Rhode Island Early Learning Council Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:30-1:30
Save the Bay

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Lead
11:30-11:45	**Welcome /Meeting Overview**	Elizabeth Burke Bryant Deborah Gist
11:45-11:50	**Strategic Plan Milestones/Celebrations**	Karen Beese Maura Pearce
11:50-12:20	**Overview of Lead Dashboard Indicators**	Leanne Barrett
12:20-1:00	**Participation in the Statewide QRIS/Program utilization of Supports**	Karen Beese Lisa Hildebrand
1:00-1:05	**Public Comment**	Public Participants
1:05-1:20	**Updates**	Elizabeth Burke Bryant Melissa Emidy Leanne Barrett
1:20-1:25	**Public Comment**	Public Participants
1:25 –1:30	**Next Steps**	Elizabeth Burke Bryant Deborah Gist

Rhode Island Early Learning Council Meeting

March 20, 2014

Thursday, March 20, 2014
11:30-1:30 p.m.
Save The Bay,

Meeting Agenda

Welcome/Meeting Overview
Strategic Plan Milestones/Celebrations
Overview of Lead Dashboard Indicators
Participation in the Statewide QRIS/Program Utilization of Supports
Public Comment
Updates • Legislative Update • RTT-ELC • Early Learning Council and Subcommittee Calendar
Public Comment
Next Steps

Strategic Plan Milestones/Celebrations

Strategic Plan Milestones

Target/Strategy	Status	Milestone
Strategy 2.1 Develop an adequately funded, evidence-based system of both credit bearing and non-credit bearing professional development. ***Strategy 2.2*** Increase the availability and accessibility of a variety of high-quality professional development opportunities that are aligned with Rhode Island's new Workforce Knowledge and Competencies Frameworks.	✔	Ongoing work; **PDTA opened March 2014**

Strategic Plan Milestones

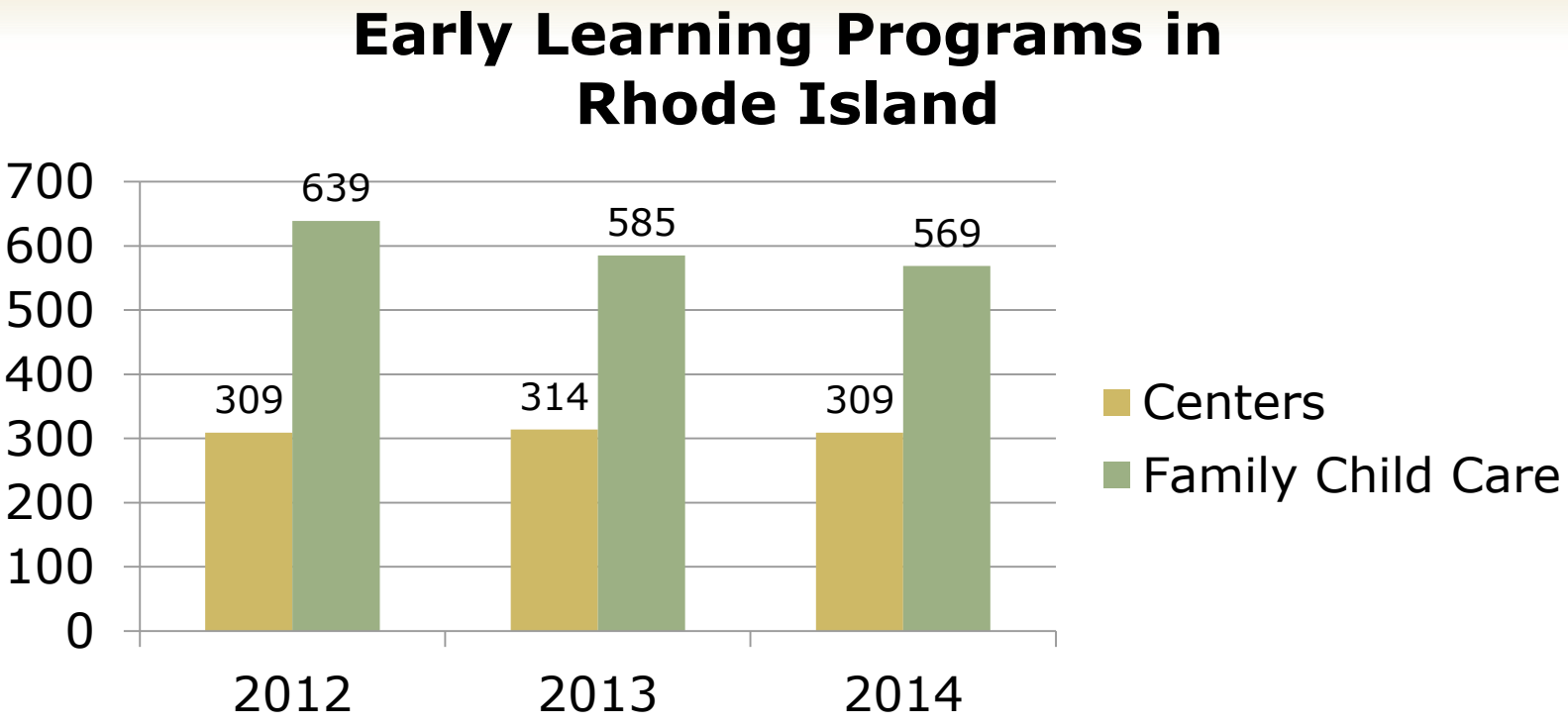
Target/Strategy	Status	Milestone
Strategy 2.7 Collect, use and publicly report aggregated data on early childhood educator development, advancement and retention to inform the Professional Development system: Use national research to identify effective Professional Development models in areas of high need identified through data system, registry and **workforce study.**	✔	Ongoing work; **Full workforce study released.**

Strategic Plan Milestones

Target/Strategy	Status	Milestone
Strategy 2.5 Adequately finance the Professional Development system: Expand higher education resources for early care and education, including expanding the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood program and other effective pathways to increased educational attainment for the full range of the early learning workforce in Rhode Island.	✔	Ongoing work; **100th T.E.A.C.H. Scholar Enrolled**

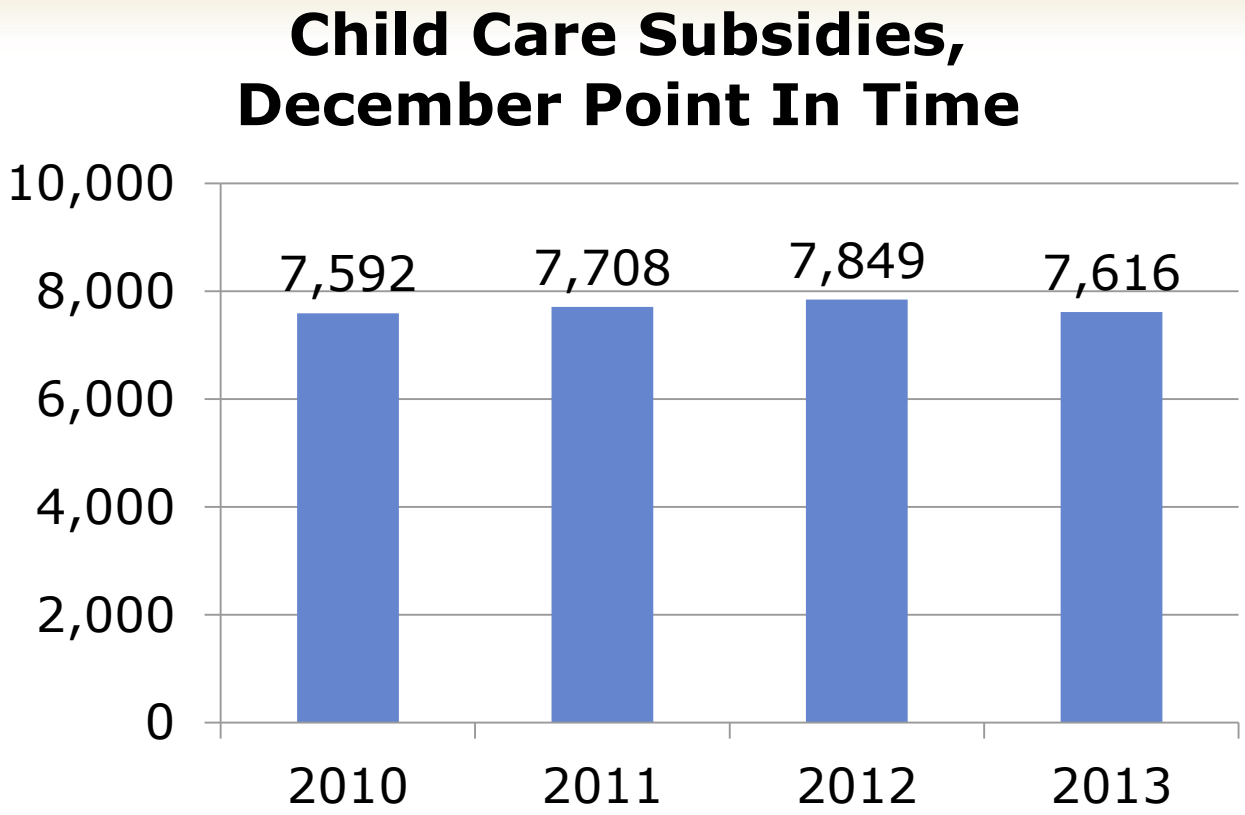
Overview of Lead Dashboard Indicators

Data Dashboard: # Early Learning Programs



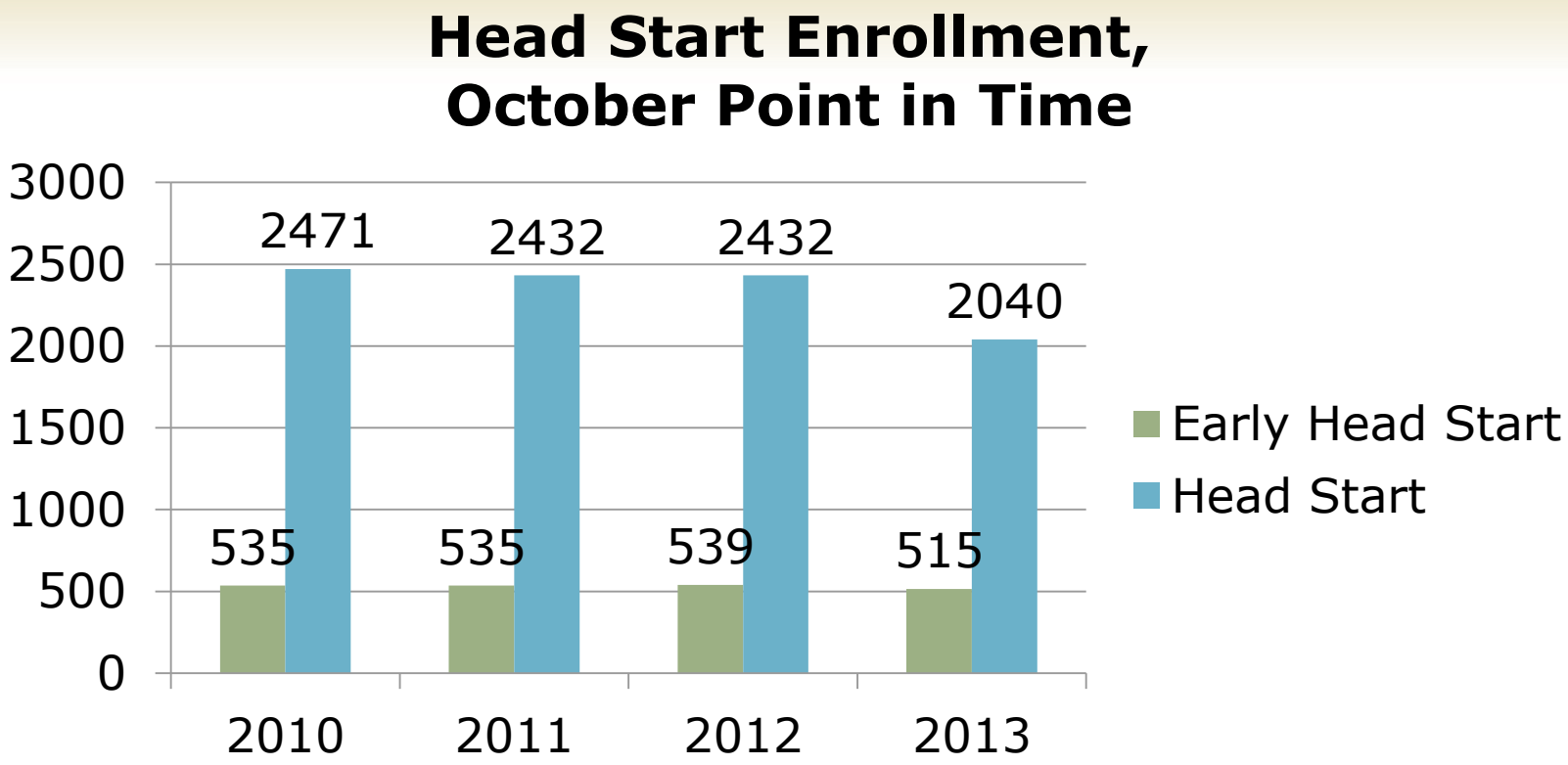
- There are 50 public schools that have early childhood classrooms

Data Dashboard: Children Receiving CCAP



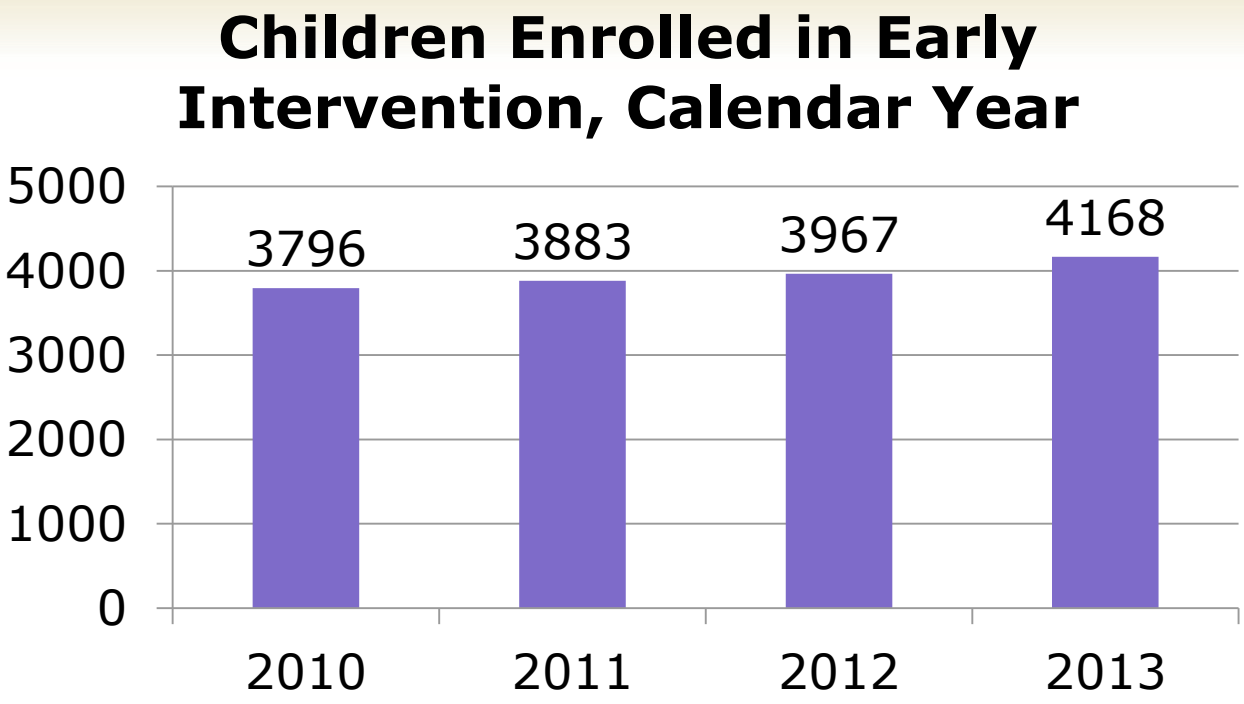
- By December 2016, there will be 10,000 children participating in CCAP

Data Dashboard: Children Enrolled in Early Head Start/Head Start



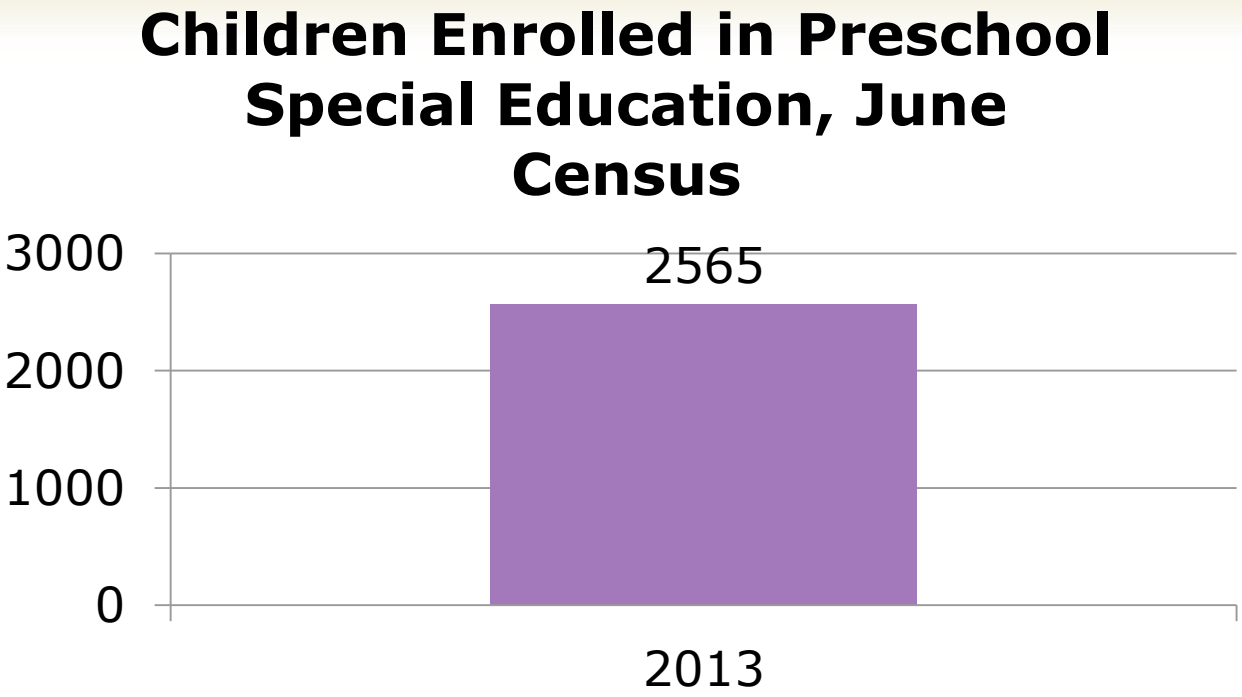
- By 2016, there will be 800 children enrolled in Early Head Start
- By 2016, there will be 2,972 children enrolled in Head Start

Data Dashboard: Children Enrolled in Early Intervention



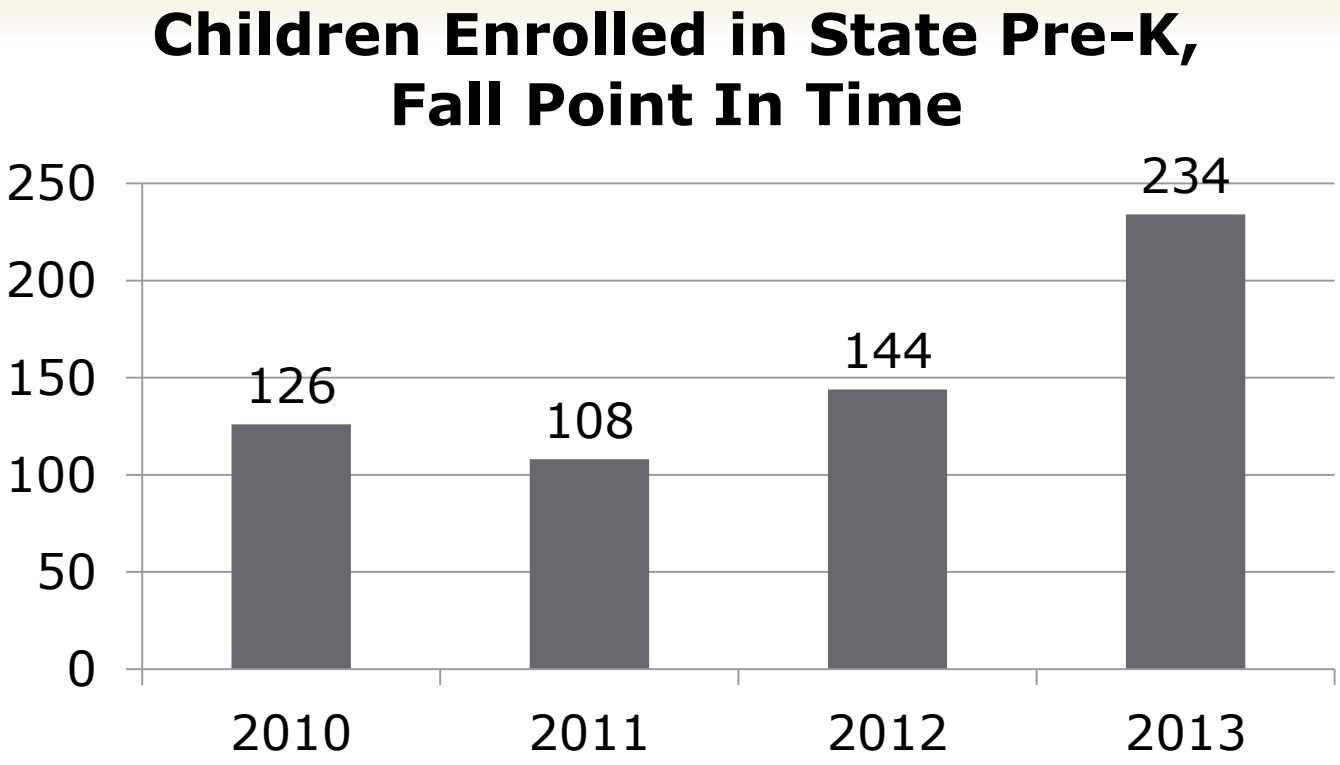
- By 2016, 100% of children under age 3 who have been victims of child maltreatment will be referred to EI/First Connections for assessment and access to services (2013 = 85% referral).

Data Dashboard: Children Enrolled in Preschool Special Education



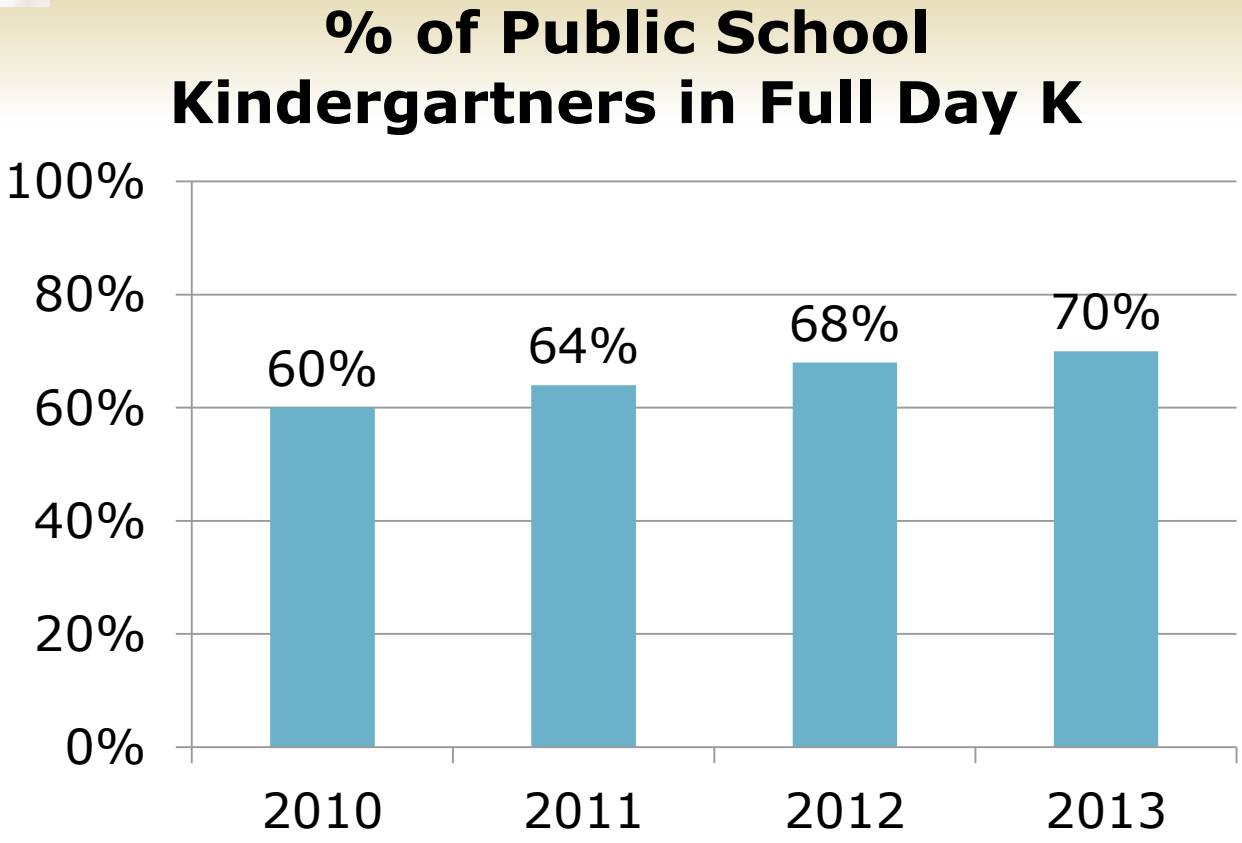
- By 2016, 85% of preschool children with disabilities will be receiving their special education services within high-quality, inclusive early childhood settings. (2013 = 39% in inclusive settings)

Data Dashboard: Children Enrolled in State Pre-K



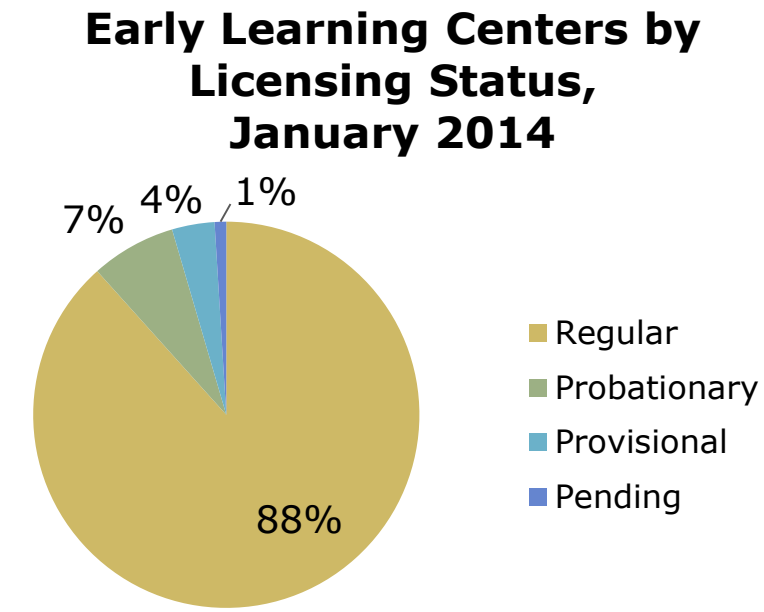
- By 2016, there will be at least 504 children enrolled in State Pre-K program.

Data Dashboard: % Children in Full-Day Kindergarten

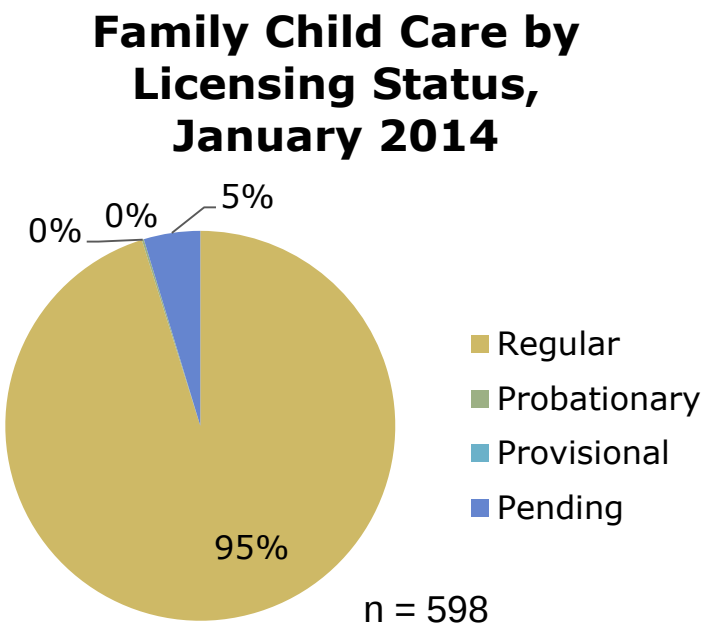


- By 2016-2017, 100% of RI kindergartners will be enrolled in full-day kindergarten.

Data Dashboard: Licensing Status

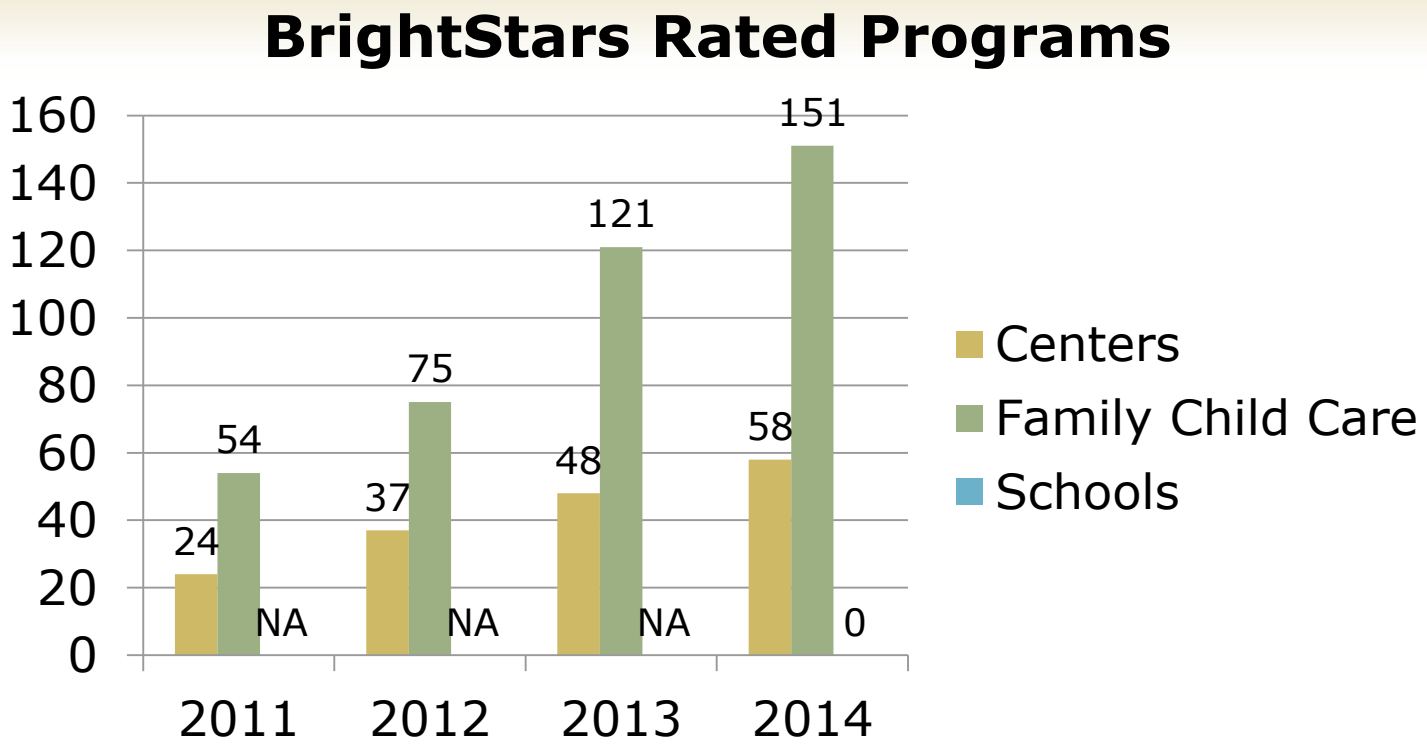


n = 309



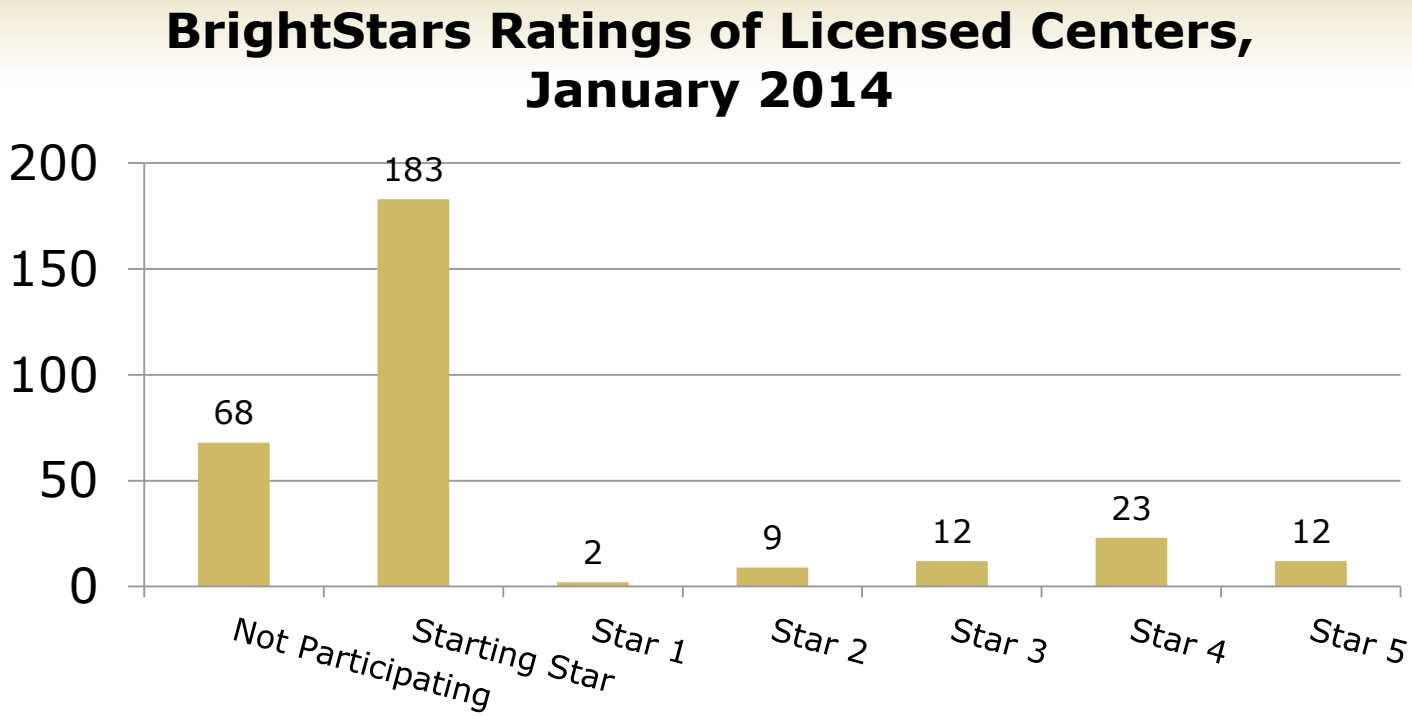
n = 598

Data Dashboard: Participation in BrightStars



- By December 2015, 100% of licensed early learning centers, family child care homes and public schools with preschool classrooms will have a BrightStars rating.

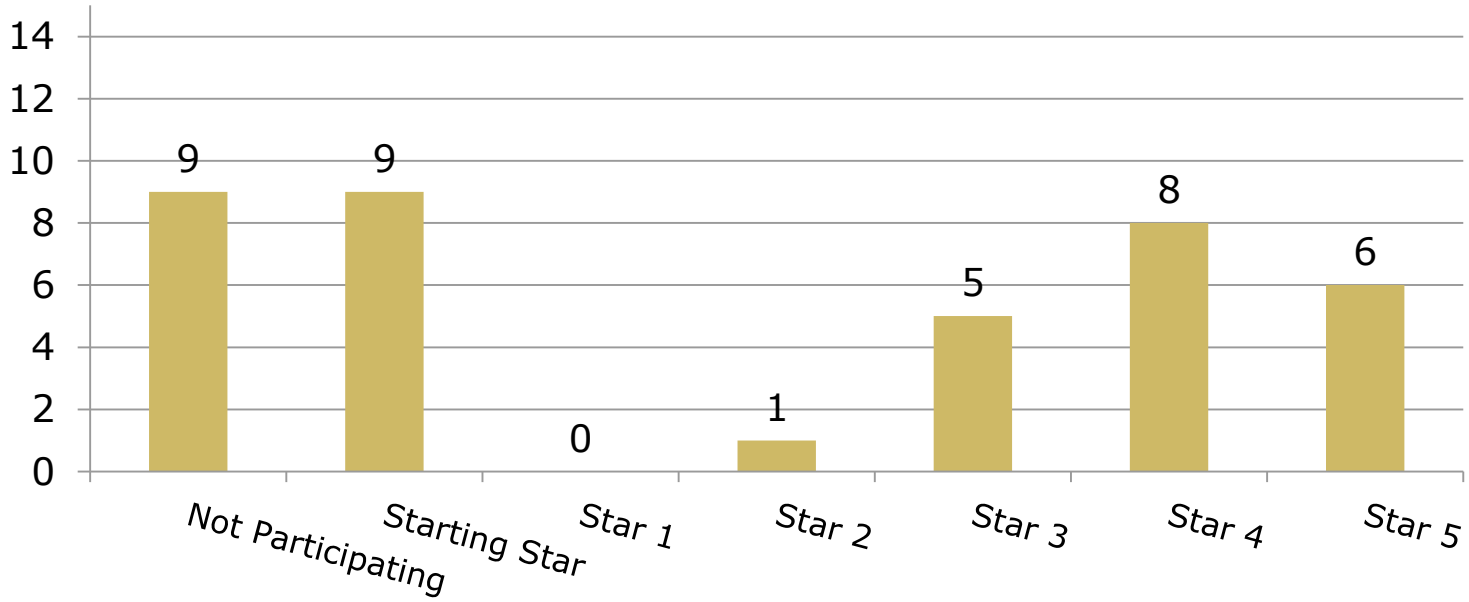
Data Dashboard: BrightStars Participation & Rating



- 19% of licensed centers have a BrightStars rating
- 60% of rated centers have a rating of 4 or 5 stars
- By December 2015, 61% of licensed centers will have a rating of 4 or 5 stars

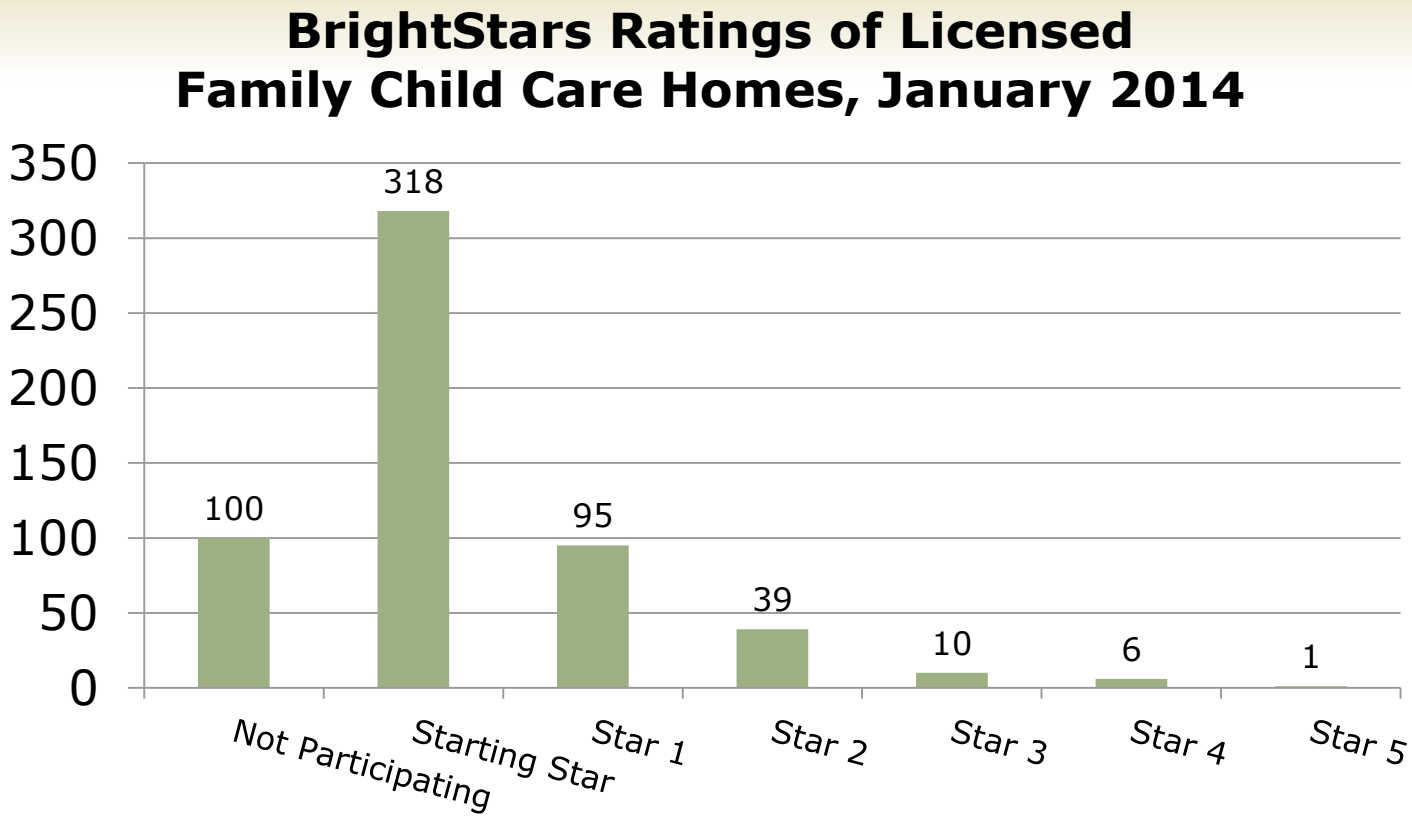
Data Dashboard: BrightStars Participation & Rating

BrightStars Ratings of Licensed Centers Offering Head Start/Early Head Start, January 2014



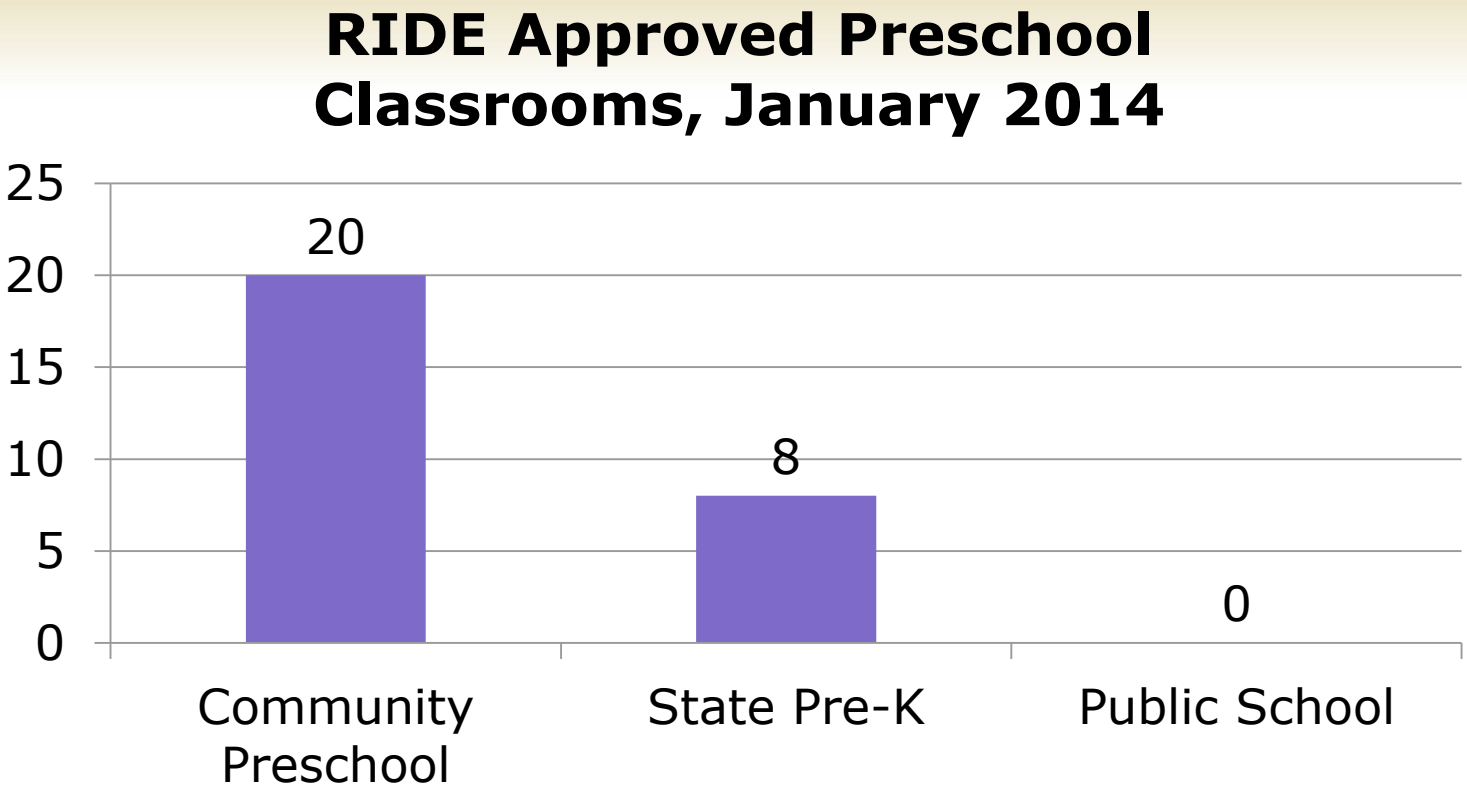
- 53% of EHS/HS centers have a BrightStars rating
- 70% of rated EHS/HS centers have a rating of 4 or 5 stars
- By December 2015, 100% of center-based Head Start/Early Head Start will have a rating of 4 or 5 stars

Data Dashboard: BrightStars Participation & Rating

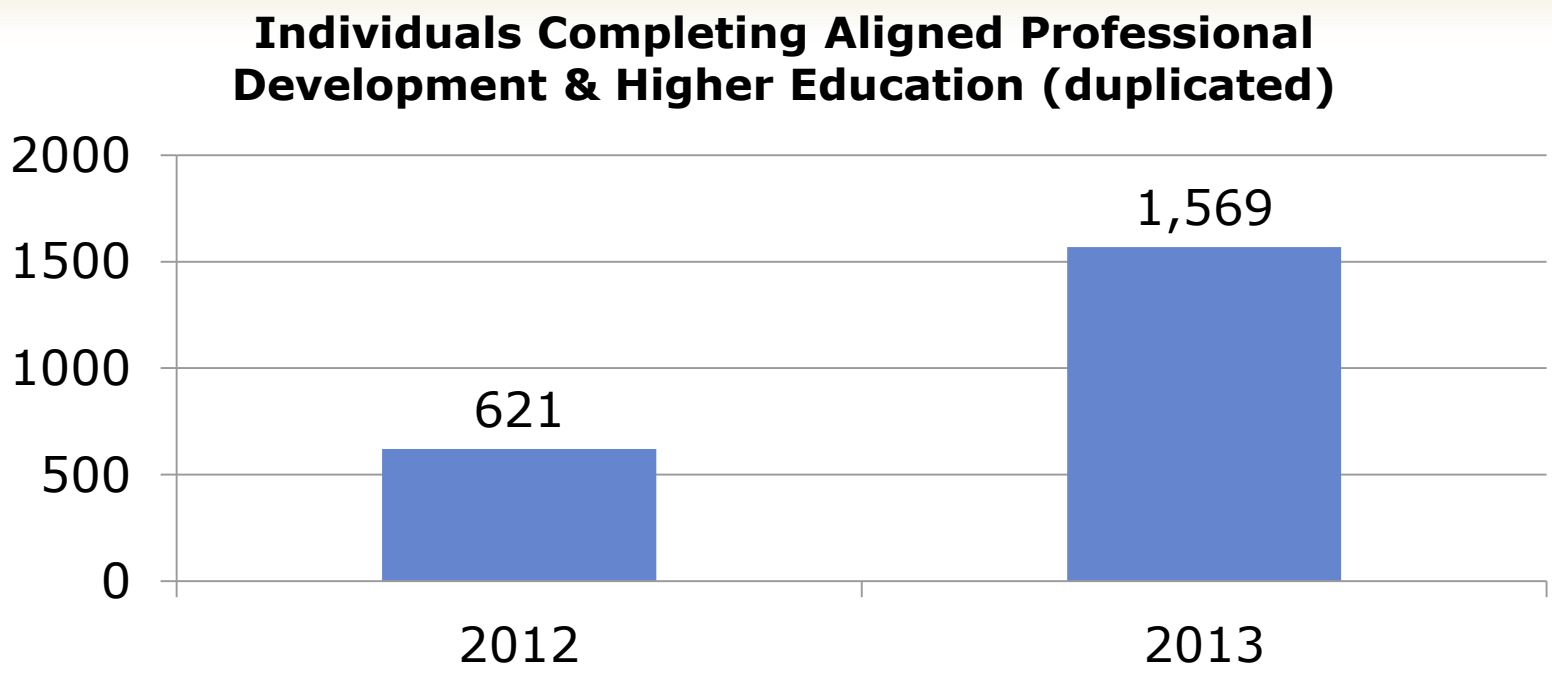


- 27% of licensed family child care homes have a BrightStars rating
- 5% of rated family child care homes have a rating of 4 or 5 stars
- By December 2015, 8% of licensed family child care will have a rating of 4 or 5 stars

Data Dashboard: RIDE CECE Approval

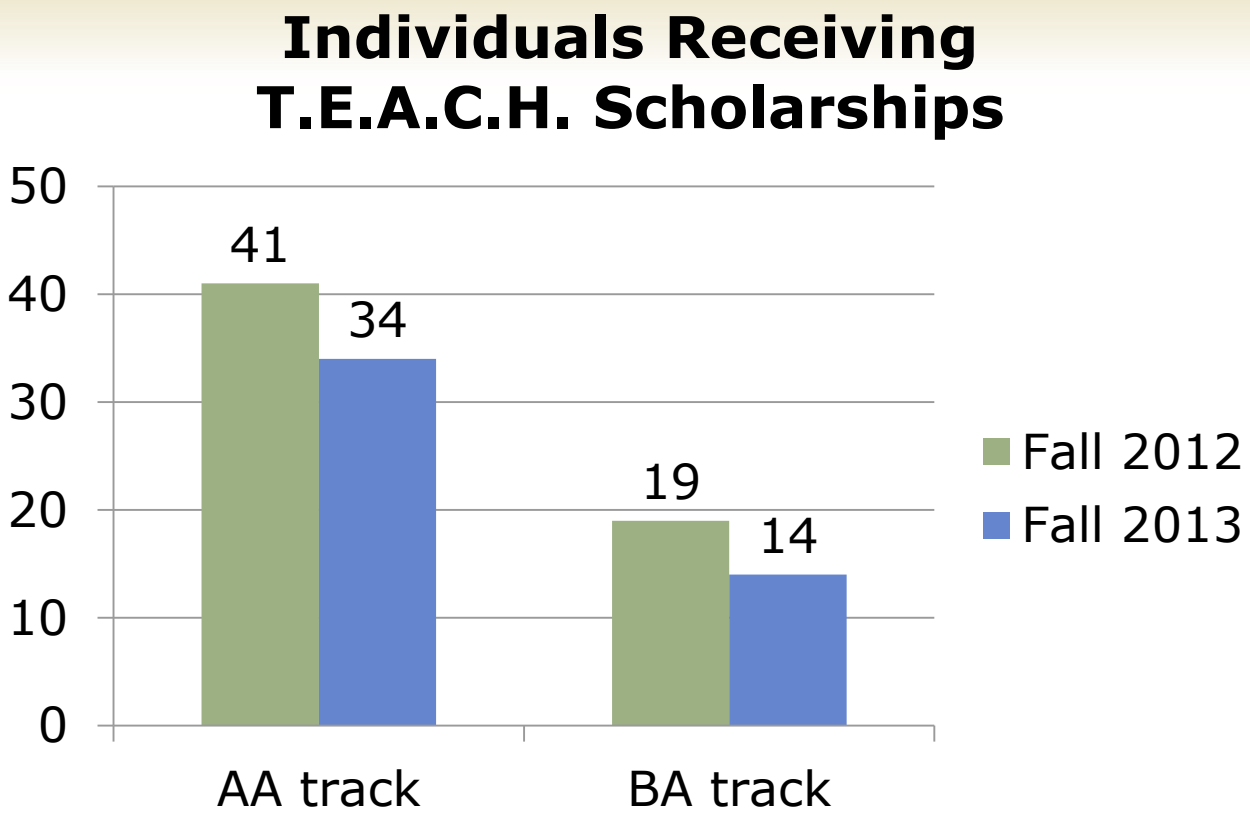


Data Dashboard: Aligned Professional Development

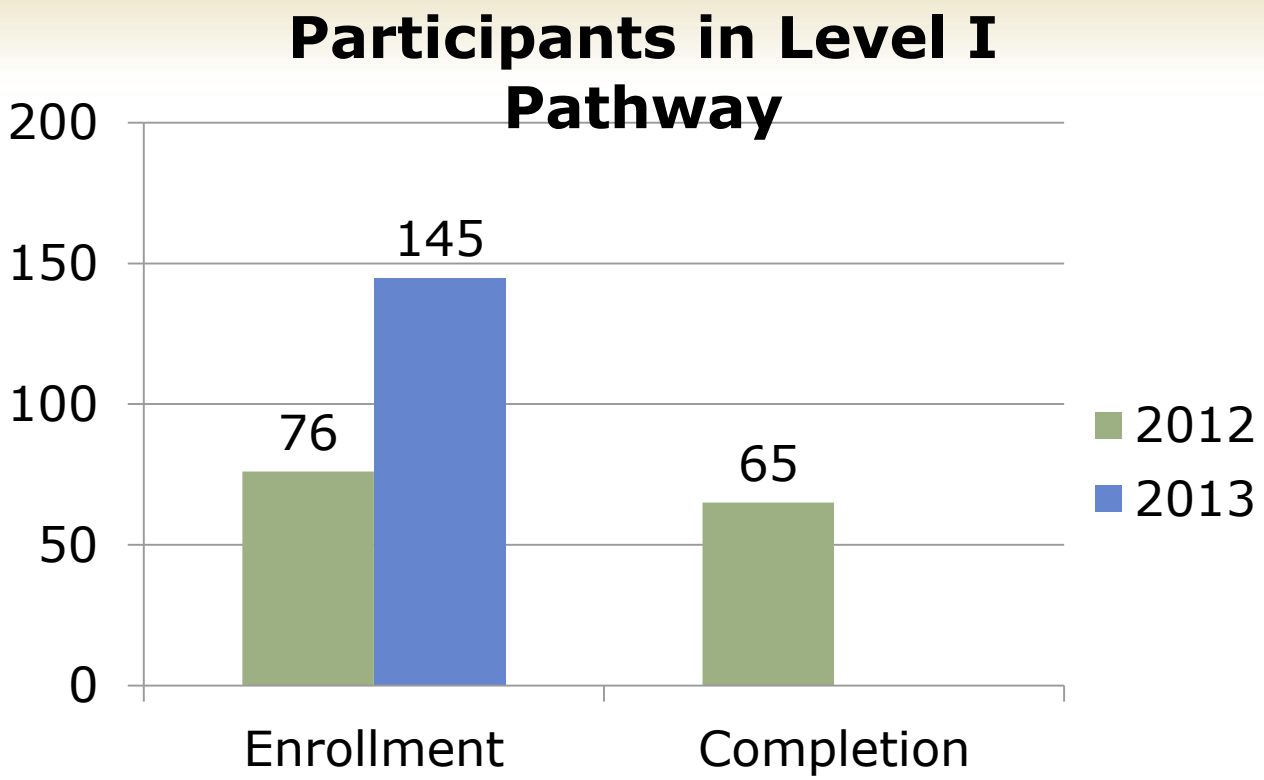


- By December 2015, there will be at least 2,500 educators per year who receive aligned professional development and 150 educators per year who receive an aligned credential from higher education.

Data Dashboard: T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships

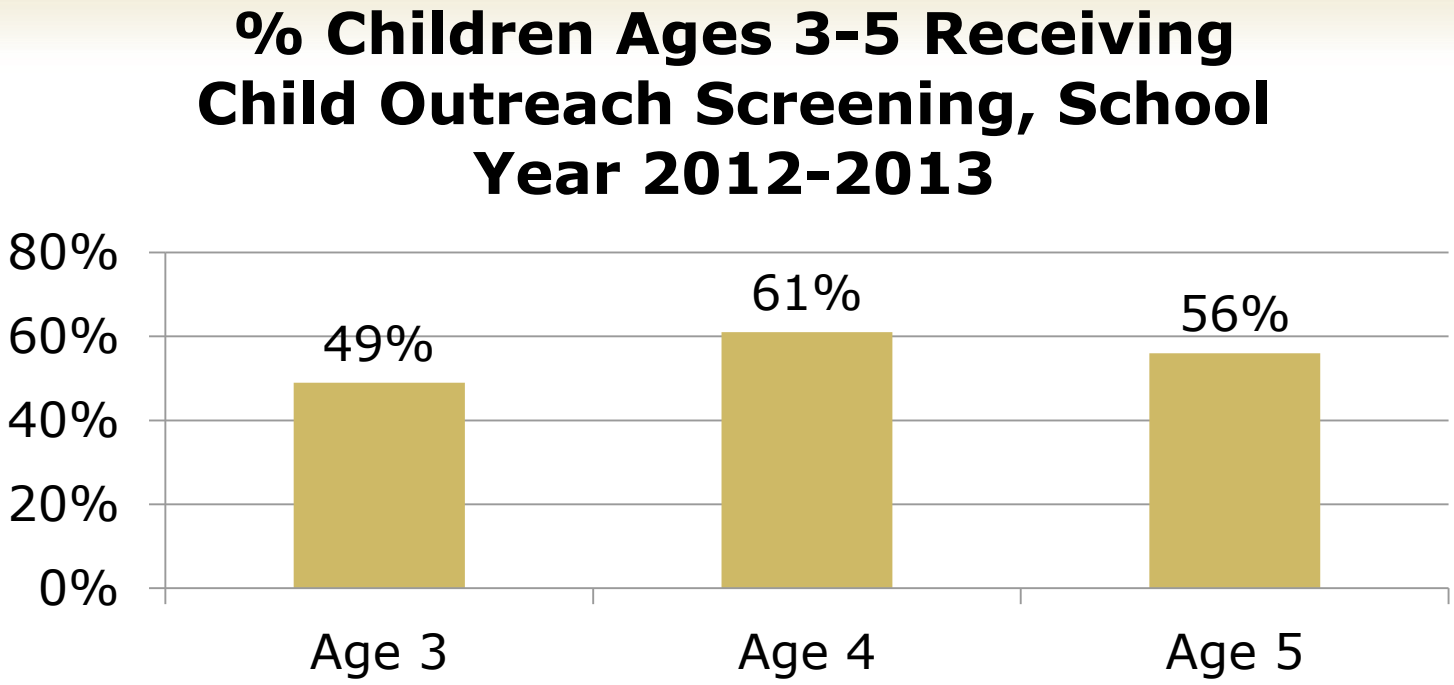


Data Dashboard: RI Early Childhood Education & Training Program at CCRI



- By December 2015, there will be at least 1,000 early childhood educators who meet Level 1 criteria for WKC career pathway (12 college credits in ECE)

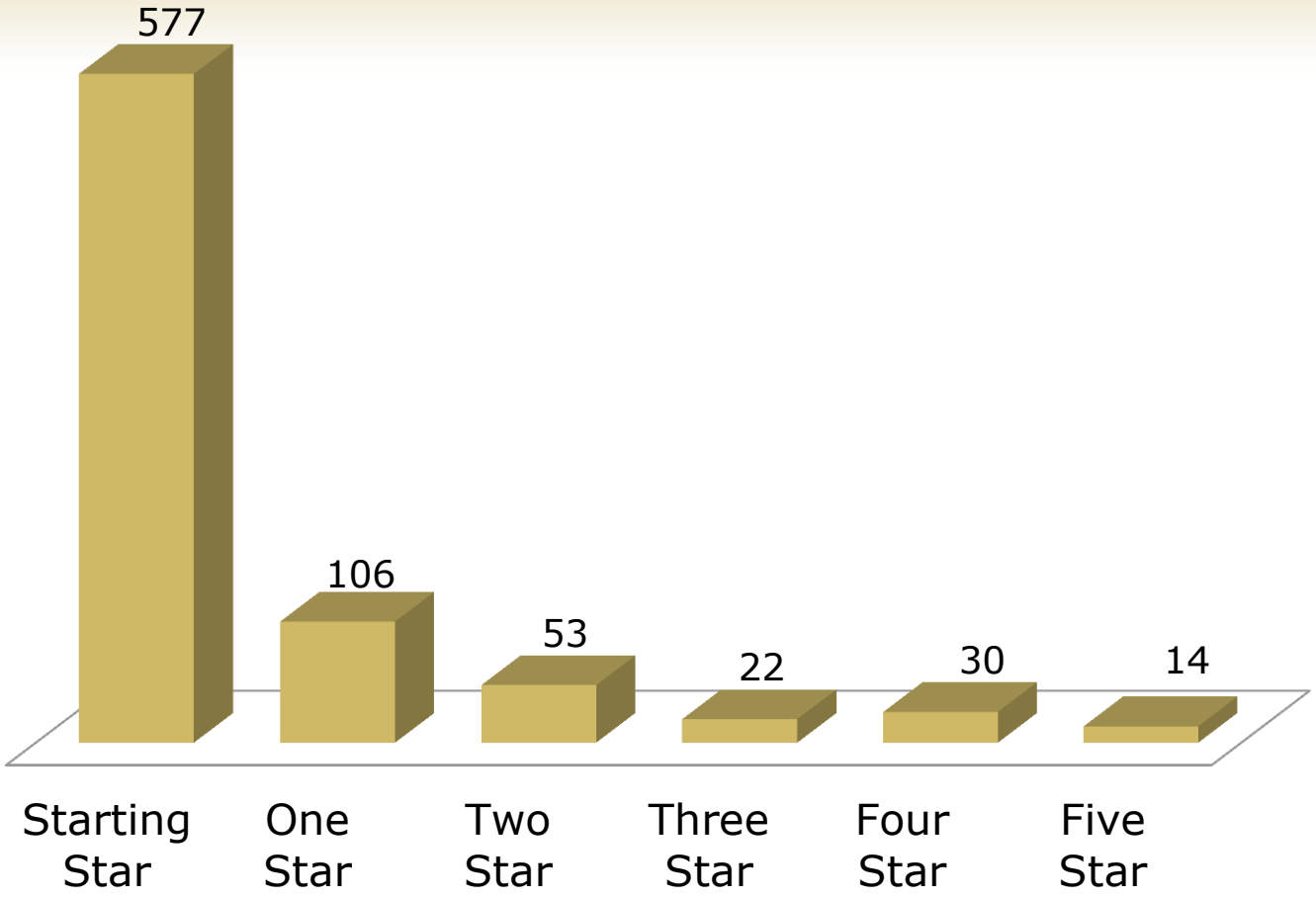
Data Dashboard: Child Outreach Screenings



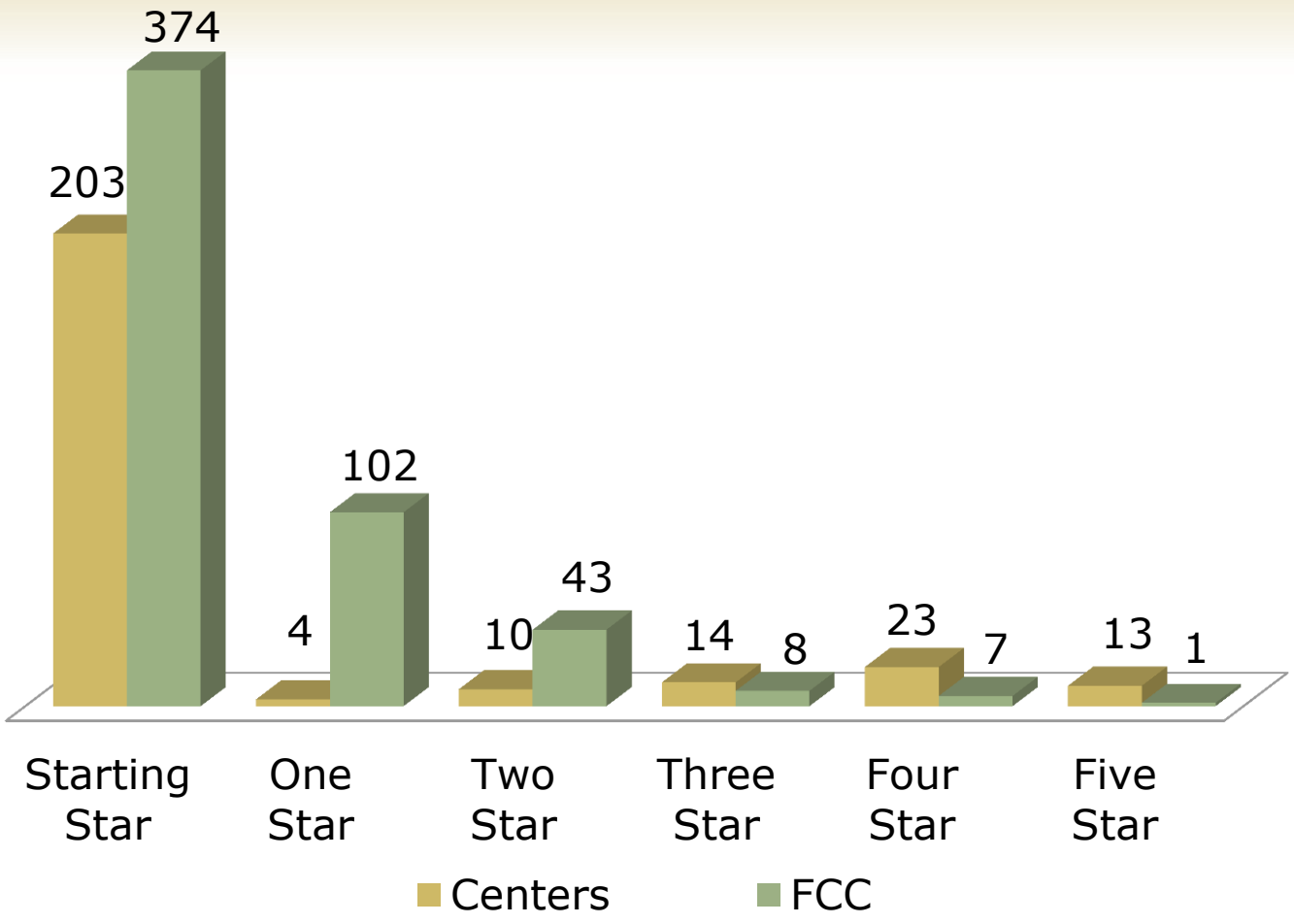
- By 2016, 80% of four year olds will have received a developmental screening.
- By 2016, 50% of three year olds will have a complete set of developmental screenings.

Utilization of the Statewide Quality Rating and Improvement System

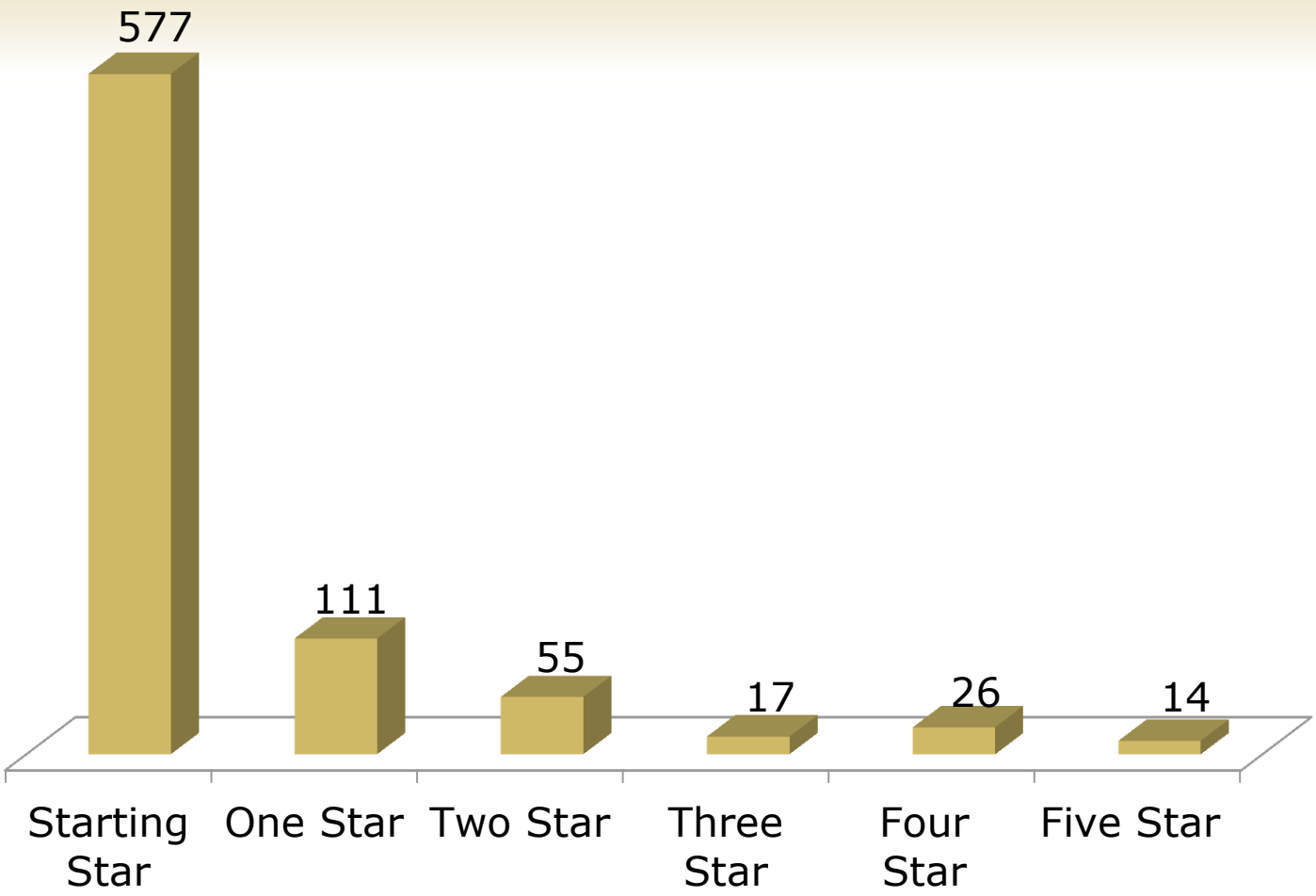
BrightStars Participation



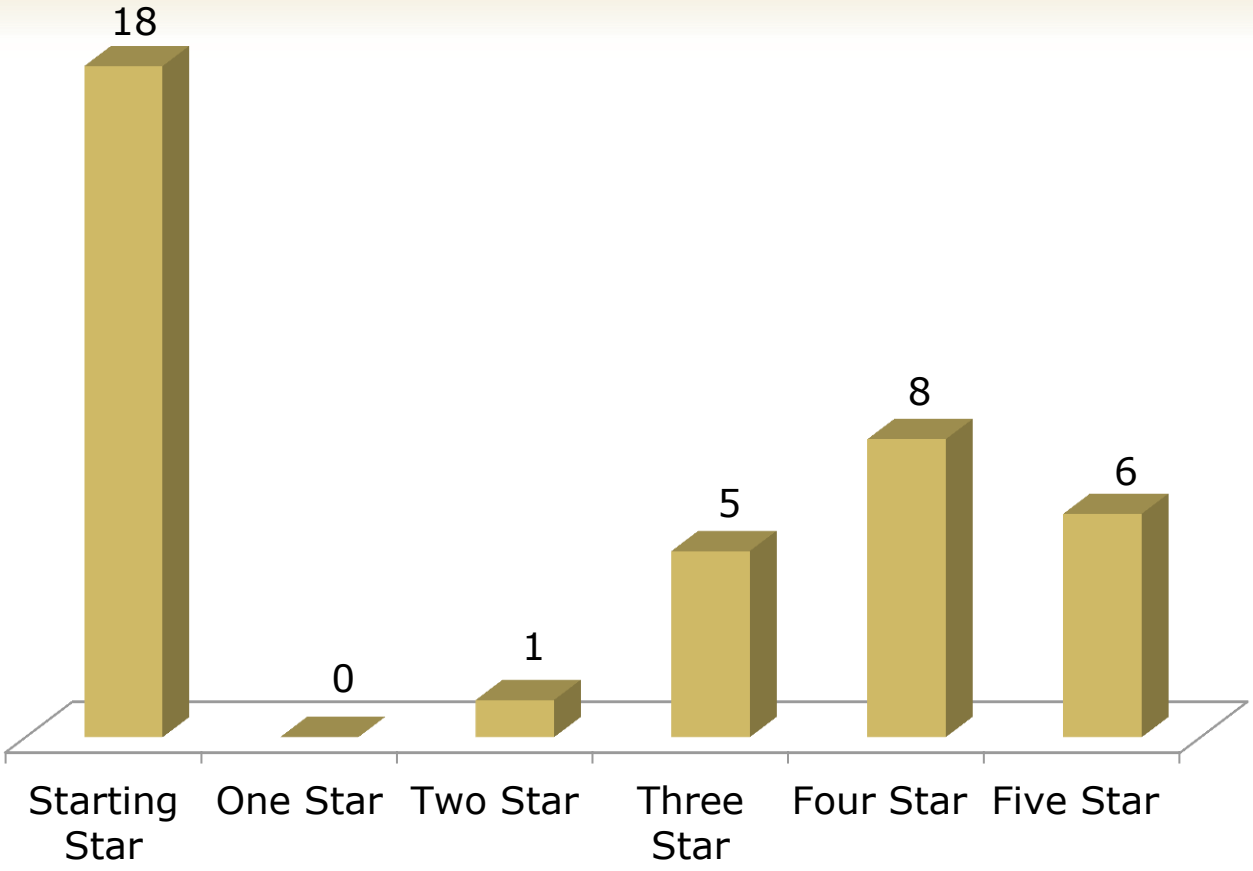
Participation by Program Type



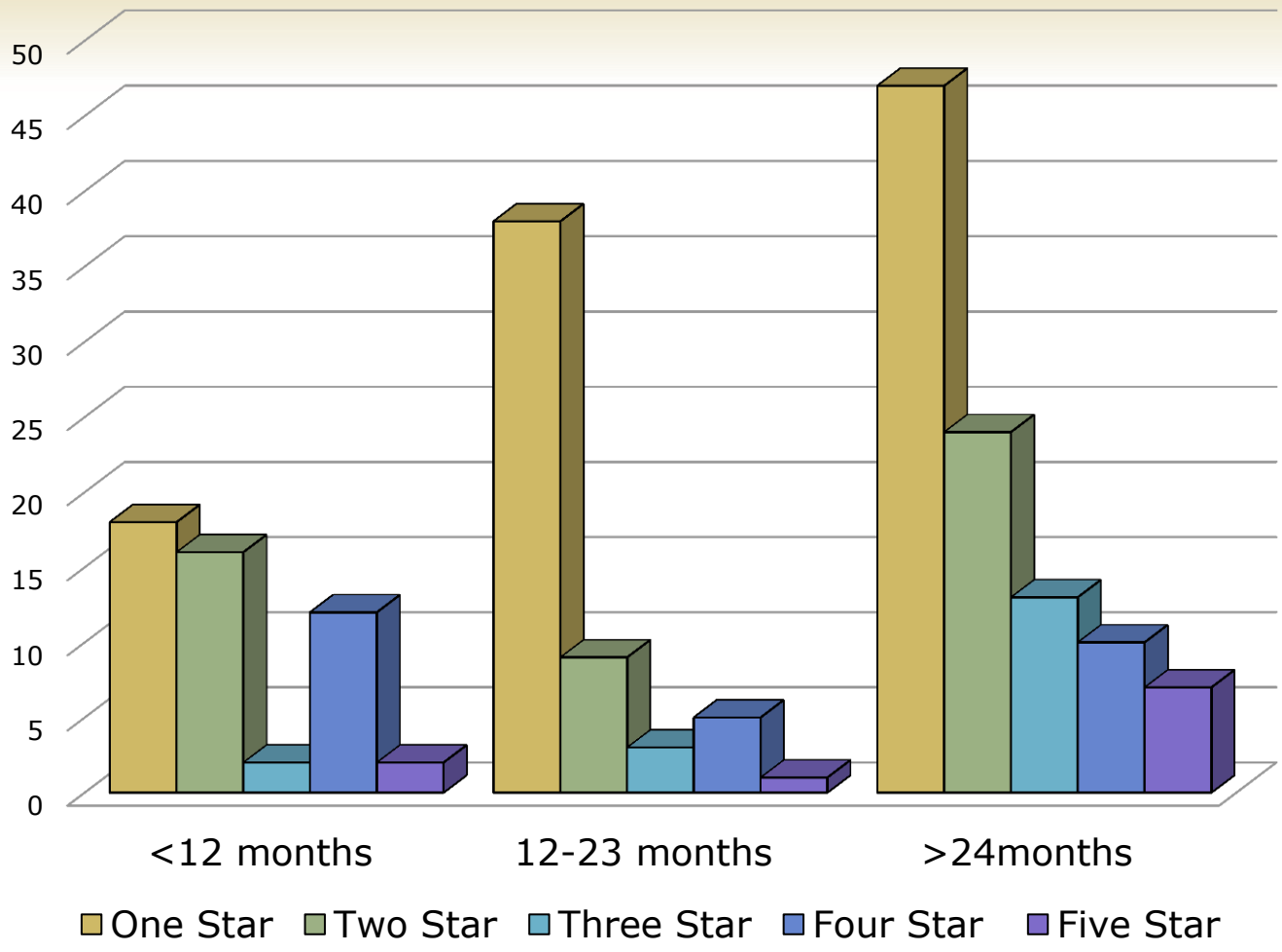
Participation: CCAP-Approved Programs



Participation: Head Start Programs



BrightStars Transition Timelines



Utilization of Program Supports

- Program Quality Awards
  - 35 programs $215,456
  - Average Award Amounts for January
    - Family Child Care $256
    - Center $2556

Utilization of Program Supports

- Program Quality Improvement Grants
  - 93 Awards $554,850
  - 25 Child Care Centers $308,044
  - 56 Family Child Care $89,724
  - 12 Public Schools $157,082

Recruitment

BrightStars Applications

Applications received under the new 2013 standards, as of 3/14/2014:

- 27 Center applications
- 2 Public School applications
- 18 Family Child Care applications
- 1 School Age application

Recruitment

- Information Sessions
  - Orientation Sessions: open, targeted and pre-recorded; follow-up
  - Coordination with other agencies (DCYF, RIDE, The Center)
  - Application Work Groups, follow-up
- Direct Program Contacts
  - Phone calls/emails: targeted geographically and to programs with highest number of high- need kids, based on CCAP numbers
  - Face to Face meetings with programs
  - Outreach Events

Recruitment

- Written Communications
  - Application mailings; follow-up
  - Email e-blasts
  - FAQ’s, flyers, marketing materials
- Social Media
  - Facebook/Twitter
  - Testimonial Videos

Recruitment

- To Licensed, Non-CCAP Programs
  - Application mailing; benefits to joining BrightStars
  - Marketing materials to participating programs
  - Website
- Public Schools
  - Continued outreach, coordinated with RIDE and TA Specialists
  - Alignment with RIDE CECE
  - Specialized marketing materials
  - Common application

Recruitment Data

- Recruitment Data as of 3/4/14:
  - Mailed applications to every licensed program- 1000+
  - Phone calls: 309
  - Emails:110
  - Hand written letters:19
  - Orientation Sessions/Face to Face Meetings: 83 programs

PSQI Subcommittee Feedback

- Clear talking points for everyone involved
- Target programs that have called to request applications
- Offer financial (participation) incentives, as has been done in past.
- For family child care homes, centers, head starts, and public schools, we need a customized pitch that grabs people and connects to their values.
- *Personal Connection* helps in recruitment
- Utilize existing organizations to assist in outreach (RICCDA, FCCHRI, etc…)

Updated Recruitment

- Participation Incentives!!
  - $500 for Centers/School Age programs, $250 for Family Child Care
  - All programs are applying for a star rating **BEFORE APRIL 1st** are eligible, including:
    - *"Starting Star"* programs
    - New programs
    - Programs transitioning from 2008 to 2013 Standards
  - Payment will be issued once the program receives their star rating

Updated Recruitment

- March Campaign:
  - Visits to 170 programs by 12 staff from DHS, RIDE, KIDS Count and BrightStars Staff
  - Visits at Family Child Care Homes in Providence, Pawtucket and Cranston by BrightStars and DHS.
  - 6 Open Orientation Sessions for Centers and Preschools
  - Application Work Groups (1:1): 2 each week in Warwick, 2 in Providence
  - 2 Application Support Groups (group sessions)
  - Open House BrightStars and The Center for Early Learning Professionals on 3/20/14
- What You Can Do

Other Communication Efforts

- Monthly letter to CCAP Providers
- Distributing flyers and FAQs to all who visit programs/providers including DCYF social workers and licensors
- Mailed Program Incentive Flyers to all DCYF licensed providers and emailed incentive flyer to all public schools
- Communication monthly in Commissioner's Field Notes to Superintendents
- RIDE and BrightStars Presentations at monthly Leadership Meeting for Public Schools
- DCYF Licensing Unit and DHS OCC staff received talking points.
- During monitoring visits Licensing Specialists and Child Development Specialists are providing child care center administrators and family child care home providers with information/contact information about BrightStars

Collective Effort

How can you help?

Updates

2014 Relevant State Legislation

Subject	House	Senate
CCAP: Make cliff effect policy permanent	7421	2493
CCAP: Restore eligibility to low income working families up to 225% FPL	7563	2557
CCAP: eliminate family asset test and narrow child support requirement	7241	2499
Head Start: establish 2% tax on personal income over $250K to expand access to Head Start programs		2210
Kindergarten: Create a commission to study feasibility of implementing full-day kindergarten in all RI public schools		2433

Complete List of Tracked Early Learning Legislation:
http://www.rikidscount.org/matriarch/MultiPiecePage.asp_Q_PageID_E_287

RTT-ELC: Administrative Update

- Administrative Update
  - Staffing
  - Communication
- Project Highlights
  - Program Quality Improvement
  - Program Standards Alignment
  - Early learning and Development Standards
  - Child Assessment
  - Data
  - Workforce

Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings

Subcommittee	Date
Early Learning and Development Standards and Assessment	Monday, April 7, 2014
Program Standards and Quality	Thursday, April 17, 2014
Early Learning Data System	Thursday, May 13, 2014
Early Learning Workforce Development	Thursday, May 29, 2014
Access Subcommittee	Thursday, June 5, 2014
Early Learning and Development Standards and Assessment	Monday, June 9, 2014

Public Comment

Next Meeting

- **Next Council Meeting:**

June 18, 2014

11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Theme: Workforce

Rhode Island Early Learning Council
Early Learning Council Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:30-1:30 p.m.
Save the Bay

Meeting Summary

AGENDA SUMMARY

The Early Learning Council agenda addressed the following topics:

- Strategic plan milestones and celebrations
- Overview of lead dashboard indicators
- Participation in the statewide QRIS and program utilization of supports
- Public comment
- Updates
- Public comment

KEY POINTS

Key discussion points from the meeting are summarized below:

STRATEGIC PLAN MILESTONES/CELEBRATIONS

Karen Beese and Maura Pearce reviewed the Strategic Plan milestones that the Council has accomplished since the last Early Learning Council meeting. (See slides) The following comments and questions were made:

- The new Professional Development/Technical Assistance Center is open and is called the Center for Early Learning Professionals. That name will help the early learning workforce perceive themselves as the professionals they truly are.

- The Workforce Study is completed and available in PDF form for anybody who would like it.

- In celebration of the T.E.A.C.H. program's 100th scholar, the Council was shown a short video of a T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship recipient who described the positive impact of that program for her both personally and professionally. Seventy-two programs have been serviced by T.E.A.C.H.

OVERVIEW OF LEAD DASHBOARD INDICATORS

Leanne Barrett explained the lead dashboard indicators for the Early Learning Council. (See slides) Key comments and question from that explanation included the following:

- The slide on the Number of Early Learning Programs in Rhode Island does not include school age programs because they are not included in the Early Learning Council's targets.

- The slight dip in child care subsidies from 2012 to 2013 could be due to a random fluctuation.

- The reduction in Early Head Start and Head Start enrollment that occurred in 2013 was due to sequestration.

- The Early Intervention slide presents calendar year data and not point in time data. The Strategic Plan goal for Early Intervention is to improve the systems in place so that, by 2016, we will be referring, for Early Intervention assessment, 100% of all children under age 3 who are victims of

child maltreatment because we know that children in DCYF care are 6 times more likely to have a delay or disability. We are making progress towards that goal.

- Does the Head Start slide include children receiving state funds?
  A: Yes, it includes both children receiving federal funding and children receiving state funding.

- In order to reach the Strategic Plan goal of having 61% of licensed centers with a BrightStars rating of 4 or 5 stars by December 2015, the programs that transition from their *"Starting Star"* designation will have to move up the star system quickly.

- Head Start programs generally enter BrightStars at a higher star level. The Head Start BrightStars Participation slide includes childcare partner sites if they operate a Head Start classroom, such as Beautiful Beginnings.

- Although there are currently 13 RIDE approved preschool classrooms in the state, only 8 are included on the RIDE CECE Approval slide because the other 5 are still completing the approval process.

- The Aligned Professional Development slide includes duplicated data. For example, if a person took 3 classes they would be counted 3 times.

- Is there any way to estimate the amount of duplication included in the aligned professional development numbers?
  A: No, not until the workforce registry is complete.

- The goal to have, by December 2015, at least 1,000 early childhood educators meeting the Level 1 criteria for the WKC career pathway is not limited to people who complete the CCRI training program. Any person with 12 college credits in early childhood education counts towards that goal.

PARTICIPATION IN THE STATEWIDE QRIS/PROGRAM UTILIZATION OF SUPPORTS

Karen Beese and Lisa Hildebrand discussed program participation in the statewide quality rating and improvement system, BrightStars, and the program utilization of supports. (See slides) Key comments and questions from that discussion were:

- These slides show data as of March 2014.

- The slide on current BrightStars Participation includes school age programs. All of the programs on the slide are listed on the DHS website with a link to the BrightStars website.

- Since BrightStars is already processing many applications from *"Starting Star"* programs applying for higher star designations, the number of programs that will automatically transition from the *"Starting Star"* to a 1 star rating will be low.

Rhode Island Early Learning Council
Early Learning Council Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:30-1:30 p.m.
Save the Bay

Meeting Summary

- In addition to the family child care homes and centers listed on the Participation by Program Type slide, there are 4 school age programs participating in BrightStars: one 5 star, two 3 star, and one 2 star. The numbers on that slide change daily so it is just a snapshot.

- Programs that received a *"Starting Star"* do not need to have CCAP children actually enrolled in their programs, they just need to be CCAP-approved.

- There are some programs participating in BrightStars that do not have CCAP approval, but not many.

- Most *"Starting Star"* Head Start programs have submitted BrightStars applications.

- The Transition Timelines slide shows the currently participating BrightStars programs and when they are scheduled to renew their BrightStars participation. That slide tracks when all BrightStars programs will be transitioned to the new 2013 BrightStars standards. The goal is to have as many programs as possible transition to the new standards even before they are due to renew their BrightStars participation and, to help accomplish that goal, BrightStars is offering additional supports for programs to familiarize themselves with the new standards. Furthermore, there are participation incentives available not only for newly participating BrightStars programs and *"Starting Star"* programs that apply for higher star designations prior to April 1st, but also for programs that transition to the 2013 BrightStars standards prior to April 1st. Programs should transition soon so they can take advantage of those supports before they become unavailable.

- As of March 14th, BrightStars has received applications from 27 centers, 2 public schools, 18 family child care homes, and 1 school age program. In the last 6 days an additional 8 center applications and 4 family child care home applications have been submitted. Most centers are entering BrightStars at the higher star levels and the family child care homes are entering BrightStars mostly at the 1 and 2 star levels.

- BrightStars has a program communication plan for its recruitment efforts. That plan includes information sessions to educate providers on the BrightStars standards, such as what it means to participate, how to apply and how to determine the star level at which a program should enter BrightStars. These are open sessions for any program to attend. There are also targeted information sessions designed for particular groups or organizations. Soon, pre-recorded sessions will be available for programs that want more information on a particular standard or who cannot attend any of the other sessions. BrightStars will follow-up with all programs that attend any of the information sessions.

- This month, Application Workgroups are occurring four times weekly at the BrightStars office and at Ready to Learn Providence. These Workgroups support programs during the application process by offering a place to ask questions about the application and to get personal one-to-one coaching on completing an application. Application Support Groups, which are larger group

sessions, are also being offered during March. There will be two Application Support Groups for public schools and 1 for family child care homes that will be offered in both English and Spanish. BrightStars will be adding 2 more Application Support Groups.

- In a massive outreach effort, BrightStars is directly calling, emailing and visiting programs throughout the state. Representatives from DHS, RIDE, Kids Count and BrightStars are personally visiting programs and applications are being sent to all licensed programs. BrightStars is following-up with all of these programs through additional phone calls, emails and mailings of FAQs, flyers and other marketing materials. These outreach efforts are specifically targeting programs with the highest percentage of high needs children, based on CCAP information, and programs in particular geographic areas.

- Information about BrightStars is also available on social media sites, including Facebook. Soon, the BrightStars website, www.brightstars.org, will include testimonial videos about the benefits of BrightStars participation.

- Marketing materials are being developed specifically for licensed programs that are not CCAP-approved. Additionally, for outreach to the public schools, BrightStars is emphasizing the convenience of the common application and the ability to apply for RIDE CECE approval online.

- Everyone needs to act as an ambassador and encourage programs to apply to BrightStars prior to April 1st so they can take advantage of the participation incentives and be first in line for the other supports available to programs participating in BrightStars.

- In order to support BrightStars' recruitment efforts, families need to be more informed about BrightStars, specifically that a 1 star rating means that a program is committed to quality, meets basic health and safety requirements, and has a plan for continuous quality improvement. Getting families on board encourages providers to move along the quality continuum. Additionally, increased BrightStars participation by programs will improve family engagement in this campaign for high quality child care. Utilizing the listservs and text-based communications of organizations other than providers will also help educate families and the community about the importance of high quality early child care.

- The Program Quality Awards help high quality programs maintain higher quality since operating at those higher levels is more costly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments from the public on the statewide QRIS included:

- On the preschool education data dashboard slide, is there any way to separate out children in foster care or children who are child welfare involved? We want to make sure the staff at those programs has the tools required to meet the needs of the state's most vulnerable children.

Meeting Summary

A: Head Start asks for that information, but the data is not easily available. Although DCYF is working with foster families and others in the system to increase awareness of BrightStars and to emphasize the importance of making high quality choices for child care, we don't have data on where the DCYF children are receiving child care or even how old they are.

- The Center for Early Learning Professionals is having an Open House from 4:30-7:30 tonight at 535 Centerville Road, Suite 201 in Warwick. Tonight's Open House is focused on programs already engaged with BrightStars. In April there will be a second Open House for programs that are not yet engaged with BrightStars. In addition to flyers, there will be a Center enews that will disseminate information about scheduling. The website, www.center-elp.org, will have scheduling information too.

UPDATES

Melissa Emidy, Elizabeth Burke Bryant and Leanne Barrett provided updates on the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant, child care related legislation and upcoming meetings. (See slides) During those updates, the following key comments and questions were made:

RTT-ELC

- We have concluded efforts to increase staffing at DHS.
- An enews for EXCEED will be released tomorrow and the website, www.exceed.ri.gov, will be online by April 1st.
- We have posted an RFP for a consultant to assist with our sustainability plan. The sustainability plan is a cross agency effort over the next 18 months to look at the work we have already accomplished, the efforts we still need to complete and the plan we need for to develop to sustain ongoing efforts.
- RIDE, BrightStars and DCYF have resumed alignment meetings to ensure that all the program standards/regulations work of the three agencies is aligned and to quickly address any alignment problems that arise.
- We are in contract negotiations with a vendor to validate the revised BrightStars standards.
- We have released a technical paper for the program standards alignment.
- The 2013 ELDS packets are in the mail. The discounted printing agreement has not been working as planned because some of the store staff at Staples are not aware of it. We are working to resolve that issue, but in the meantime we have added an online vendor where printing orders can be placed and paid for online.
- Do people have to pay for a copy of the ELDS?

Rhode Island Early Learning Council
Early Learning Council Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:30-1:30 p.m.
Save the Bay

Meeting Summary

A: One copy is being sent to all licensed programs and additional copies can be downloaded from the website for free. Additional copies printed at a store or online need to be purchased. Programs may use their program improvement grants for this expense.

- RIELDS trainings continue to fill and new classes are added as needed.

- RIDE staff have been participating in virtual planning meetings for the KEA and there will be a face-to-face meeting in North Carolina next week.

- HEALTH has been meeting with primary care providers to offer information on and training for developmental screenings. We are in the planning stages of an outreach campaign for developmental screenings which should be launched in the fall.

- The common application on the data portal should be rolled out this summer.

- The Workforce Subcommittee is continuing to work with institutes of higher education to develop the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Legislative Update

- The Rhode Island Kids Count website, www.rikidscount.org, keeps up to date information on all legislation related to children in Rhode Island.

- To assist working families, RItecare, child care and family support programs are all equally important.

- Districts need to share strategies with each other for funding all-day kindergarten.

- One hundred and seven families, and 156 children, have enrolled in the Transitional Child Care pilot, otherwise known as the cliff effect pilot. There are 116 families and 174 children that just got authorized but have not yet enrolled.

- Only a few people have utilized the childcare subsidies available to working families receiving training to increase workforce credentials under the Back to Work pilot. All DLT career center staff have been told to encourage participation in this program and the Senate President and the Majority Leader are exploring ways to increase access to it.

- It is very important for the General Assembly to hear from people in the field.

- Rachel Flum at the Economic Progress Institute is collecting names and stories from parents who have benefitted from the cliff effect pilot in order to raise visibility about child care and early learning.

Rhode Island Early Learning Council
Early Learning Council Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:30-1:30 p.m.
Save the Bay

Meeting Summary

- Child Care Day at the State House is on April 10th from 2:30-4:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Additional comments and questions from the public included:

- Ready to Learn Providence was awarded a $3.5 million Investing in Innovation grant with the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will support the development of a new kind of family engagement in the Providence public schools. The changes will start in the registration office with families registering for kindergarten and will eventually be in practice at all 21 elementary schools in Providence.

- The DHS Child Care Community Exchange will be at 1:00 on April 1st at Child and Family Services.

- Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island and the YMCA are partnering to bring child sexual abuse prevention training to the child care community. The first training, Darkness to Light Stewards of Children, is open to all licensed child care providers, and will be held in Smithfield in partnership with Dr. Daycare.

- For the Early Learning Facility Needs Assessment, a survey has been sent to all licensed programs. There are 230 completed surveys so far, a 70% response rate, with additional completed surveys expected soon. The goal is an 80-85% response rate. Sixty randomly selected on-site visits have been scheduled and 3 more are left to be scheduled. The visits will utilize a tool that has already been piloted and perfected. Eventually, that tool can be used by programs during self-evaluations. The high response rate to the survey is reflective of both the extensive outreach efforts and the programs' facility needs.