



Educational FIRST STEPS

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Governor's Taskforce on Early Childhood Education and Care

*How Centering Adult-Child Interactions
benefits both students and educators*

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Mission

Educational First Steps:

Educational First Steps (EFS) creates and supports high-quality early learning environments that ignite the minds of children from birth to age five.



EFS Strategic Approach to School Readiness™

CENTER QUALITY

National Accreditation
Business Consultation
Leadership Development

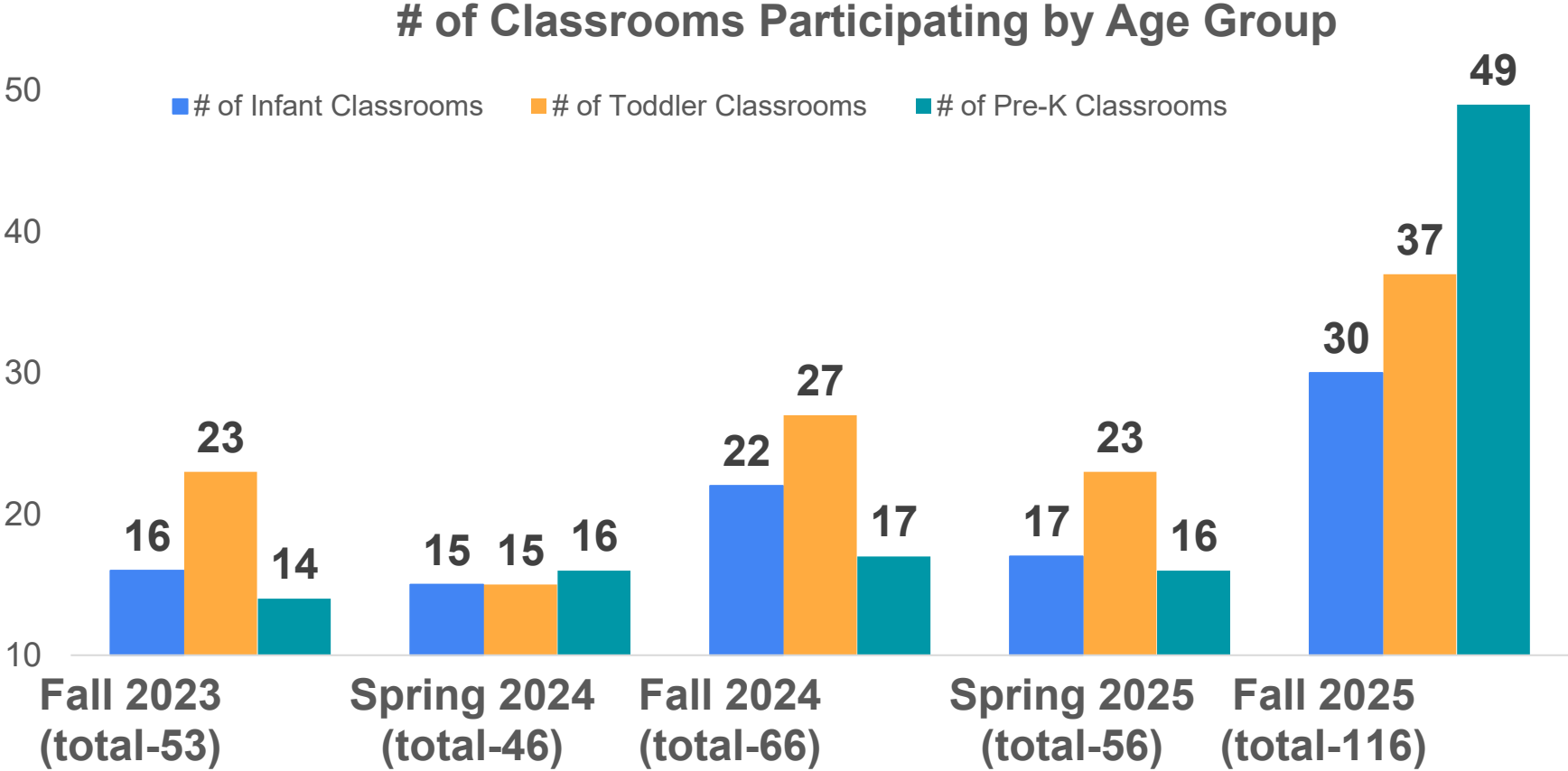
EDUCATOR QUALITY

Teacher Academy
CLASS®-Based Coaching
CDA Credentialing

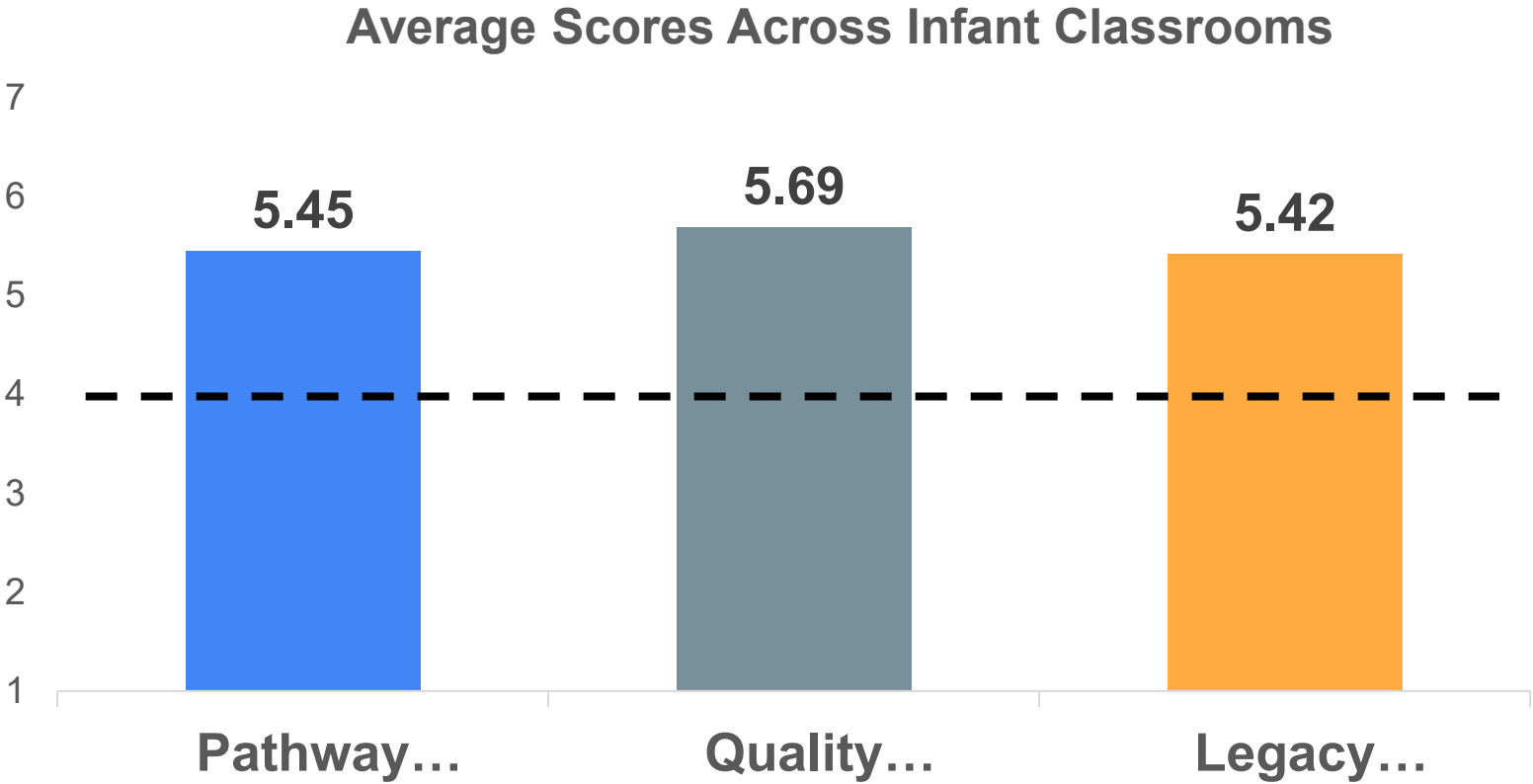
SCHOOL READINESS

Developmental Screenings
Early Literacy Tools
Curriculum
Implementation
Parent Engagement

Longitudinal Growth in the Number of Classrooms by Age Group Participating in the EFS Pilot

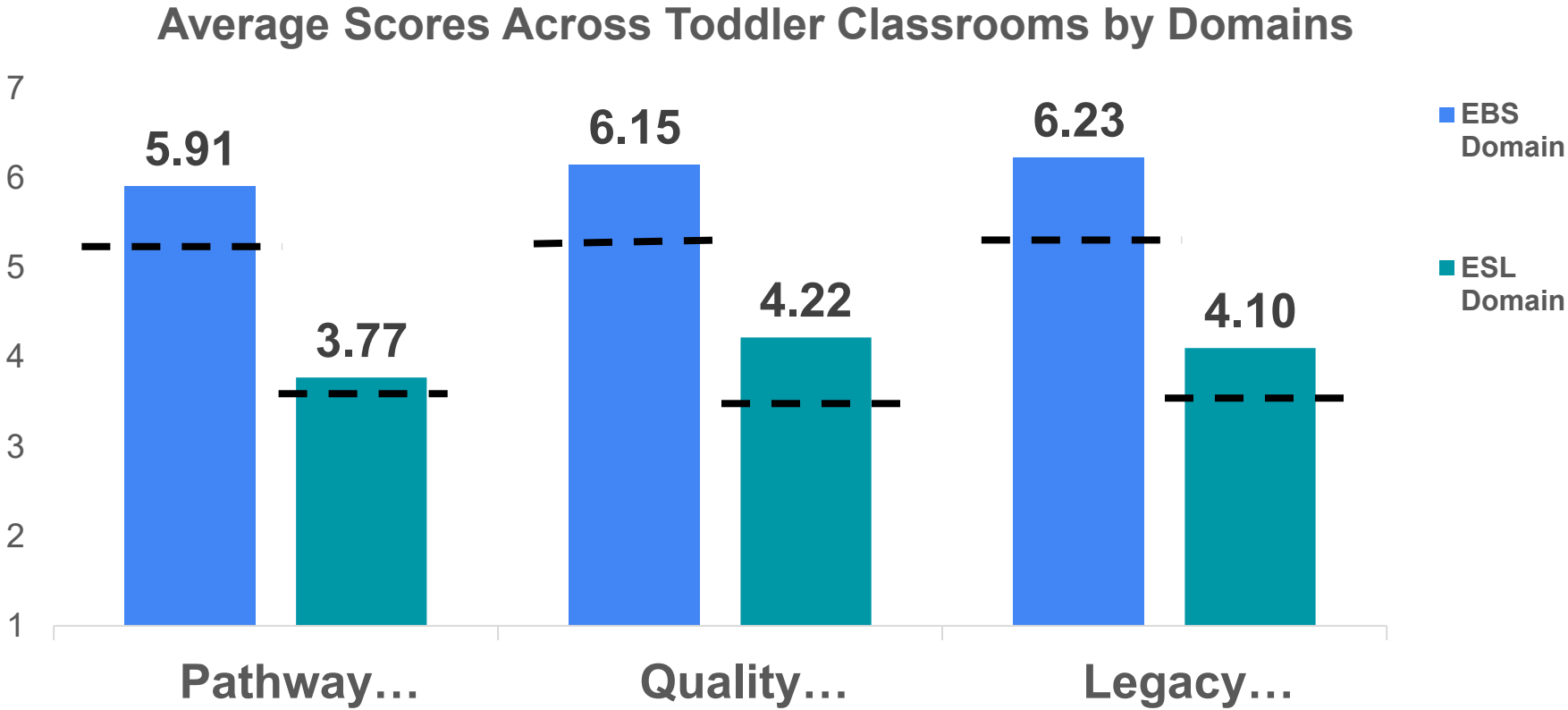


In Fall 2025, 100% infant classrooms met or exceeded the national average in the Responsive Caregiving Domain.



Note: National research shows that 4 is the average score for infant classrooms for the Responsive Caregiving domain.

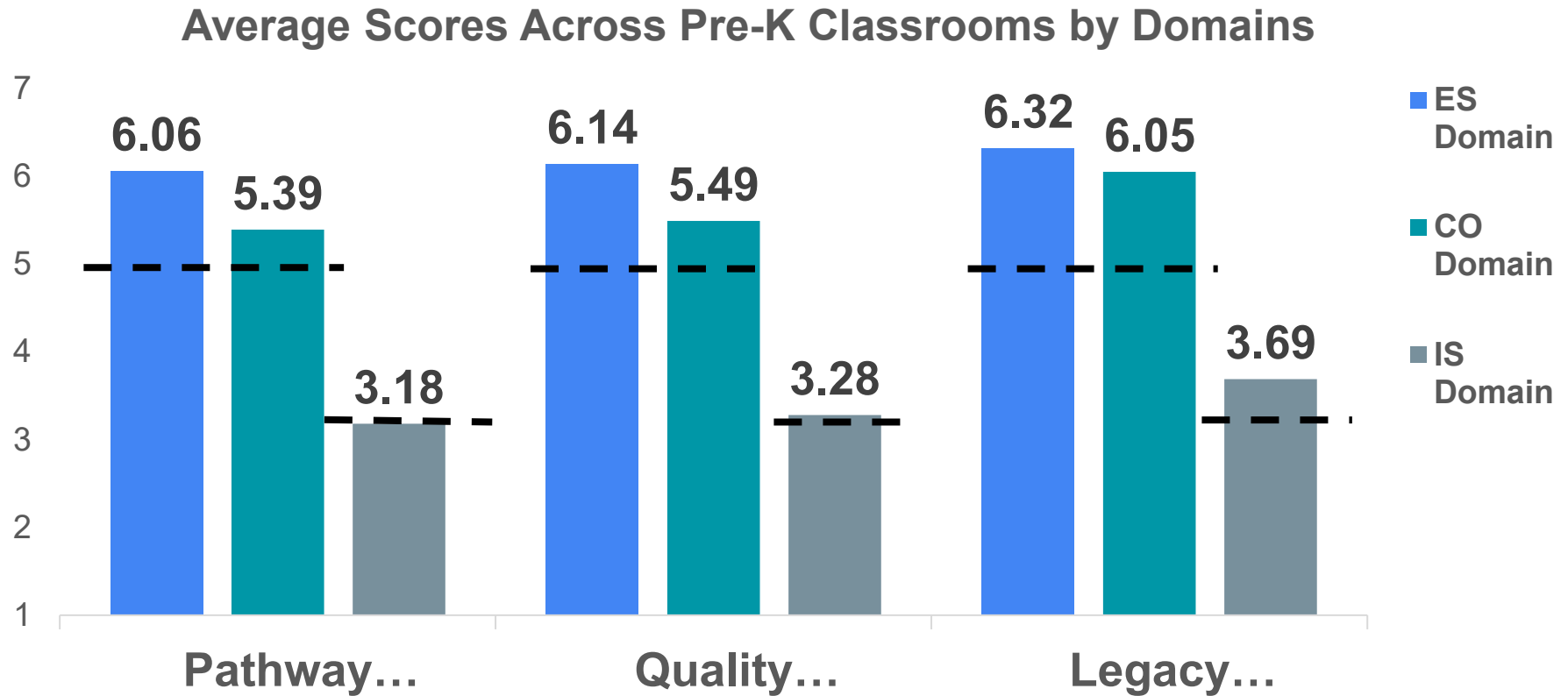
In Fall 2025, 49% of Toddler Classrooms met or exceeded the national average in BOTH Domains (Emotional Behavioral Support and Engaged Supports for Learning).



Note: National Averages for Toddler Classrooms is 5.3 for Emotional and Behavioral Support and 3.7 for Engaged Support for Learning

EFS Centers by Category

Average Scores Across Pre-K Classrooms



Note: The Quality Threshold for Emotional and Organizational Support is a score of 5 for Pre-K Classrooms. The Quality Threshold for Instructional Support is a bit lower, at 3.25.

Early Educator Retention for an Annual Observation Cycle is over 80%, which is Far Above the Industry Standard

- Fall 2023-Spring 2024
 - Infant=15/16=94%
 - Toddler=12/15=80%
 - Pre-K=11/16=69%
 - Overall=**81% retention for entire year**
- Fall 2024- Spring 2025
 - Infant=17/18=94%
 - Toddler=9/12=75%
 - Pre-K=13/17=76%
 - Overall=**83% retention for entire year**



EFS Spotlight- Data Informed Decisions by Willis Childcare Center



Director, Cassie Willis, pictured with her teachers and EFS Specialist at the 2025 EFS Educators' Conference

- Willis Childcare Center was recognized at the 2025 EFS Educators' Conference for having the **highest scores across all age groups**.
- Strong and consistent data supports the implementation of a mentorship model where the **strongest teachers** work alongside novice teachers to help them **improve their interactions with children** and to grow in the profession.



**Thank
You.**