

Narrowing the Kindergarten Readiness Opportunity Gap in Alum Rock, East San Jose: Creating Systemic Pathways to Success for All Children

2018 Child Health,
Education, and Care
Summit

April 11, 2018
2:30 Session



Alum Rock Union
School District



FIRST 5 Santa Clara County



SOMOS Mayfair



Applied Survey Research

Welcome & Stage Setting

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Alum Rock Union School District: Dr. Hilaria Bauer, Superintendent
 - FIRST 5 Santa Clara County: Jolene Smith, Chief Executive Officer
 - SOMOS Mayfair: Camille Fontanilla, Executive Director
 - Applied Survey Research: Lisa Colvig-Niclai, VP of Evaluation

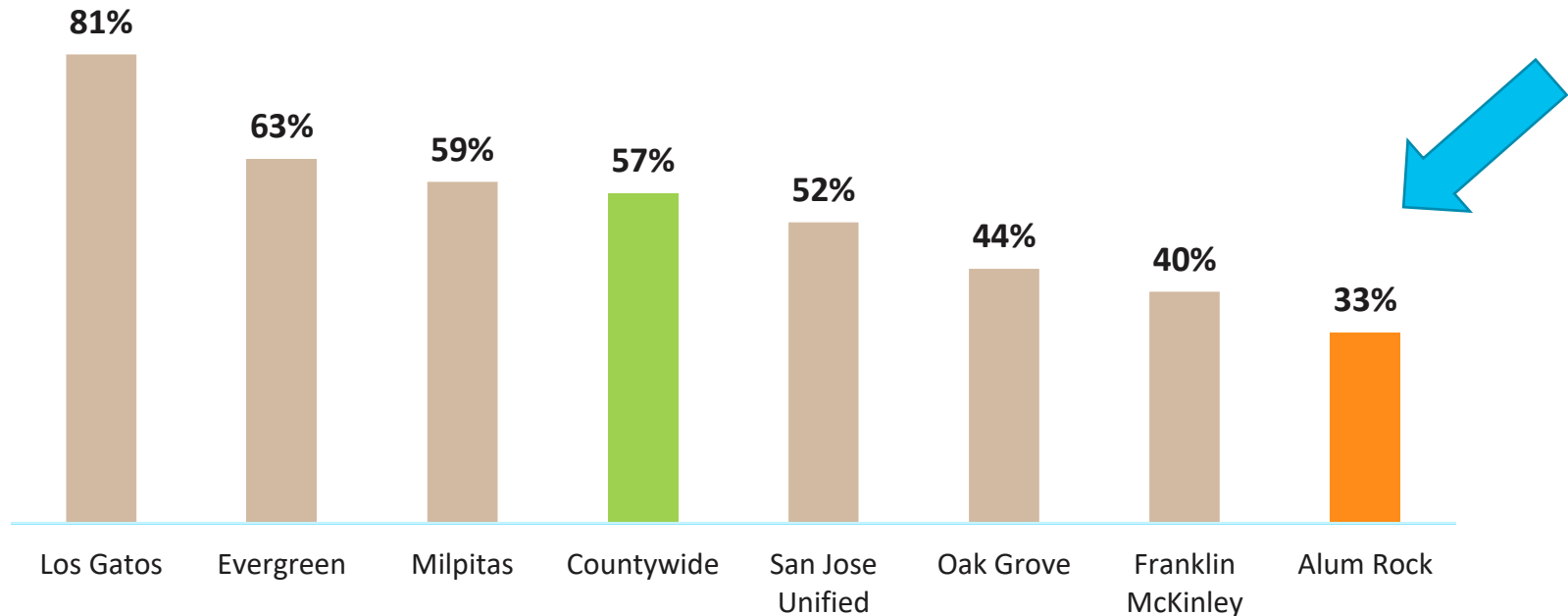
- Purpose: Today you'll learn...
 - The background for the Initiative
 - Our kindergarten readiness results
 - How we are contributing to those results
 - Lessons learned

Alum Rock Union Elementary School District: Prenatal-3rd Grade Health & Early Learning System Background of the Initiative



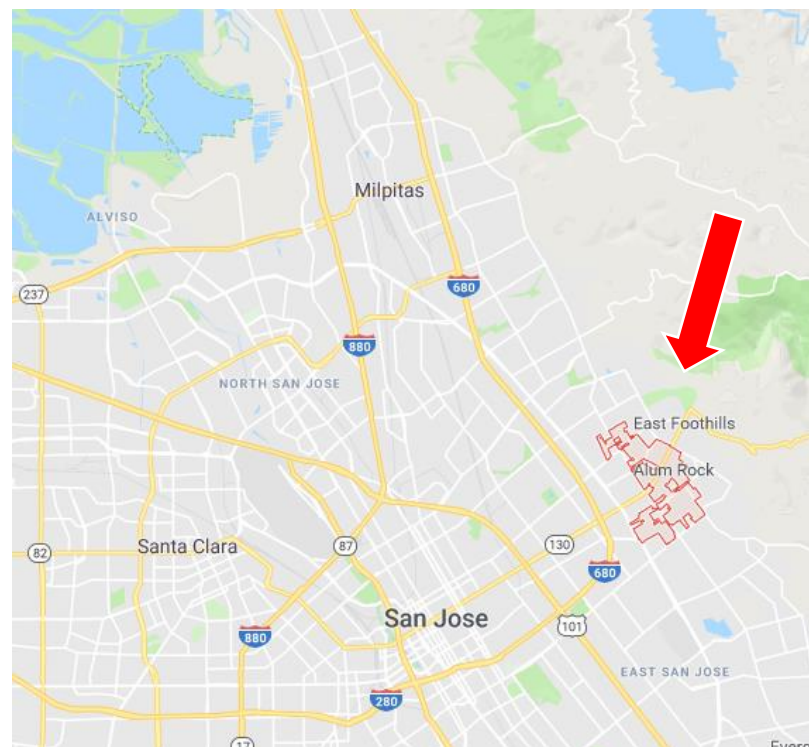
Third Grade Reading in Alum Rock

- The percent of third grade students meeting or exceeding standards in 2016 was among the lowest in the county



Insight into the Alum Rock Community

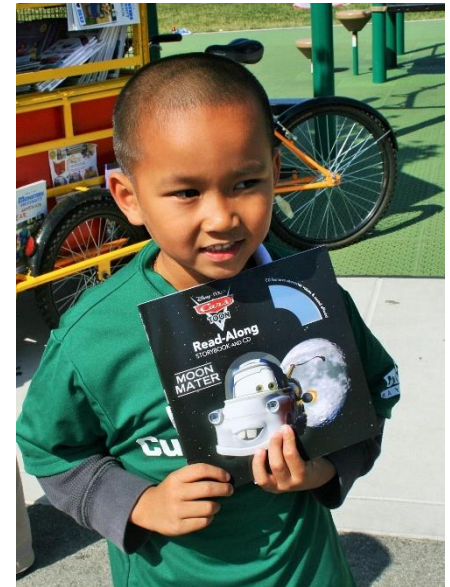
- Located in east San Jose
- Traditionally a low-income, immigrant neighborhood
- 72.4% Latino; 8.3% Vietnamese
- 36.2% foreign born
- \$72,079 median household income vs \$101,173 countywide
- 85.3% free and reduced lunch



Insight into the Alum Rock Community

What makes Alum Rock strong?

- A population rich in diversity with strong connections to language, culture, heritage and traditions
- Hard working, resilient and determined families who want healthy and successful futures for their children
- Educators, community leaders and parents who come together to advance shared goals
- Robust system of public and nonprofit partners that provide services, programs and access to opportunities for students and families



Our Goals with the Pre-3rd Initiative

- By 2025, the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District: Prenatal-3rd Grade Health & Early Learning System seeks to achieve:



- Partners: ARUSD, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, County Office of Education, Head Start, Kidango, Grail Family Services, SJB Child Care Centers
- Today you'll hear baseline kindergarten readiness results, and then we will go into more detail about the initiative and the results we are seeing.

Kindergarten Readiness Findings

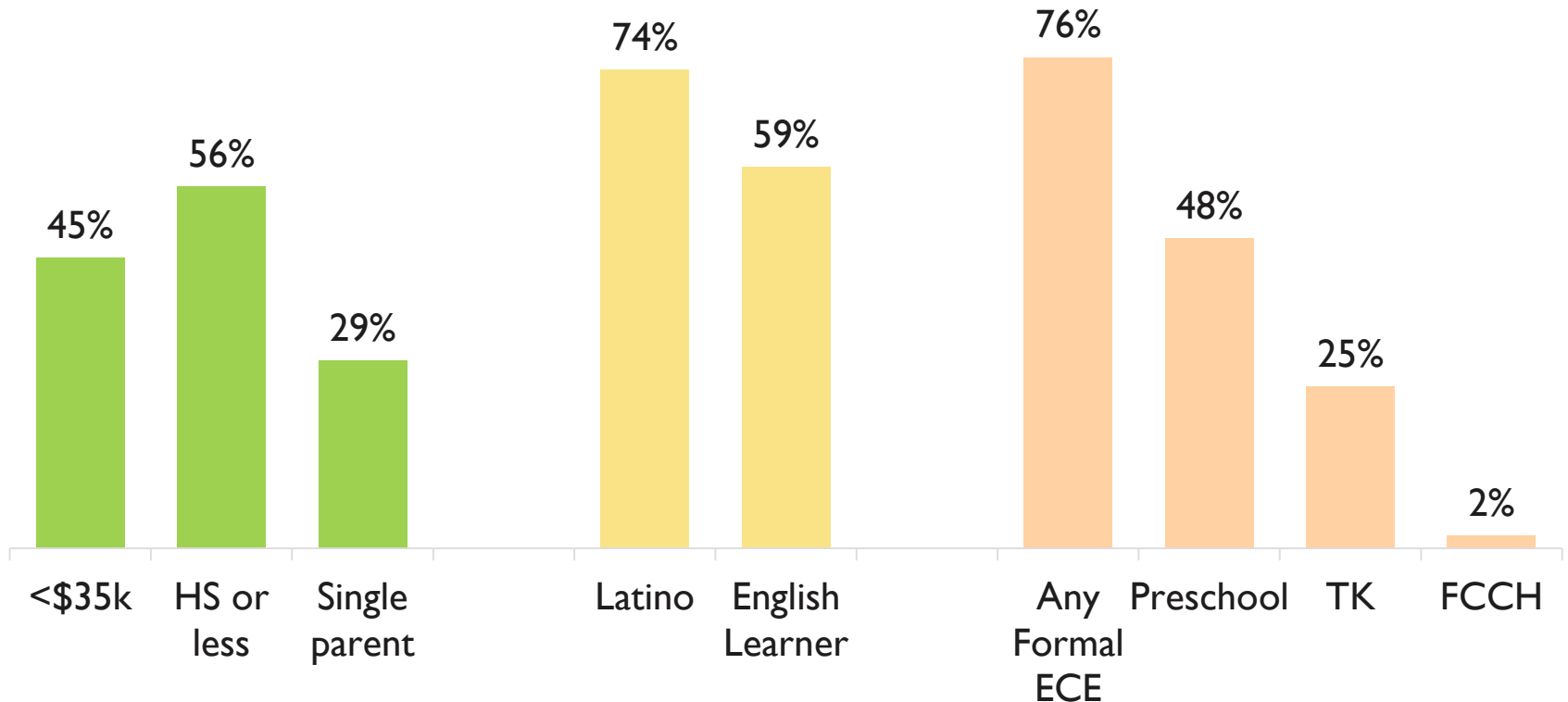


Why School Readiness Matters

- About 70% of “kinder-ready” children will be reading at grade level by 3rd grade
- The Alum Rock Pre-3rd Initiative is creating a network of integrated services to:
 - Increase school readiness
 - Increase third grade reading
- Gathered baseline kindergarten readiness data in Fall 2016 and repeated the study in Fall 2017
 - How many children in Alum Rock are ready for kindergarten?
 - What factors drive school readiness?
 - Do readiness predictors have a cumulative effect on readiness?
 - What are the ingredients of our recipe?

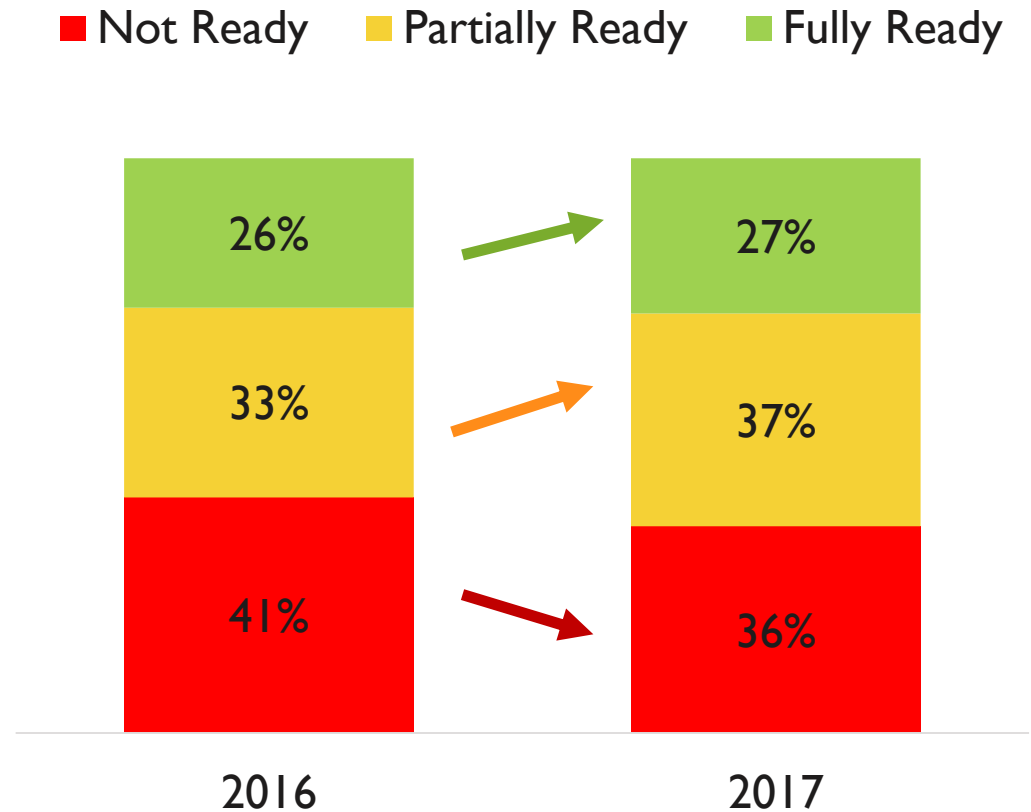
Profile of Kindergarten Students

2017 SAMPLE: 13 Schools → 28 Classrooms → 518 Students

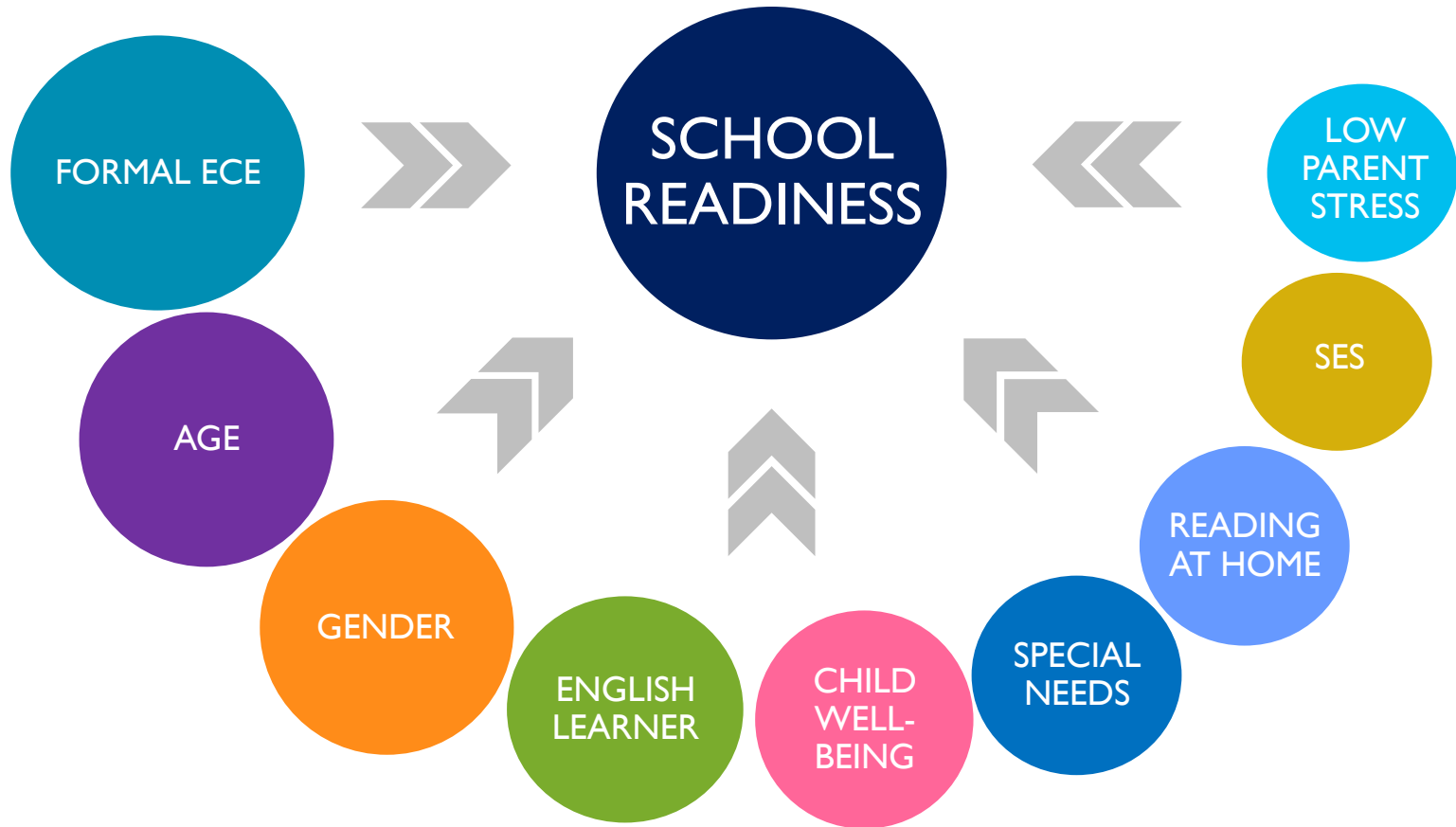


Kindergarten Readiness in Alum Rock

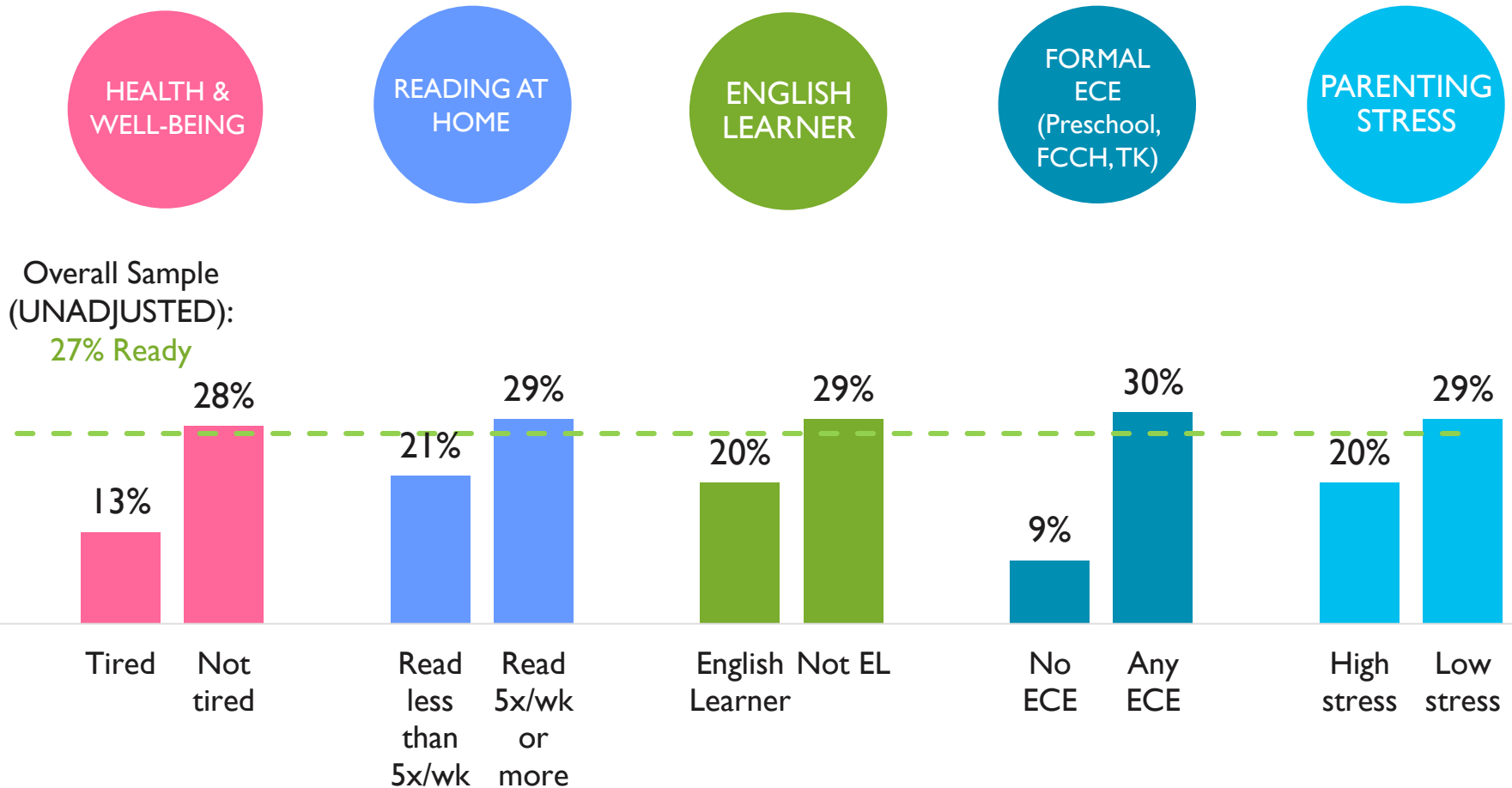
- In both years, just over a quarter of children were Fully Ready for kindergarten.
- Subtle positive shifts from 2016 to 2017, but not yet statistically significant



Readiness Predictors in Alum Rock, 2017



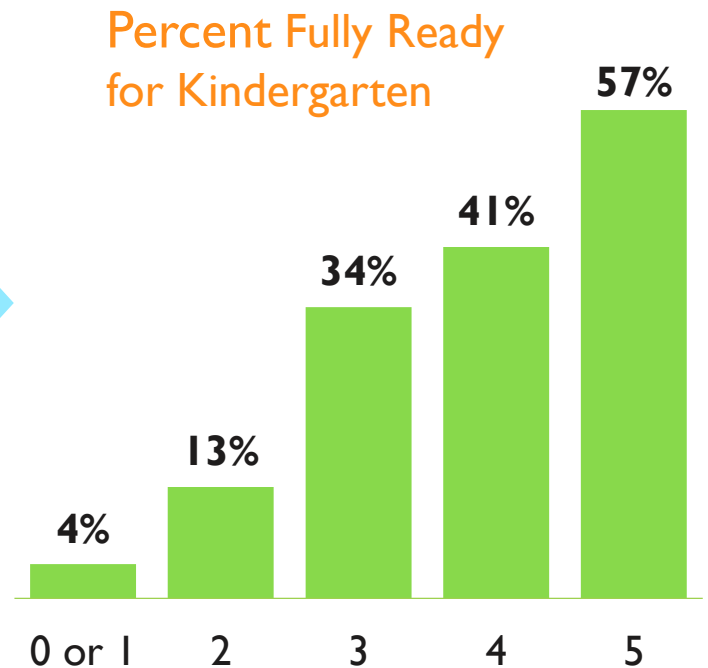
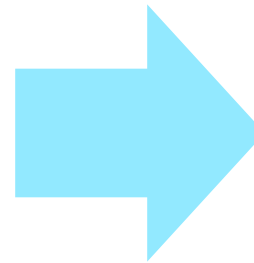
Adjusted Percent Ready, by Predictor



Cumulative Effect Of Malleable Assets

- The more malleable assets they had, the more likely students were to be fully ready for kindergarten

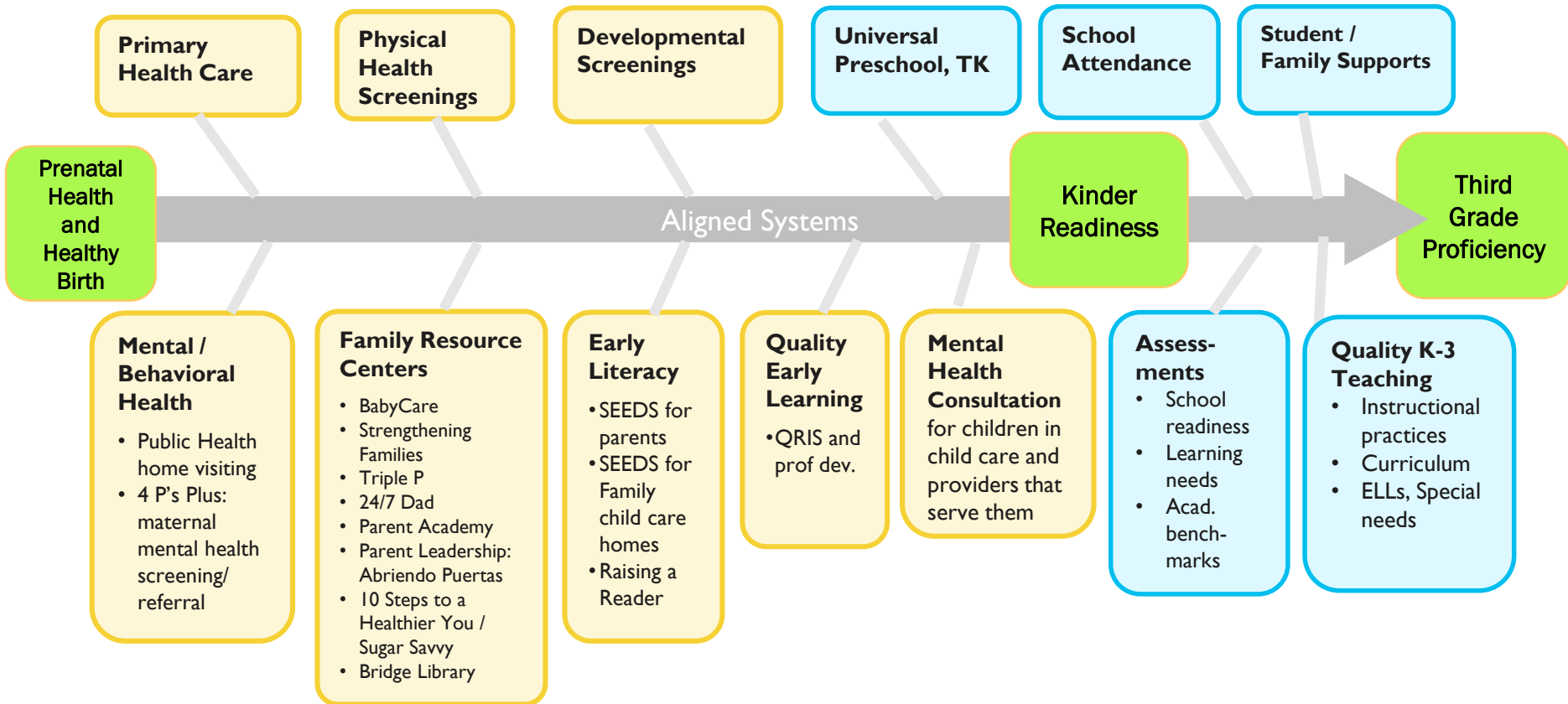
Assets
Attended formal ECE
Not tired
Read to more frequently
Proficient in English
Low parenting stress



How are we turning the curve in Alum Rock?



Assets along the Pre-3rd Pathway



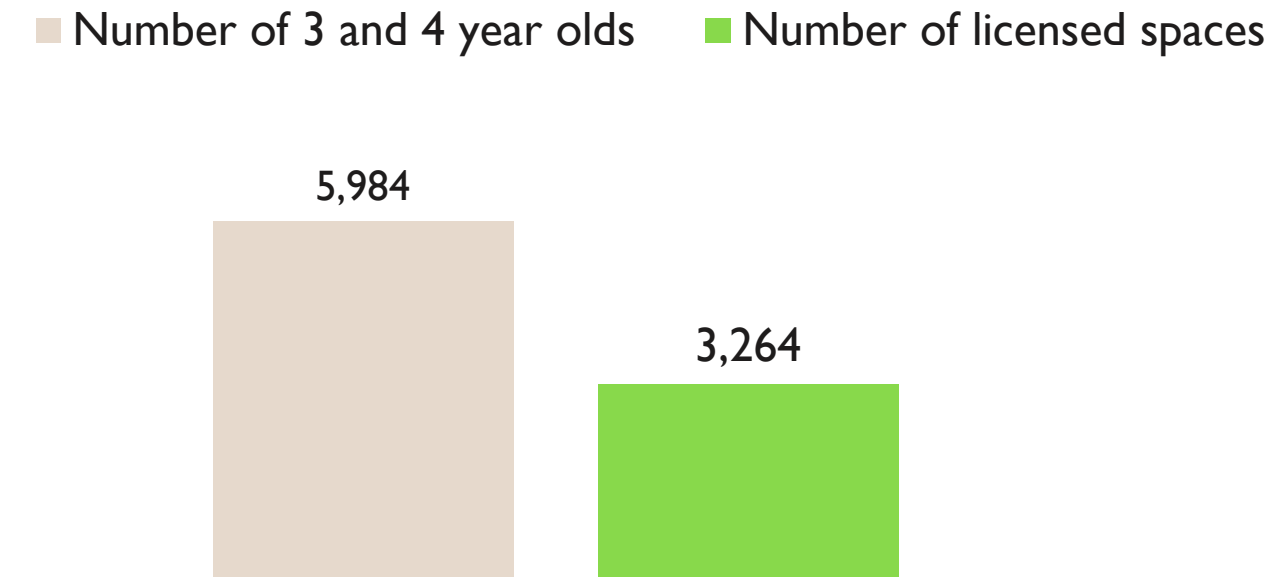
Yellow: Birth to 5 system
Blue: Pre-K to 3rd system

Early Wins: Our Activities

- **Spring 2016:**
 - With the help of Optimal Solutions Consulting, created an Early Learning Strategic Plan for the district
- **Summer 2016:**
 - Hired Director of Early Learning at ARUSD to oversee integration
 - Created a centralized eligibility process to fill subsidized spaces
- **Fall 2016:**
 - Opened a Family Resource Center at Cesar Chavez Elem. School
 - Created a brochure of services to help with cross referral
 - Obtained data sharing agreements and enrollment data from preschools
 - Conducted a baseline kindergarten readiness assessment

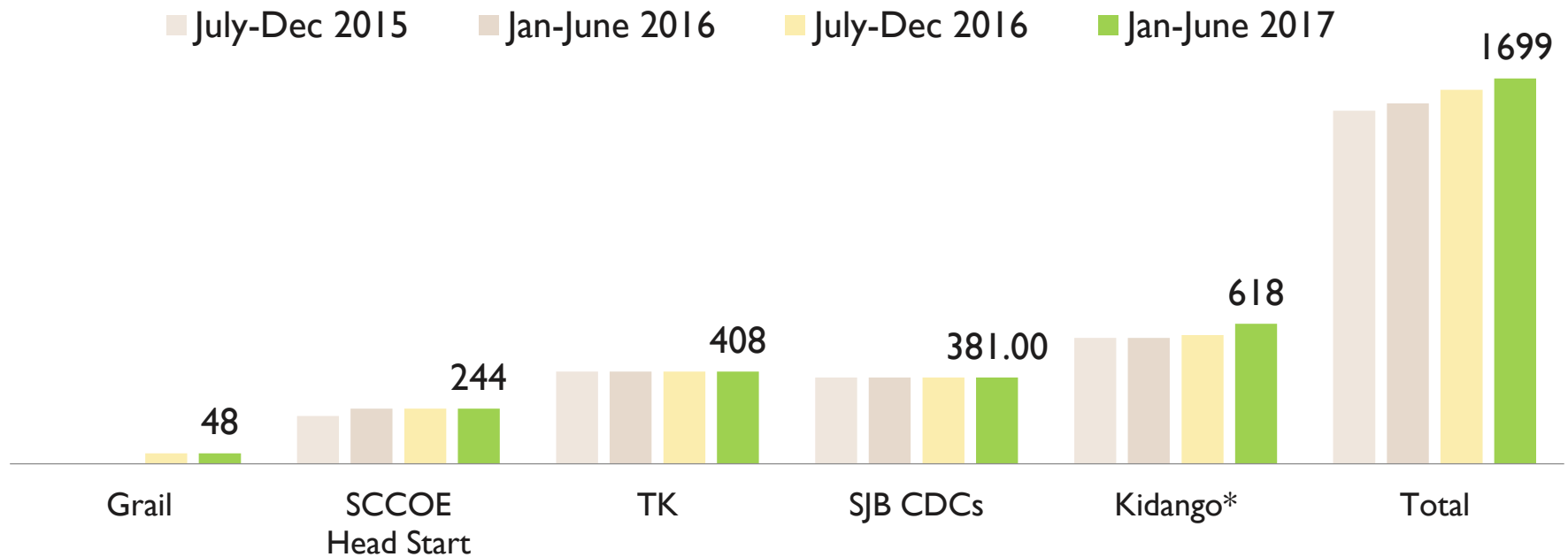
Increased Access to Preschool

- Alum Rock does not have enough licensed supply to meet demand



Increased Access to Preschool

- 142 preschool spaces added between 2015 and 2017

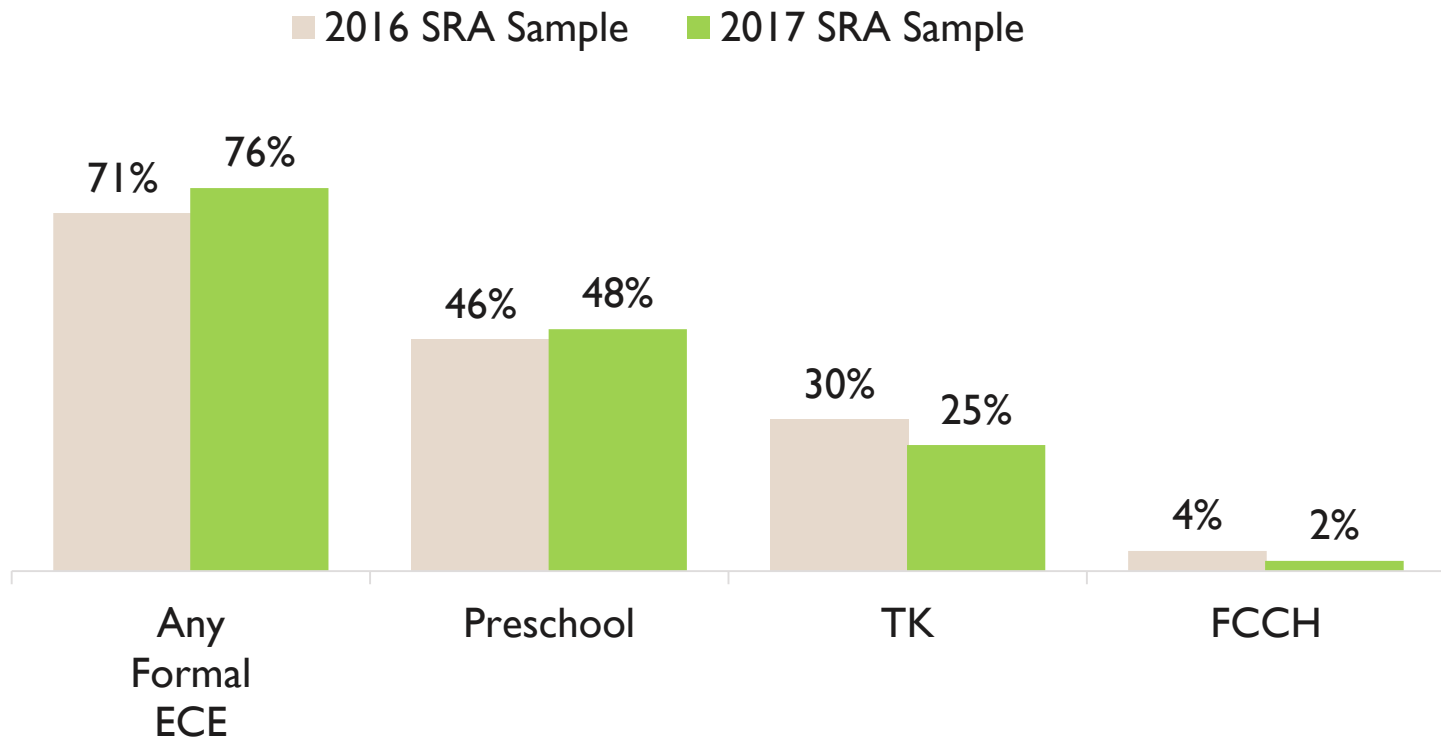


Source: Enrollment records from ARUSD, Kidango, COE Head Start, SJB, Grail Family Services.

Grail opened in September 2016. *One Kidango site with 60 slots lies just outside ARUSD district boundaries.

Increased Access to Preschool

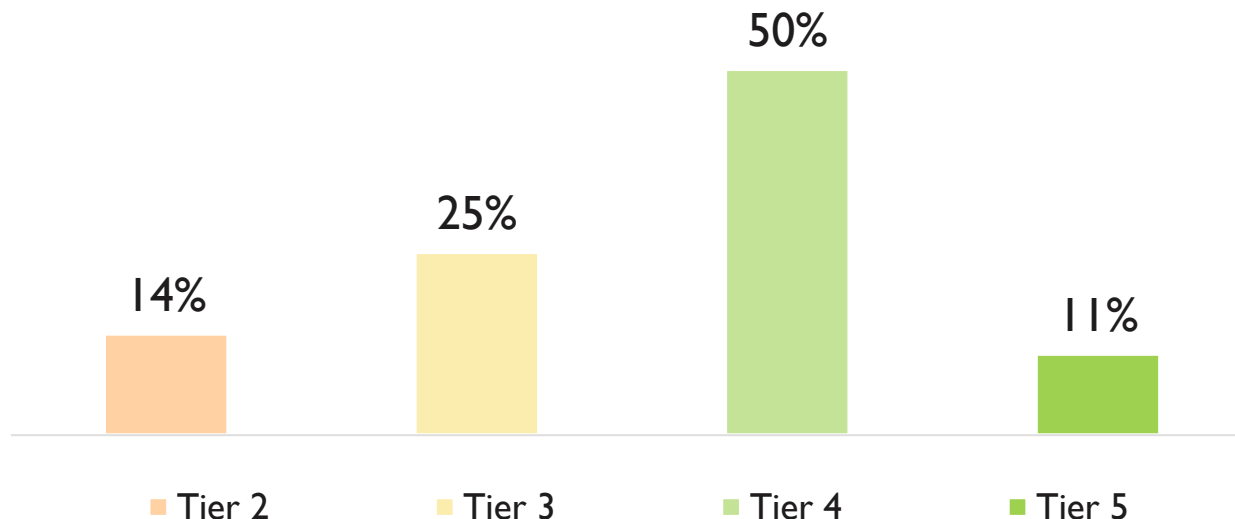
- Slightly higher percentage of kindergartners had prior ECE



Source: Enrollment records from ARUSD, Kidango, COE Head Start, SJB, Grail Family Services. Grail opened in September 2016. *One Kidango site with 60 slots lies just outside ARUSD district boundaries.

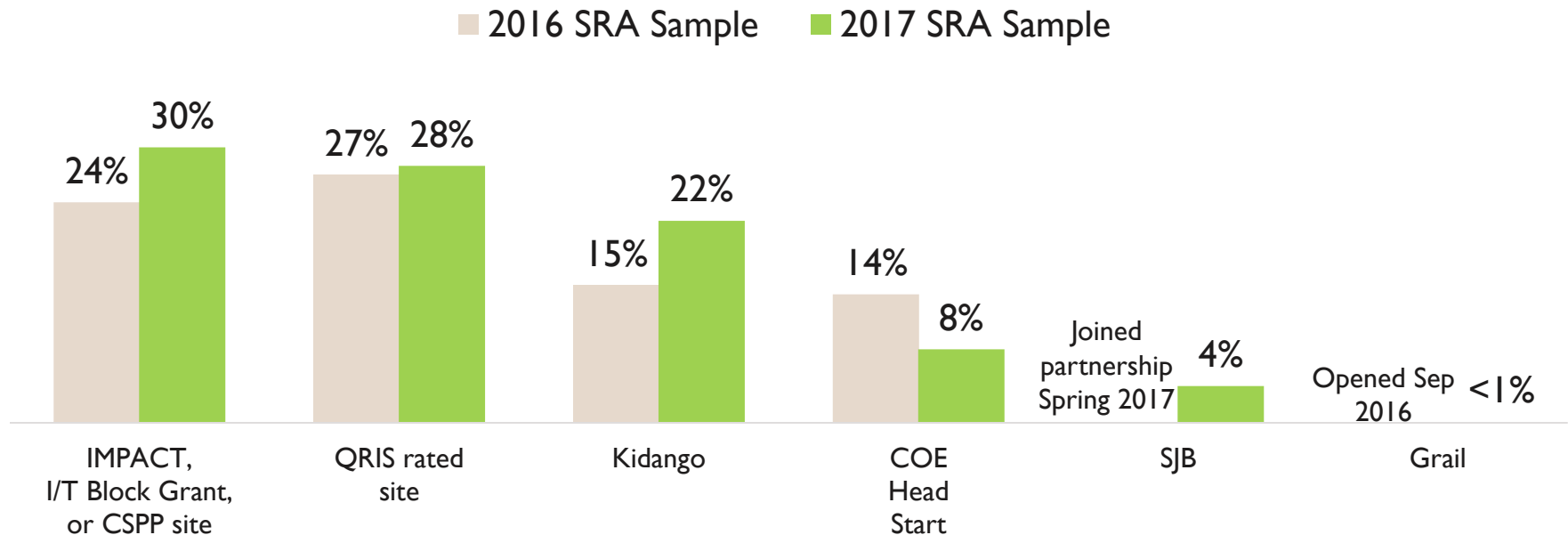
Increased Access to *Quality* Preschool

- As of July 2017, 36 ECE programs have had QRIS rating; 30% of centers and large FCCHs in area
- 65% of sites were Tier 4 or Tier 5



Increased Access to *Quality* Preschool

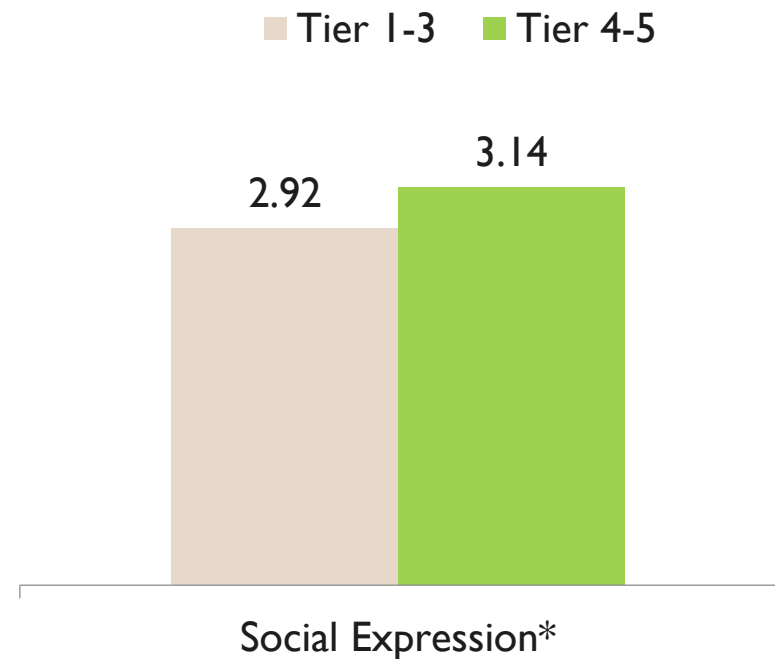
- 33% had attended a partner preschool
- 30% had attended a preschool receiving FIRST 5 support
- 28% had attended a QRIS rated preschool program



Higher Quality Predicts Higher Readiness

- Higher Social Expression scores were found among children attending sites receiving 4 or 5 points on the QRIS Lead Teacher Element, meaning the teacher
 - Had a college degree OR Site Supervisor or Program Director Permit
 - At least 21 hours of professional development annually

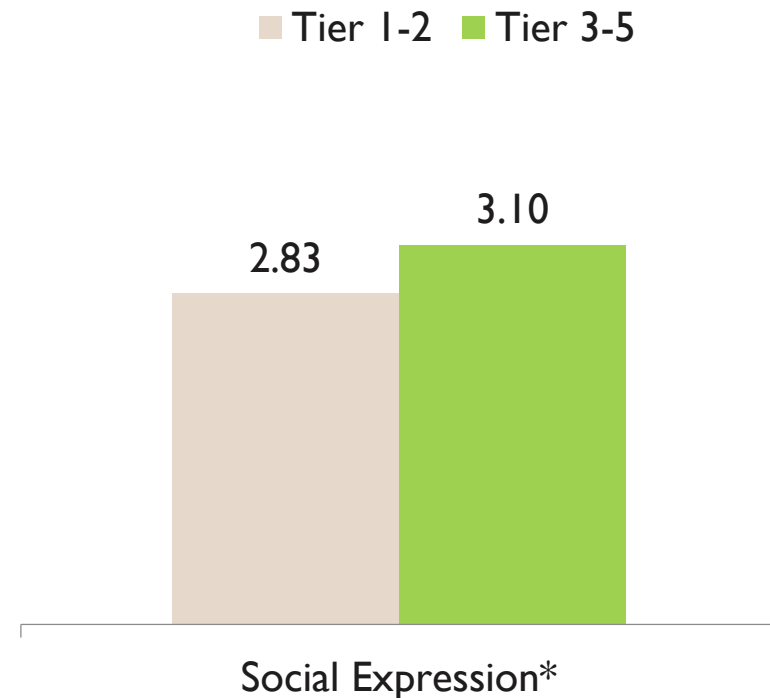
Average Overall Kindergarten Readiness Score, by Lead Teacher Qualifications



Higher Quality Predicts Higher Readiness

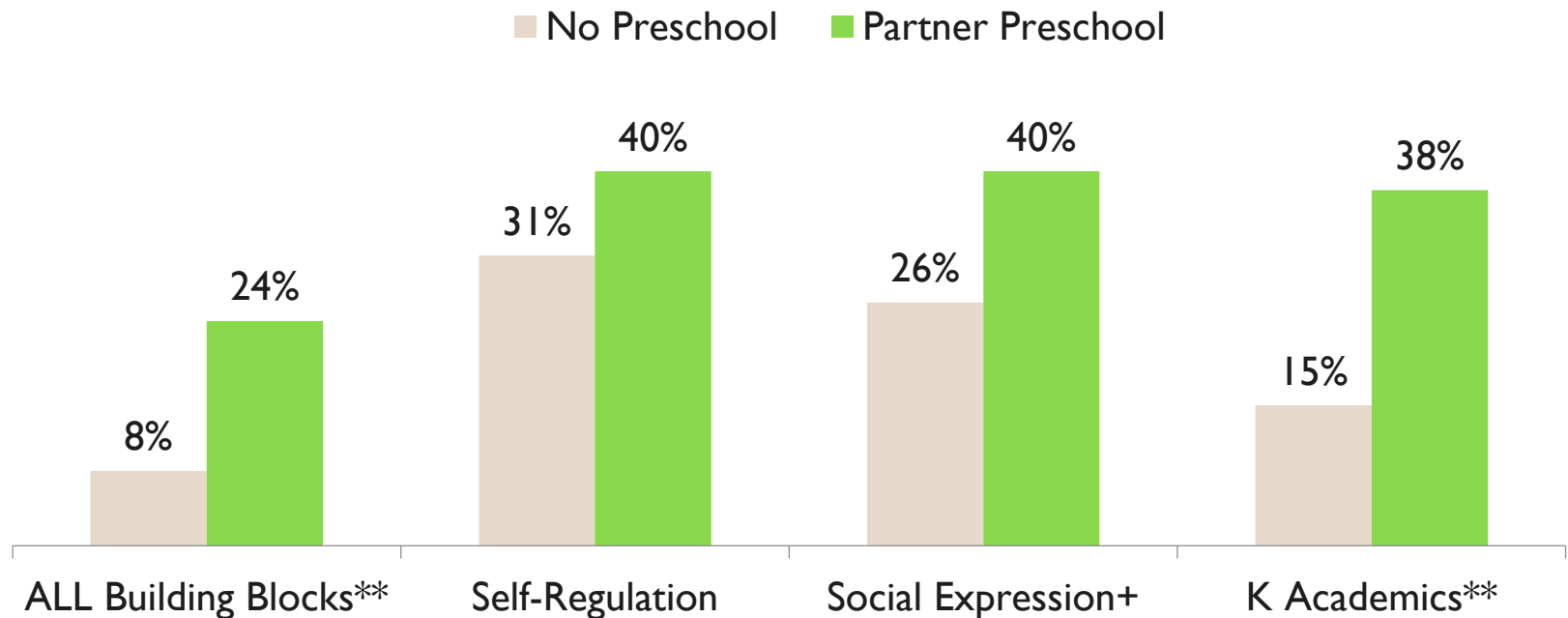
- Higher Social Expression scores were found among children attending sites receiving 3 points or more on the QRIS Director Element, meaning the director
 - Had a college degree OR Site Supervisor or Program Director Permit or Administrative Credential
 - At least 21 hours of professional development annually

Average Overall Kindergarten Readiness Score, by Director Qualifications



Benefits of Partner Preschools

- Children attending a partner preschool (Kidango, COE HS, SJB, and Grail) more likely to be Fully Ready for kindergarten than children without preschool



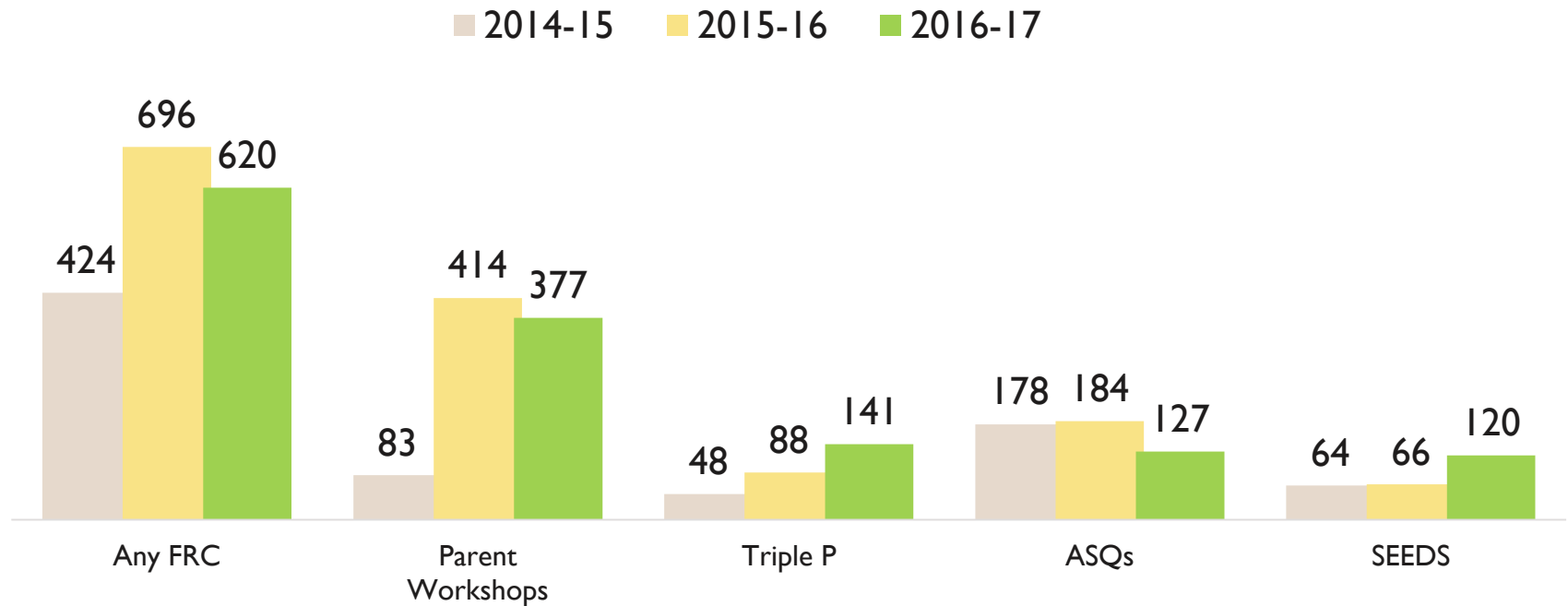
Source: Kindergarten Observation Form/Parent Information Form/Partner databases 2017; N=194-208.

Analyses adjusted for gender, special needs, English Learner, age, family SES, and reading.

**Statistically significant, $p < .01$; +Marginally significant, $p < .10$.

Increased Access to FIRST 5

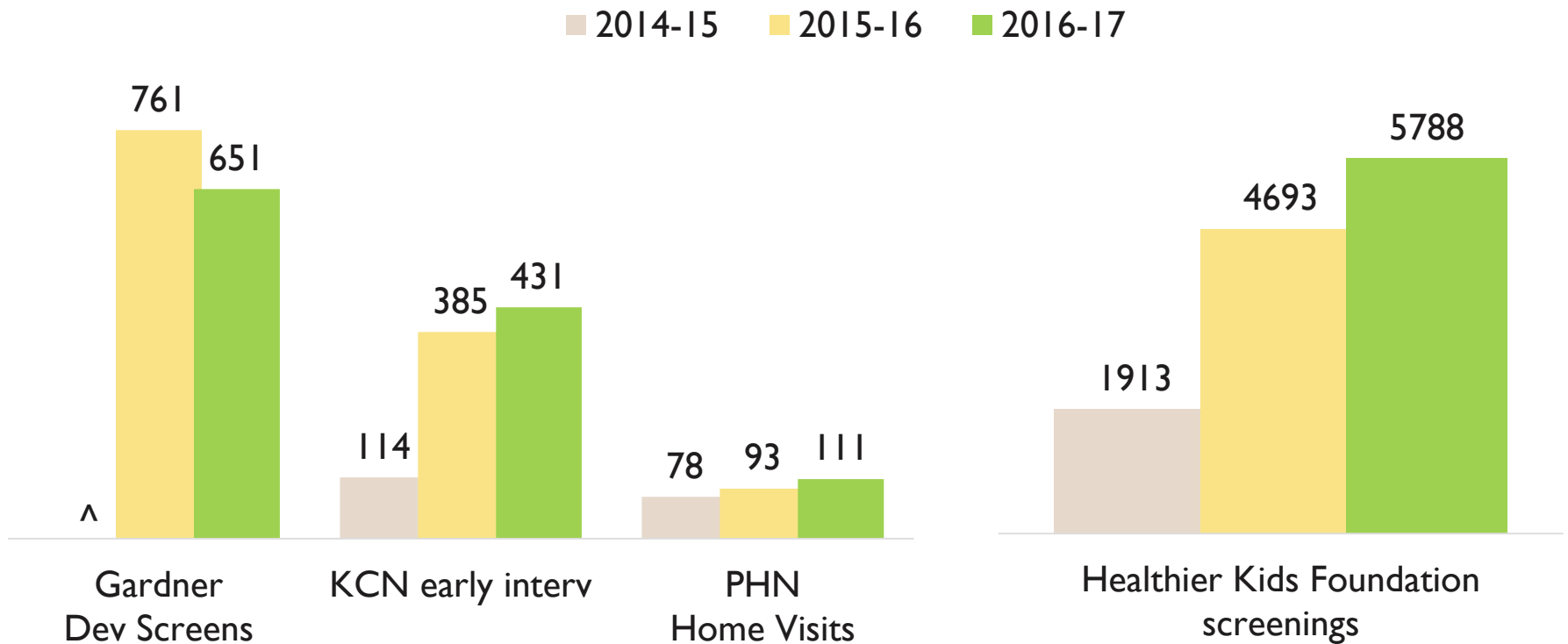
- Number of participants served across the two FRCs in Alum Rock



Source: FIRST 5 Santa Clara County Service Data 2017.

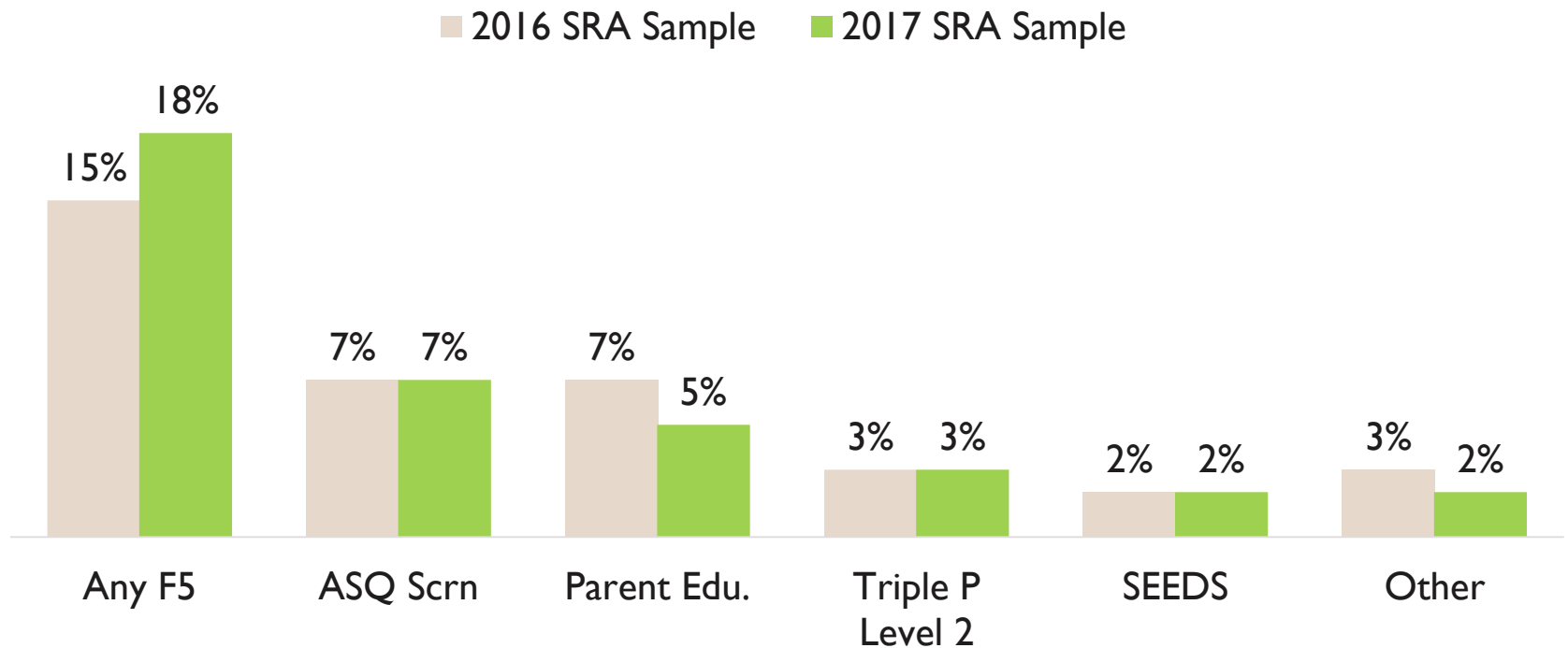
Increased Access to FIRST 5

- Other FIRST 5 services:



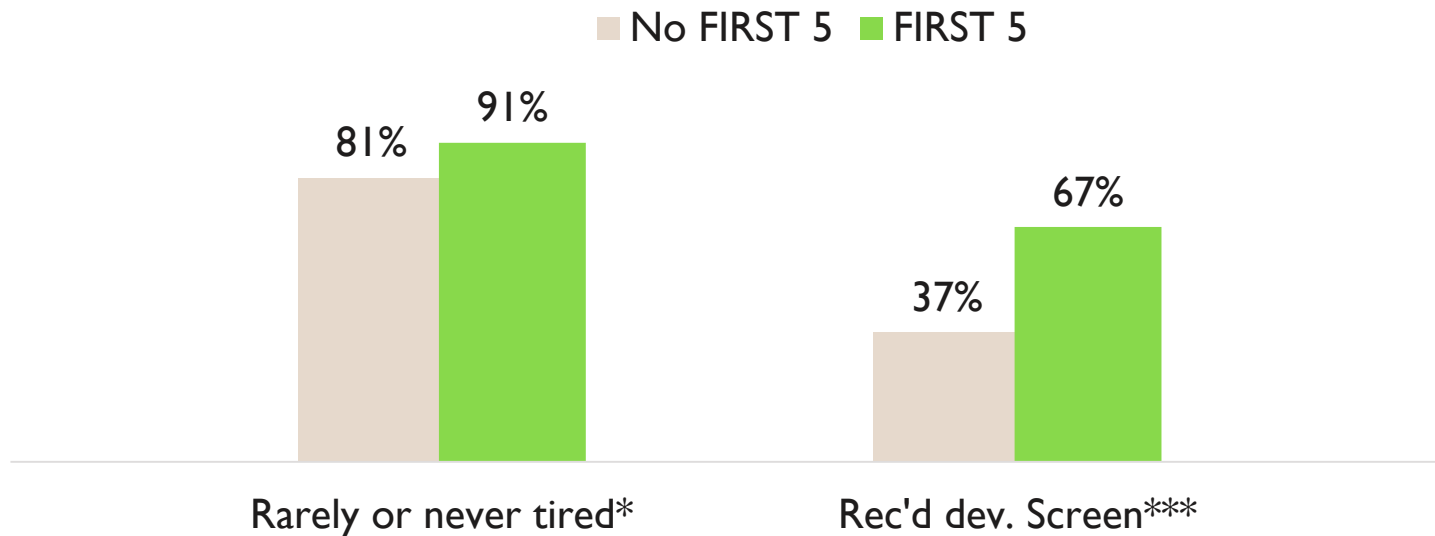
Increased Access to FIRST 5

- 18% of kindergartners assessed had received at least one FIRST 5 service



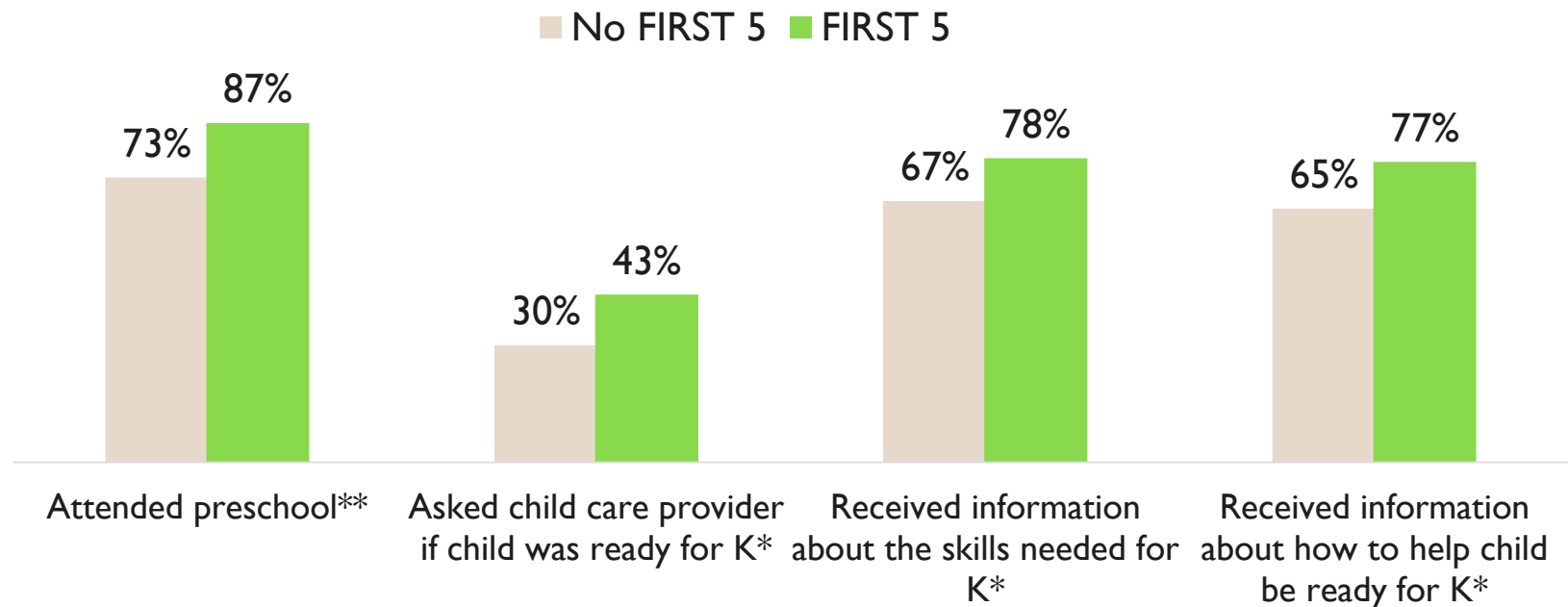
Benefits of FIRST 5 Participation

- FIRST 5 participants were more likely to...
 - Receive a developmental screening
 - Come to school well-rested



Benefits of FIRST 5 Participation

- FIRST 5 participants were more likely to...
 - Attend preschool
 - Ask child care provider if child was ready for kindergarten
 - Receive information about kindergarten readiness

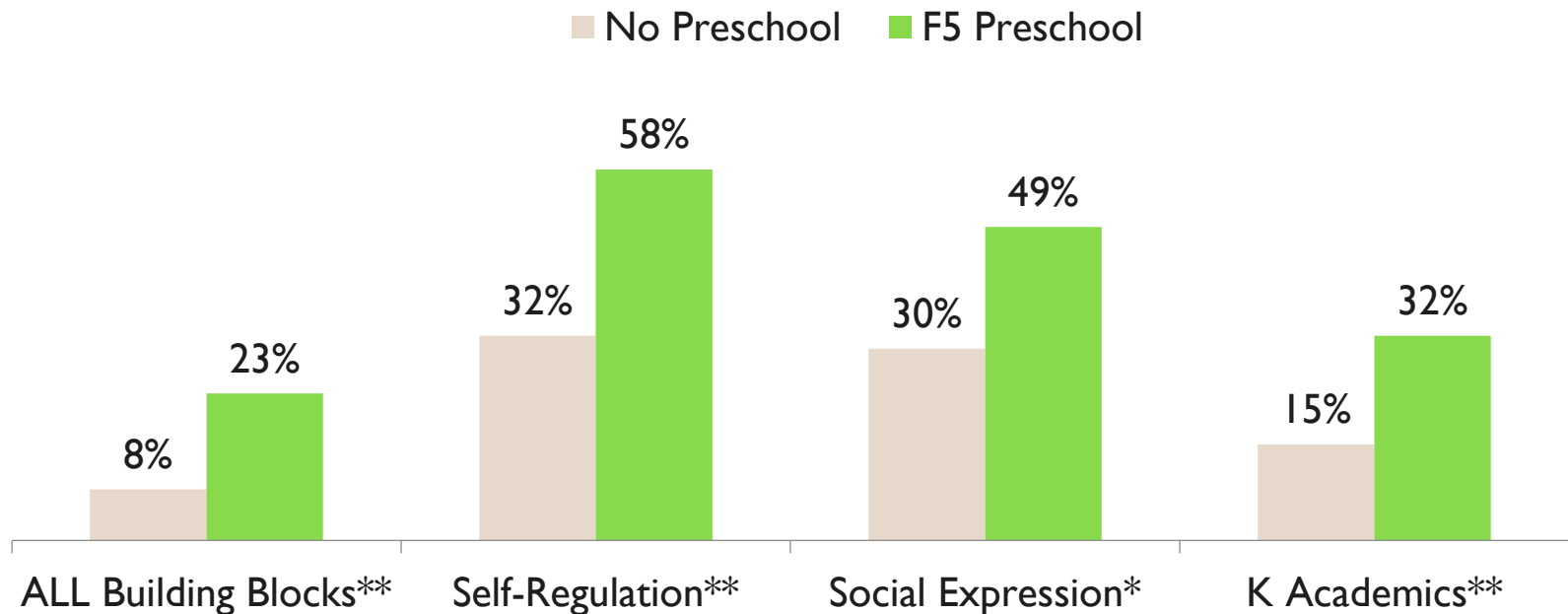


Source: Parent Information Form/FIRST 5 Santa Clara County Service Data; N=402-413.

**Statistically significant, $p < .01$; *Statistically significant, $p < .05$.

Benefits of FIRST 5-supported Preschools

- Children attending a preschool receiving FIRST 5 support (IMPACT, I/T, and CSSP) also had higher readiness than children without preschool

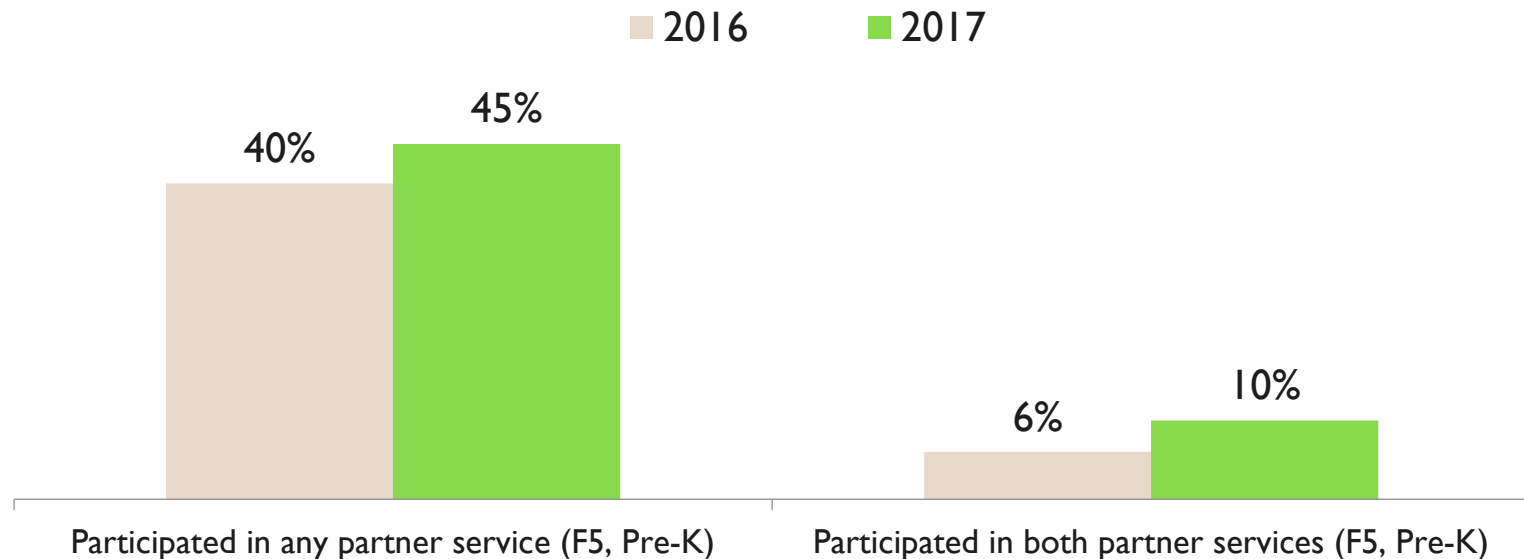


Source: Kindergarten Observation Form/Parent Information Form/Partner databases 2017; N=186-199.
Analyses adjusted for gender, special needs, English Learner, age, family SES, and reading.

**Statistically significant, $p < .01$; *Statistically significant, $p < .05$.

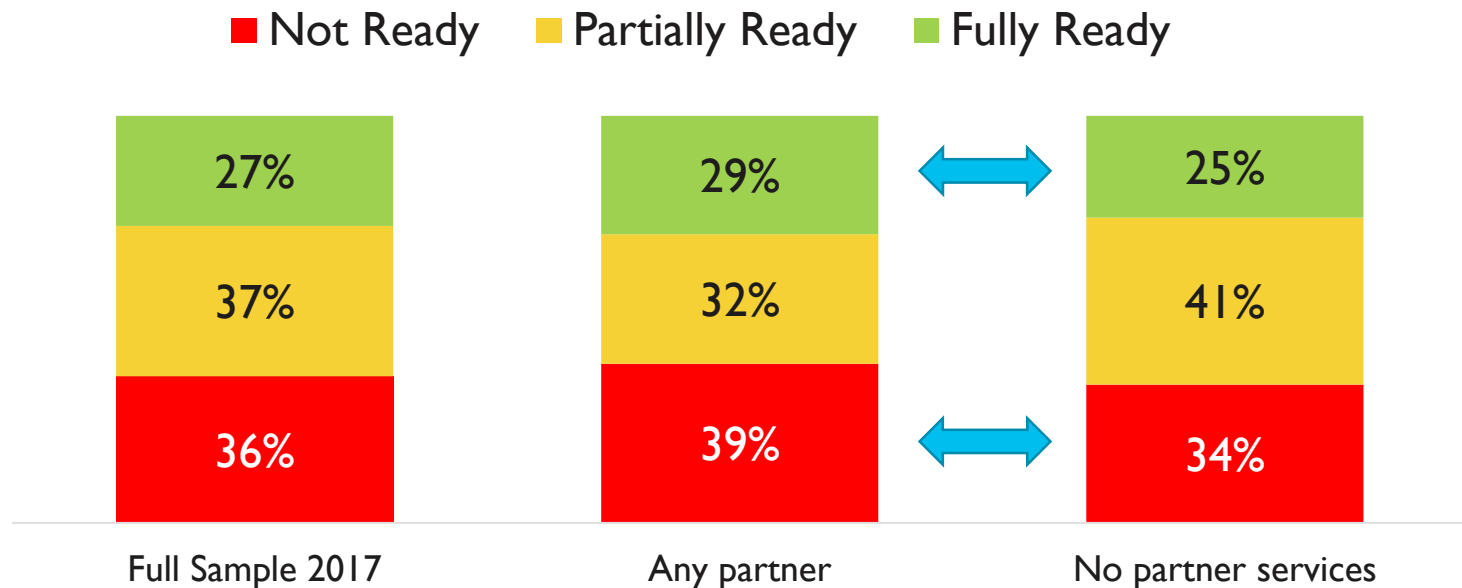
Increased Access to Services

- In 2016, 40% of the sample had been exposed to either a partner preschool, FIRST 5 supported or QRIS preschool, or a FIRST 5 service; 6% had both FIRST 5 and pre-K services.
- These percentages increased in 2017. Still, more work is needed to reach children before they reach kindergarten.



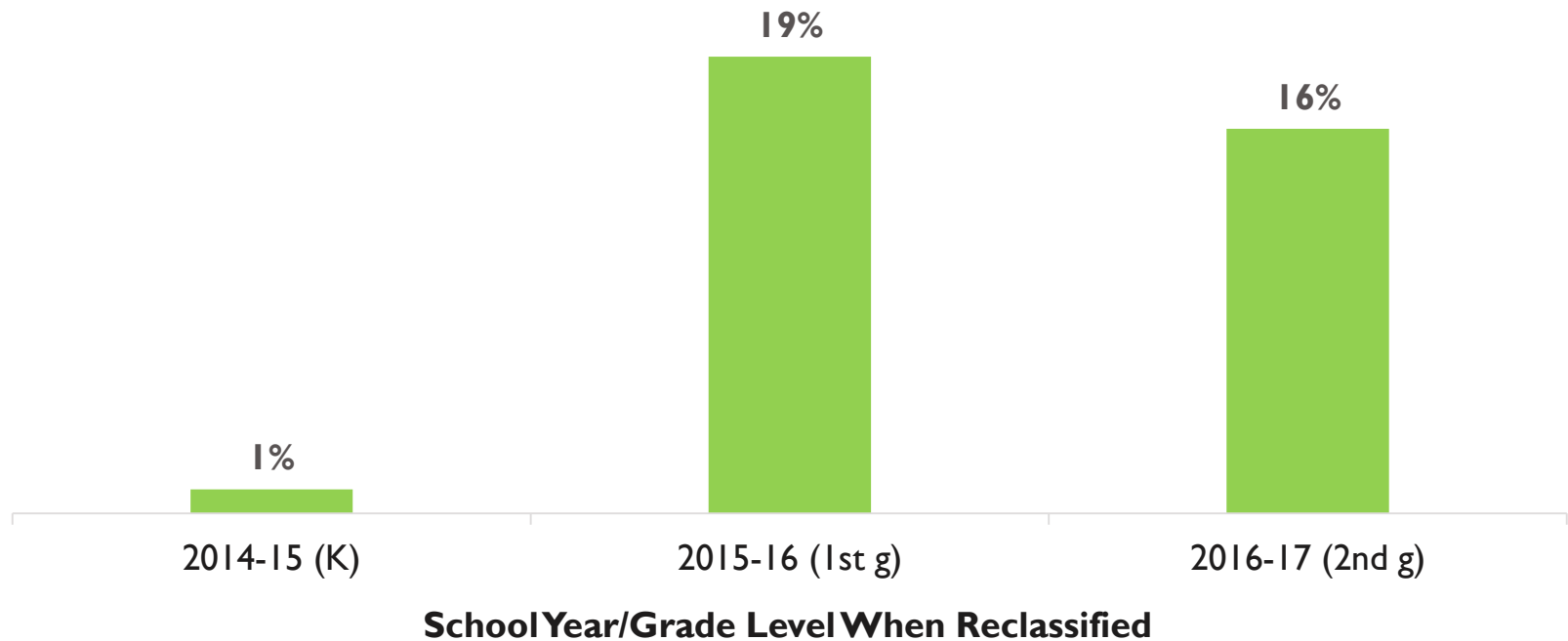
Kindergarten Readiness in Alum Rock, by Partner Program Participation

- The encouraging news: Children who had been in any partner services were more likely to be “fully ready”
- The work ahead: Our population more likely to be “not ready”



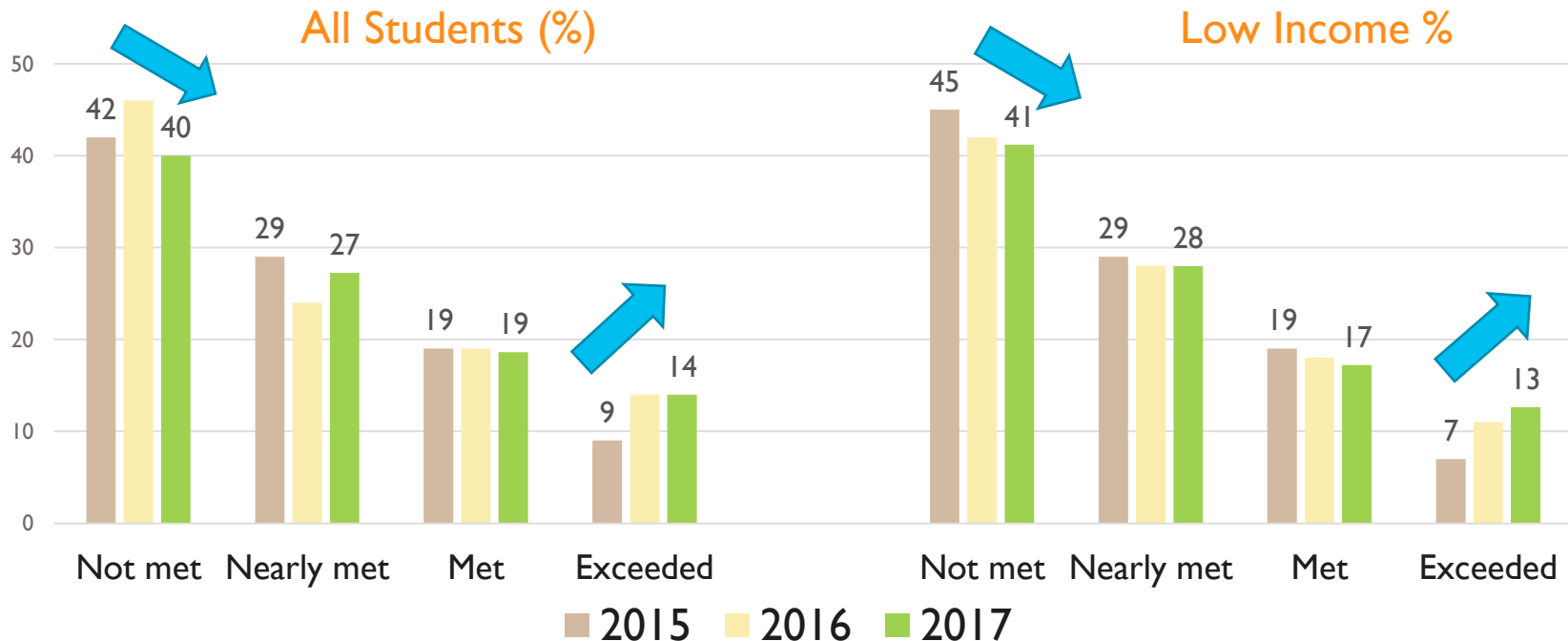
Moving ELs to English Proficiency

- Among the cohort of current third graders who were ever classified as an English Learner, 36% have been reclassified as English proficient as of 2nd grade.



Third Grade Reading in Alum Rock

- From 2015 to 2017, the percentage of students who are *exceeding* standards has increased, and the percent *not meeting* standards has fallen

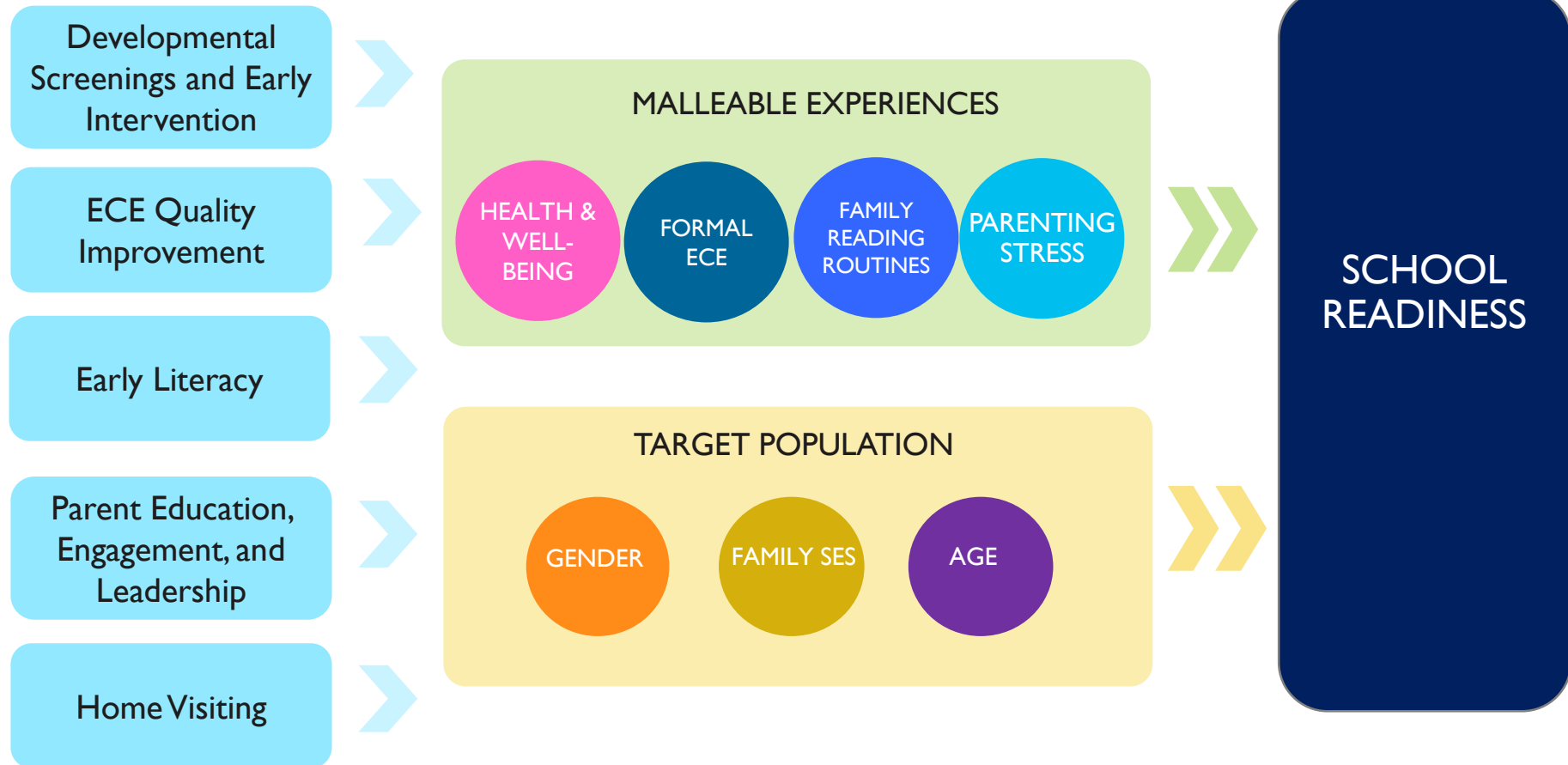


Summary and Lessons Learned



Summary: Putting our data story back together

Alum Rock Prenatal to Third Grade Initiative



Summary

- We see subtle movements in 3rd grade reading proficiency and school readiness
 - These are big, heavy bars to raise; change will not happen overnight.
- We see that the individual interventions are effective...but
 - We need to make sure there is cross program integration; it's the sum total that matters for readiness.
 - We need to reach a greater percentage of the population (we're at about 40%).

Reflections: What's our Secret Sauce?

- Partners share and are committed to a clear and measurable common goal.
- Partners are in constant communication.
- Partners believe in a systems approach to be the solution of the challenge(s).
- Partners bring bold and innovative ideas and strategies and aren't afraid to shake up the status quo.
- Partners are flexible to adjust to each other, understanding that each organization they represent has its own circumstances. Each organization is a leg to "the stool", with the stool representing the total system.

Questions for the Alum Rock team?

- The community of Alum Rock?
- The model?
- Who's involved?
- Collaboration: What's making us tick?
- The data?
- The support?
- Challenges?
- Next steps?

Questions?

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