



# INVESTING IN PRESCHOOL

**TESTIMONY GIVEN BEFORE THE STATE SENATE**

**K-12 APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 15, 2017**

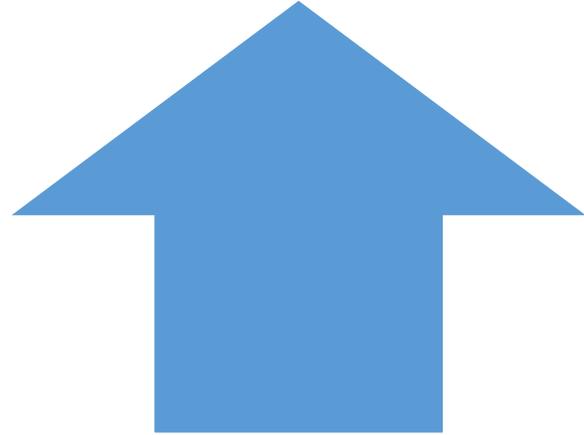
**DR. NKECHY EKERE EZEH, FOUNDER & CEO**

- Good Morning
- I am here to do the following:
- Make a case for why you should continue to invest in quality Early Childhood Education
- Give you an update on the 3 year old Pilot Project
- Ask that you continue to fund the 3 year old Pilot Project and the current GSRP Program

# WHY INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD?

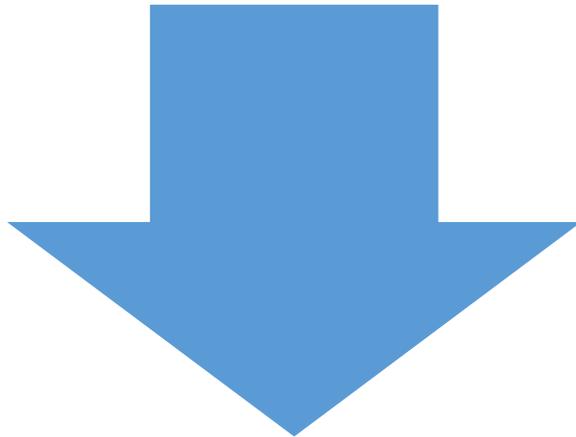
- **The Scientific Argument:** The brain forms the most synapses in the first 24 months of life. This is the most important period of time for brain development.
- **The Economic Argument:** Early investment yields a significantly higher return on investment than any other time in the life cycle.
- **The Equity Argument:** Investing early levels the playing field and also prevents the emergence of large inequalities (such as the number of words spoken) As a result, economically disadvantaged children benefit most from early childhood interventions.

# THE TIPPING POINT GRAND RAPIDS- 2010



83% of children not ready  
for Kindergarten

2009 'State of Schools' address by GSRP Superintendent Bernard Taylor



48% students graduate High  
School in 4 years

<https://www.mischooldata.org>

# W. K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

“As we close out 2010 and begin a new year, I cannot remember a time of greater transformation for philanthropy in general, or for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in particular. Nor, frankly, can I remember a more exciting period.”

“And in redefining success in terms specific to each community, we are essentially venturing into uncharted territory with every program we undertake.

But given the need for new models, and the primacy of creating systemic, sustainable change in the interests of the most vulnerable among us, the risk seems not only appropriate, but essential.”

Fred P. Keller, WKKF 2010 Chairman of the Board

# W. K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

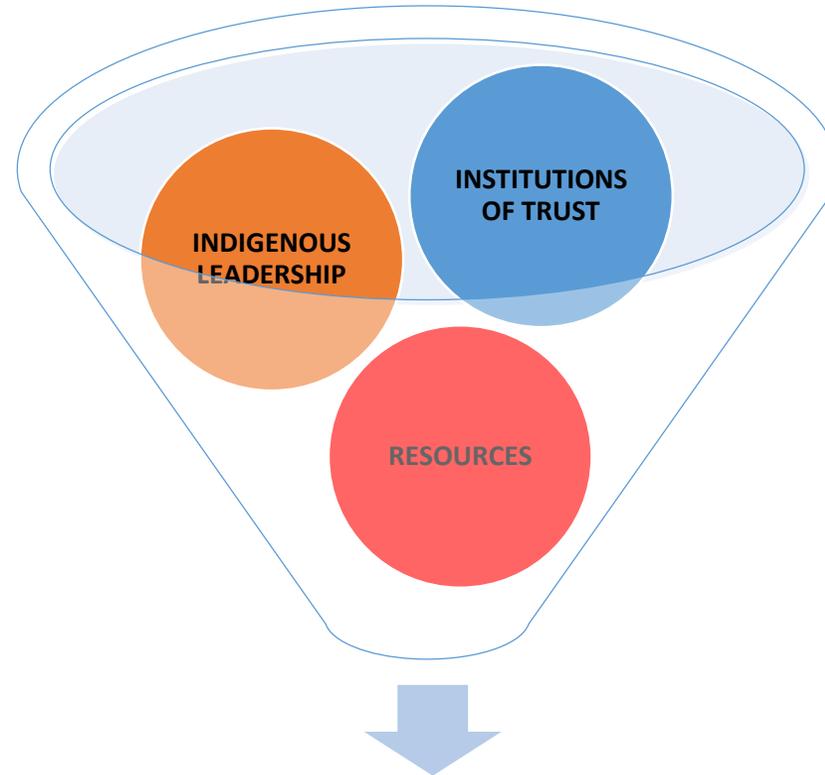
“At the heart of this evolution is recognition that the families of vulnerable children live in a complex ecosystem in which the conditions creating their vulnerability frequently become self-reinforcing and perpetuating, constituting a kind of “deflationary spiral” from which it becomes nearly impossible for the families to extricate themselves.”

**Sterling K. Speirn, WKKF 2010 President and CEO**

2010 WKKF Annual Report

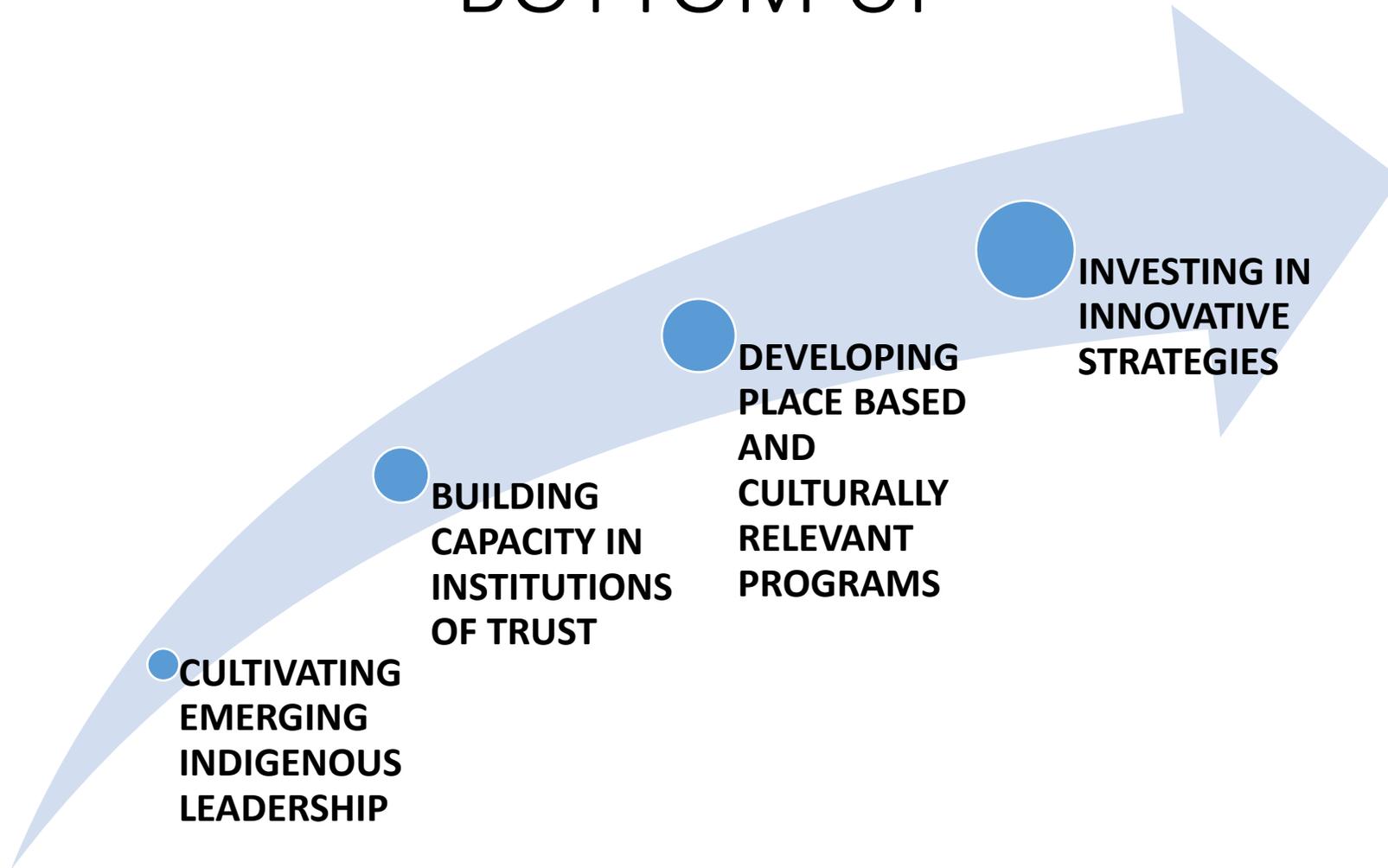
# ELNC

## A CONCENTRATED INTERVENTION STRATEGY



FOCUSED ON CHILDREN NOT READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

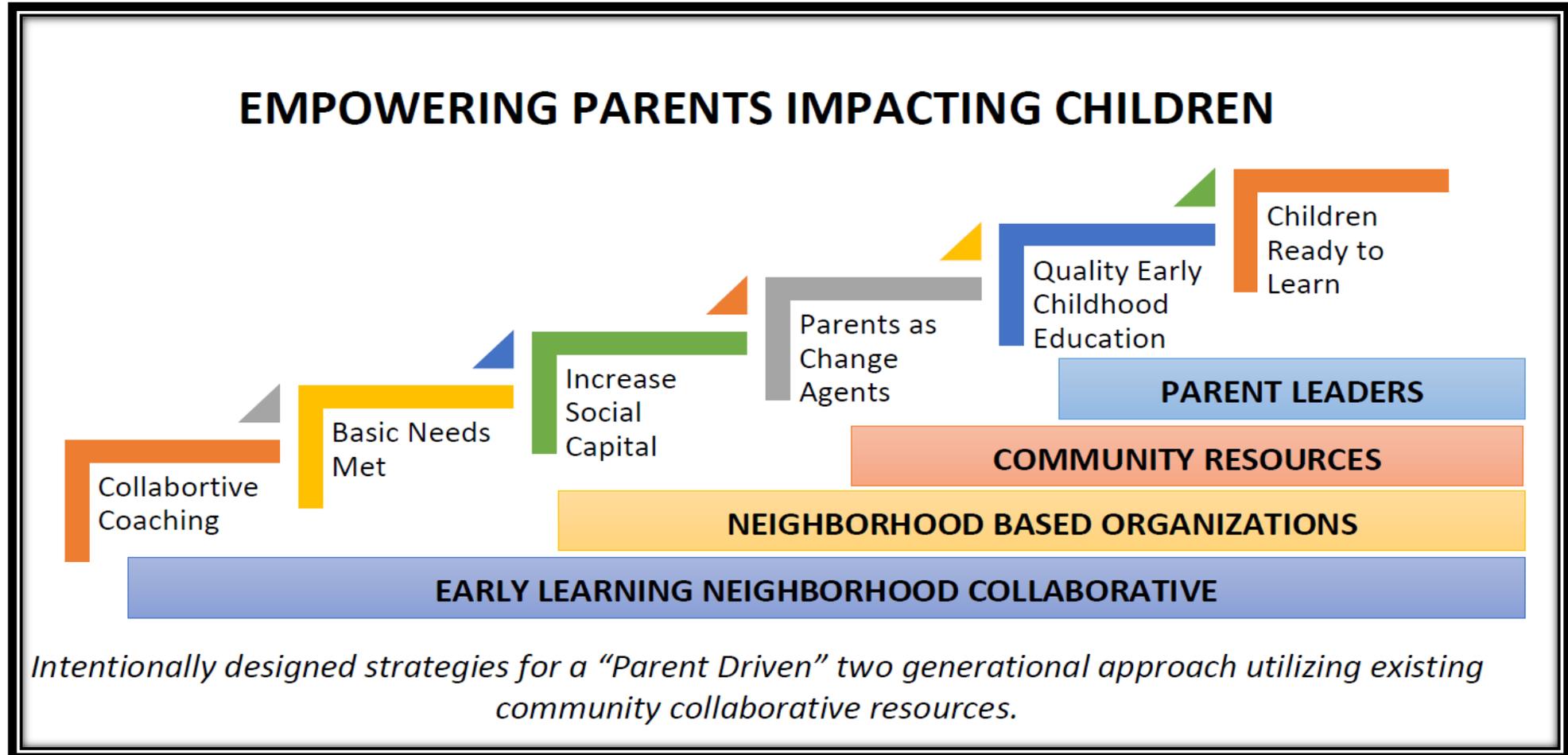
# ELNC BOTTOM UP



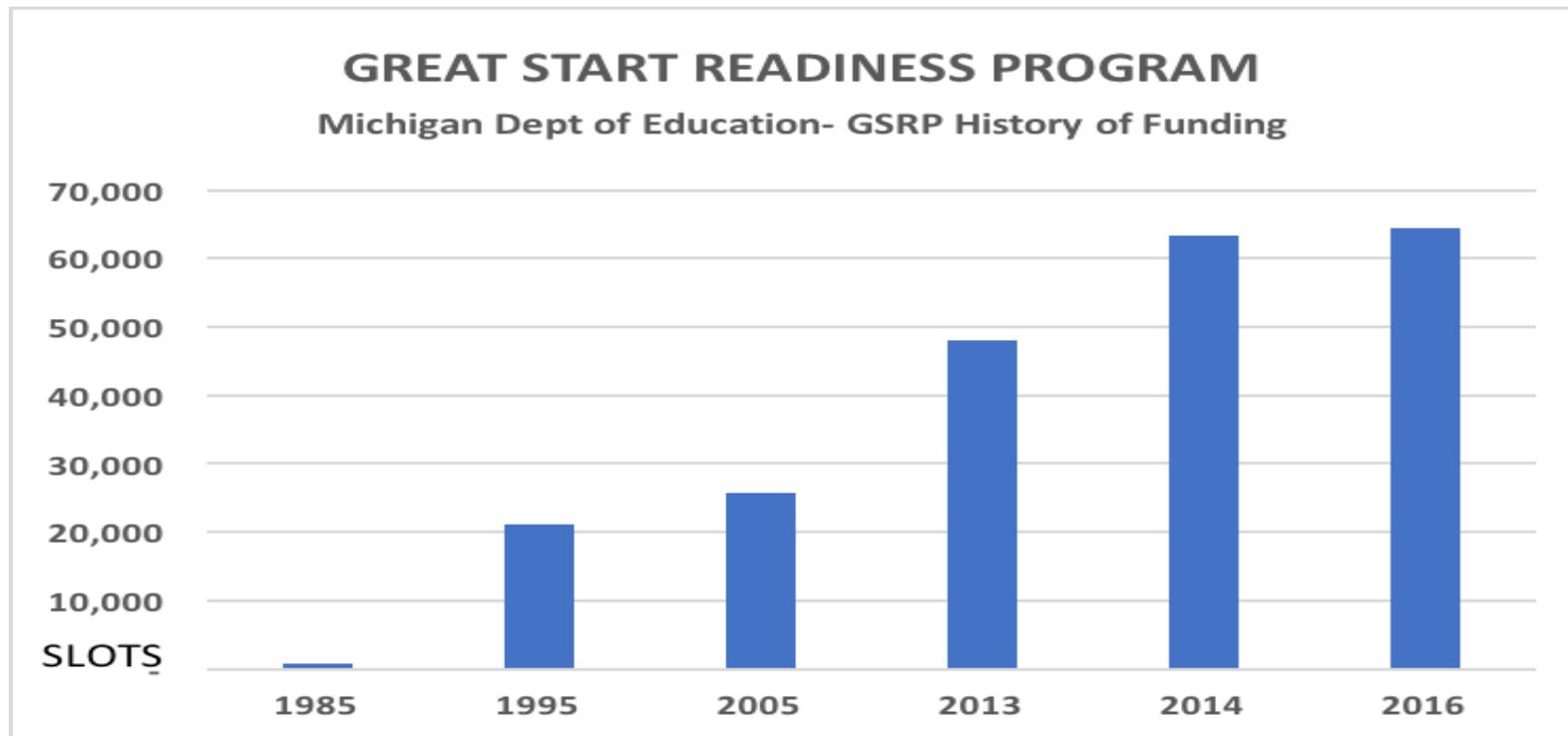
# A NEW MODEL EARLY LEARNING NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABORATIVE



# ELNC TWO GENERATIONAL APPROACH



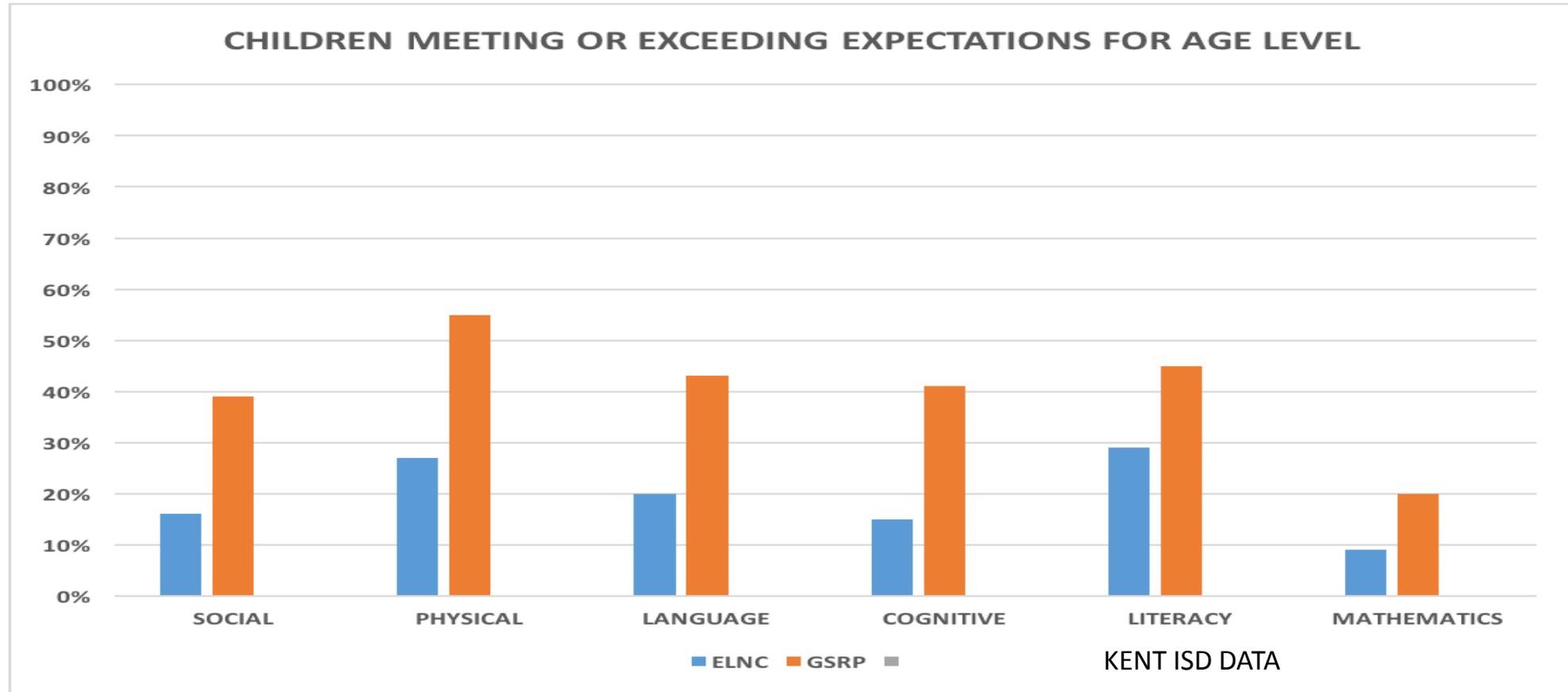
# STATE OF MICHIGAN SUPPORTS 4-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL



**FROM 694 SLOTS IN 1985 TO 64,441 SLOTS IN 2016**

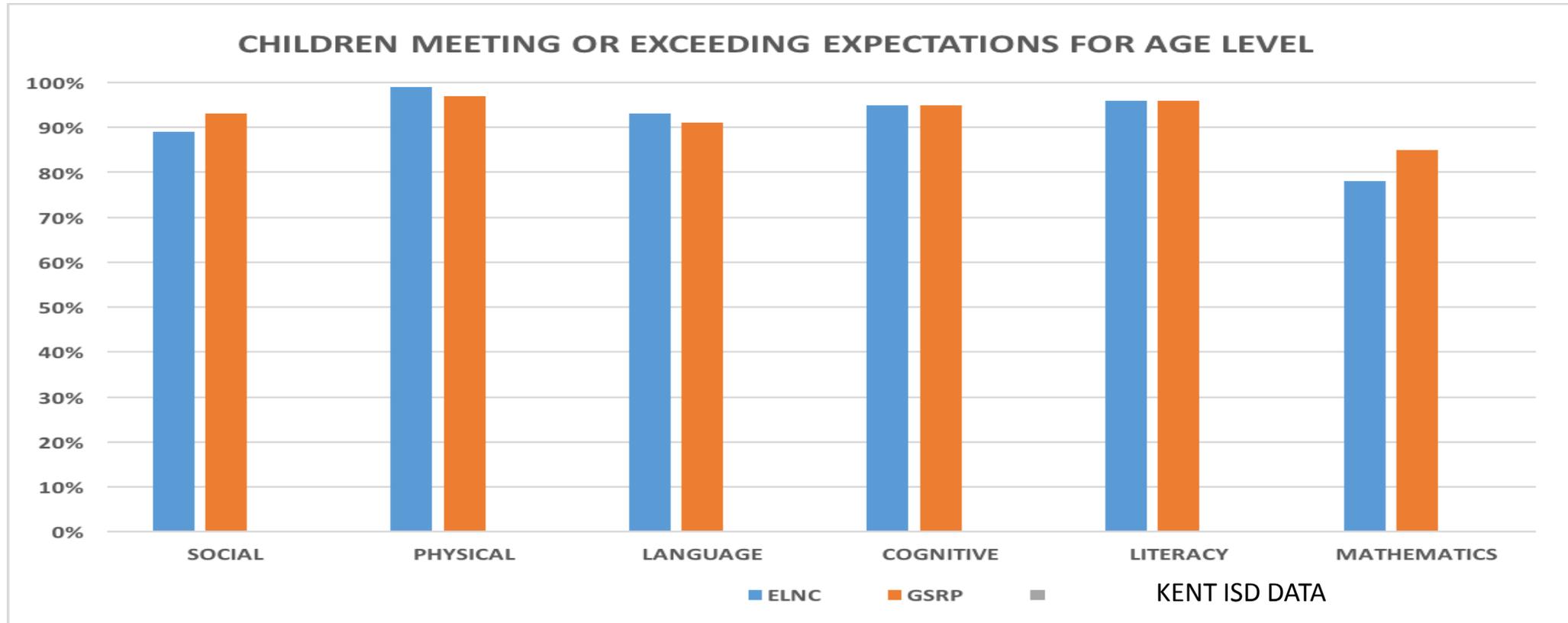
**NOTE: 1 SLOT EQUALS ½ OF PRESCHOOL**

# FALL 2015- 4 YR OLDS ELNC COMPARISON WITH KENT ISD



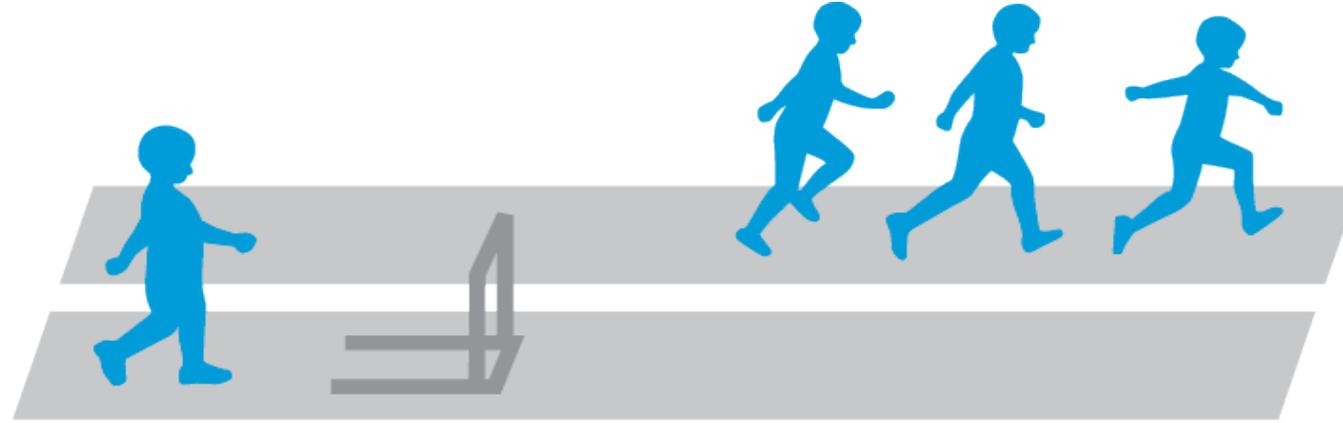
**ELNC SERVES THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

# SPRING 2015- 4 YR OLDS ELNC COMPARISON WITH KENT ISD



ELNC CHILDREN START OUT BEHIND AND SHOW HIGHER  
GAINS

# WHAT IF BARRIERS WERE REMOVED?



BY AGE 4, THE AVERAGE LOW-INCOME CHILD FACES SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS AND IS **18 MONTHS BEHIND** MORE AFFLUENT PEERS.

Layzer, J. (in press). *Project Upgrade in Miami-Dade County, Florida*. Cambridge, MA: Abt Associates.

# ELNC RESEARCH PROJECT

GOAL- examine the impact of an additional year of preschool at age three on children's outcomes.

# ELNC RESEARCH PROJECT

PROGRAM - In the 2016-2017 program year, ELNC will provide 3-year-old preschool for 96 children utilizing a two generational, place based approach at one of our intentionally designed and culturally relevant early childhood classroom.

# ELNC RESEARCH PROJECT

## EVALUATION- Internal

- ELNC
  - Teaching Strategies Gold Online Assessment at 3 checkpoints (Fall, Winter and Spring)
  - Brigance pre and post assessment

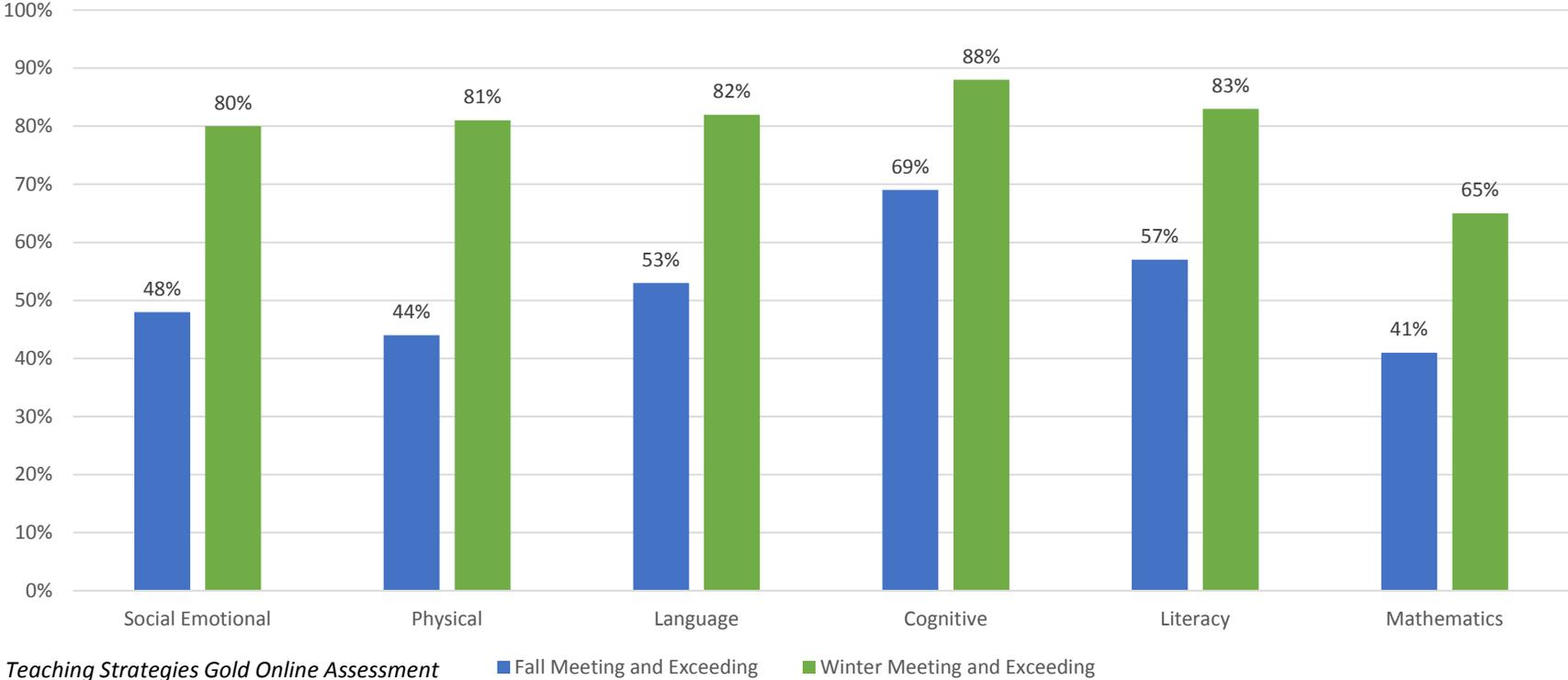
# ELNC RESEARCH PROJECT

## EVALUATION- External

- HighScope Research Foundation
  - Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT-IV; Dunn & Dunn, 2007)
  - Woodcock-Johnson III Normative Update Complete (Woodcock, McGrew, Mather, 2001, 2007)
  - Woodcock-Munoz Language Survey-Revised (Alvarado, Ruef, & Schrank, 2005)
  - Head-Toes-Knees-Shoulders task (Ponitz, McClelland, Matthews, & Morrison, 2009)

# ELNC MIDPOINT PROGRESS REPORT

3 Year Olds Fall to Winter 2016/17 Growth in TS Gold



# HIGHSCOPE MIDPOINT PROGRESS REPORT

FALL 2016- Four highly experienced HighScope Child Assessors visited the six classrooms operating at Baxter, Early Learning Center, Explore and Learn Academy, SECOM and Steepletown to assess children.

# HIGHSCOPE MIDPOINT PROGRESS REPORT

MARCH 2017-HighScope trained Program Quality Assessors will observe the six participating classrooms and assess the quality of the classroom using the HighScope Preschool Program Quality Assessment (The PQA evaluates the Learning Environment, Daily Routine, Adult-Child Interaction and Curriculum and Planning).

# HIGHSCOPE MIDPOINT PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL 2017- The end-of-the-year child assessments are to examine children's growth. Child assessors will assess all children enrolled in the ELNC 3-yr old preschool using the same assessments as in the fall.

# KINDERGARTEN READINESS COST/BENEFIT

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## 7. Estimated total annual savings and revenues in Michigan due to increased school readiness

Cost category	In millions
Education ( K-12 system)	\$221.5
Other Michigan state department budgets	\$583.9
Social cost savings	\$347.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,152.9</b>

*Wilder Research, November 2009*

# STAY TUNED

For this research to be meaningful, we must be able to follow the current group of 3-year-olds for the next two years.

Please support the 3 year old pilot project and the current GSRP .

# QUESTIONS

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