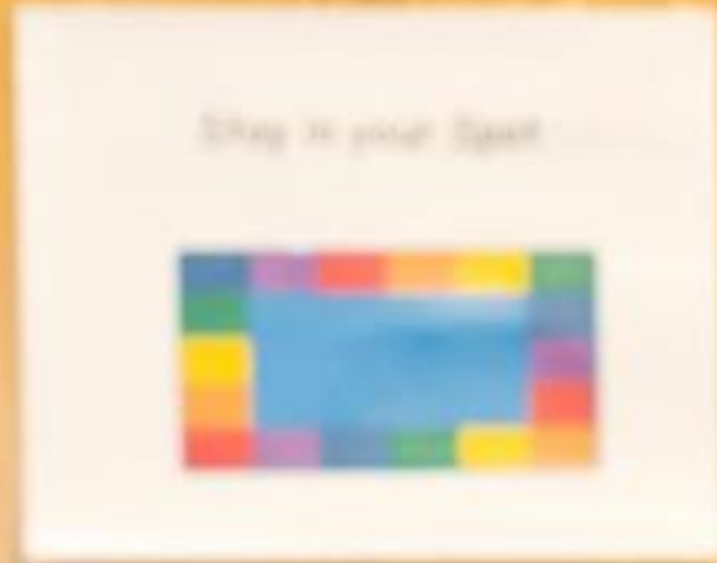




WAKE COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



# PRE-K FIVE YEAR PLAN

*WCPSS Board of Education Student Achievement Meeting  
March 22, 2021*

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

# Learning Outcomes

- Provide background on preschool services in WCPSS
- Understand the different types of pre-k programs offered in WCPSS
- Review data on classrooms and number of students served
- Highlight current partnerships
- Review the five year plan for preschool classrooms

# Presenters

- Paul Koh, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services
- Dawn Dawson, Senior Director, Office of Early Learning
- Gay Lytton, Director, Preschool Programs
- Rhonda Riggins, Pre-K Teacher, Turner Creek Elementary
- Amy Dragotta, Pre-K Teacher, Oakview Elementary



Office of Early Learning

Student Achievement Committee  
March 22, 2021

## Reflections, Considerations, New Learning Protocol

**Directions:** As you listen to the presentation, please note your reflections, considerations and new learning.

Office of Early Learning		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organization Structure</li><li>• Compelling Why</li><li>• Federal &amp; state Mandates</li></ul>		
Reflections	Considerations	New Learning

# WCPSS Core Beliefs (The Why)

#1 Every student is uniquely capable and deserves to be challenged and engaged in relevant, rigorous, and meaningful learning each day.

#2 Every student is expected to learn, grow, and succeed while we eliminate the ability to predict achievement based on socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity.

#3 Well-supported, highly-effective, and dedicated principals, teachers, and staff are essential to success for all students.

# What Does the Research Say?

Numerous research studies identify the positive impact on children when participating in high-quality early learning programs.

- More prepared to be successful in elementary school
- Less likely to need special education
- Less likely to be retained in school
- Higher rates of high school graduation
- Higher rates of college graduation

# The Need

**90%**

Brain development occurring in the first five years of life

**30 million**

Gap between number of words a child is exposed to from a high-income family compared to a child from a low-income family by age 4

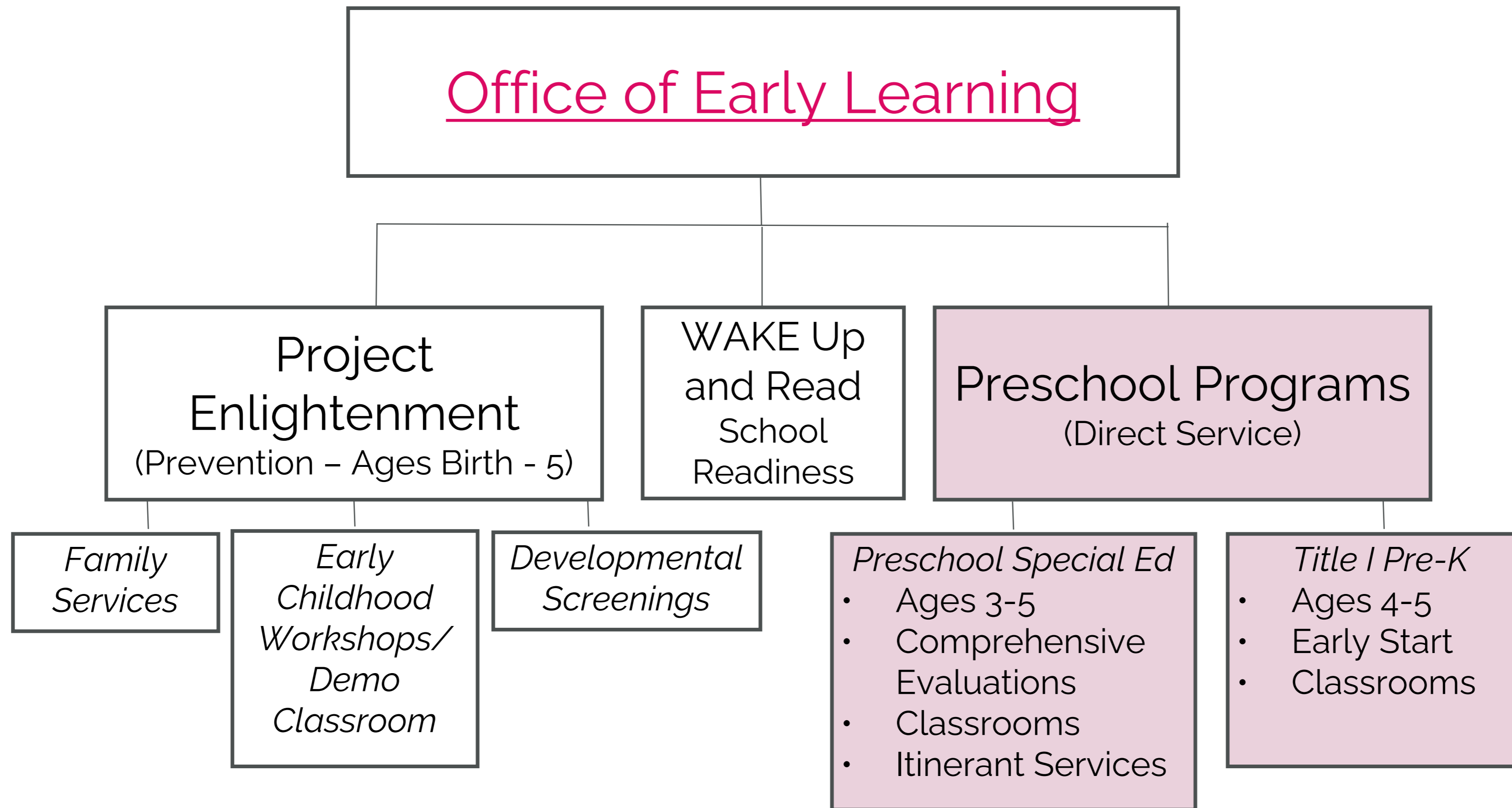
**44%**

Incoming kindergarten students proficient on Text Reading Comprehension assessment, increased by 18% since 2015-16

# Our Vision (PreK-12)

WCPSS Office of Early Learning (OEL) will be recognized by stakeholders as the leader in early childhood education by offering families high-quality services and supporting developmentally appropriate instruction that builds a strong foundation ensuring success for the whole child.

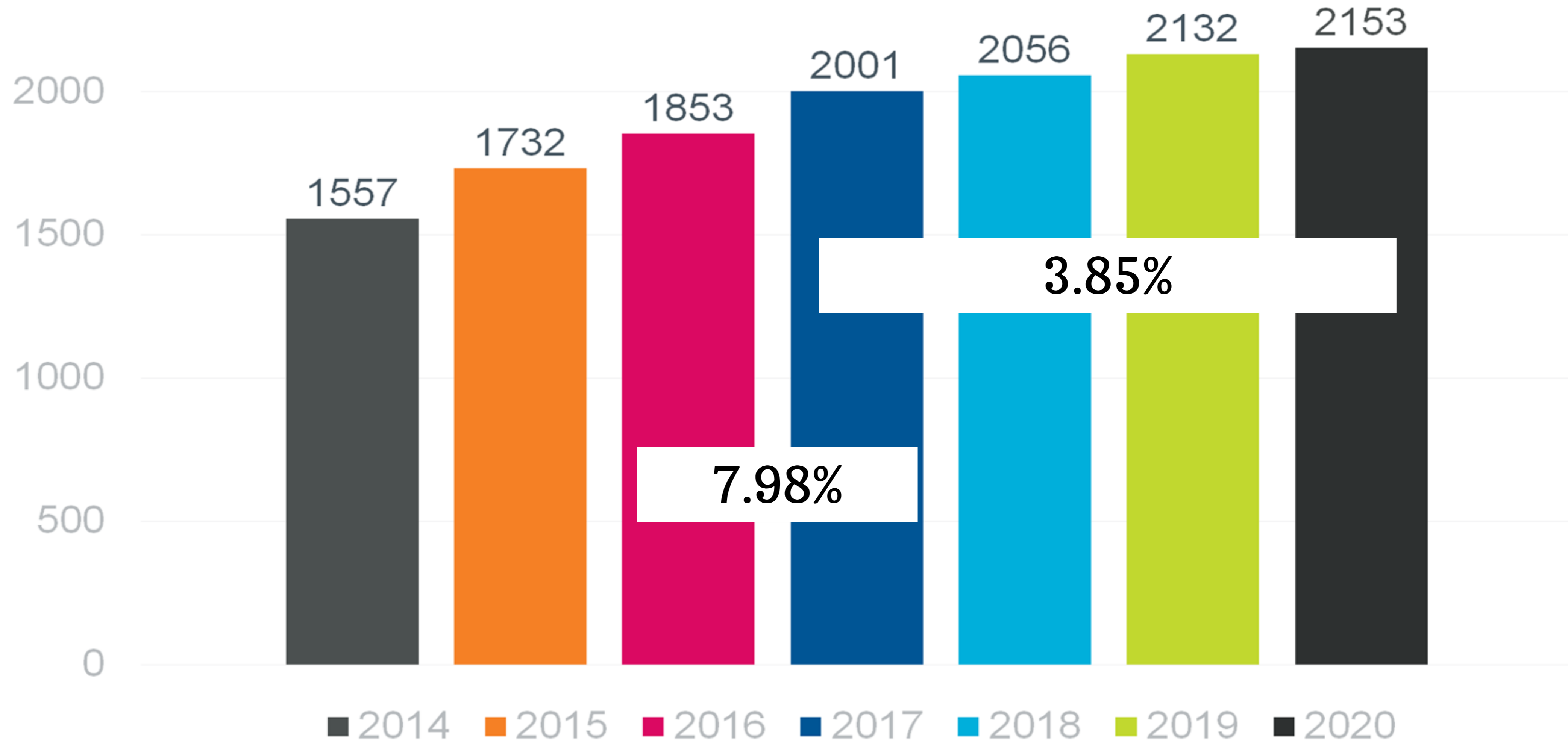
# Early Learning in WCPSS – *Continuum of Services*



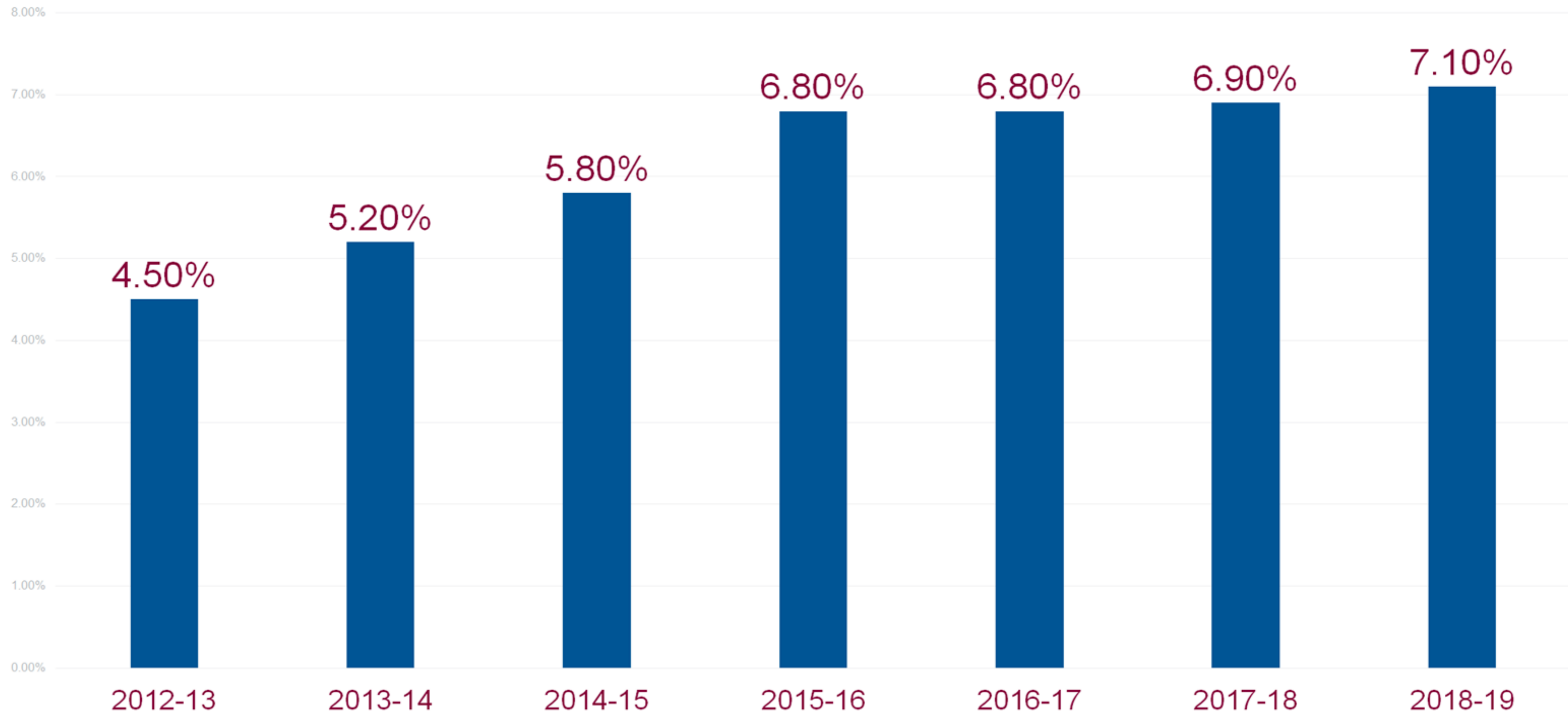
# Federal & State Mandates

- Child Find requires all school districts to locate, evaluate and identify all children with disabilities
- All children with disabilities ages 3-21 are entitled to a free appropriate public education
- Least restrictive environment – LEAs must ensure to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with children who are not disabled

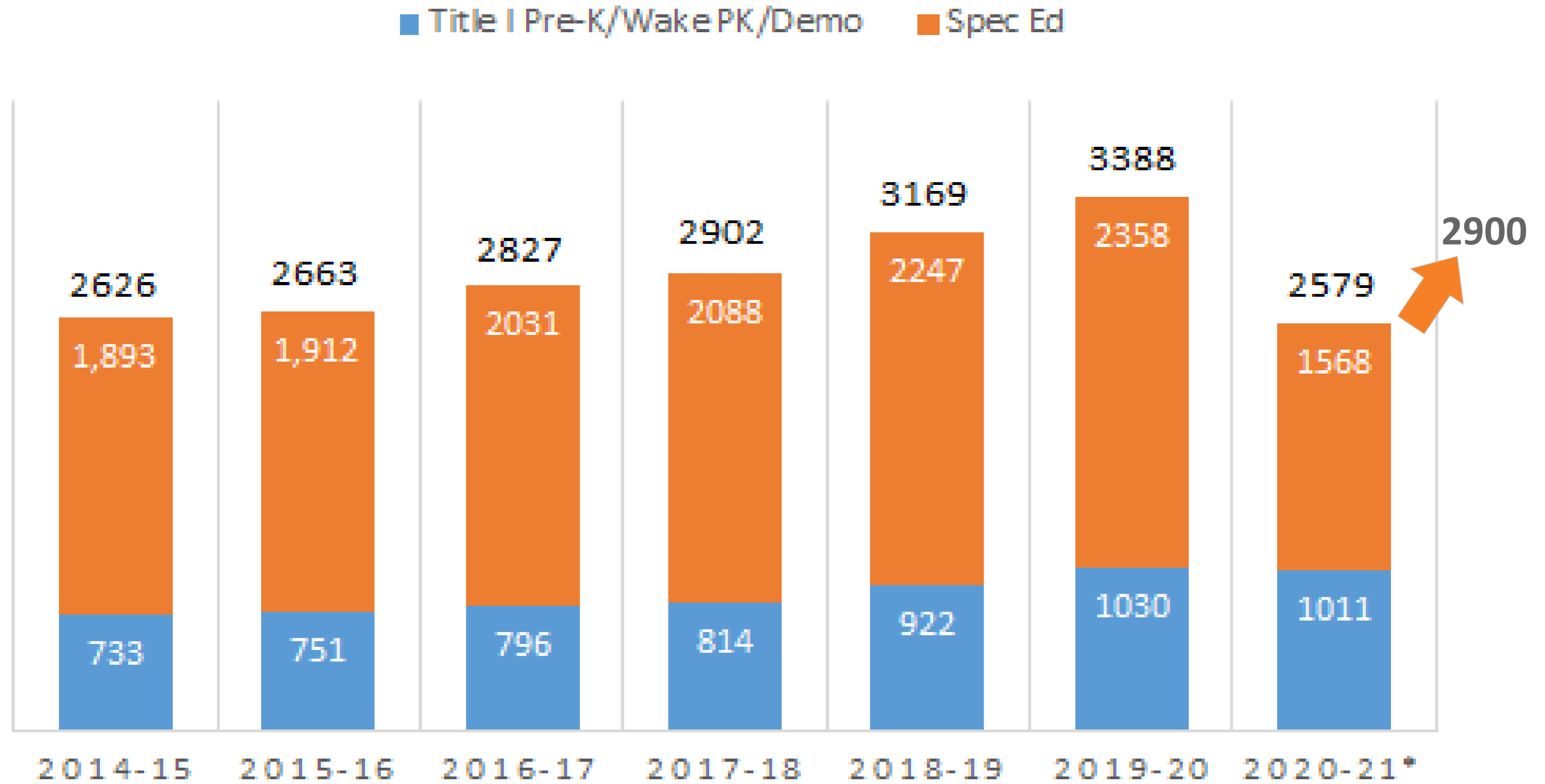
# Child Count (April 1) – Students with Disabilities



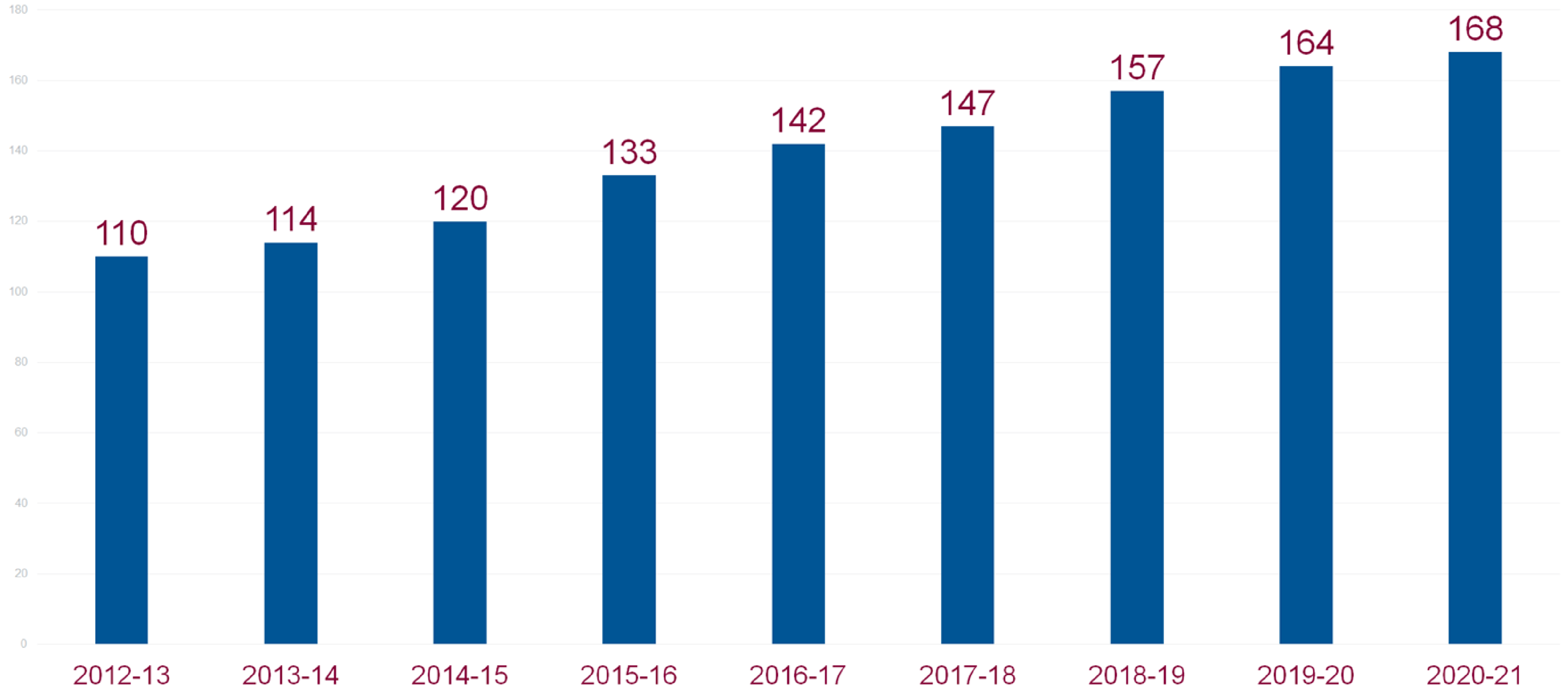
# Saturation Rate



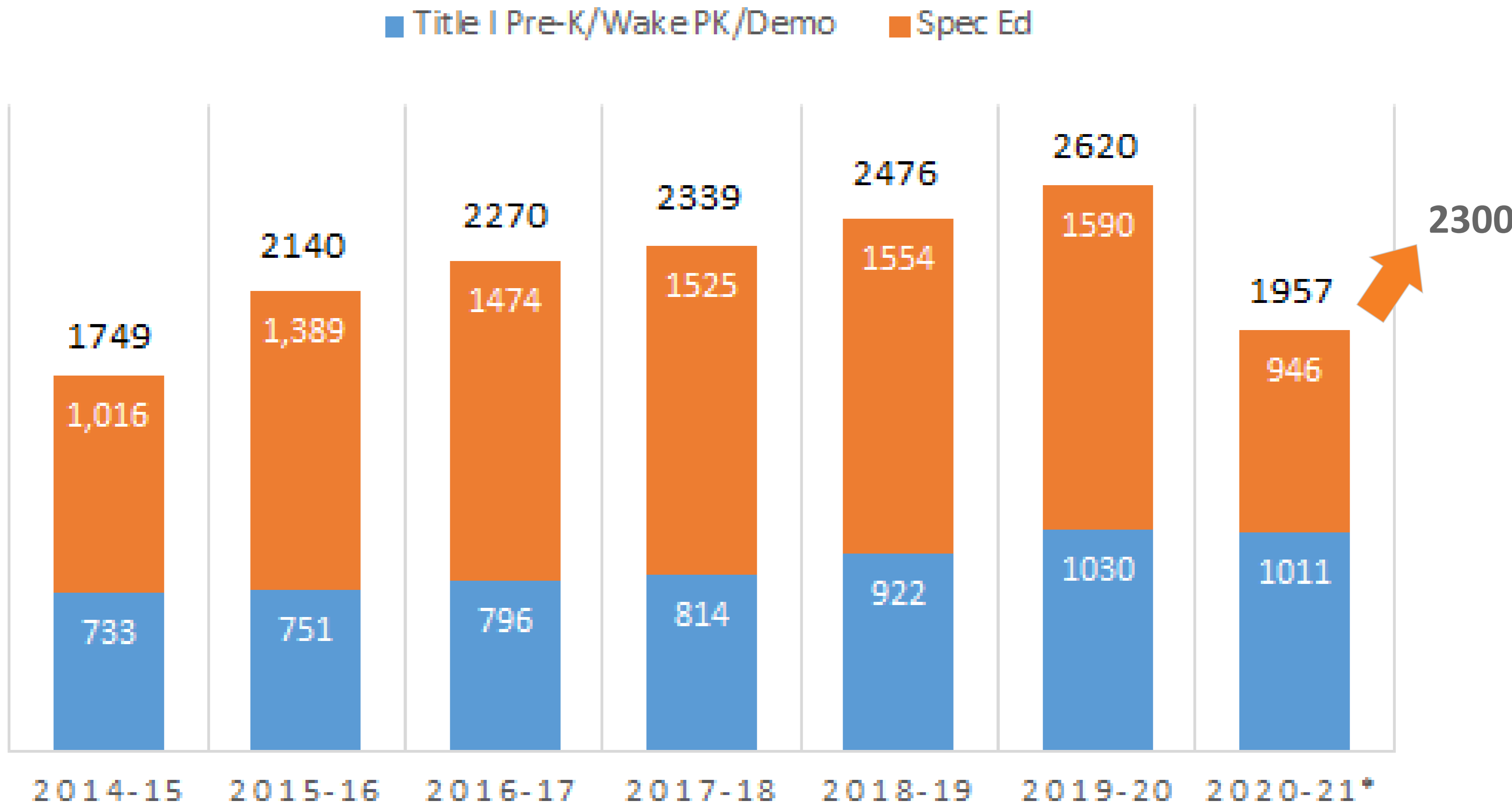
# Children Served by WCPSS (ages 3-5)



# WCPSS Pre-K Classroom Growth

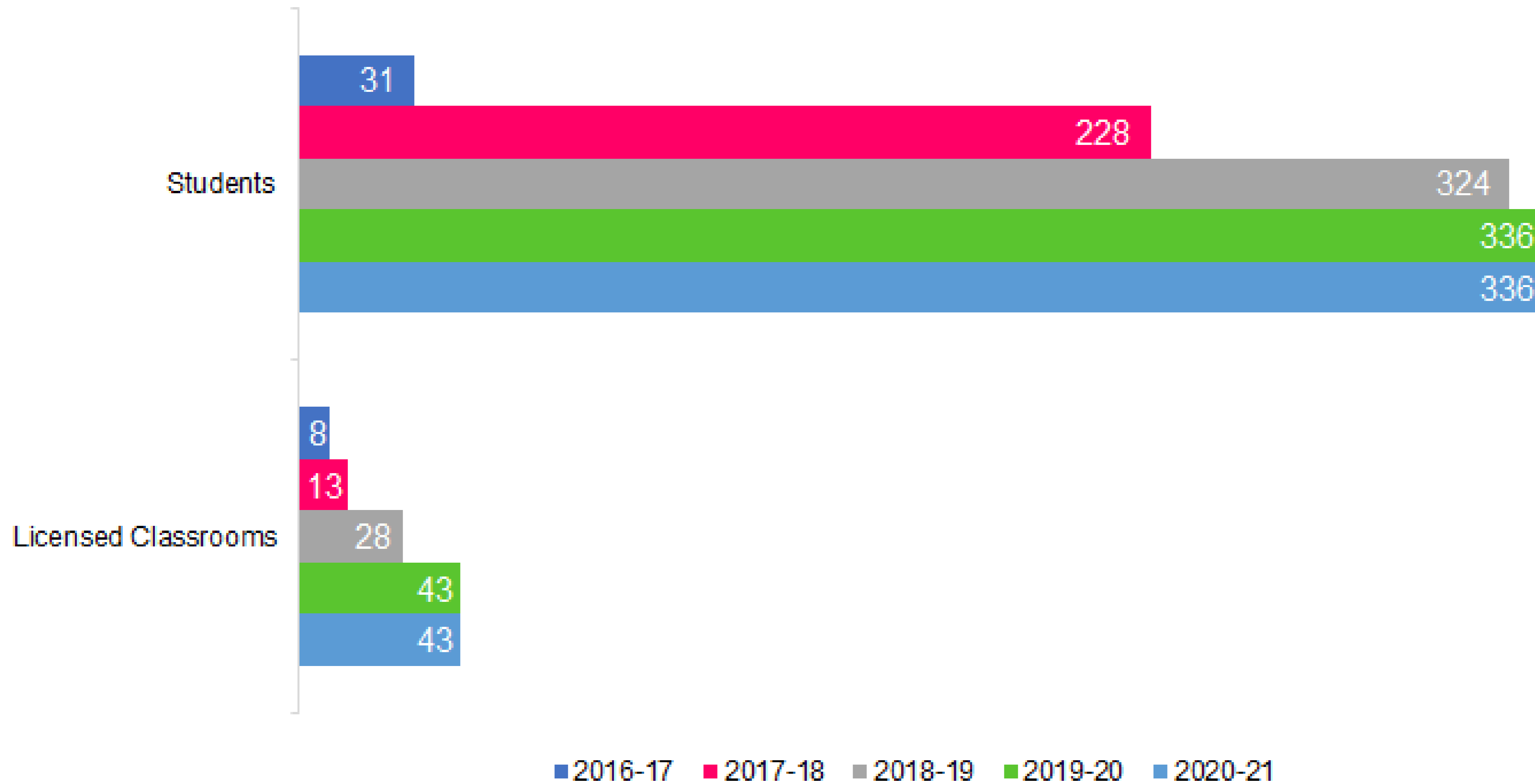


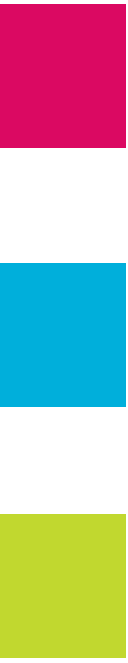
# Children Served by WCPSS (ages 3-5) – Classrooms



\* As of 3/10/21

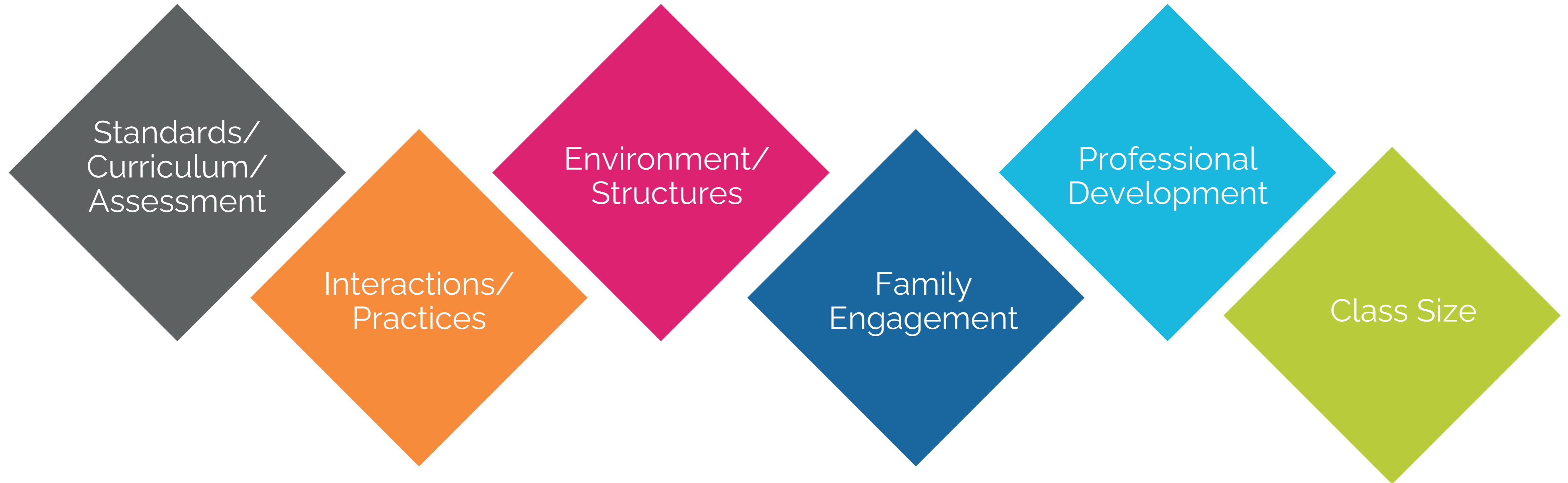
# Increase in NC Pre-K Slots for WCPSS





# Reflections, Considerations, New Learning

# Classroom Components for a High-Quality Preschool Program



Service	Description
Title I Pre-K Classrooms	Serving four-year-olds demonstrating academic need
Blended Classrooms	Serving four-year-olds with disabilities and students demonstrating academic need
Preschool Special Education Classrooms	Serving students ages three to five with disabilities
Title I Pre-K/Wake Pre-K	Serving four-year-olds demonstrating academic need and/or income eligible and/or other base student criteria
Itinerant Teachers	Serving students, ages three to five with disabilities, in the natural setting (homes and community settings)
Speech/Language Pathologists	Serving students, ages three to five with disabilities, in the community or at school sites

# WCPSS Pre-K Program Types – Title I Pre-K

- Full day classroom that serves students eligible for Title I (academic need based on multi-criteria score) and who turn four on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>
- Developmentally appropriate and prepares students for kindergarten
- Funded by Federal Title I and NC Pre-K funds

# WCPSS Pre-K Program Types – Preschool Special Education

- Child Find requires all school districts to locate, evaluate and identify all children with disabilities
- All children with disabilities ages 3-21 are entitled to a free appropriate public education
- Full or part day classroom that serves three, four and five-year-old students with disabilities with low student to teacher ratio
- Specially designed instruction and related services to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability
- Funded by local, state and/or federal special education funds

# Previous Plan (2015–2020) for Classrooms

- ✓ Increase 3-year-old Students with Disabilities (SWD) in itinerant services and part day classrooms.
- ✓ Increase 4-year-old SWDs in full day services by increasing seats in blended classrooms and community preschool settings.
- ✓ Increase 4-year-old students served with Title I funding.
- ✓ Explore base pre-k classrooms at Elementary Support Model schools.

# Current Plan for Classrooms

- Increase 4-year-old SWDs in full day blended classrooms to increase state indicator on students served in regular early childhood setting.
- Increase 3-year-old SWDs served in the community and in part day classrooms.
- Increase 4-year-old students served with Title I and NC Pre-K funding.
- Increase number of preschool students served at base schools.

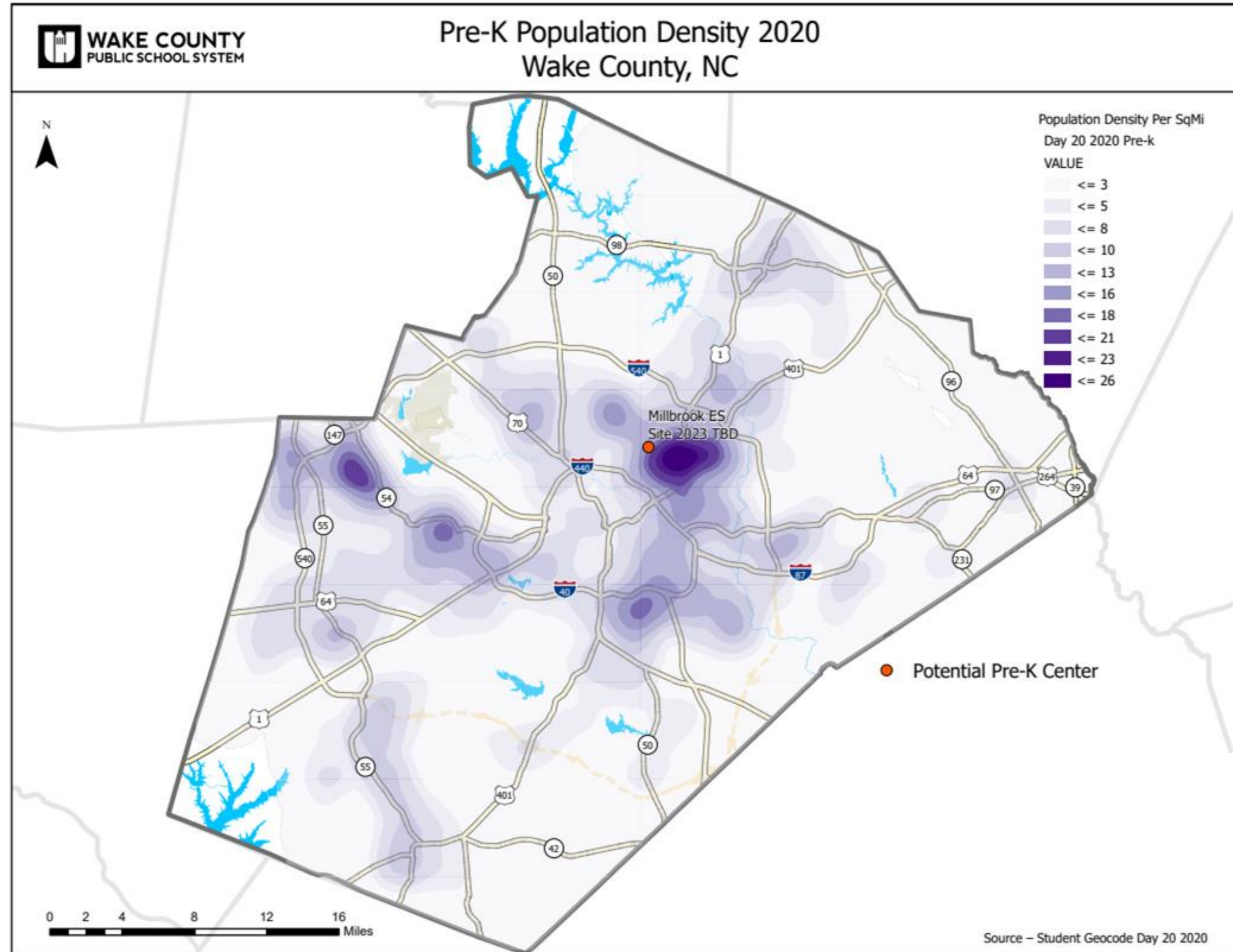
# Plan for Pre-K Classrooms

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
169 Classrooms	173 Classrooms	180 Classrooms	186 Classrooms	192 Classrooms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32 part day</li> <li>• 47 full day</li> <li>• 51 blended</li> <li>• 34 Title I</li> <li>• 4 Shaw</li> <li>• 1 Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 part day</li> <li>• 48 full day</li> <li>• 53 blended</li> <li>• 34 Title I</li> <li>• 4 Shaw</li> <li>• 1 Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 part day</li> <li>• 49 full day</li> <li>• 59 blended</li> <li>• 34 Title I</li> <li>• 4 Shaw</li> <li>• 1 Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 part day</li> <li>• 52 full day</li> <li>• 62 blended</li> <li>• 34 Title I</li> <li>• 4 Shaw</li> <li>• 1 Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 part day</li> <li>• 54 full day</li> <li>• 65 blended</li> <li>• 34 Title I</li> <li>• 4 Shaw</li> <li>• 1 Project</li> </ul>

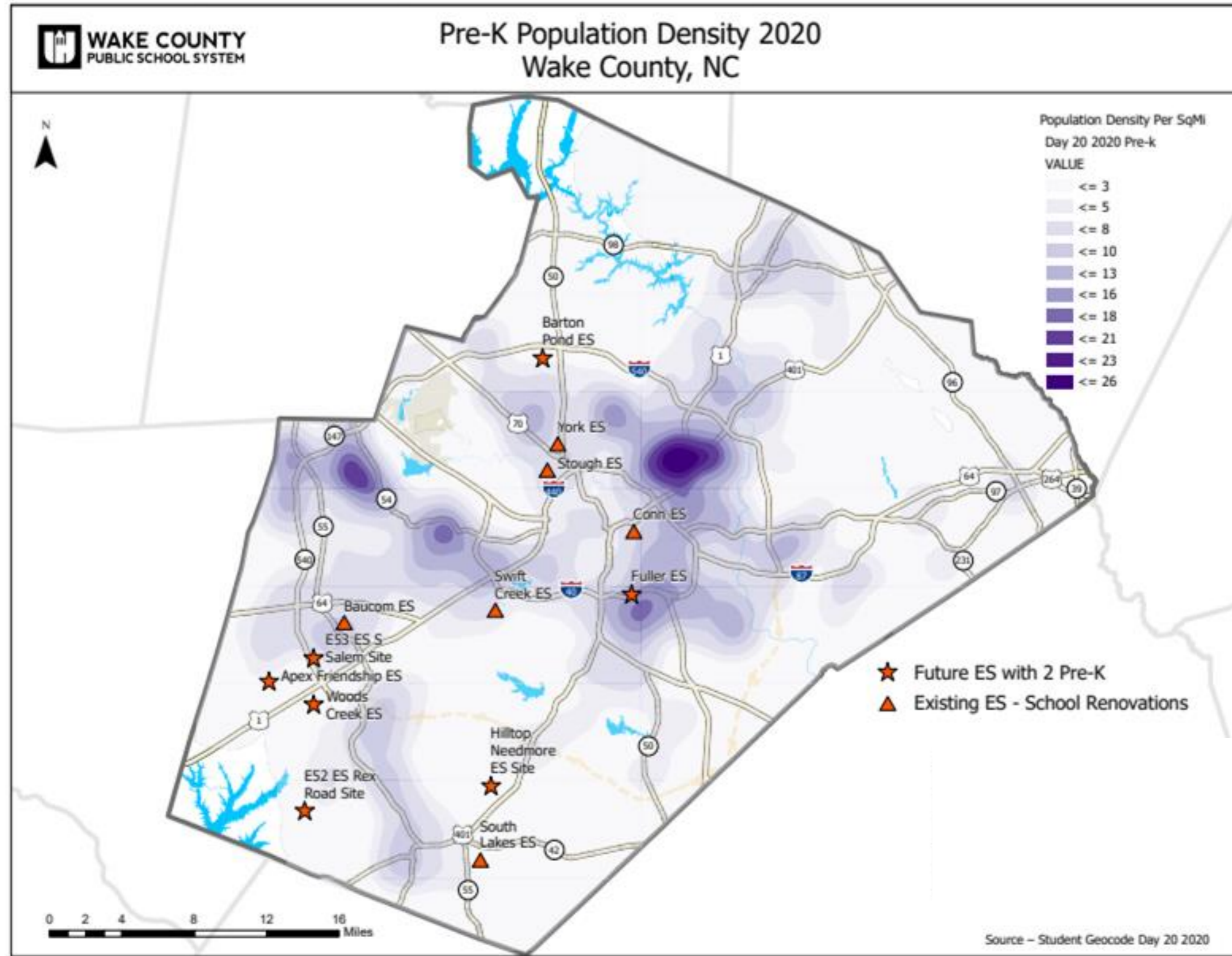
# Plan for Pre-K Classrooms

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
169 Classrooms	173 Classrooms	180 Classrooms	186 Classrooms	192 Classrooms
Conn South Lakes Stough	Apex Friendship Barton Pond Fuller York	Baucom Pre-K Center Swift Creek	E52	Hilltop Needmore Woods Creek E53 ES - x6

# Pre-K Center – Millbrook



# Additional Pre-K Classrooms



# Plan for Itinerant Teachers and Speech Language Pathologists

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<b>Preschool Itinerant Teachers</b>				
29.8	30.8	31.8	32.8	33.8
<b>Hearing Impaired/Visually Impaired – Preschool Itinerant Teachers</b>				
5	5	5	5	5
<b>Speech Language Pathologists</b>				
17.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3



# Examples of Partnerships

- Telamon Head Start
  - Shared universal application for families
  - Southeast Raleigh Elementary (2 of 4 Pre-K Classrooms)
- Shaw Child Development Center
  - 4 classrooms
- Wake County Smart Start
  - Shared universal application for families
  - 336 NC Pre-K slots
  - Professional development
- Developmental Day Centers
  - Contract slots for inclusive settings
- Marbles Kids Museum
  - Family School Partnership Days
  - Ready to Read Playdates
  - Ready, Set, School Program

# Future of Pre-K in WCPSS

- Expand based on Plan
  - Request additional NC Pre-K slots and license more classrooms
  - Address growth in students identified for special education
  - Utilize Title I, NC Pre-K funds, and request local funds, when needed
  - Project \$2.9 million over five years
- Establish Pre-K Center on Millbrook Elementary Campus
- Continued Collaboration with Partners to Increase Opportunities for Young Children

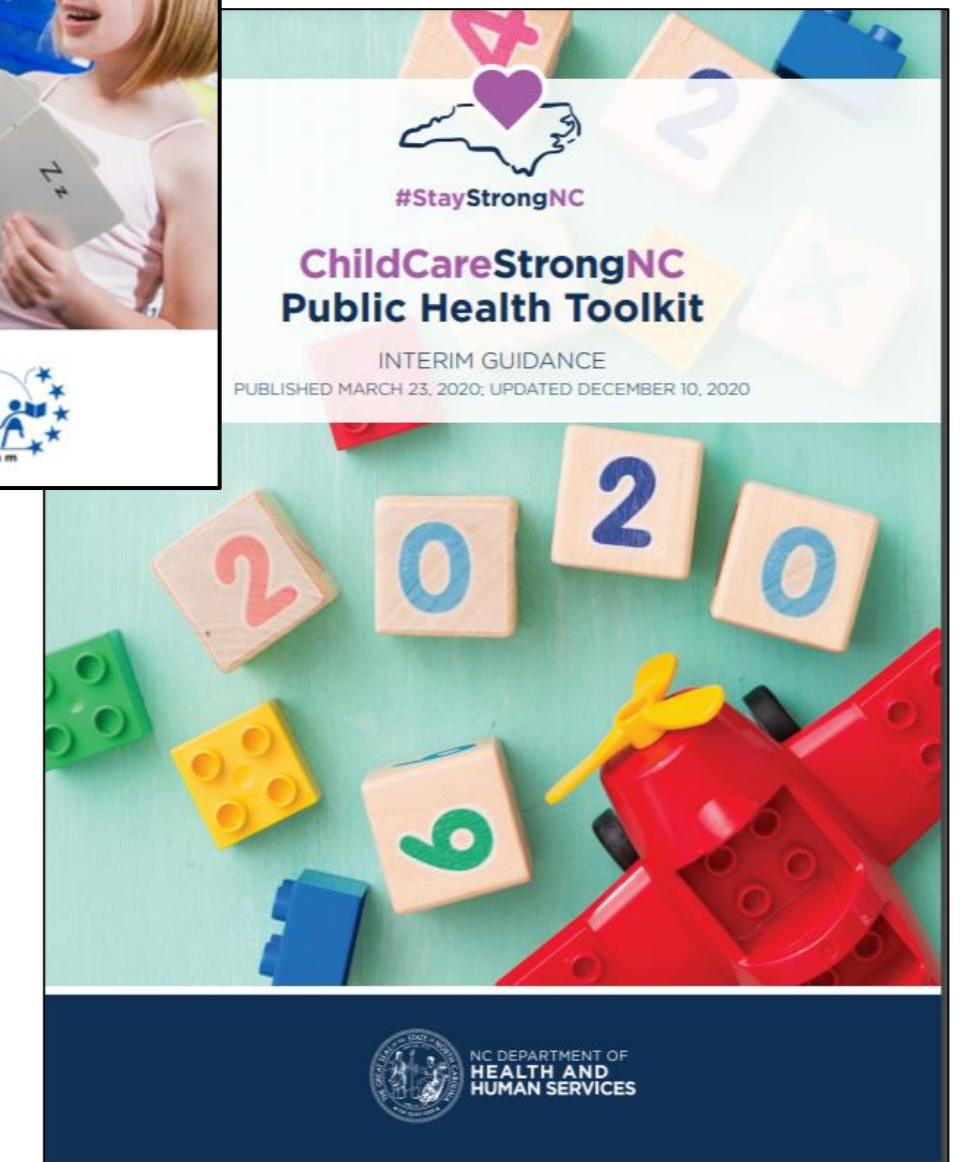
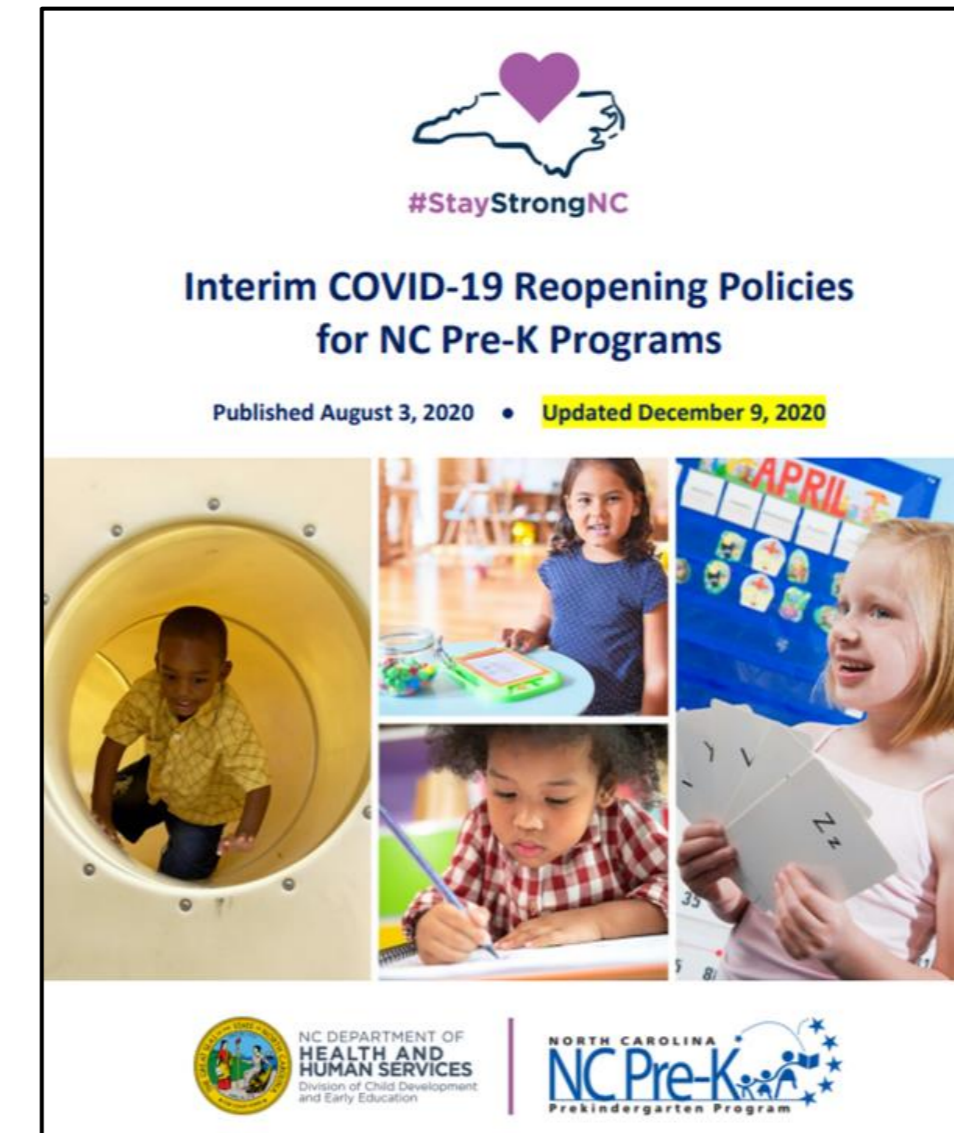
# Impact of COVID-19 and Support

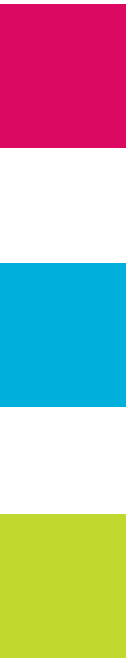
- Title I Pre-K Screenings
- Virtual Preschool Special Education Evaluations
- Virtual Instruction
- Platform Used & Enhancements
- Devices
- Hands on Materials/Kits
- Staffing Support to Schools



# Looking Ahead 2021-22

- Continued option for virtual preschool special education evaluations
- Review of NC Pre-K and DCDEE Child Care Guidance for 2021-22
- Options for Virtual Instruction
- Early Start - Summer Options





# Reflections, Considerations, New Learning

# Supporting Research

- Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education  
<https://www.fcd-us.org/assets/2016/04/Evidence-Base-on-Preschool-Education-FINAL.pdf>
- Impacts of Early Childhood Programs  
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/impacts-of-early-childhood-programs/#:~:text=>
- The Benefits and Costs of Investing in Early Childhood Education  
<http://equitablegrowth.org/report/the-benefits-and-costs-of-investing-in-early-childhood-education/>
- Untangling the Evidence on Preschool Effectiveness: Insights for Policymakers  
<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/untangling-evidence-preschool-effectiveness-report>
- Impact of North Carolina's Early Childhood Programs and Policies on Educational Outcomes in Elementary School  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cdev.12645/abstract>
- From Birth to School: Early Childhood Initiatives and Third-Grade Outcomes in North Carolina  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pam.21734/full>