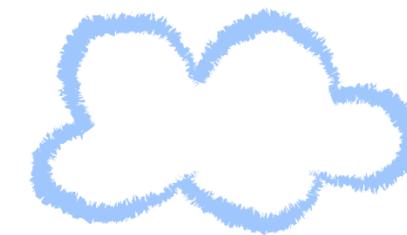


HAWAII STATE

Department of Education



Preschool Services Update (continued)



SEAC Meeting, October 17, 2025
Head Start
Exceptional Support Branch
Monitoring and Compliance Branch





Introductions



Verna Chinen

ESB Administrator

Kauinohea Correa

ESB Educational Specialist

Patricia Dong

MAC Educational Specialist

Ephraim Schwab, EdD.

HSCO Director

Adoniss Spencer, EdD.

HCAP Assistant Director

Amanda Gonzales

Student Support Specialist





Overview

1

Follow Up

2

Brief Review of LRE Data

3

Head Start Partnership (Inclusion)

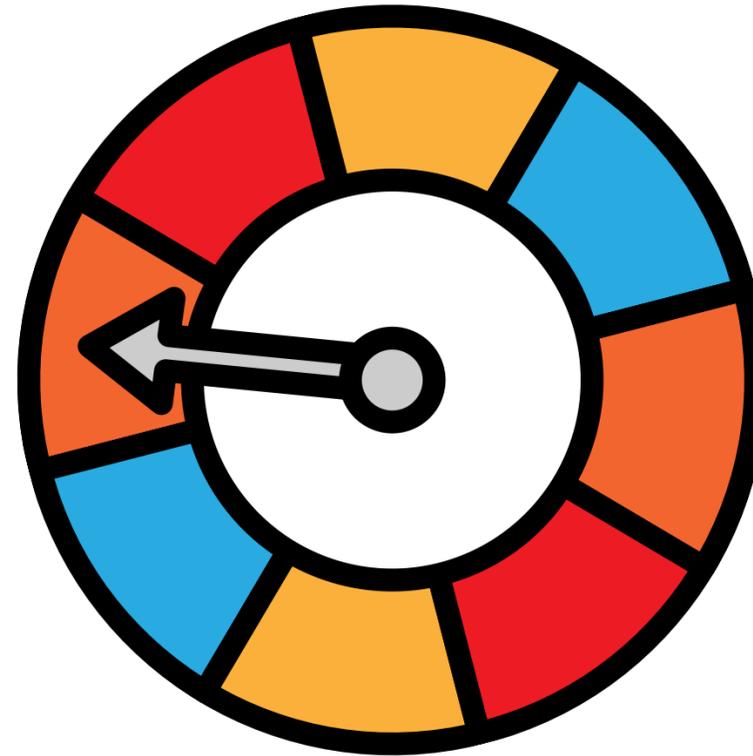
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Breakout / Shares



Follow Up to Questions from September

Universal Access



Family Program Awareness &
Transition Supports

Partnership with Medical &
Health Providers

LRE & Age Trends

Engagement with Private
Centers / Providers

CSPD - Workforce
Development



**Hawai'i Early
Childhood
State Plan
September
2025 DRAFT**

Goal: All children receive comprehensive services and resources to support their growth and development throughout their early learning journey.

Action Priority: Young children with disabilities have access to services that meet their specific needs, including high-quality inclusive early childhood programs that provide individualized and appropriate support so they can fully participate in play-based learning alongside their peers without disabilities.

Key Progress Indicator: Activity	Key Progress Indicator: Contributor	Key Progress Indicator: Data
<p>All EOEL PreK classrooms include children with disabilities based on individualized education program placement (whose least restrictive environment is general education)</p> <p>EOEL collaborates with the department of education to coordinate services for students with disabilities who are placed in the classroom offered through the program.</p>	<p>EOEL Public PreKindergarten HIDOE Special Education</p>	<p>Number of classrooms Number of children with IDEA Services LRE Data Program Enrollments</p>



Preschool by the Numbers

31,304

Total 3- and 4-year-olds*



19,153

Served by existing Pre-K classrooms



6,261

20% estimated to opt-out of Pre-K



5,890

Unserved keiki

÷ 20 keiki per classroom = **295** classroom goal

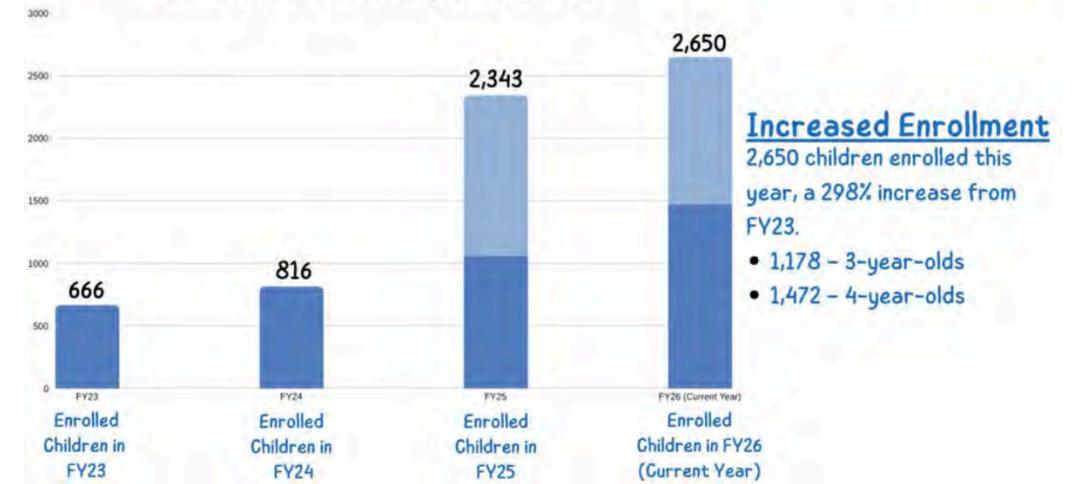
*Total population based on Hawaii DOH birth data



The Promise of
Universal Access
to Preschool

Preschool Open Doors

POD Enrollment Increased by 298% from FY23



Signing Act 203, 2025

Significant changes to preschool subsidies for families, effective January 2026:

New Changes:

- Expands eligibility to include 2-year-olds.
- Gives DHS the option to waive co-payments.
- Eliminates costly, time-consuming accreditation requirements for providers.
- Allows a year-round, first-come, first-served enrollment period.





Workforce & Innovation

Pre-K & Housing

Bezos Academy Maui - Lahaina at Kaiāulu o Kūku'ia

- 200-unit affordable housing development
- Two free, full-day classrooms with free take-home meals.
- Opening in 2026.

UH Mānoa Children's Center

- 130 New Pre-K seats.
- New 316 housing units for Graduate Students.
- SFA assisting with funding.

Kapolei Parkway Village

- State Public Charter Preschool with 4 new classrooms with 20 seats each.
- A new 405-unit affordable housing complex on county land, with full opening in fall 2025.

Workforce Pathways

NEW Bachelor's in Early Child Care and Education Degree

- UH Mānoa launched a new designated child care and pre-K degree for Fall 2025.

EOEL & UH College of Ed. Early Educator Stipend Program

- 269 tuition stipends awarded since August 2023.
- 35 awardees have since completed their programs.
- \$100,000 seed funding from philanthropy.
- \$600,000 annual budget.

Chaminade and Kamehameha Schools Mu'o Scholarship

- 157 full-tuition scholarships over 3 years.
- More than 500 applications since the launch of the scholarship.
- 3 have graduated and have had jobs lined up.

Supporting Mixed Delivery



PUBLIC PATHWAYS

- Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Public Pre-K
- Pre-K Charter Schools



WORKFORCE PATHWAYS

- UH Early Childhood Educator Stipend
- Chaminade & Kamehameha Schools Mu'o Scholarship



PRIVATE PATHWAYS

- Preschool Open Doors Subsidy with Year-Round Enrollment
- Child Care Development Block Grant and TANF



INNOVATIVE PATHWAYS

- Affordable Housing with Pre-K
- Pre-K at Public Libraries
- 'Imiloa Hawaiian Immersion Pathway





Indicator 6: Preschool Environments

Percent of children with IEPs aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program attending a:

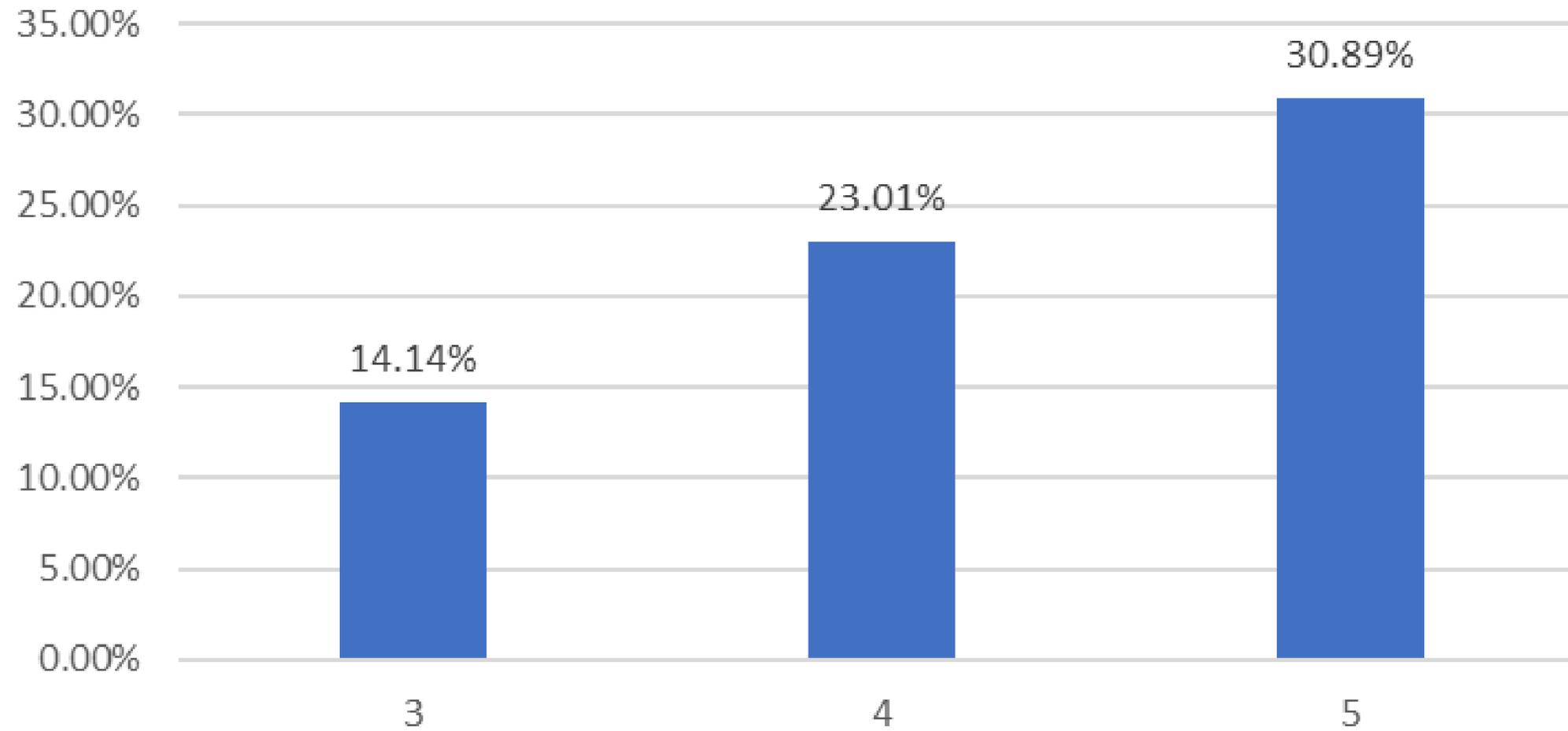
- A.** Regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program; and
- B.** Separate special education class, separate school or residential facility;
- C.** Receiving special education and related services in the home.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A))



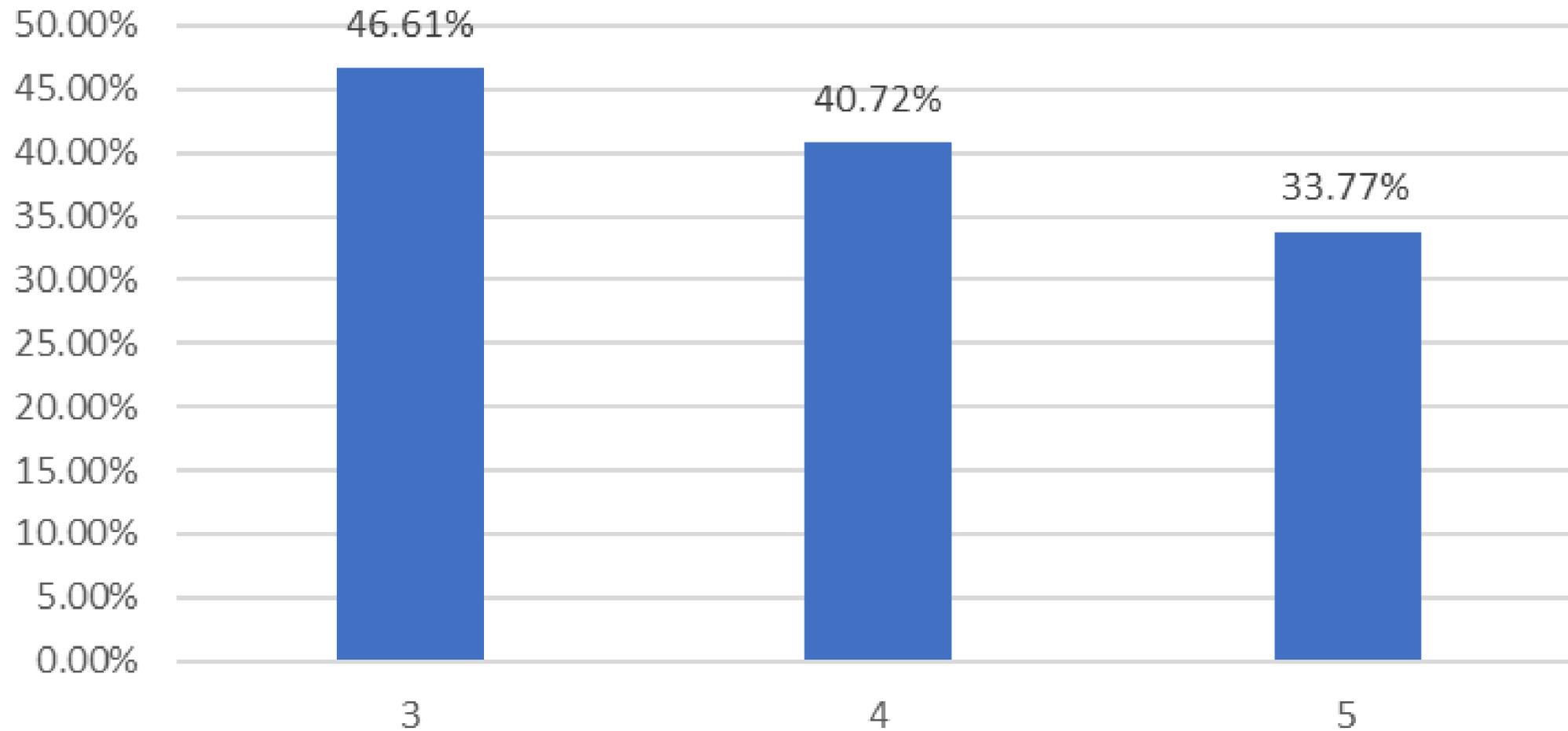


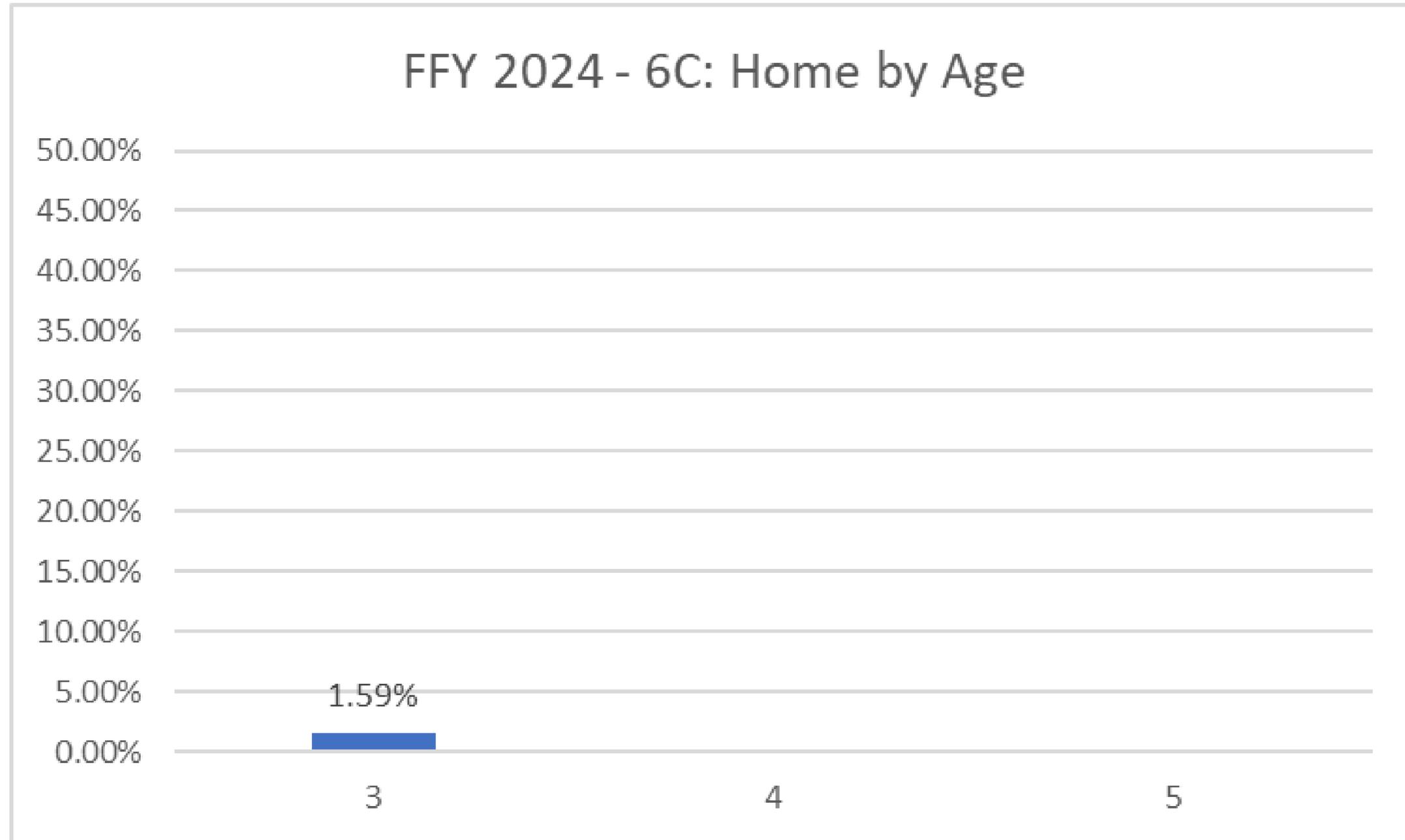
FFY 2024 - 6A: Regular Early Childhood Program by Age





FFY 2024 - 6B: Separate Class, Separate Sch, Residential Facility by Age







Additional Follow Ups

- *Interagency Partnership*
- *Working with Health Clinics / Pediatricians*
- *Waikiki Charter School - Offering After School Care*
- *Transition Summit - December with EI and DOE (strengthen processes to ensure smooth transitions & to inform families of what programs are available)*
- *Meeting with DHS this month about inclusion of our children with special needs birth to 5 in community child care centers and with day care providers*
- *Hawaii Island Community Health Clinics - Coordinated Health Care (school / home) 6 brick & mortar 8 mobile clinics servicing multiple schools*
- *Staff shortages*

Ask

- *Collaboration with SPIN on visuals around preschool options, Child Find for preschool, etc.*





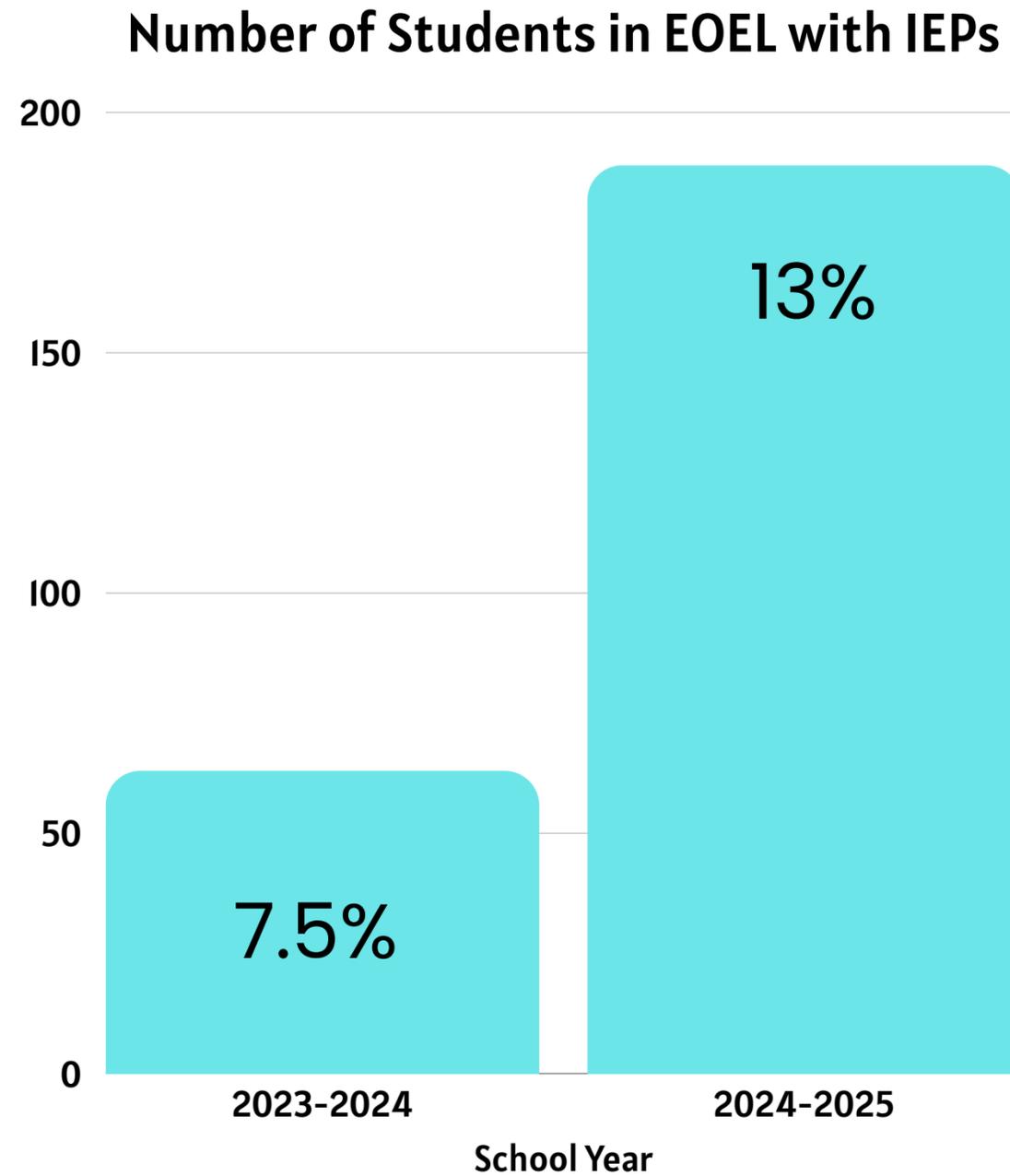
Placement Considerations

Where is the child now

Developmental stage and age

Culture, customs, practices

What is in the community



EOEL Classroom on DOE Campuses

2023-2024 49 classrooms / 45 schools

- 833 students enrolled - 63 with IEPs

2024 -2025 92 classrooms / 74 schools

- 1452 students enrolled - 189 with IEPs



2025-2026 117 classrooms / 89 schools



Head Start Data *2023-2024

HCAP: Total Enrollments 1360

IEPs - 187

PACT: Total Enrollments 448

IEPs - 33

MEO: Total Enrollments 185

IEPS - 17

CFS: Total Enrollments 90

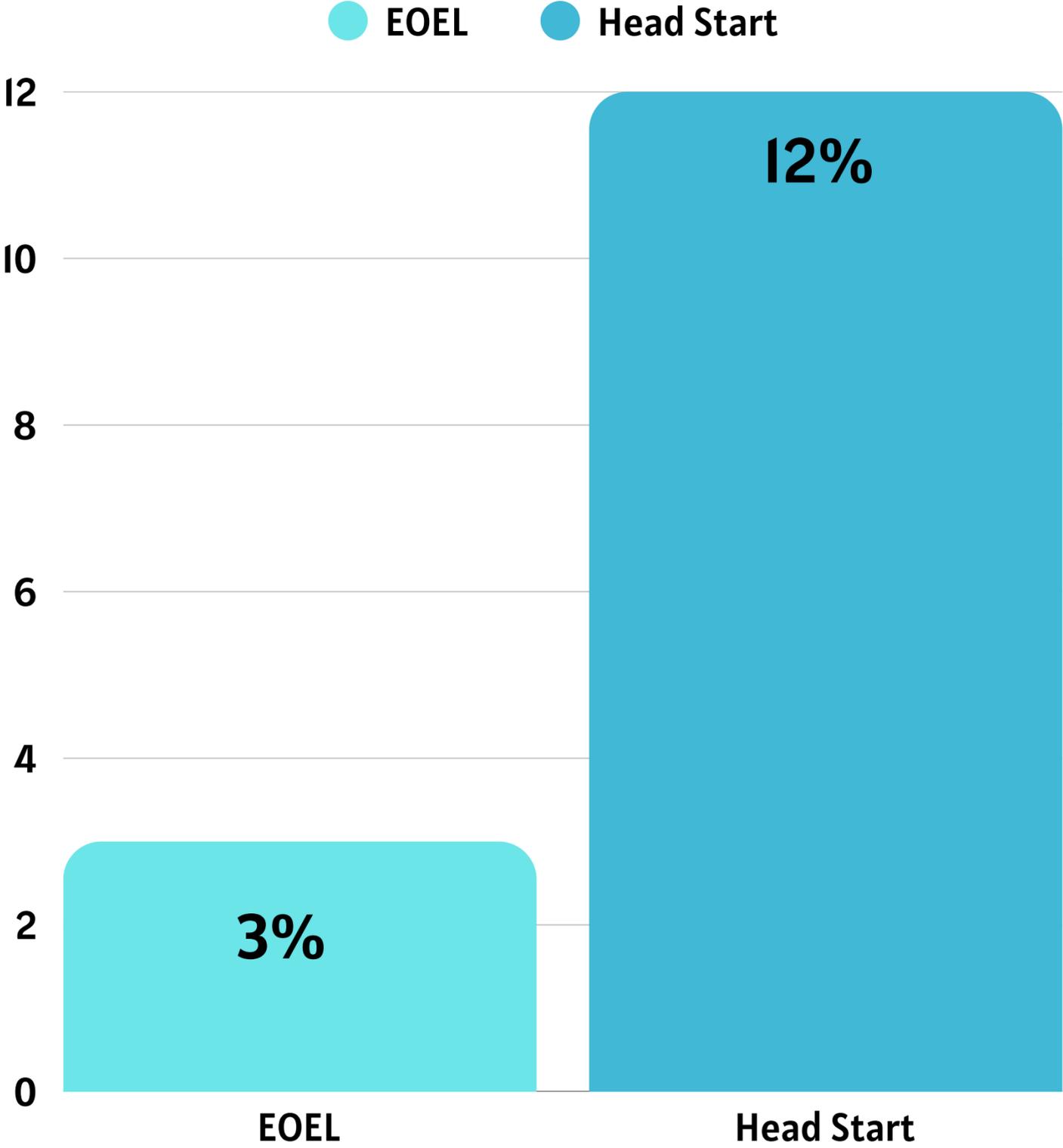
IEPs- 10

12% with IEPs

Statewide Total Enrollments: 2083

Total IEPs: 247

PreK Students with IEP In Programs



2023-2024

Total Enrollment Child Count: 1981 Students

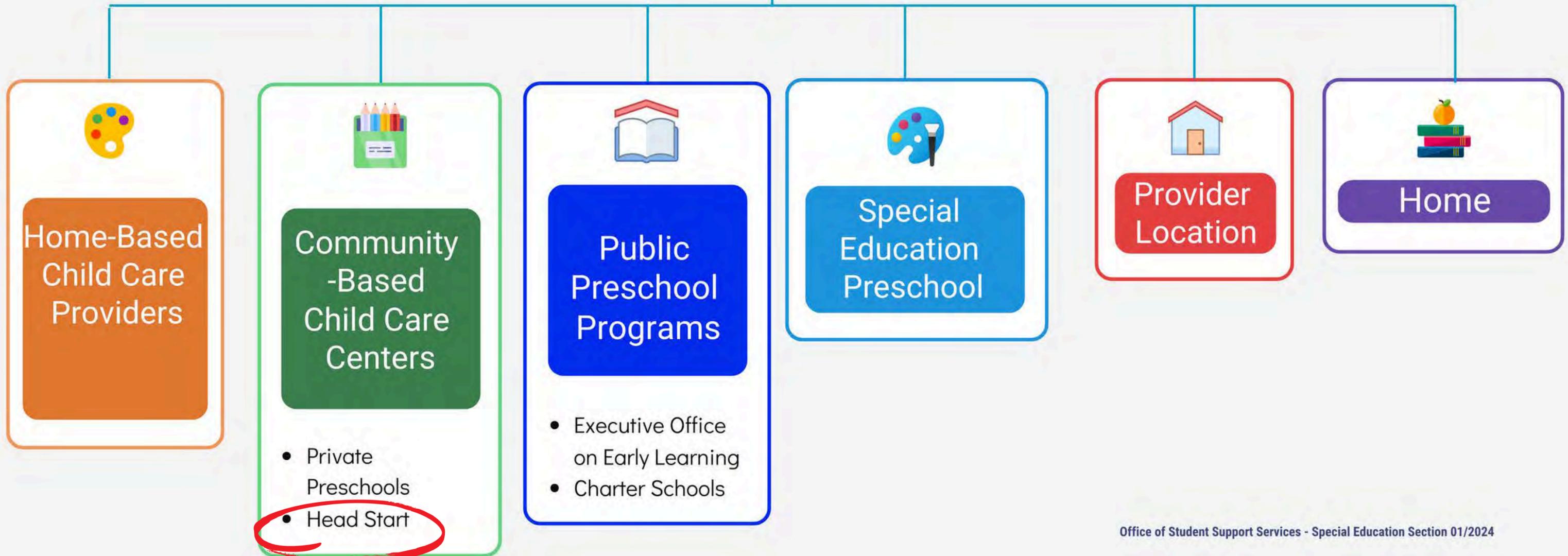
EOEL: 63 Students with IEPs

Head Start: 247 Students with IEPs

Total: 310

91 HS Centers Statewide

Service Delivery Environments



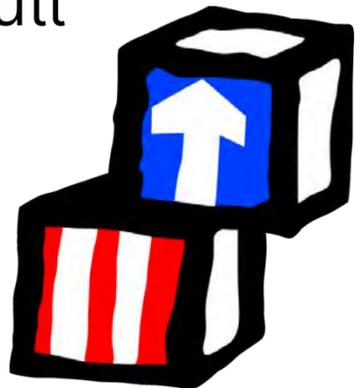


§ 1302.60 — Full participation in program services and activities

- Programs ensure that enrolled children with disabilities (including those eligible under IDEA) and their families receive all applicable program services in the least restrictive possible environment.

§ 1302.61 — Additional services for children

- Programs ensure individualized needs of children with disabilities are met so that they can fully access the full range of Head Start/Early Head Start activities and services.
- Programs provide necessary modifications to the environment, multiple and varied formats for instruction, and individualized accommodations/supports to support full participation.
- Programs protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination and ensure compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

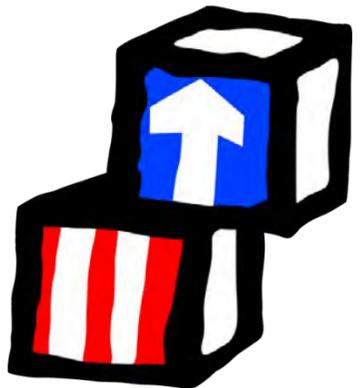




IEP/IFSP Support

Additional services for children with an IFSP or IEP:

- Programs collaborate with the local IDEA agency, the family, and other providers to plan and deliver services consistent with the child's IFSP/IEP.
- If there are elements of the IFSP/IEP that the Head Start program cannot implement, those must be provided by other appropriate IDEA service providers.
- All IFSPs and IEPs are reviewed and revised as required by IDEA.

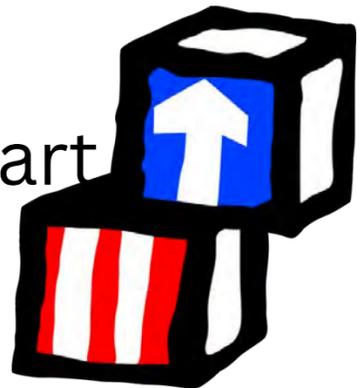




IEP/IFSP Support

Additional services for children with an IFSP or IEP:

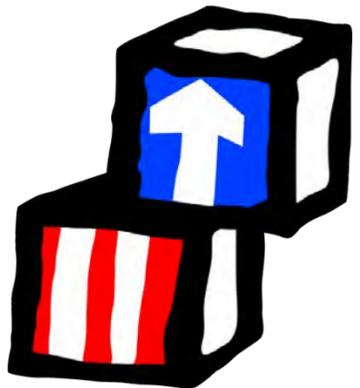
- Services are provided in the child's regular Head Start classroom or family child care setting to the greatest extent possible.
- Head Start programs include transition planning:
 - For children with an IFSP transitioning out of Early Head Start, collaboration takes place with parents and the IDEA agency to determine eligibility under Part B of IDEA.
 - and for children with an IEP transitioning to kindergarten, Head Start collaborates with parents and the IDEA agency to support the transition.





Family Engagement

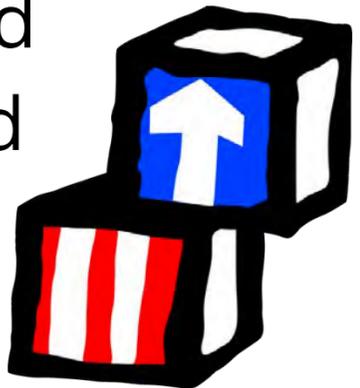
- Programs collaborate with parents of children with disabilities (including IDEA-eligible) to ensure their children's needs are met.
- Provides support to help parents be advocates for their children's services (i.e., help them understand rights, navigate systems).
- Provides parents with information and skills to understand the child's disability and how best to support development.
- Engages parents in decisions and planning related to services and supports for their children.
- Ensures that parents understand and can participate in IFSP/IEP processes and transitions.





IDEA Systems Coordination

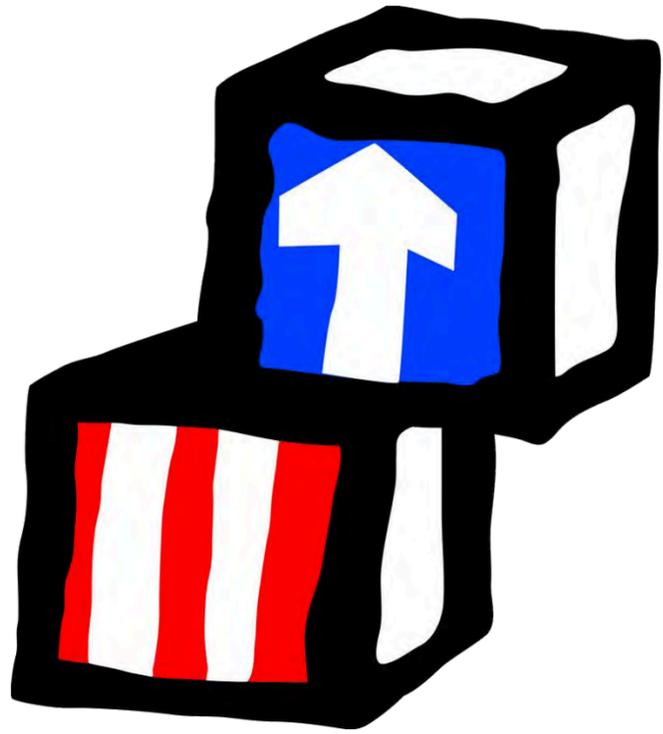
- Head Start programs coordinate and collaborate with the local agency responsible for IDEA to ensure services are delivered and obligations are met.
- The collaboration includes planning service delivery, determining and clarifying roles and responsibilities (e.g., what services the IDEA agency will provide versus what Head Start provides), sharing information, and aligning timelines.
- Head Start programs participate in the child's IFSP/IEP development and review, as appropriate, and support implementation of services outlined in those plans.





Section	Title/Topic	Guidance
§ 1302.14	Selection process	At least 10 % of enrollment must be children eligible for IDEA services (unless waiver). Programs may not deny enrollment based on disability or health condition.
§ 1302.31	Teaching and the Learning Environment	The program must provide materials, space, and accommodations such that the learning environment is accessible to children with disabilities (e.g., necessary accommodations in materials & functional spaces).
§ 1302.33	Child screenings and assessments	Programs must perform developmental screening (with parent consent) and, if screening suggests concerns, refer to the IDEA agency and collaborate in evaluation process.

Section	Title/Topic	Guidance
§ 1302.53	Community Partnerships and Coordination	Programs must partner with agencies that provide services to children with disabilities, collaborate with local education agencies, etc
§ 1302.50	Family Engagement	Programs must implement procedures for staff to share information "as appropriate ... consistent with ... IDEA" to coordinate strategies.
§ 1302.91	Staff Qualifications and Competency Requirements	Staff involved in disability services or oversight must have appropriate qualifications, including oversight of services to children with disabilities.
§ 1302.92	Training and Professional Development	Training must include content on supporting children's social-emotional development, behavior, which is relevant to serving children with disabilities.



Feedback Breakout Session

- Break out into groups of 6+/- individuals to discuss the questions.
- Elect: Facilitator
Note-taker
Spokesperson
- Upon reconvening in the large group, the spokesperson has 2 minutes to share out.



Discuss the following:

Preschool Services Data: How might we strengthen awareness of preschool inclusion options (e.g. family, school) and what supports do you recommend?



**EACH OF US CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE. TOGETHER
WE MAKE CHANGE.”**

-Barbara Mikulski