

# Prekindergarten in Texas

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIVISION

JACQUIE PORTER, STATEWIDE DIRECTOR



# Eligibility Criteria

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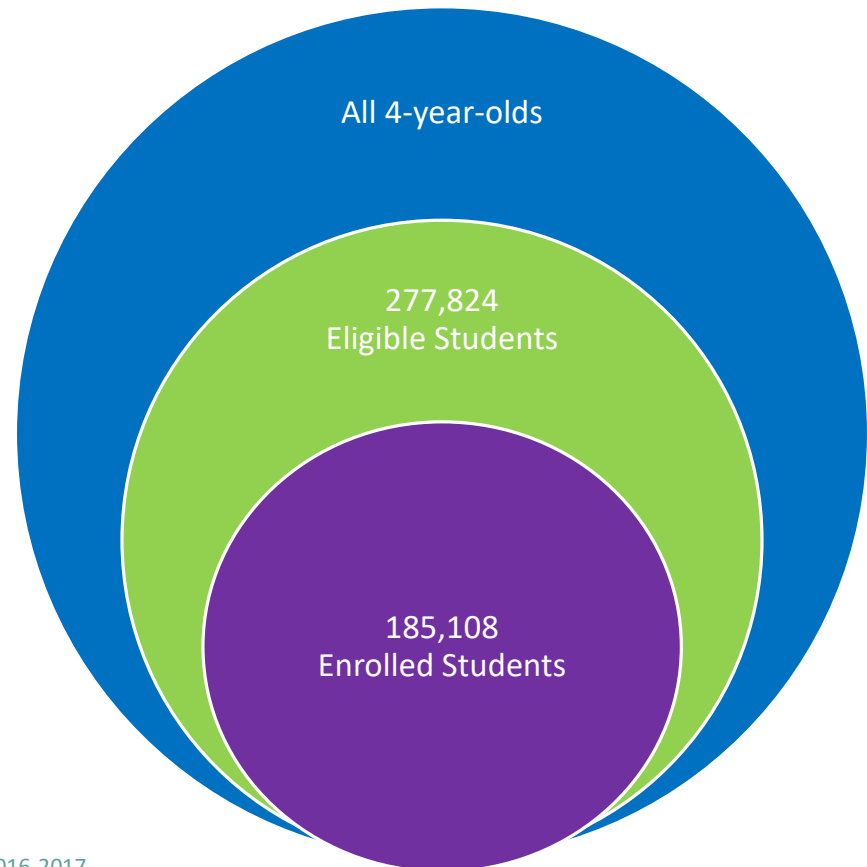
- Be unable to speak and comprehend the English language
- Be educationally disadvantaged, which means a student eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program
- Be homeless, as defined by 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 1143a, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child
- Be the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority;
- Be the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty;
- Be in, or have been in, the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) following an adversary hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code;
- Be the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award as a peace officer (3106.002), firefighter (3106.003), or emergency medical first responder (3106.004).

# 4-Year-Old Enrollment

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**67%**

of eligible 4-year-olds  
are enrolled

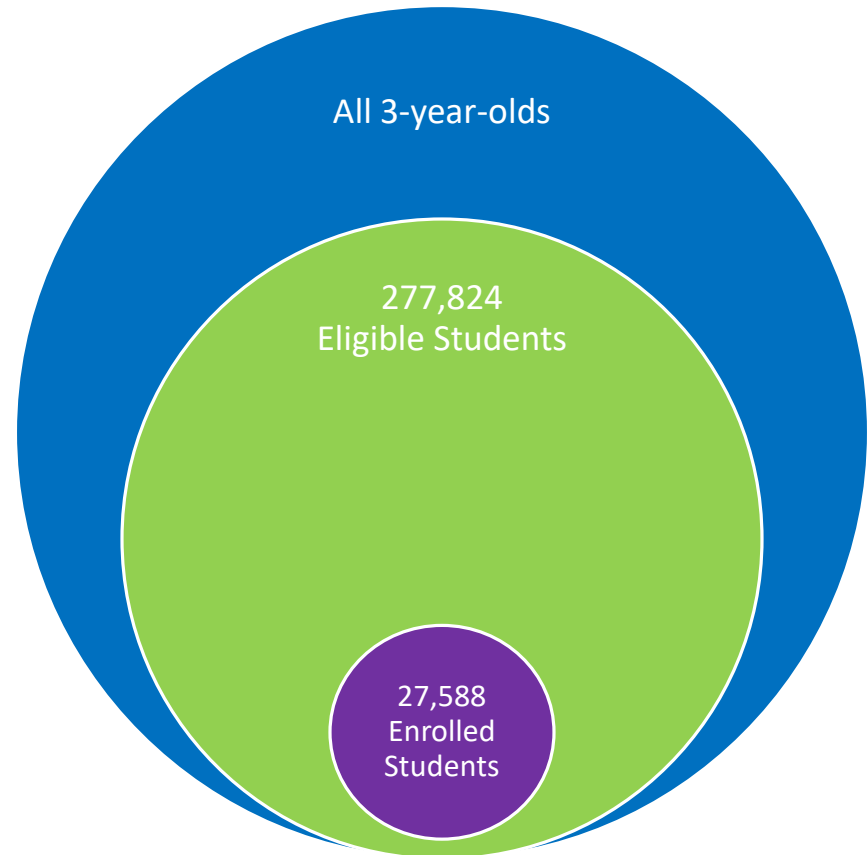


# 3-Year-Old Enrollment

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**10%**

of eligible 3-year-olds  
are enrolled



# Prekindergarten in Texas

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The Foundation School Program currently pays for ½ day prekindergarten. Full day prekindergarten programs are funded locally through other sources of revenue.

# Availability of Half-Day vs. Full-Day

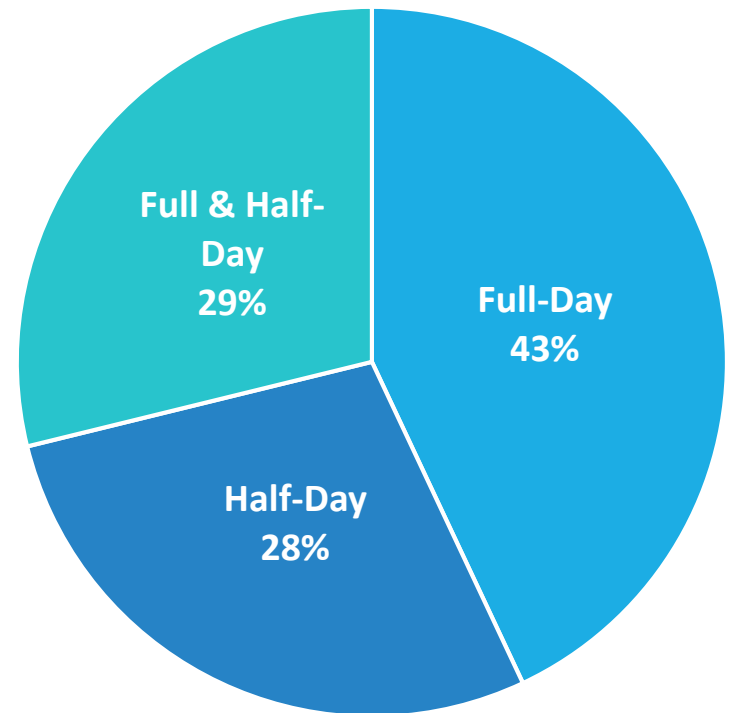
## 2016-2017 School Year

Student Instruction Type	Districts Providing Pre-k	Schools Providing Pre-k
Full Day Only	452	1,464
Half Day Only	296	1,369
Full & Half Day	303	519
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>3,352</b>

### TEA Public-Private Partnership Grant

Districts and Charters	16
Schools	25
Students Enrolled	594

Districts Providing Pre-k



Data from Texas Public Education Information Resource (TPEIR)

# Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines

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- I. Health and Wellness
- II. Language and Communication
- III. Emergent Literacy Reading
- IV. Emergent Literacy Writing
- V. Mathematics
- VI. Science
- VII. Social Studies
- VIII. Fine Arts
- IX. Physical Development
- X. Technology

# The Foundational Years

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By the age of 5,

**90%**

**of a child's brain is developed**



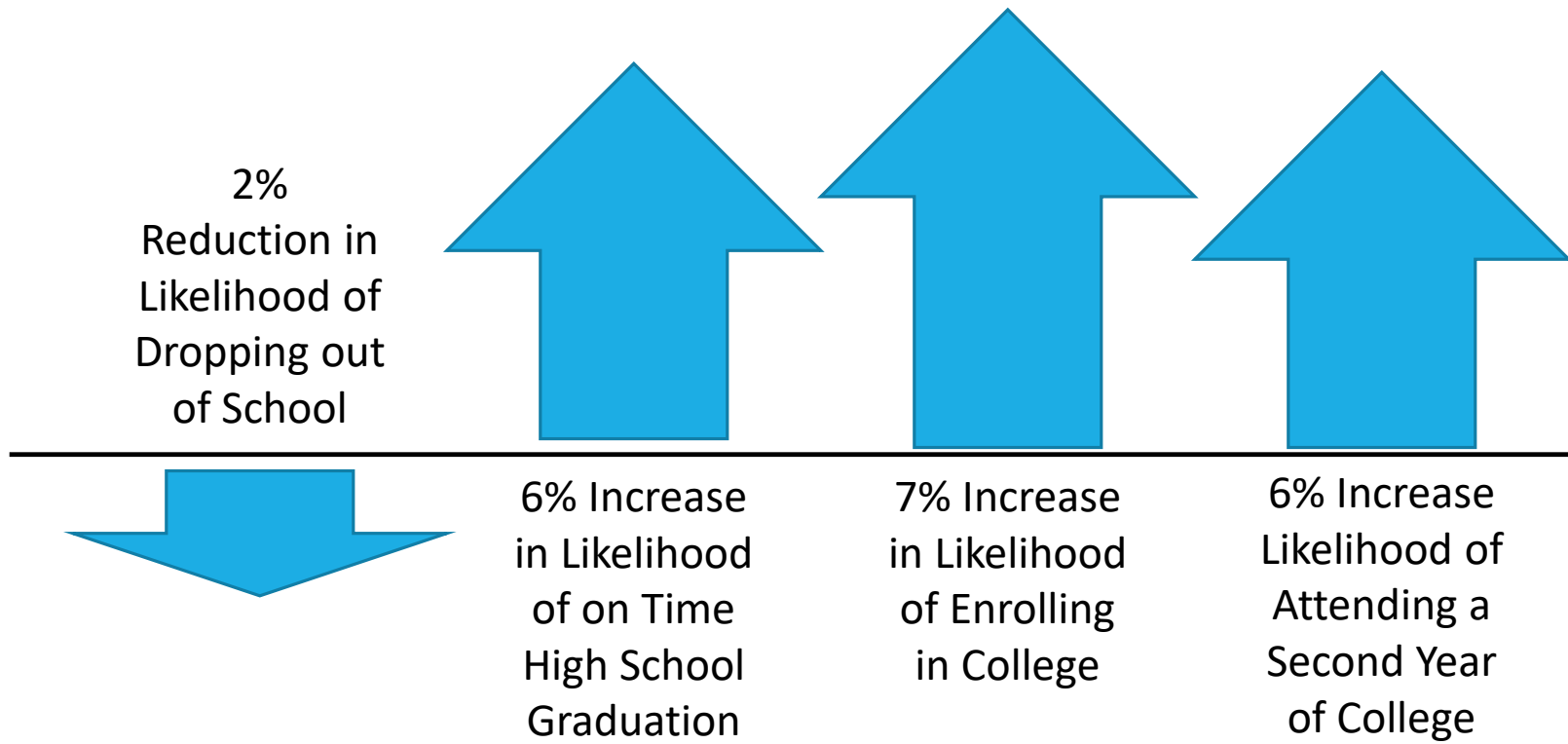
# The Foundational Years

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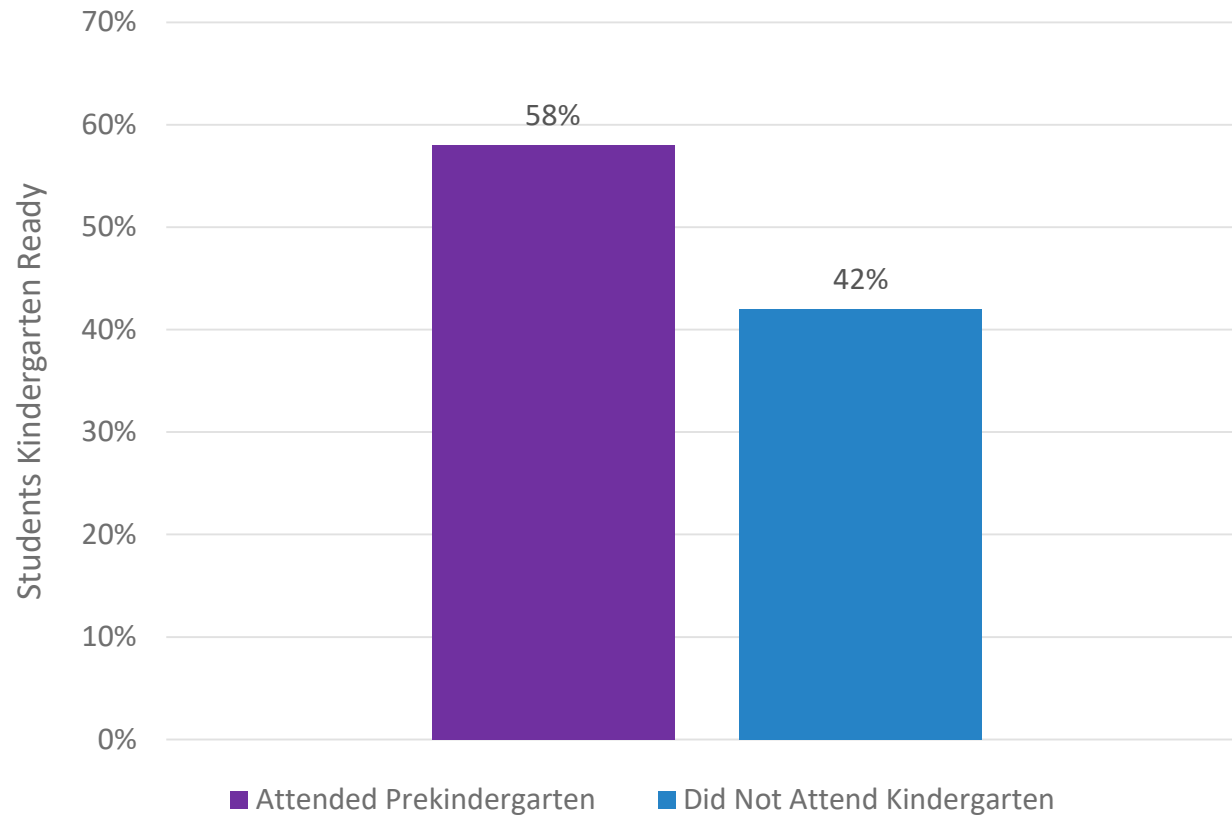
Children from low income homes, in particular, benefit from preschool education in comparison with their peers from high income homes.

# Prekindergarten Attendance Leads to Long-Term Outcomes

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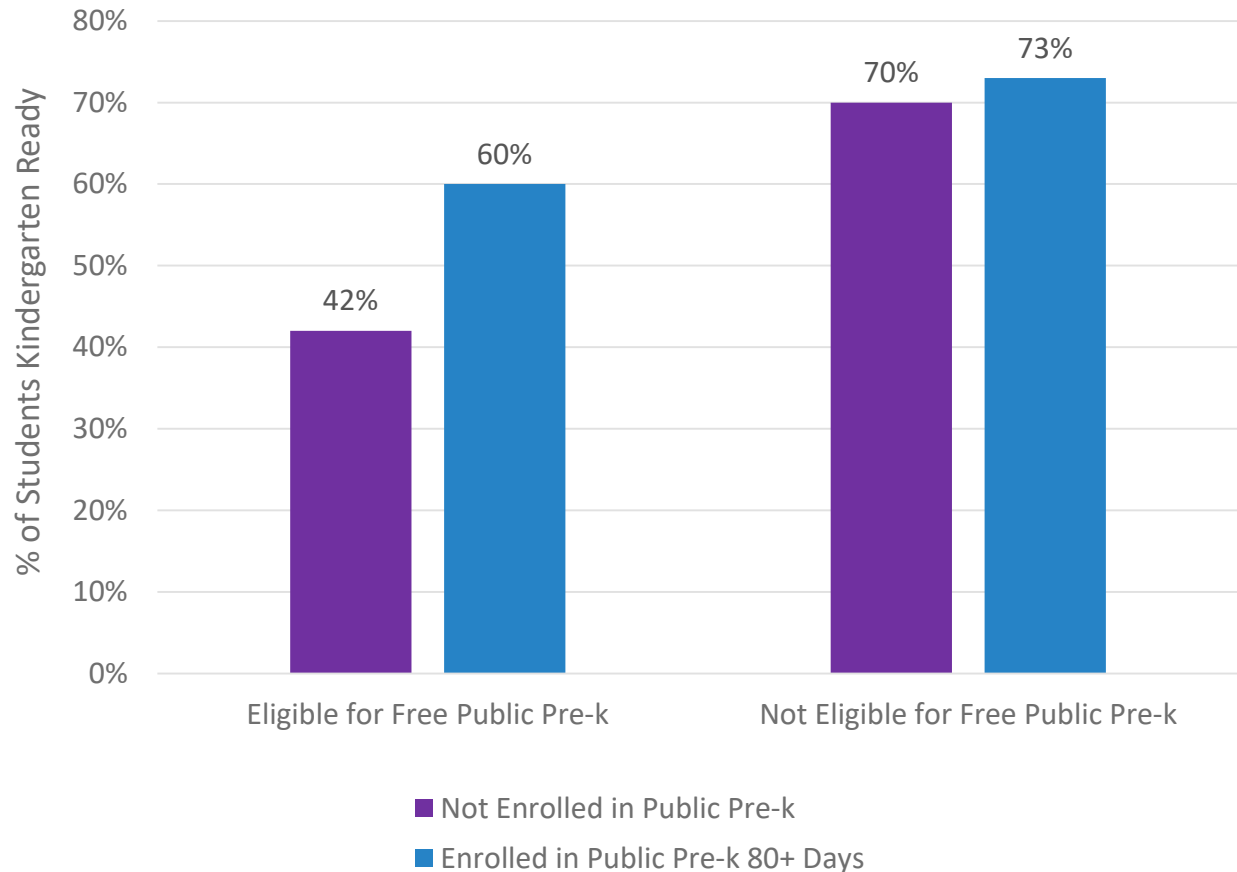


# Prekindergarten **Increases** Kindergarten Readiness

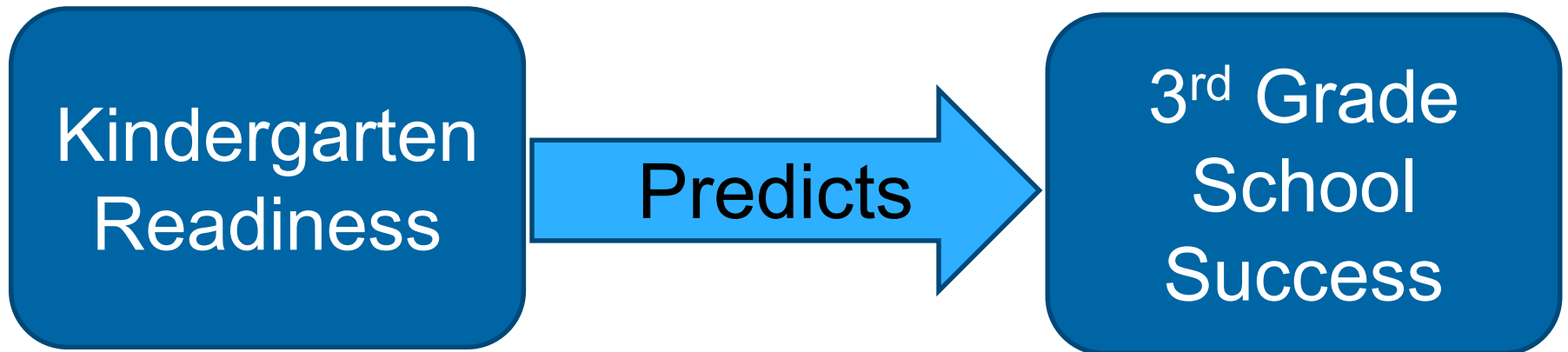


# Prekindergarten Enrollment and Kindergarten Readiness

*\*Prekindergarten has a greater impact on eligible students*

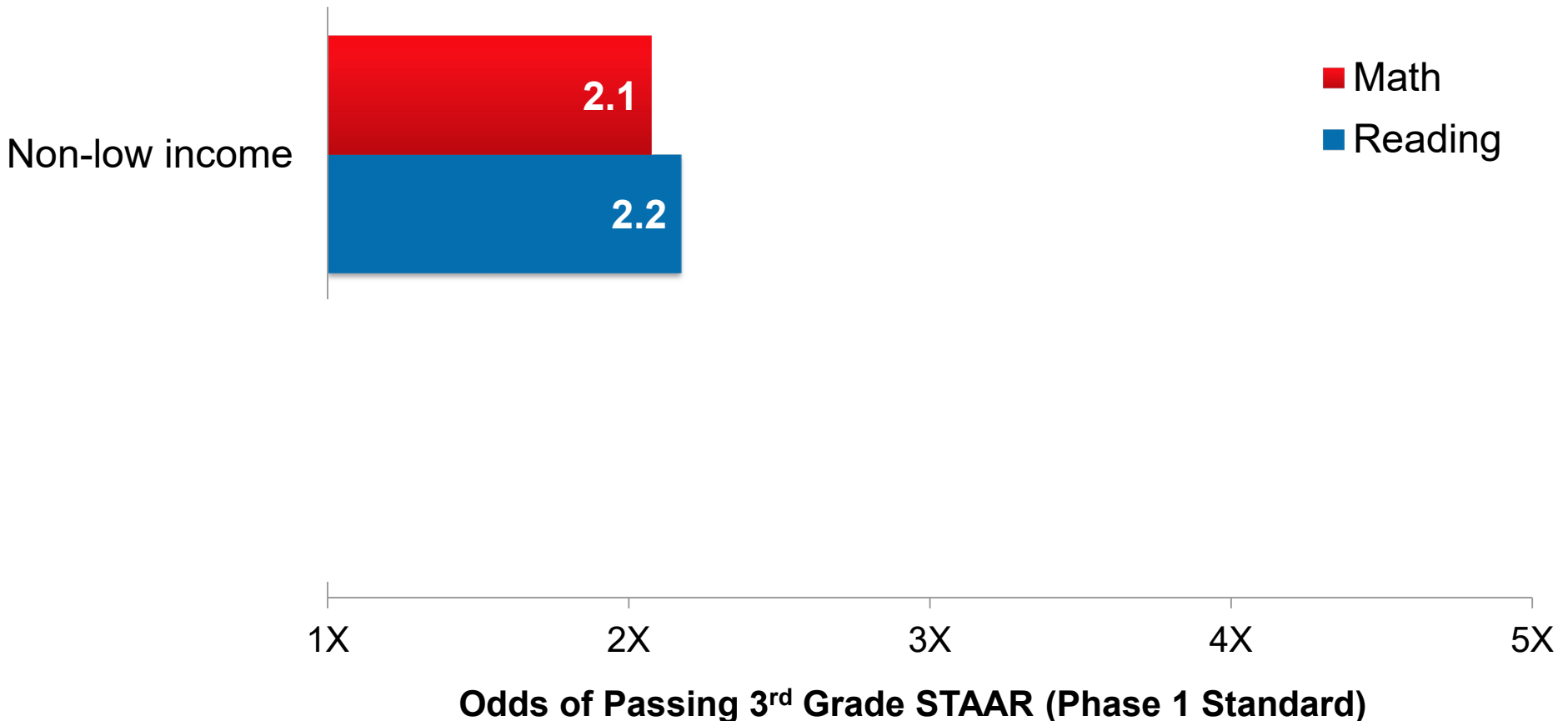


# Why Is Kindergarten Readiness Important?



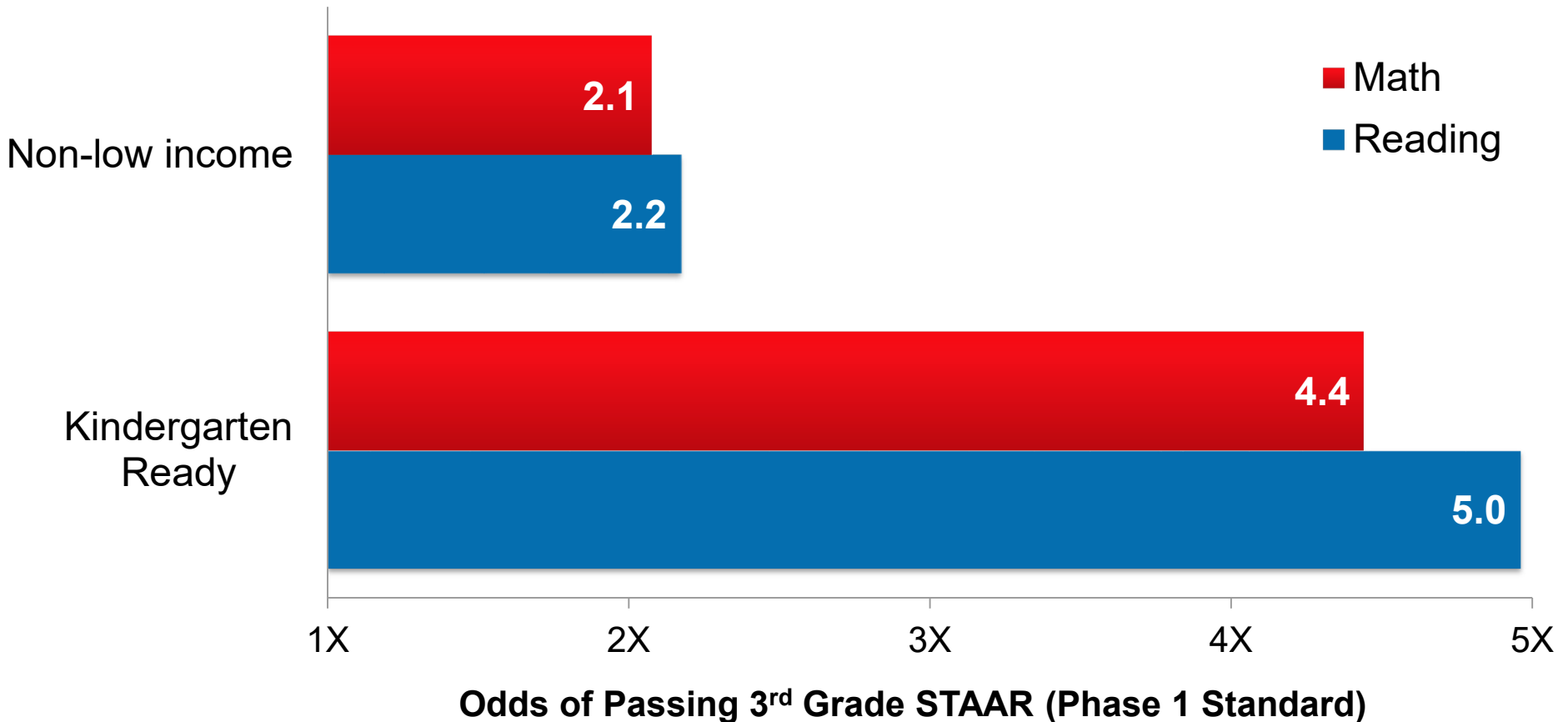
# Kindergarten Readiness Status Strongest Predictor

Odds Ratios for Factors in Kindergarten that Predict Passing STAAR in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Central Texas



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Odds Ratios for Factors in Kindergarten that Predict Passing STAAR in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Central Texas



# Quality Matters

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The magnitude of the benefits depends on the quality of the program: On average, due to the prevalence of low-quality preschool programs, preschool in the U.S. narrows the achievement gap by perhaps only **5%** rather than the **30% to 50%** that research suggests might be possible on a large scale **if all preschool programs were of higher quality.**



# National Institute of Early Education Research and Texas Prekindergarten (HB4)

NIEER Benchmarks	Included in HB4
Comprehensive early learning & development standards	Yes
Curriculum supports	
Teacher degree	Yes
Teacher specialized training	Yes
Assistant teacher degree	
Staff professional development for teachers & assistants (at least 15hr/yr)	Teachers only
Maximum class size (20 or lower)	
Staff-child ratio (1:10)	Suggested 1:11
Vision, hearing, & health screenings; & referral	Yes
Meals (at least one meal/day)	Yes
Monitoring/Continuous quality improvement system	

# The Foundational Years

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**HB 2039**  
**EC – 3 Certification**

# Austin ISD

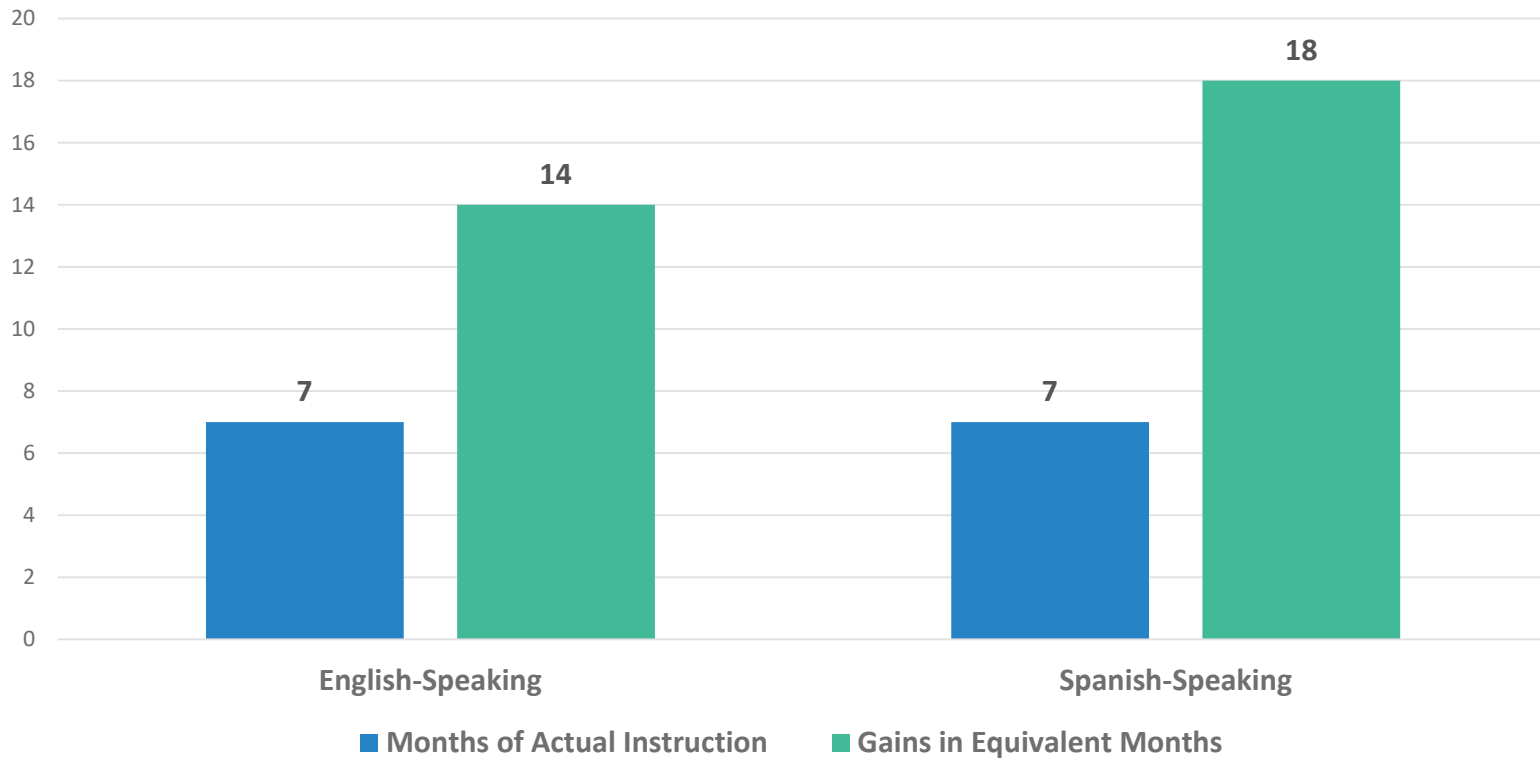
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2008-2017



# Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test Gains

Equivalent Growth in a 7-Month Period



## Austin ISD 3 PK

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- Two campuses
- Funded within ½ day formula funding
- Low teacher-student ratio
- High-quality prekindergarten

# Austin Prekindergarten Partnerships

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- Nationally accredited child care centers
- High-quality components
- Professional development
- 80% of funding is passed through to centers
- Students are enrolled in both programs

# Benefits of Prekindergarten Partnerships

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- New facilities do not have to be built
- Reduces bond pressure
- Only pay for a few children, but all get benefits
- Wrap around services
- Families have increased access to programs that meet their needs
- Child care providers have access to a sustainable funding source to increase quality
- Increases collaboration within the early childhood education community
- Easier transition to kindergarten for children due to increased alignment between childcare and public schools

# In Conclusion

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1. Getting things right the first time is easier and more effective than trying to fix them later.
2. Early childhood matters because experiences early in life can have a lasting impact on later learning, behavior, and health.
3. All of society benefits from investments in early childhood programs.