

# Des Moines Public Schools Early Childhood Programs

Community Legislative Action Team

March 13, 2021



Think. Learn. **Grow.**

[www.dmschools.org](http://www.dmschools.org)

# Program Objectives

1. Why is preschool important?
2. Preschool Funding Overview
3. COVID related funding challenges
4. Building a more equitable system

# I. Why is Preschool Important?

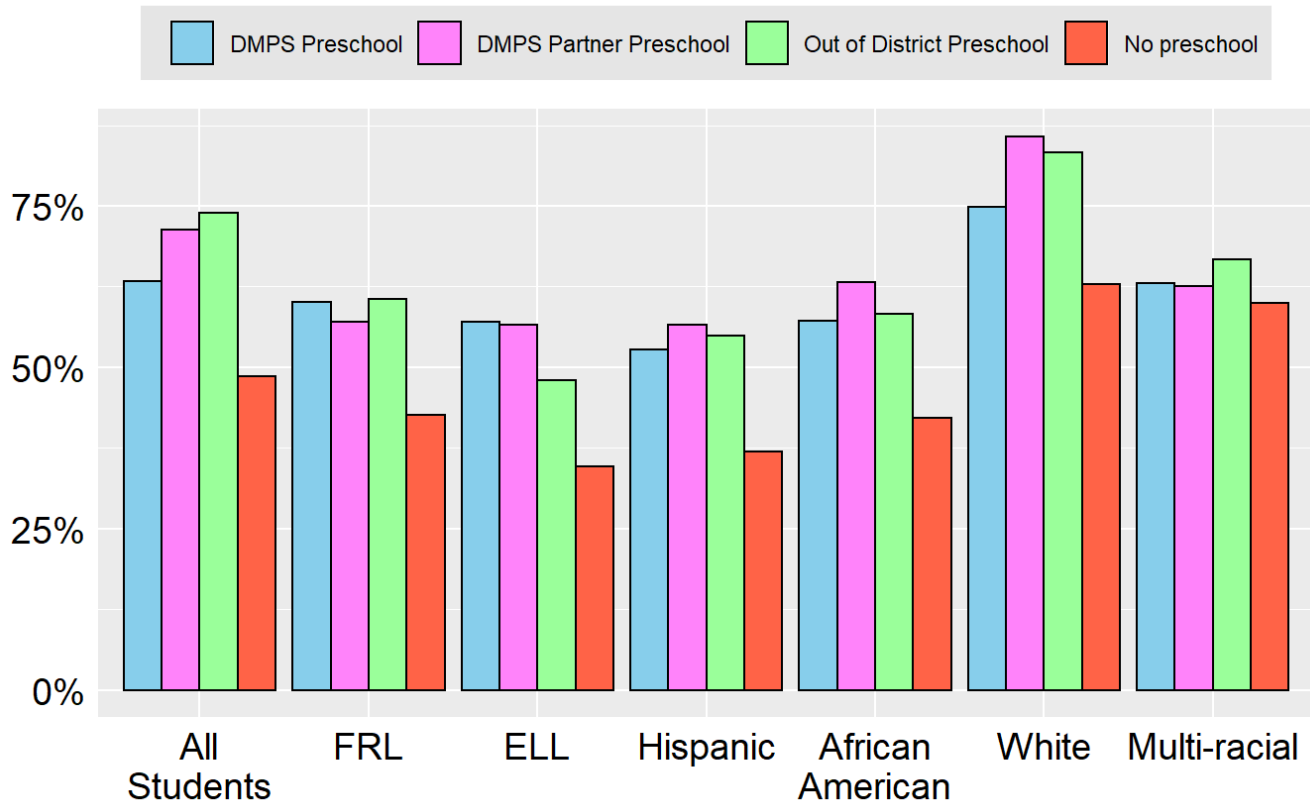
The proof is in the pudding!

- The real worth, success, or effectiveness of something can only be determined by putting it to the test.
- Our data is the proof of PK effectiveness.

# K FAST Math Results, 2020

2019-20 Preschool Attendance Center: Percent Meeting Benchmark

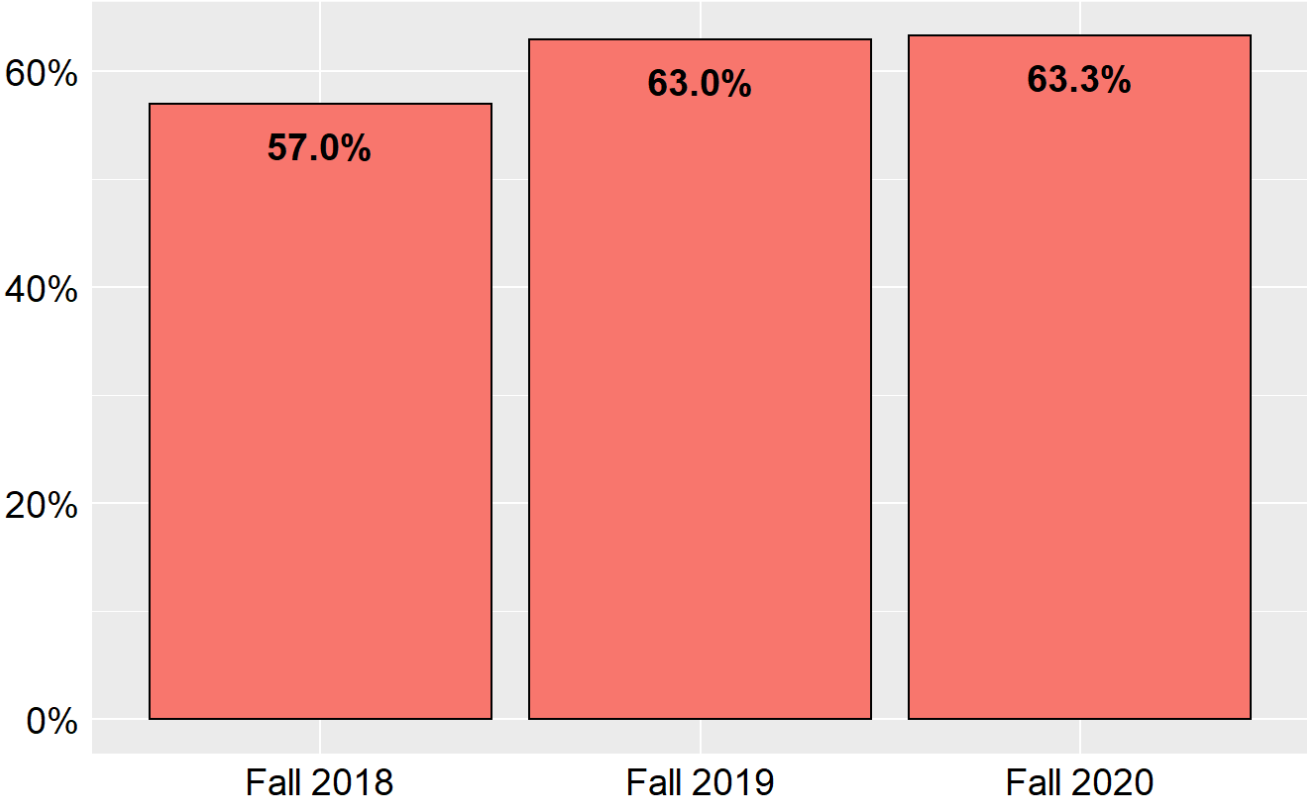
Kindergarten Fall 2020 - Math



# FAST Math Overtime

Percent of Kindergarten Students Who Attended DMPS Preschool

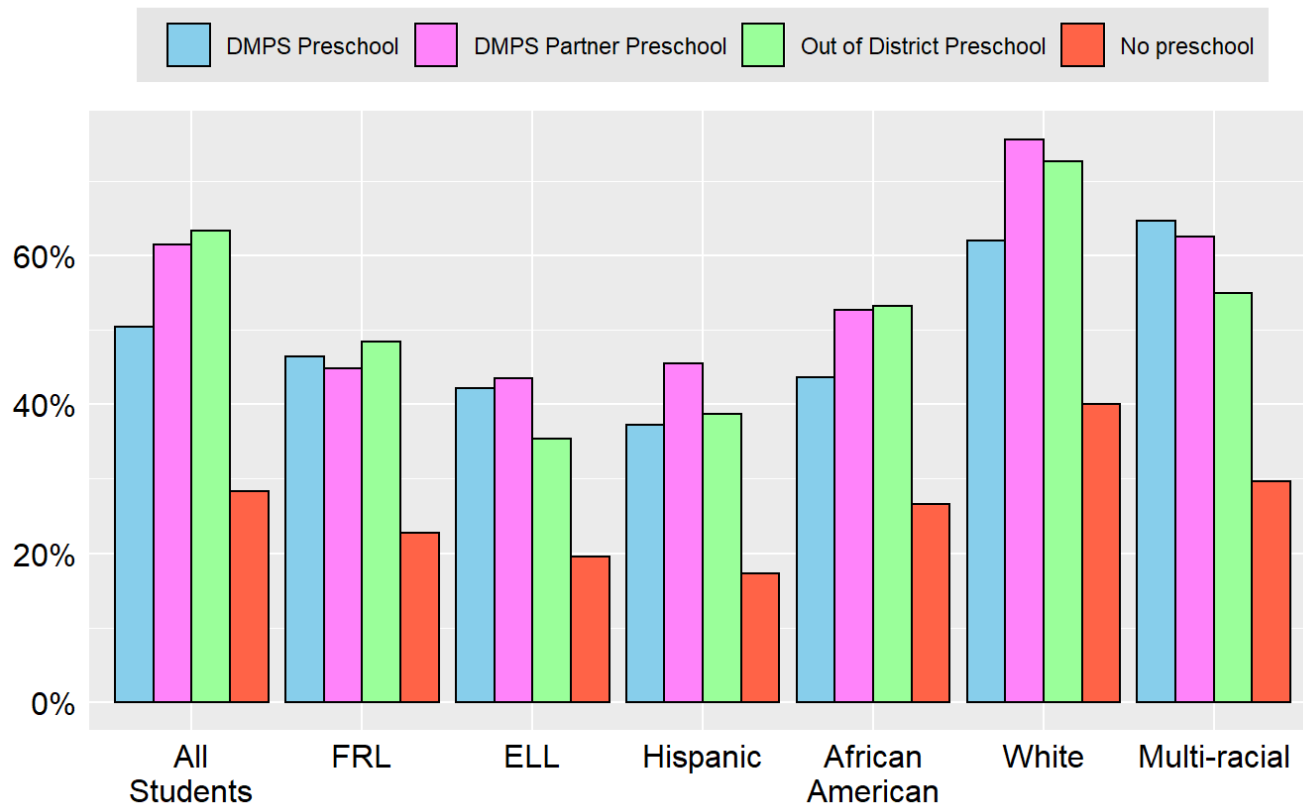
Meeting Benchmark on FAST Math



# K FAST Literacy Results, 2020

2019-20 Preschool Attendance Center: Percent Meeting Benchmark

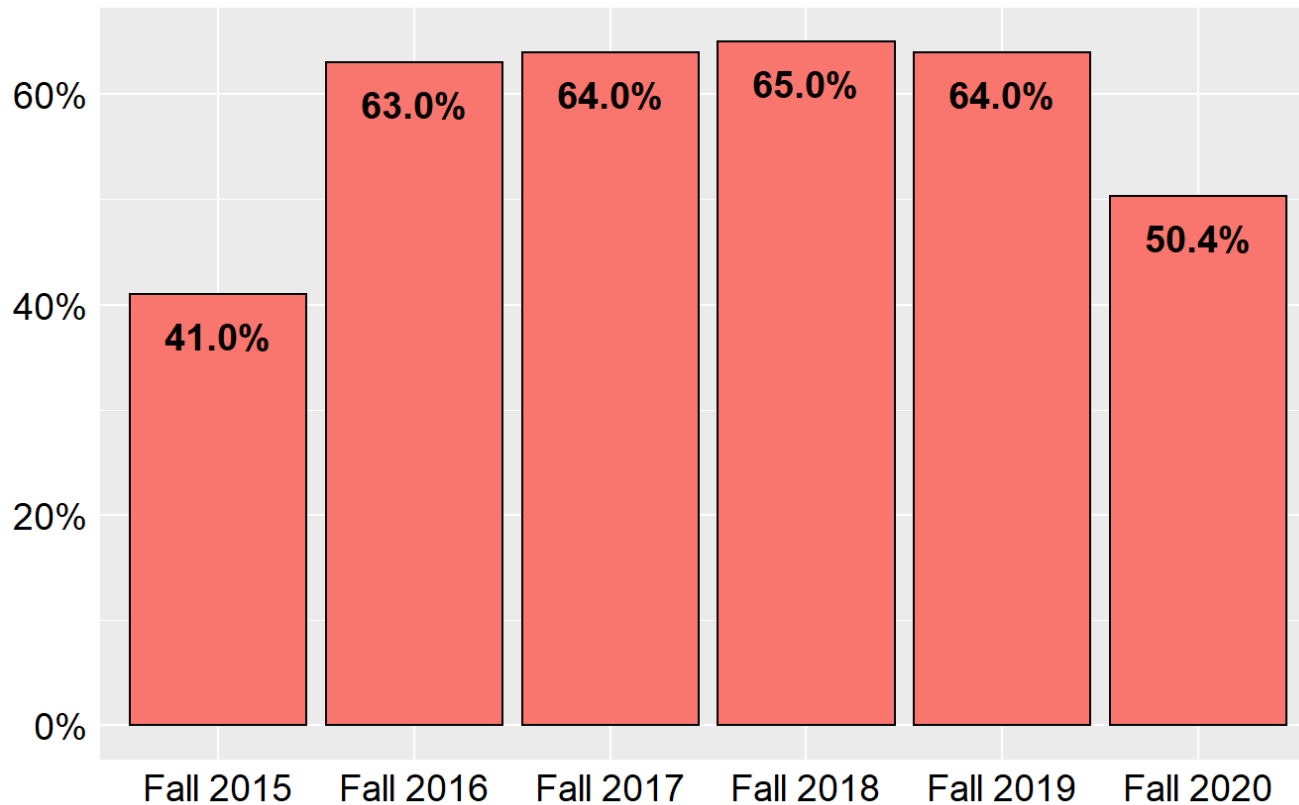
Kindergarten Fall 2020 - Literacy



# FAST Literacy Results Overtime

Percent of Kindergarten Students Who Attended DMPS Preschool

Meeting Benchmark on FAST Literacy

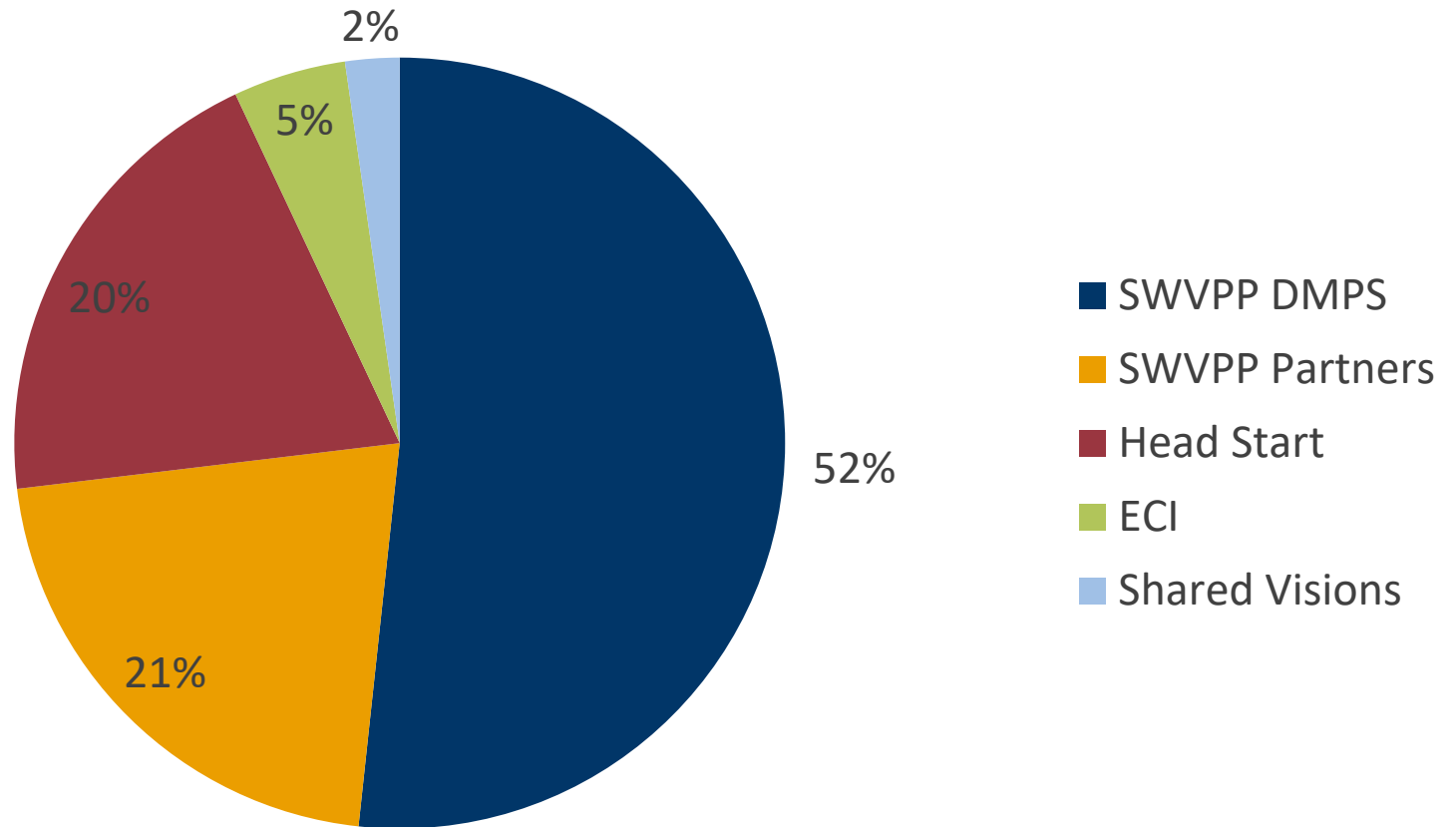


# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade FAST Literacy, Fall 2020

- 48.8% of those who attended preschool met benchmark
- 38.2% of those who did not attend preschool met benchmark



# 2. Preschool Funding



# Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program

- State Funding based on enrollment for 4-year-old children
- Largest funding source serving the greatest number of students
- No income guidelines – universal access
- .5 funding/student based on SSA
- 10 hours per week

# Head Start

- Federal Funding
- Drake University is the grantee and DMPS is the delegate program
- Capacity to serve 420 students, 3 & 4-year old children
- Income eligibility = 100% of poverty
- \$26,200 for a family of 4
- Both full and half day programming

# Early Childhood Iowa (ECI)

- State funding through the appropriations bill
- Provides scholarships for full day programming for 4-year-old children
- Income eligibility = 200% of poverty
- \$52,400 for a family of 4

# Shared Visions

- State funding through the appropriations bill
- Programming provided for specific attendance areas
- Full day programming for 3 & 4-year old children
- Income eligibility = 130% of poverty
- \$34,846 for a family of 4

# Reduction in Funds Overtime

- Early Childhood Iowa, -\$6300 since 15-16 school year
- Shared Visions, -\$41,408 since 15-16 school year
- Statewide Voluntary Preschool – reduction in funding from .6 to .5 in 2010-2011

# 3. COVID-19 Impact

- Decreased enrollment in Universal PK, -24%
- DMPS 19-20 count = 1110
- DMPS 20-21 count = 818
- Decrease of 292 students
- Funding loss of approximately \$963,000 for the 21-22 school year

# 4. Equitable Funding

- 1 in 6 Iowa children live in poverty
- DMPS – 76% qualify for free or reduced (FRL)
- Both parents working – 75%
- Over 100 languages are spoken in DMPS
- Only 50% of Kindergarten students attend a DMPS or partner preschool program



# Challenges

- Transportation
- Hours of programming
- Geographical areas of need with limited preschool options
- Restricted Funding
- Language Interpretation and Translation

# Legislative Ask

Increase weighted funding for children living at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level

- A funding increase would expand our ability to serve children for the full school day for income eligible students
- Currently 51% of slots are for income eligible students

# Thank you!



Preschool continues to be a legislative priority of the Des Moines Public School Board.

Thank you CLAT, for your continued support!