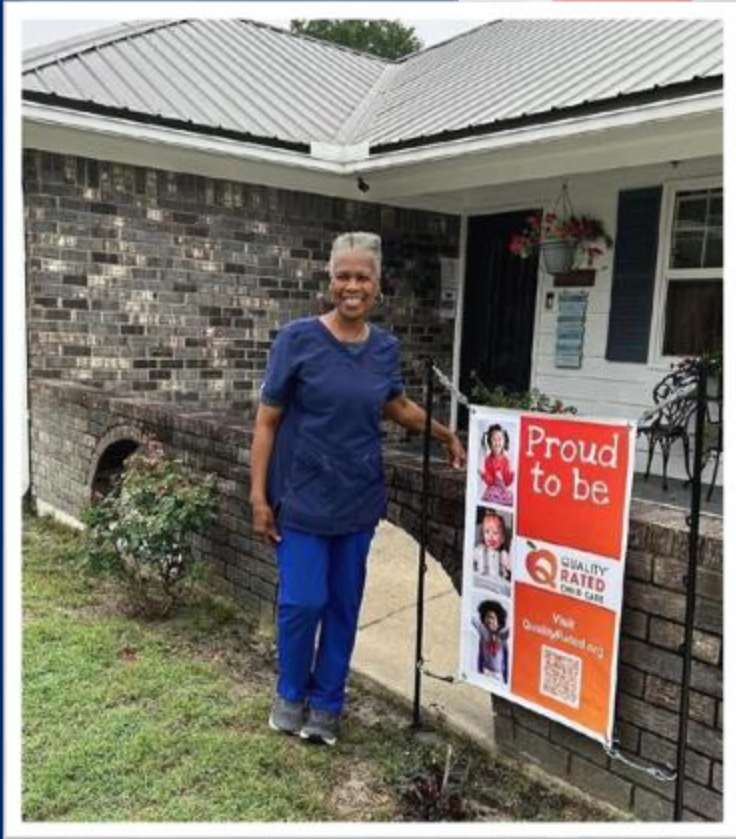
**State Representative David Wilkerson at 1st
Step Learning Academy in Powder Springs**



**Senator Blake Tillery @
Cornerstone Children's Center
in Vidalia**



Quality Rated Week DECAL Site Visits

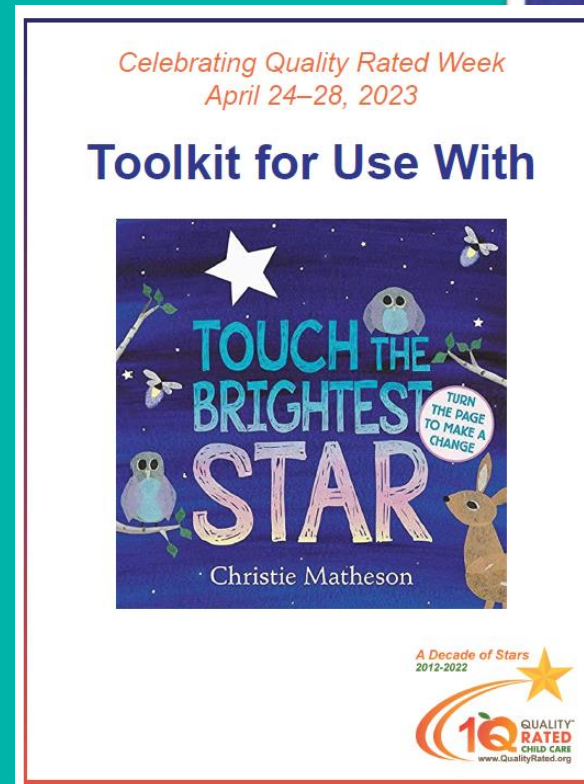
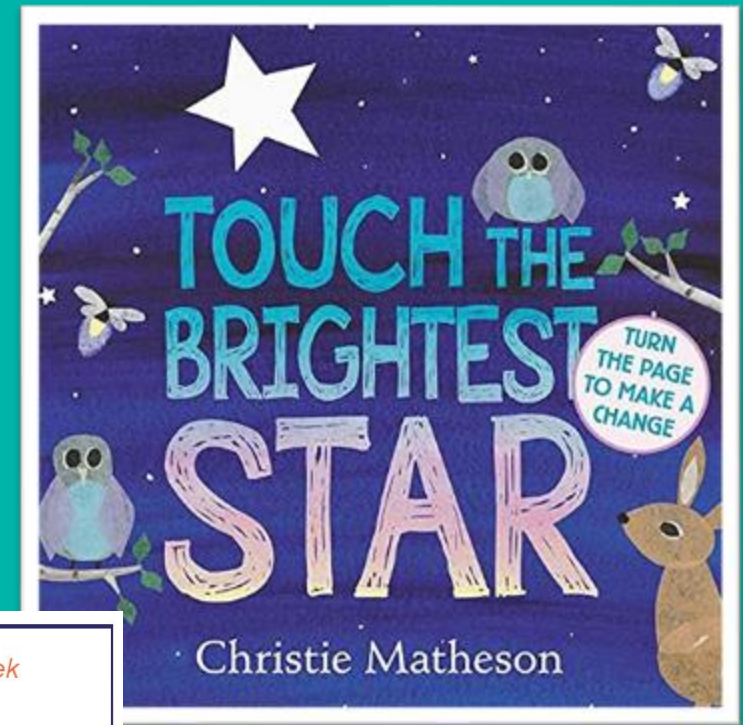


**QIP Team Members with FCCLH owner
Francina Ware in Hinesville**



Quality Rated Commemorative Book

- Board book to highlight infant and toddler early learning
- Includes stars to represent the 10-year anniversary
- Interactive with references to math and science
- Includes great vocabulary to promote early literacy development





Quality Rated Language & Literacy Endorsement 2023 Center Awardees

- Bemiss Academy Preschool
- Building Foundations Learning Academy
- Busy World Learning Center
- Days R Bright Academy
- Kangaroo Pouch Child Development Center
- Lemon Tree Academy Monroe
- Little Ones Learning Center
- Love Bug Learning Center @ Greenbriar
- Meadowdale Learning Center – Moody
- Meadowdale Learning Center – Perry
- Pat-A-Cake Learning Academy
- Rainbow Academy of Learning
- Seeds of Excellence Christian Academy
- Storyland Child Care and Learning Center
- Trinity AME Early Learning Center

Participating Family Child Care Providers will be awarded soon!



Comprehensive Review of Quality Rated

- “Comprehensive Review” means that DECAL is undergoing a **systematic, comprehensive, and methodical** review of all aspects of Quality Rated. This includes:
 - Reviewing Quality Rated’s internal and external processes, QR supports offered to providers and families, and how “quality” is communicated
 - Provider surveys, family focus groups, stakeholder data dives, community forums, and internal process workgroups
- External partners include The Urban Institute, Child Trends, and Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS)

In short, this is part of Quality Rated’s own Continuous Quality Improvement strategy.



Why Review Quality Rated?

- It has been over ten years since Quality Rated was designed and this is an opportunity to incorporate new research
- A recognition of the changing landscape of early education in Georgia, including impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic
- As more providers have been rated multiple times, this is an opportunity to ensure that the system is supporting continuous quality improvement
- An opportunity to better understand how well Quality Rated is meeting the needs of the multiple populations it is designed to support

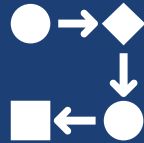
Ultimately, the comprehensive review will produce proposed revisions to Quality Rated to move into the next decade with a strengthened system.



Areas included in the Quality Rated Comprehensive Review



The structure and components that make up a rating



The process of becoming rated



Quality Rated technical assistance



Supports for providers and families (including bonus packages and CAPS rates)



Communication with providers and families



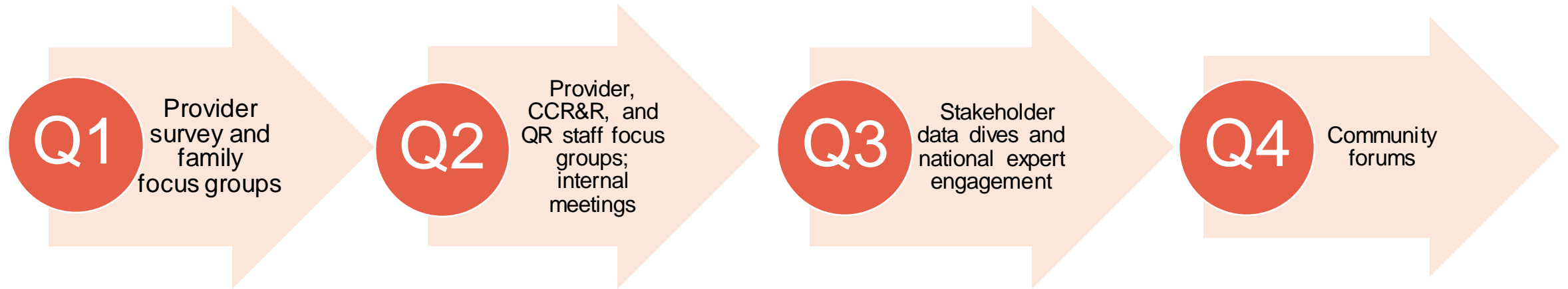
New research and trends from other states



Reviewing Quality Rated from an equity lens



2023 Comprehensive Review Timeline



Comprehensive Review Progress

- Focus groups with families
 - Conducted by The Urban Institute
 - March 16 – April 20
 - Ten focus groups attended by 63 people
- Survey of Quality Rated and QR-eligible providers
 - Conducted by The Urban Institute
 - March 24 – May 1
 - 35% of QR providers fully completed the survey; 22% of non-QR providers; 39% of multi-site providers (may represent both QR and non-QR programs)
- Listening sessions with QR assessors and CCR&R staff
 - Conducted by Child Trends
 - Four sessions attended by 27 people
 - May 1 – May 10



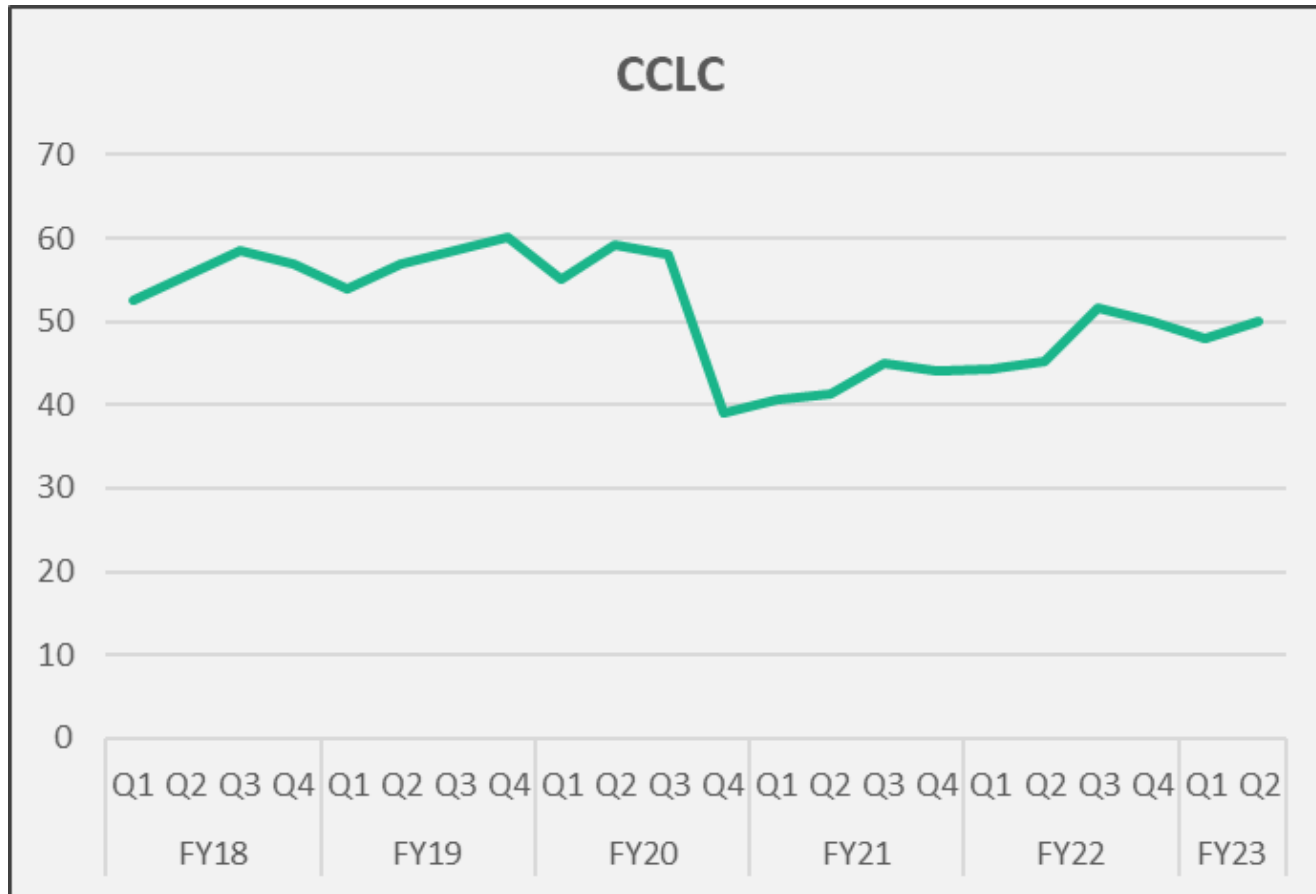
Child Care Services Updates

Pam Stevens, Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services



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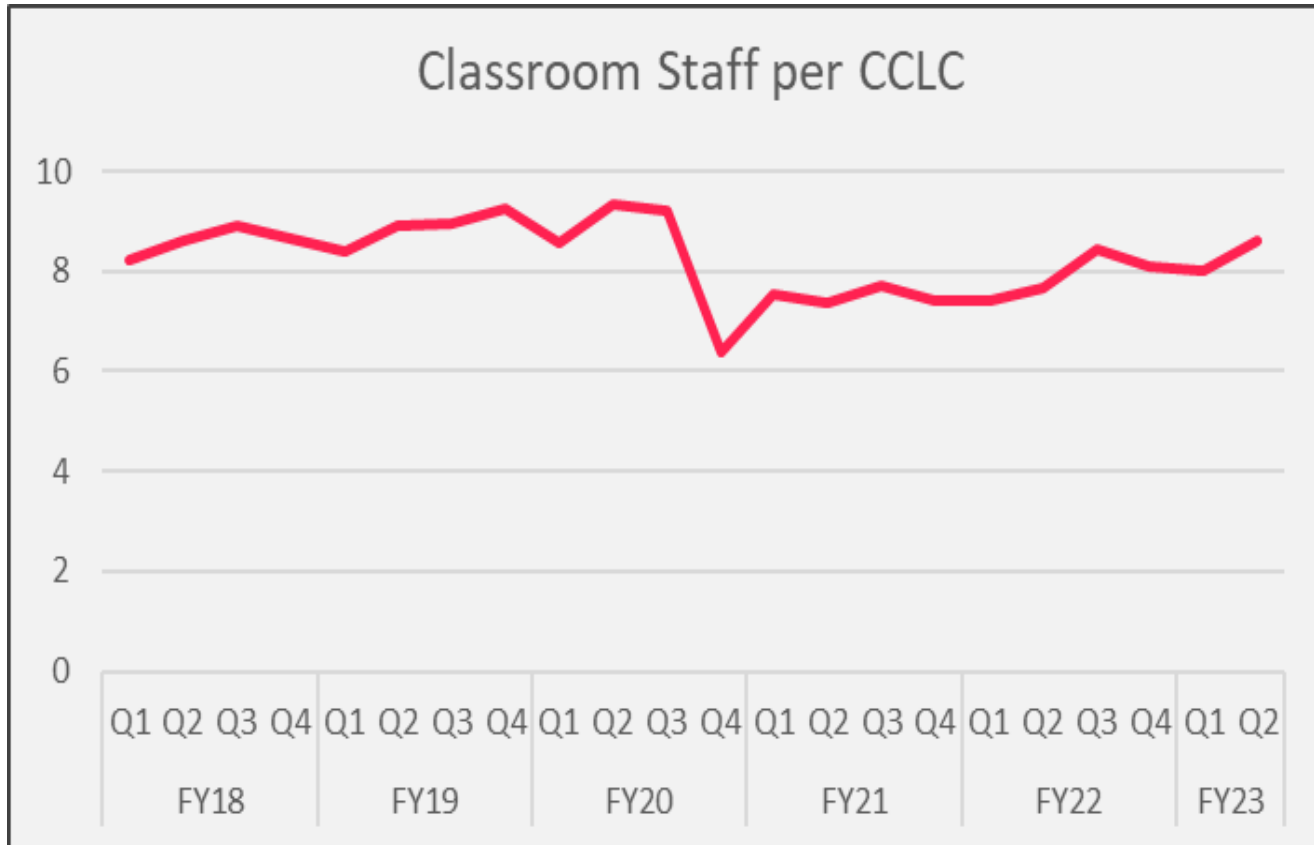
Average Number of Children Present



- The number of children observed at CCLCs is recovering but is still 13% below the pre-pandemic average
- Infant and toddler classrooms have had the greatest recovery



Average Number of Classroom Staff Present



The number of classroom staff observed at CCLCs is 4% below the pre-pandemic average.



Child Care Services Rule Revisions



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CCS Proposed Rule Changes - CCLC

Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers

Rule Chapter 591-1-1-

- **.07(2)** – add language that Parents must be notified of **incidents** involving their children (ex. missing child, child left on vehicle, etc. and not just illnesses or injuries)
- **.16(g)** – add language that the Department may **revoke** a license for false or misleading information **submitted to** the Department
- **.36(7)(c)(3.)** – adding requirement for including **date** for arrival/departure on transportation checklists

CCS Proposed Rule Changes - FCCLH

Rules and Regulations for Family Child Care Learning Homes

Rule Chapter 290-2-3-

- **.11(1)(b)** – add language that Parents must be notified of **incidents** involving their children (ex. missing child, child left on vehicle, etc. and not just illnesses or injuries)
- Also reformatting this rule to match the way it is written in CCLC rule requirements. (chart format instead of written out)

The following Committee meetings are in session:

Programs and Rules – Hickory Conference Room

Budget and Finance – Cypress Conference Room

Quality Innovations and Partnerships – Oak Conference Room

The Public Comment Period will commence at 1:00 pm.



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Welcome to the Board of Early Care
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Public Comment

February 16, 2023



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Committee Reports

Board Election



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Board Meeting Dates 2023

-
- ~~February 16, 2023~~
 - ~~May 18, 2023~~
 - August 24, 2023
 - November 16, 2023

