



Denver Preschool Program

2017-2018 School Year

Denver City Council | Wednesday, April 24, 2019

PRESENTED BY

Ellen Braun, Interim President and CEO

DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

VISION

Every child in Denver enters kindergarten ready to reach their full potential.

MISSION

Denver Preschool Program helps Denver fulfill its commitment to its youngest learners. We champion, fund and increase access to quality preschool across our community.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

▶ **4-YEAR-OLDS**

▶ **FAMILIES**

▶ **PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

▶ **POLICY/ STRATEGY
LEADERS**

▶ **PRESCHOOL TEACHERS**

▶ **DPP BOARD AND STAFF**



DENVER'S COMMITMENT

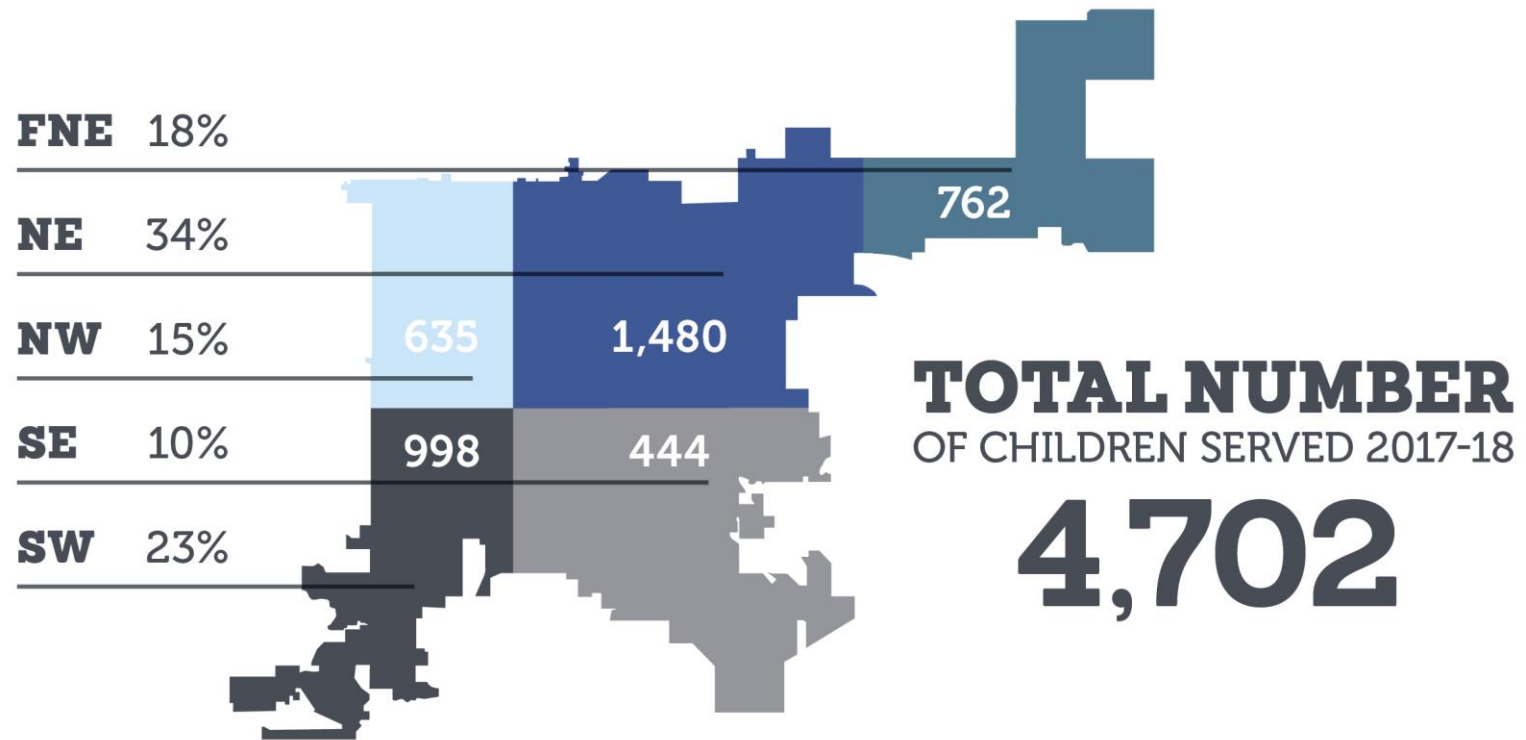
BY THE NUMBERS

- Universal access – all Denver families with a 4-year-old
- 247 participating preschool sites including public and community-based preschools received \$2.07 million in quality improvement funds
- In 2017-2018, more than \$13.5 million in tuition support was distributed to families
- 4,702 students received tuition credit dollars during the program year
- During the 2017-2018 program year, the typical child received \$617 per month in tuition support



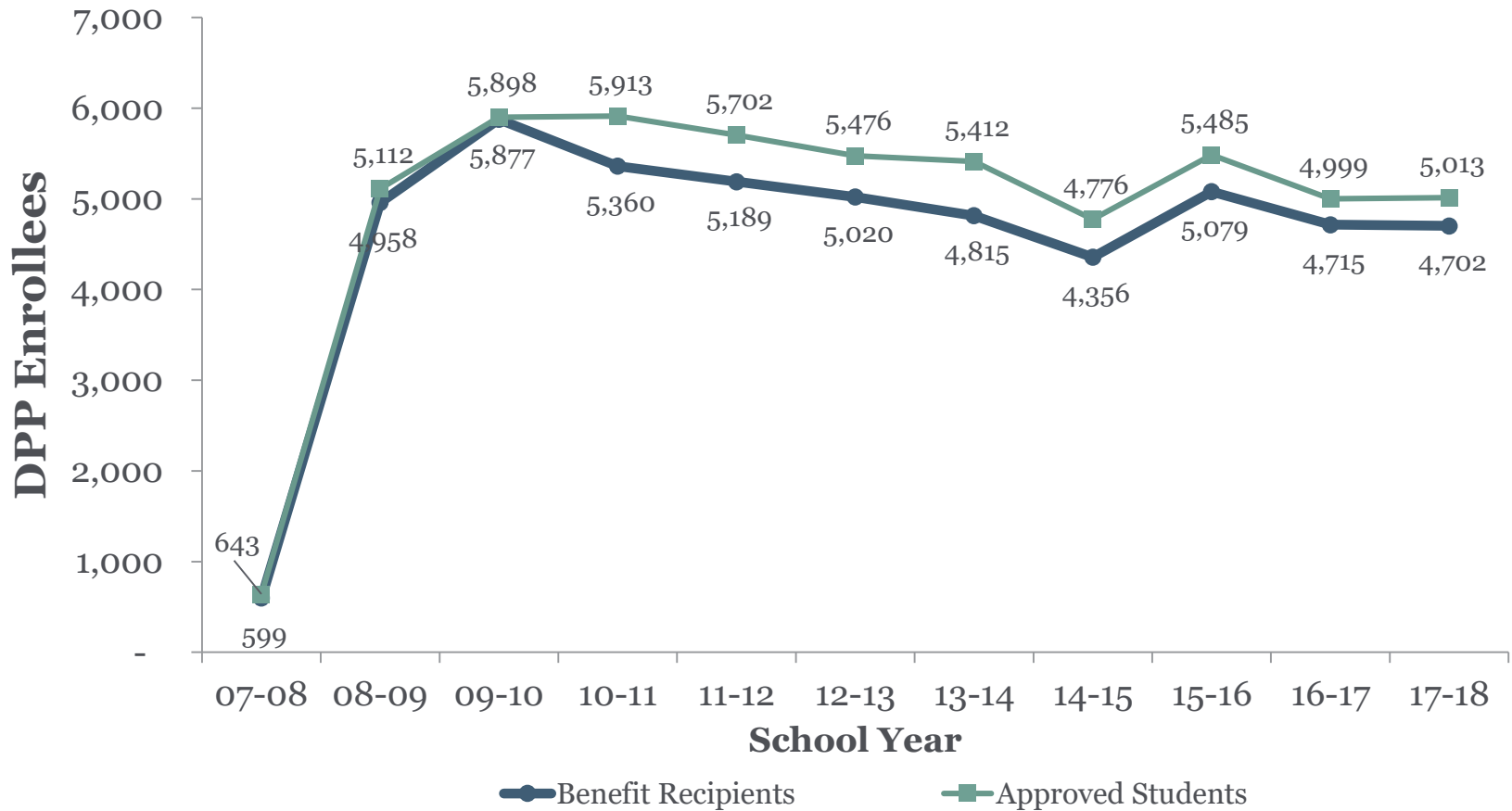
ACCESS FOR ALL

Where every Denver 4-year-old has access to the benefits of quality preschool



ACCESS FOR ALL

DPP APPROVED STUDENTS AND BENEFIT RECIPIENTS BY SCHOOL YEAR



TUITION CREDIT SCALE

The scale is designed so that the families with the greatest financial need and have a child attending the highest quality preschool will receive the most tuition support

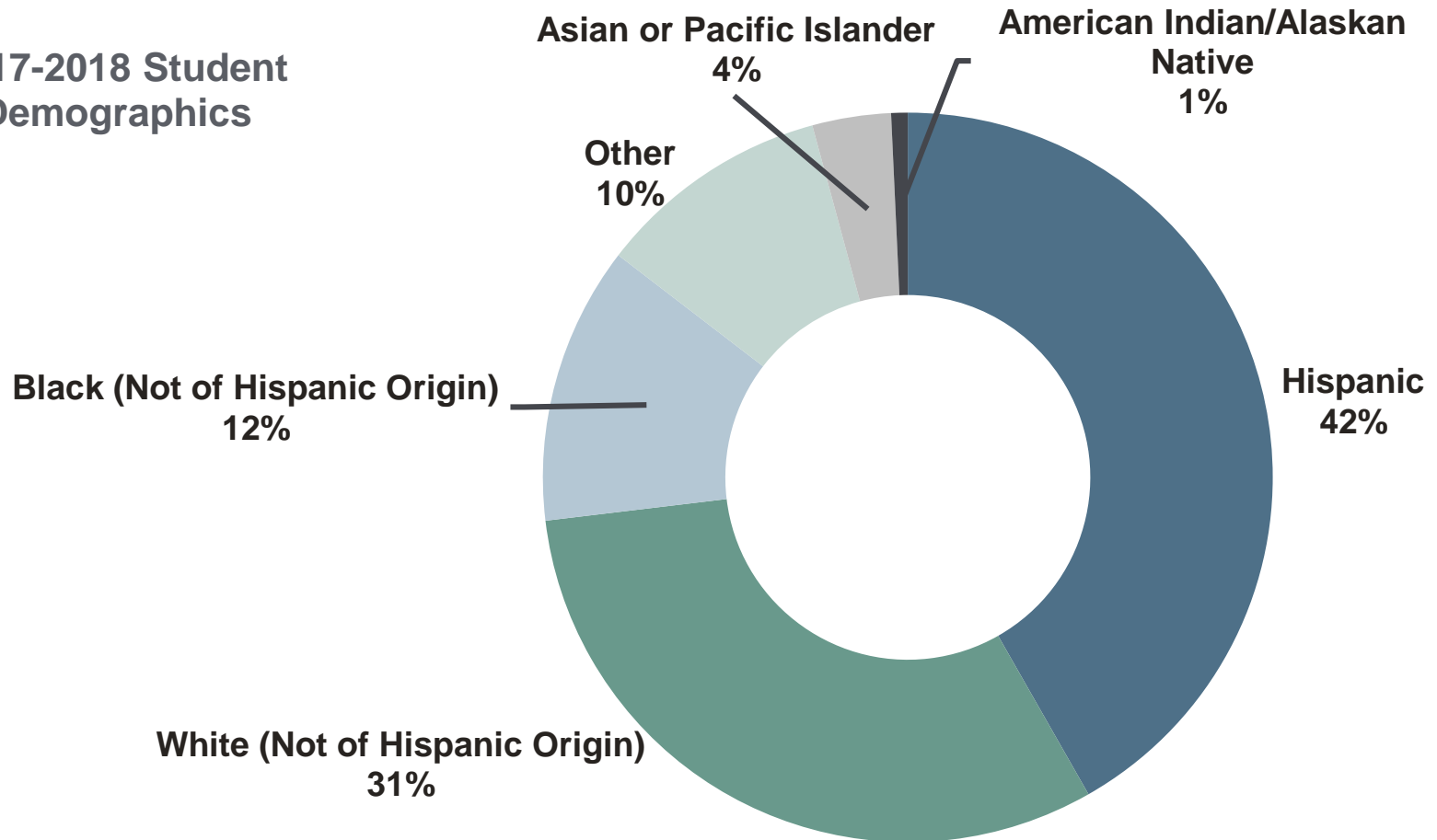
- The 2019-2020 tuition credit scale reflects the first year of a 3-year budgeting approach that takes into account year-over-year consumer price index updates and business disruptors
- Scale adjusted upwards by 3.5 percent
- Program year tuition credit budget of \$15.5 million



STUDENT DIVERSITY

NEARLY 69 PERCENT CHILDREN OF COLOR

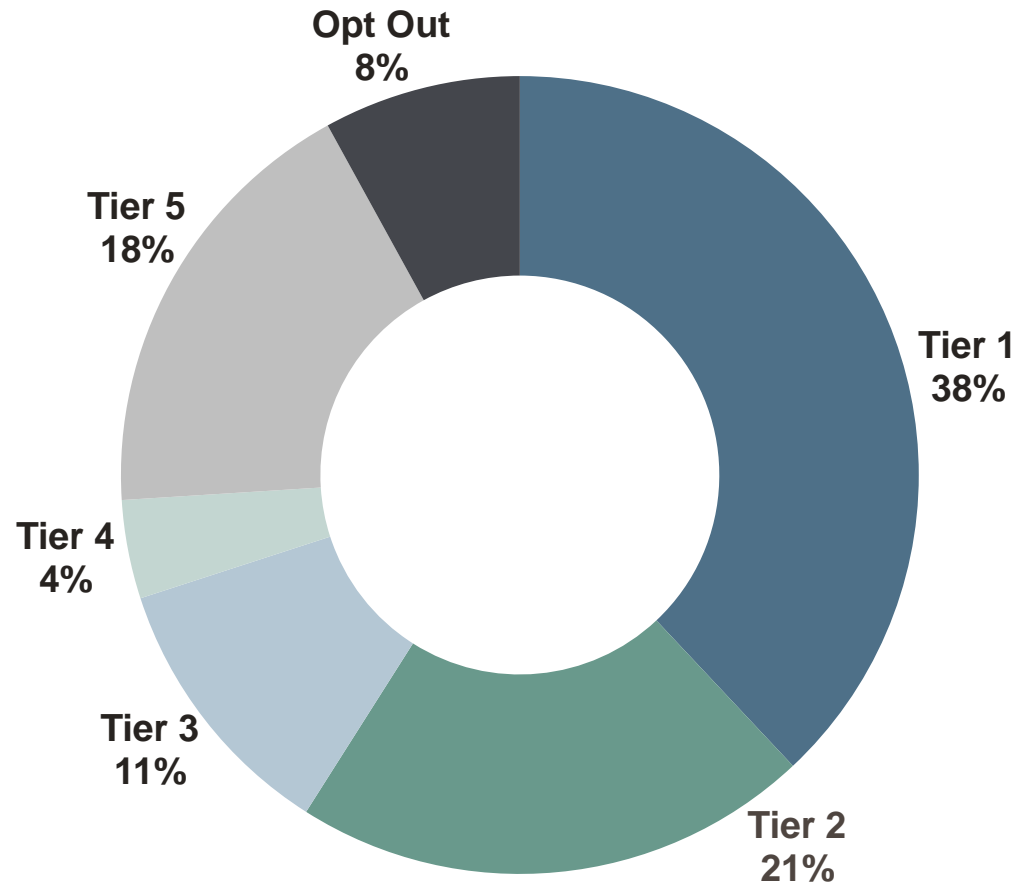
2017-2018 Student
Demographics



INCOME TIER DISTRIBUTION

**DPP funds for quality preschool are available for all Denver families.
59 percent of DPP families have the greatest economic need.**

**2017-2018 Students
Benefit Recipients**



HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS

Where pursuing excellence in all aspects of DPP's work increases positive outcomes for children

INVESTING IN HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS:

- Leadership, Management and Administration Supports
- Developmentally-Appropriate Curriculum and Authentic Child Assessment Tools
- Directors' Professional Learning Community
- Classroom Materials
- Program Achievement Awards
- Enrollment Incentive Program



HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS

INVESTING IN HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS:

- Child Development Associate™ Scholarship
- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® College Scholarships
- Teacher and Director Achievement Awards
- DPP's Preschool Forum
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Coaching on Positive Teacher-Child Interactions



MEASURING HIGH QUALITY

Research shows that high quality preschool produces lasting, positive impacts for children. DPP measures the quality of programs in two ways:

COLORADO SHINES QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS)

- Colorado's Statewide QRIS
- Workforce Qualifications and Professional Development
- Family Partnerships
- Leadership, Management and Administration
- Learning Environment
- Child Health

CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM (CLASS®)

- Observation Assessing Teacher-Child Interactions
- Emotional Support
- Classroom Organization
- Instructional Support

INCREASING PROVIDER RESOURCES

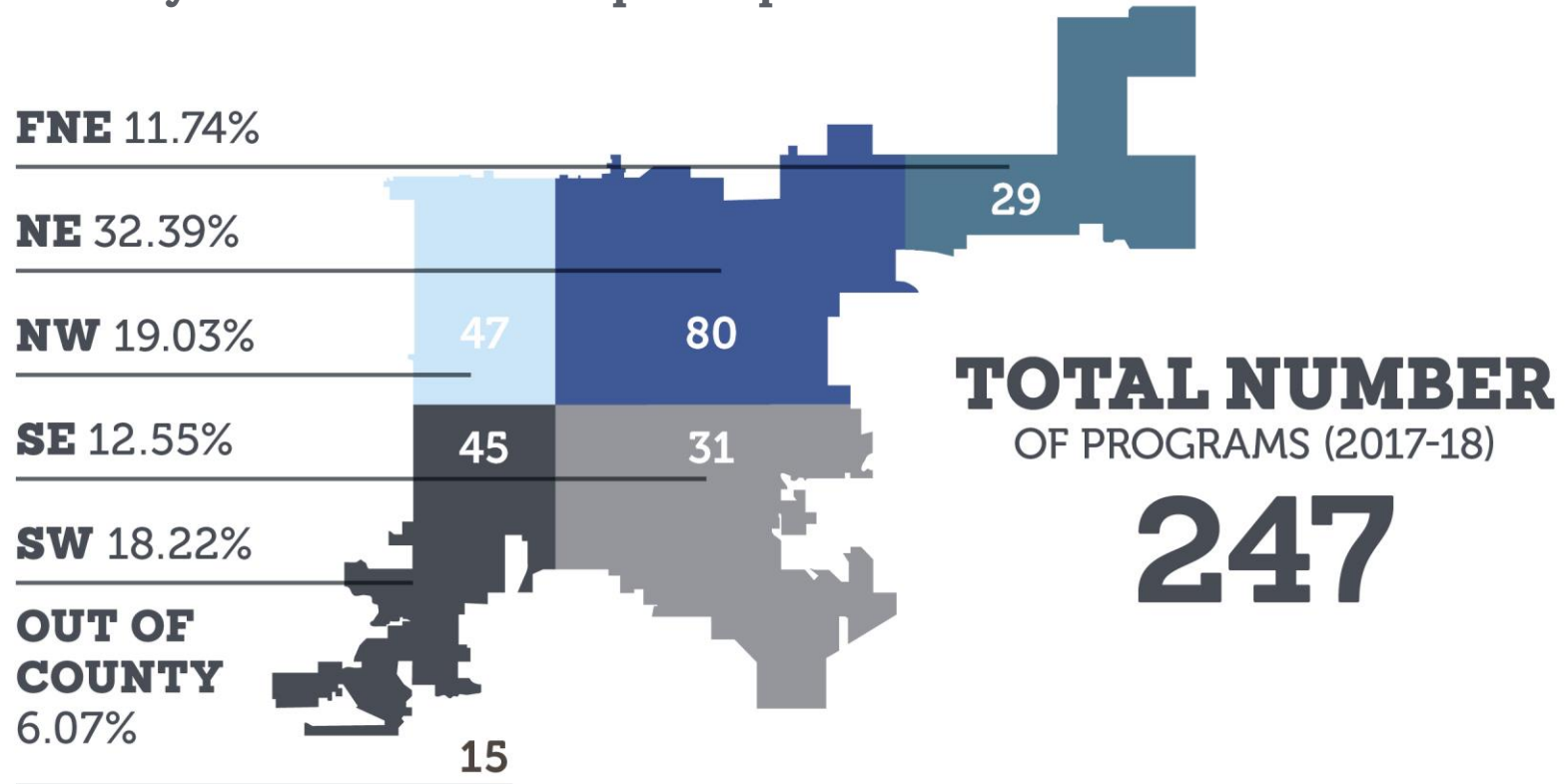
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT EXPANSION TO SUPPORT ALL PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS

- DPP sought to increase the quality of DPP-participating programs by offering quality improvement funding resources to all preschool classrooms
- Pilot roll-out began in the summer of 2018 with a full launch for the 2018-2019 school year
- Approximately 200 additional classrooms now have access to QI resources



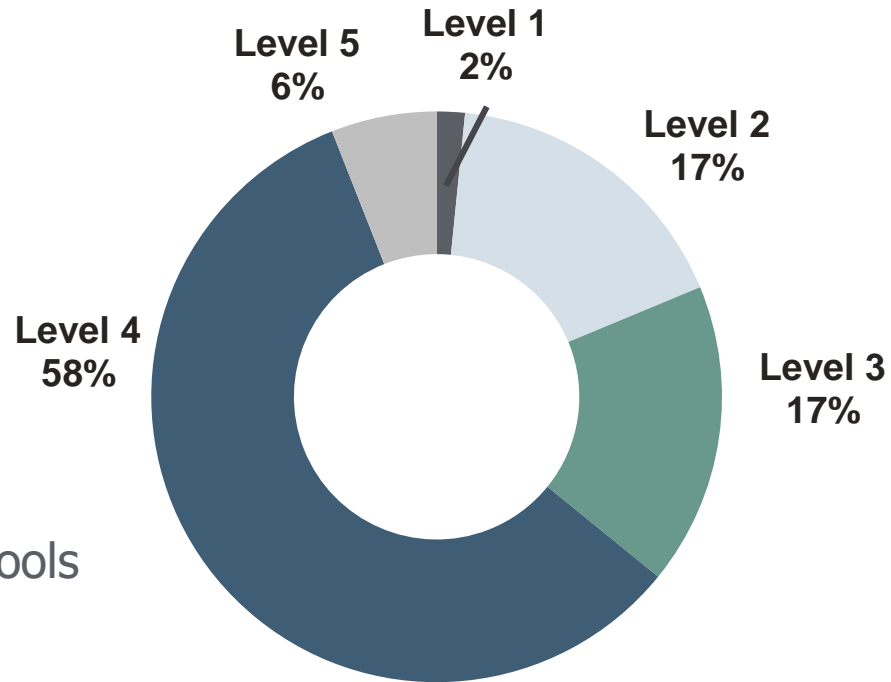
INTENTIONAL INCLUSIVITY

Where DPP overcomes barriers to ensure equitable opportunity for all children to participate in ECE



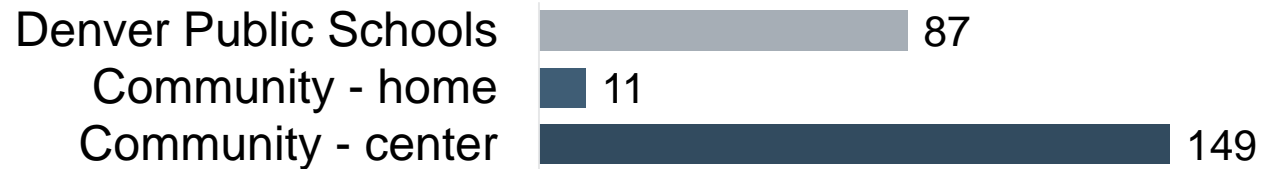
INTENTIONAL INCLUSIVITY

2017-2018 Preschool Programs



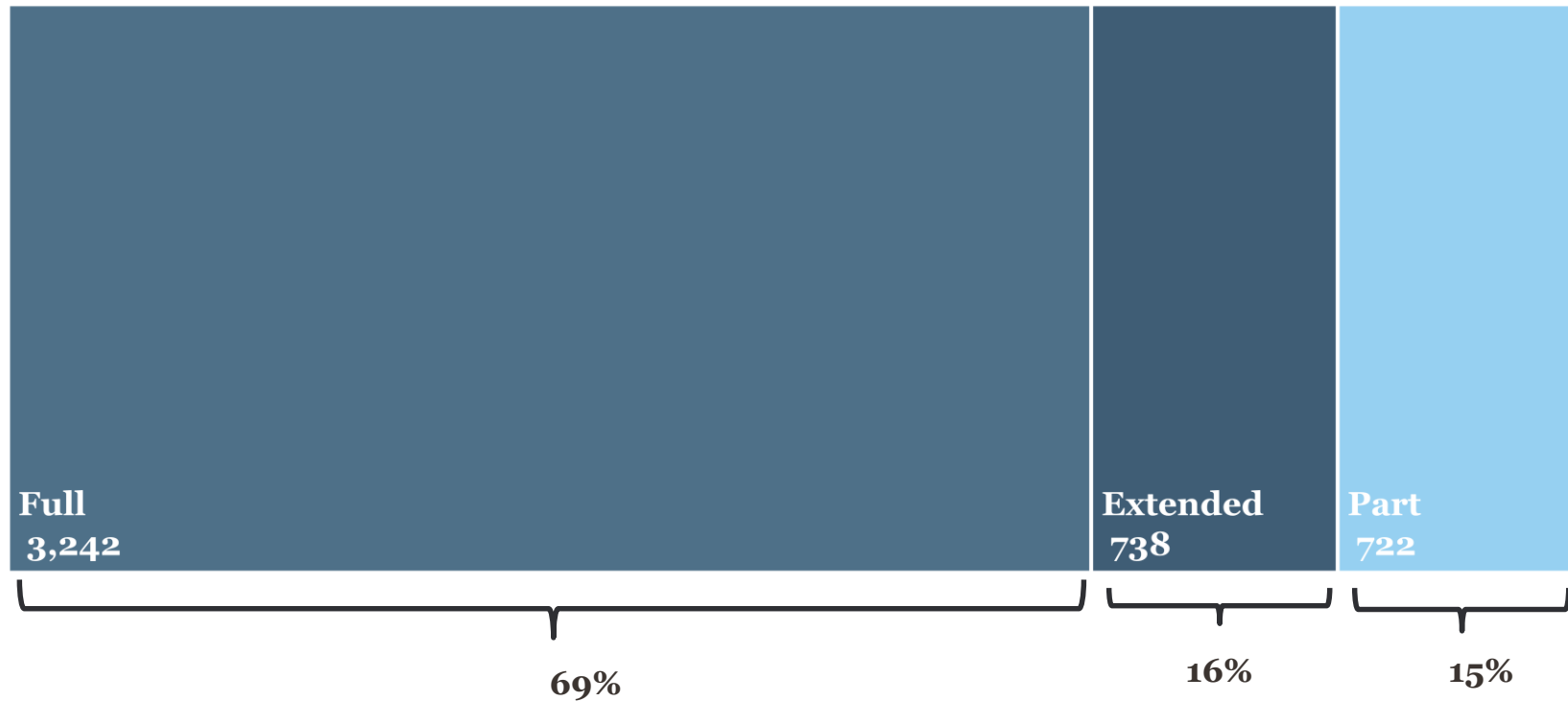
- 64 percent of DPP schools are Levels 4 or 5

247 Providers:



INTENTIONAL INCLUSIVITY

2017-2018 PARTICIPATION LEVEL



INTENTIONAL INCLUSIVITY

GAP SCHOLARSHIP

- Through the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, DPP sought to create a scholarship to address affordability for Denver's lowest income families
- Additional layer of support beyond the tuition credit scale
- Provide a learning opportunity for how to leverage the program for enrollment and identify how this will help families' ability to afford high quality preschool

TIMELINE

- Data Analysis: Summer 2018
- Community Task Force: November 2018 – February 2019
- Board Workgroup: March 2019
- Pilot Launch: September 1, 2019

INFORMED CHOICE

Where parents and caregivers are well-informed about ECE options and can make the best choice for their child.

COMMUNICATIONS GOALS

- Increase Enrollment
- Target outreach to hard-to-reach populations
- Strengthen relationship with preschools
- Showcase DPP as a successful model
- Utilize data to affect strategy for the enrollment campaign



INFORMED CHOICE

OUTREACH EFFORTS

- DPP's annual Preschool Showcase
- The expansion of Neighborhood Showcases
- One Book 4 Colorado
- Grassroots Outreach



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Where DPP champions early childhood education, ensuring the community realizes the benefits of its investment in young children.

DPP IN THE COMMUNITY

- Denver Mayor's Children's Cabinet
- Road to Reading
- Early Childhood Leadership Commission
- CPP Advisory Committee
- Park Hill Collective Impact
- Black Child Development Institute
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Metro Denver Early Childhood Sector Partnership

DPP IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- Our Story – From an Innovative Concept to a National Model
- BUILD – QRIS National Learning Network
 - A Reflection on Leveraging Universal Pre-K Supports in Philadelphia and Denver
 - Using QRIS to Improve Access, Quality, and Equity in the Denver Preschool Program
- DPP's Michael B. Hancock Community Room

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

OPERATIONS EVALUATION

- To what extent do DPP's services result in children's access to quality preschool?
 - DPP's service implementation
 - Perceived effectiveness by families and providers
 - Resulting knowledge and behavior changes
 - Impact on access to quality preschool and provider quality

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Target outreach to:
 - Parents who opt-out of providing their income on the DPP application
 - Hispanic, Spanish-speaking families from southwest Denver
- Assess whether sites' capacity would support increased marketing for summer preschool programs

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

KINDERGARTEN READINESS EVALUATION

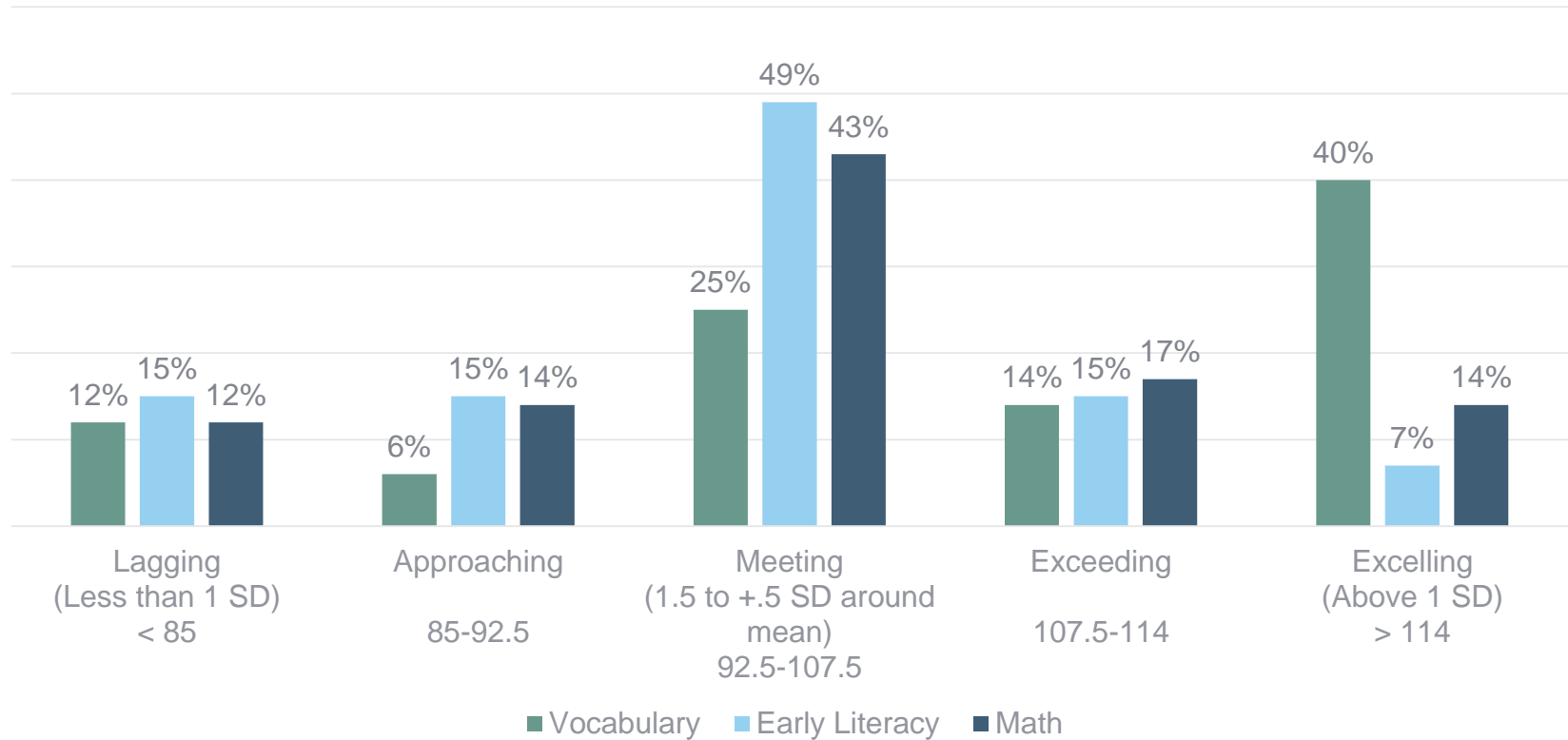
- Measurement of pre-academics such as vocabulary, early literacy, and early math
- Measurement of social-emotional development and executive function
- Examination of both progress (growth) during the pre-kindergarten year, and proficiency status in the spring before kindergarten



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

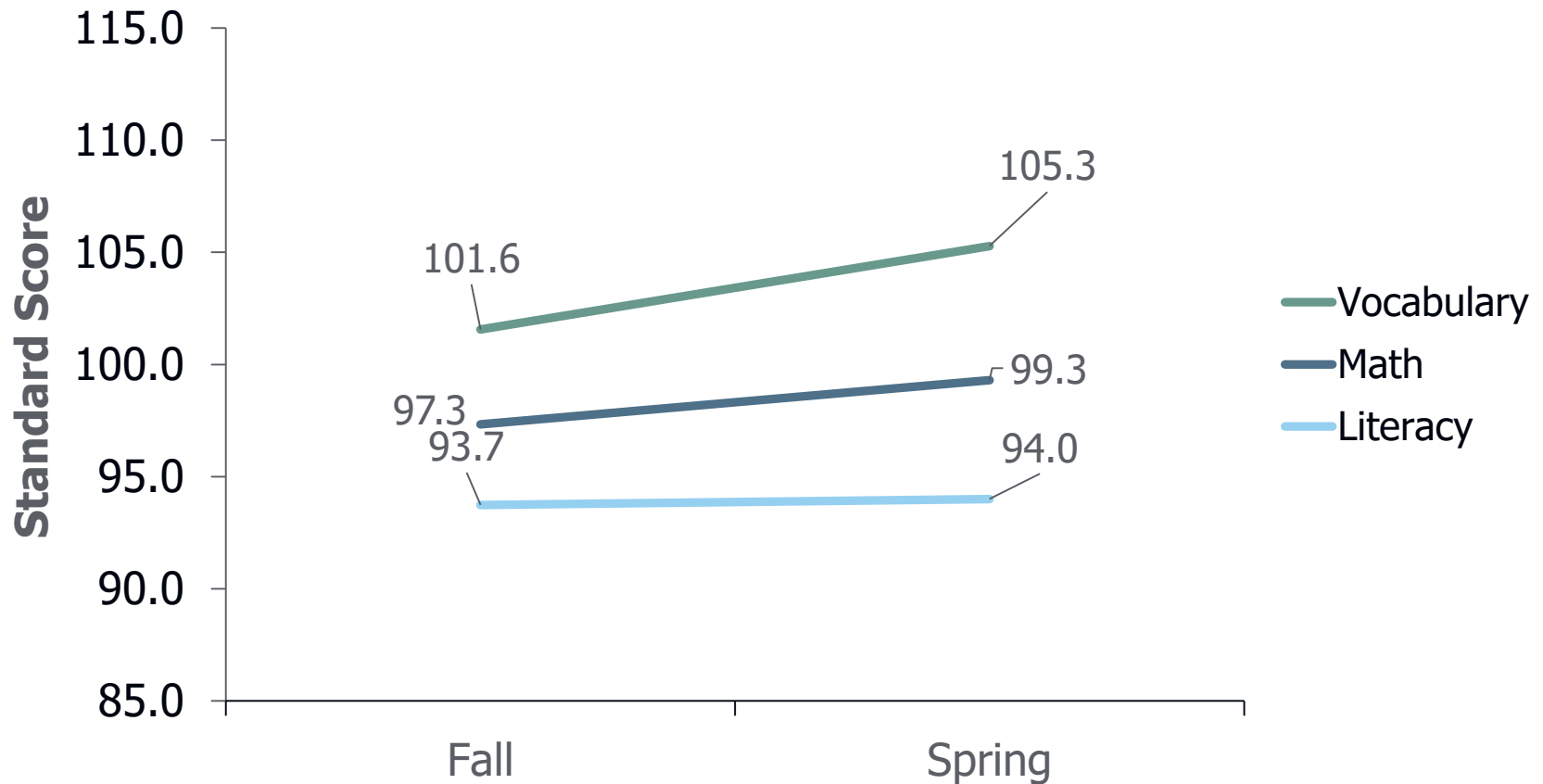
PROPORTION BY PROFICIENCY LEVEL (SPRING 2018)

Best Score as Tested in Either English or Spanish



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

ALL CHILDREN ASSESSED IN ENGLISH Growth Fall 2017 to Spring 2018



LOOKING FORWARD

LEADERSHIP CHANGE

- Departure of DPP's long-time President and CEO, Jennifer Landrum
- Inclusive process for hiring the next leader

CITY AUDIT

- The Denver Auditor's Office initiated a programmatic audit
- DPP is engaged and excited to use this opportunity to improve policies and procedures



QUESTIONS

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