

Narrowing the Opportunity Gap in Alum Rock: From Cumulative Risk to Cumulative Assets

SANTA CLARA
COUNTY
CHILDREN'S SUMMIT

February 24, 2017



Alum Rock Union
School District



FIRST 5 Santa Clara



SOMOS Mayfair



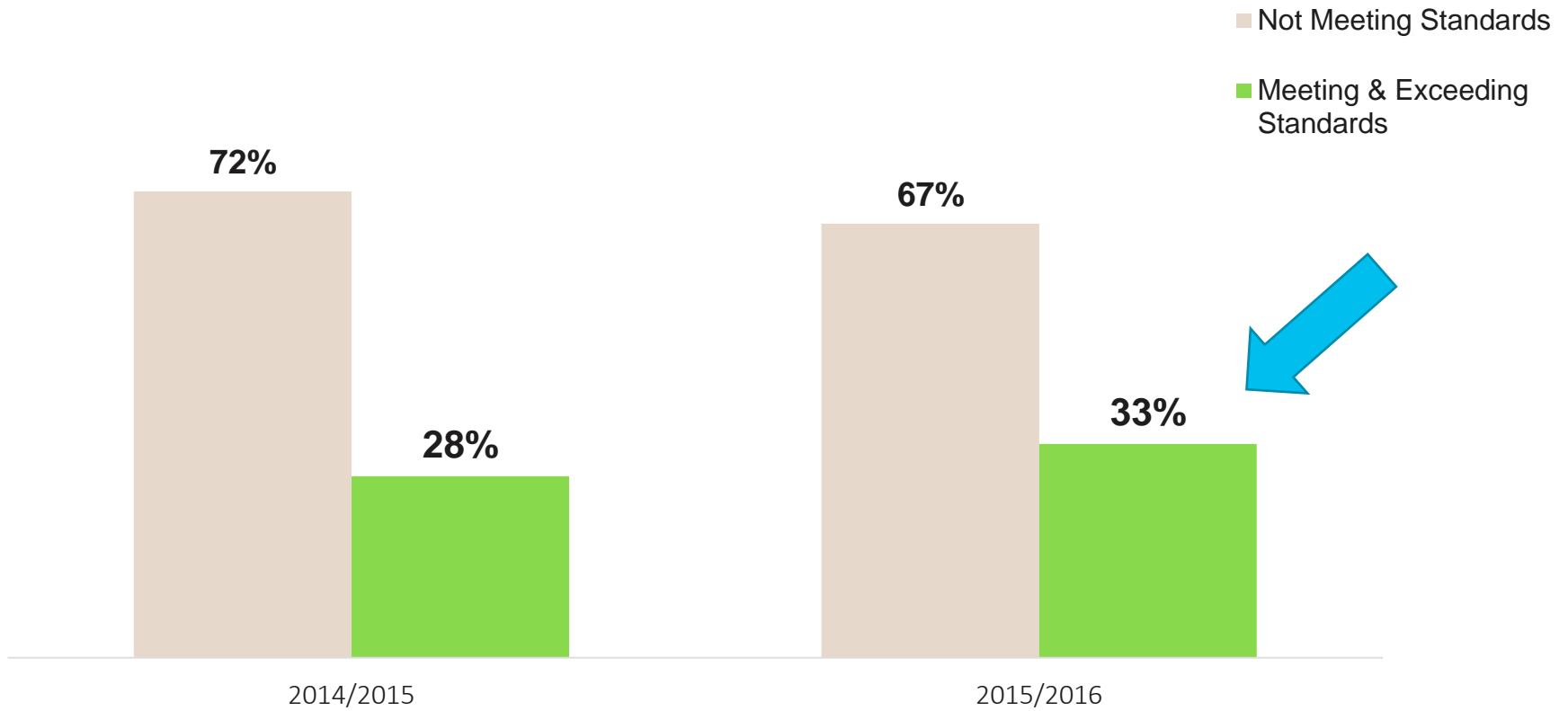
Applied Survey Research

Welcome & Stage Setting

- **Welcome and Introductions**
 - Alum Rock Union School District
 - FIRST 5 Santa Clara
 - Applied Survey Research
 - Other essential partners: County Office of Education, Head Start, Kidango, SOMOS Mayfair, Grail Family Services

- **Purpose: Today you'll learn...**
 - Why school readiness matters for success by third grade
 - Where Alum Rock USD is starting out
 - WHY we decided to make a difference
 - HOW we're making a difference
 - What our Year 1 data are telling us

Third grade reading in Alum Rock

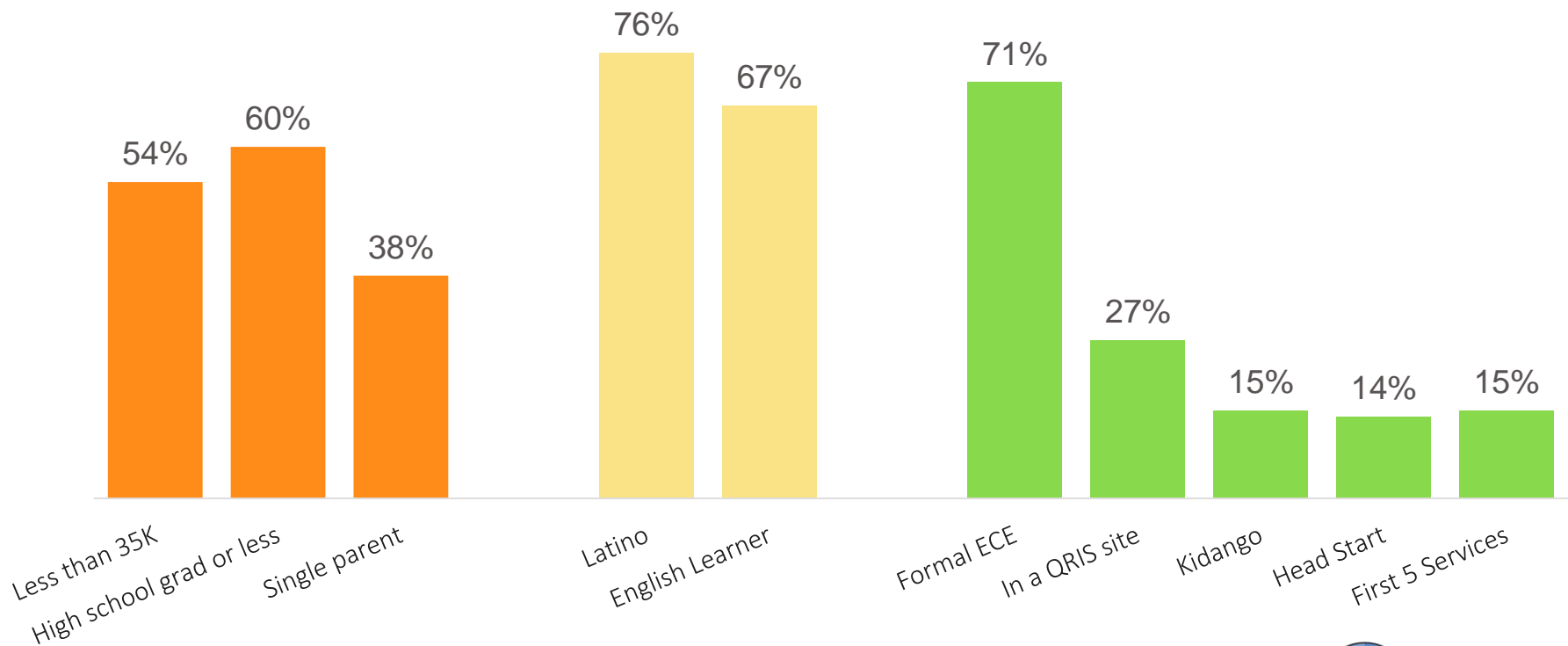


Why School Readiness Matters

- About 70% of “kinder-ready” children will be reading at grade level by 3rd grade
- The Alum Rock Birth to 3rd Initiative is creating a network of integrated services to:
 - Increase school readiness
 - Increase third grade reading
- Gathered baseline kindergarten readiness data in Fall 2016 using Kindergarten Observation Form:
 - How many children in Alum Rock are ready for kindergarten?
 - What factors drive school readiness?
 - Do readiness predictors have a cumulative effect on readiness?
What are the ingredients of our recipe?

Profile of Kindergarten Students

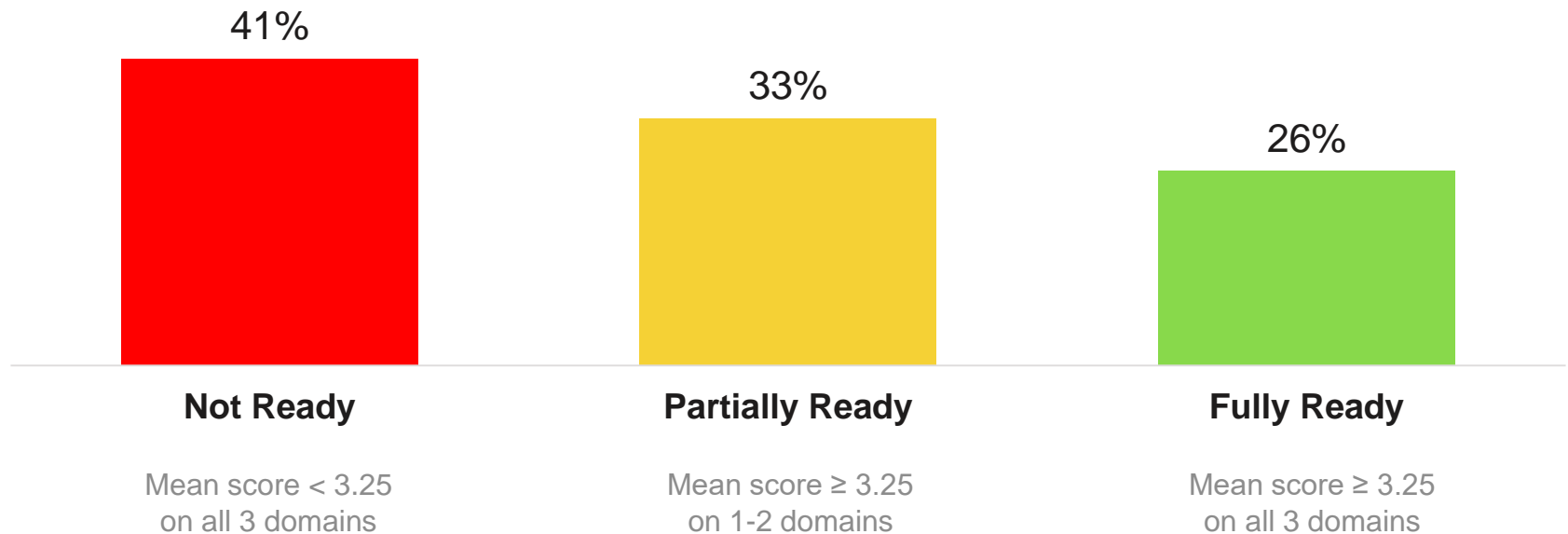
- 15 Schools, 28 Classrooms → 526 Kindergarteners Assessed



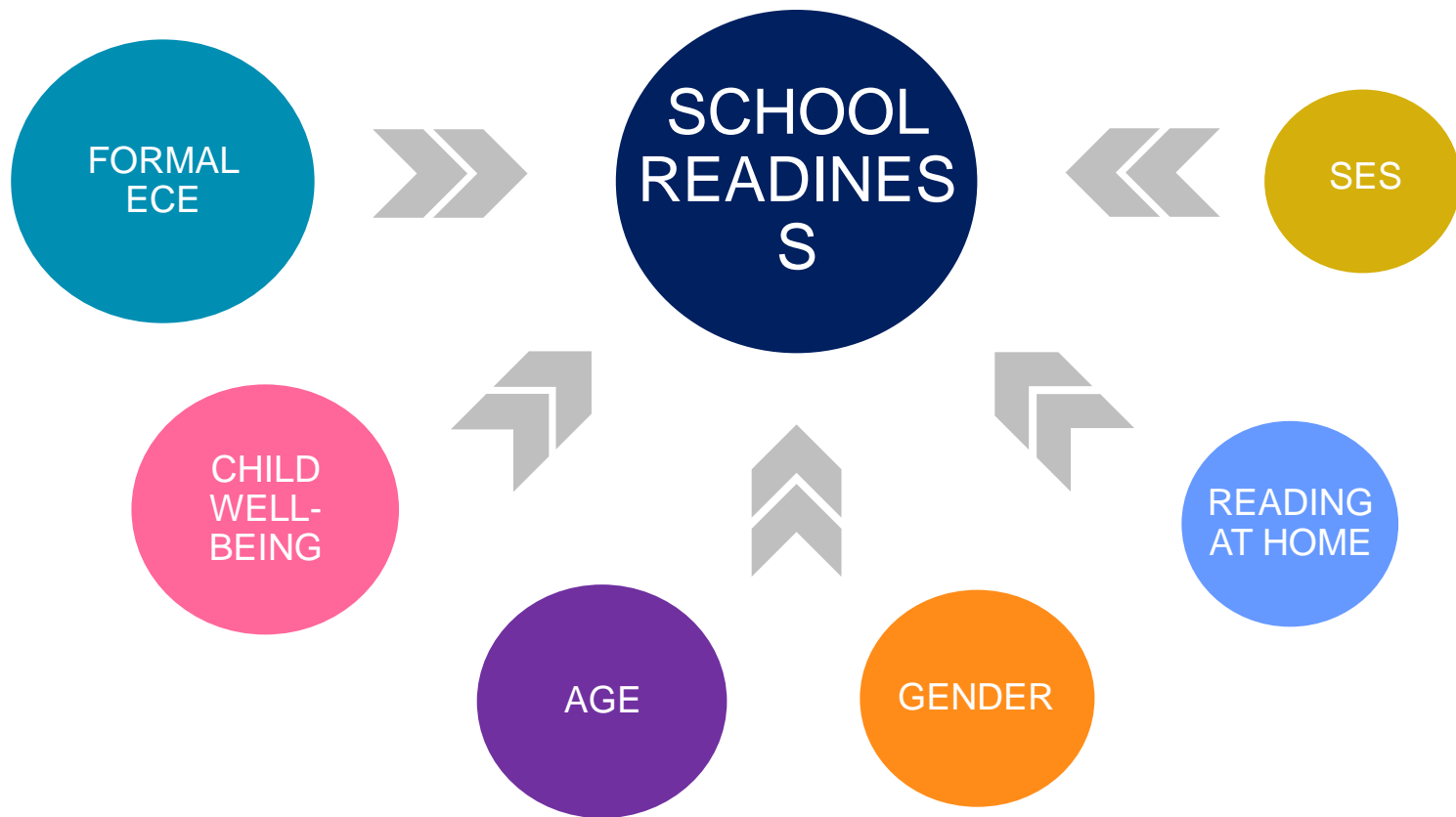
Source: Kindergarten Observation Form, Parent Information Form, Applied Survey Research, 2016.

Kindergarten Readiness in Alum Rock

- One quarter of children are fully ready for kindergarten across the *Self-Regulation*, *Social Expression and Kinder Academics* domains, but almost half are not ready.

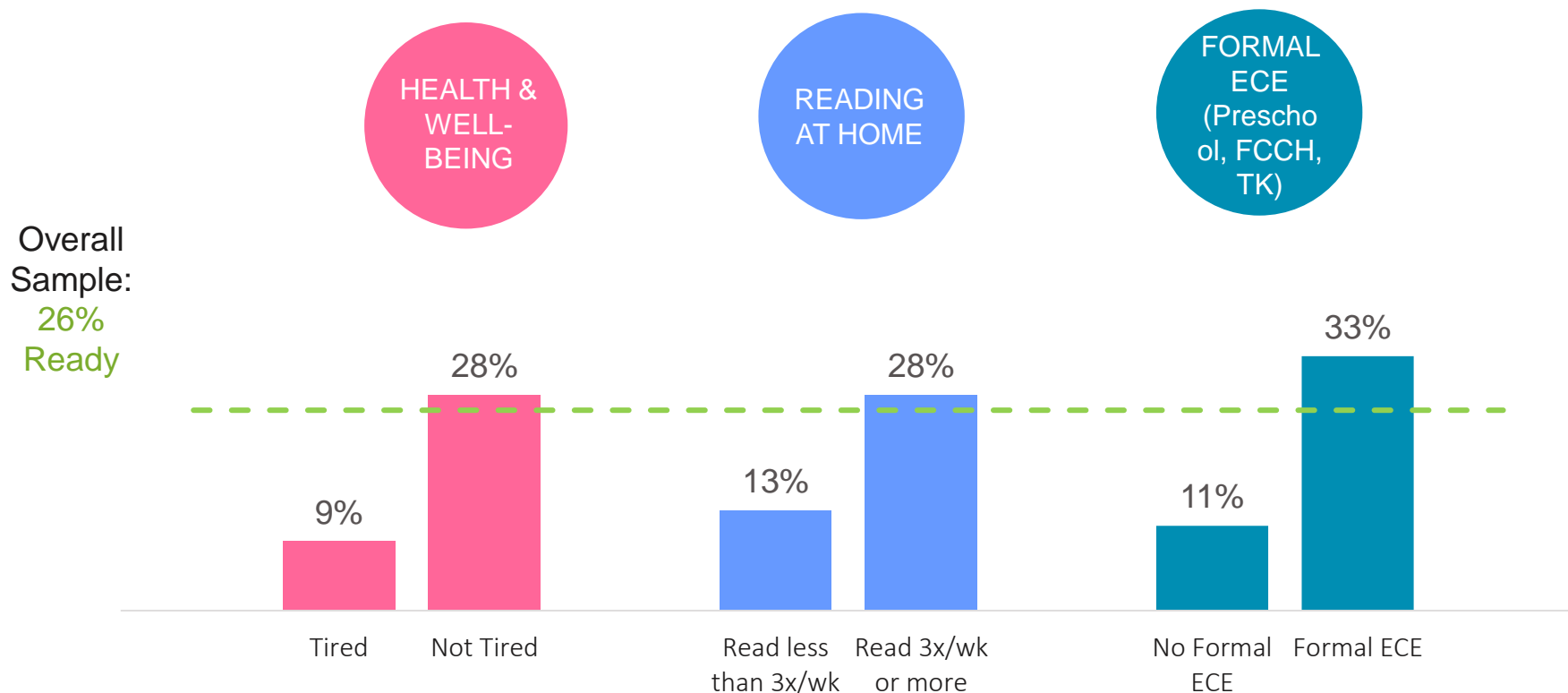


Predictors of Readiness in Alum Rock



Source: Kindergarten Observation Form, Applied Survey Research.

Percent Ready, by Predictor



Turning the Curve in Alum Rock

- Kinder readiness from families' perspective
- District's goals for the Birth to 3rd grade initiative
- The Birth to 3rd Model...pathways to success
- Early "wins" in our first year

Family Life in Alum Rock...

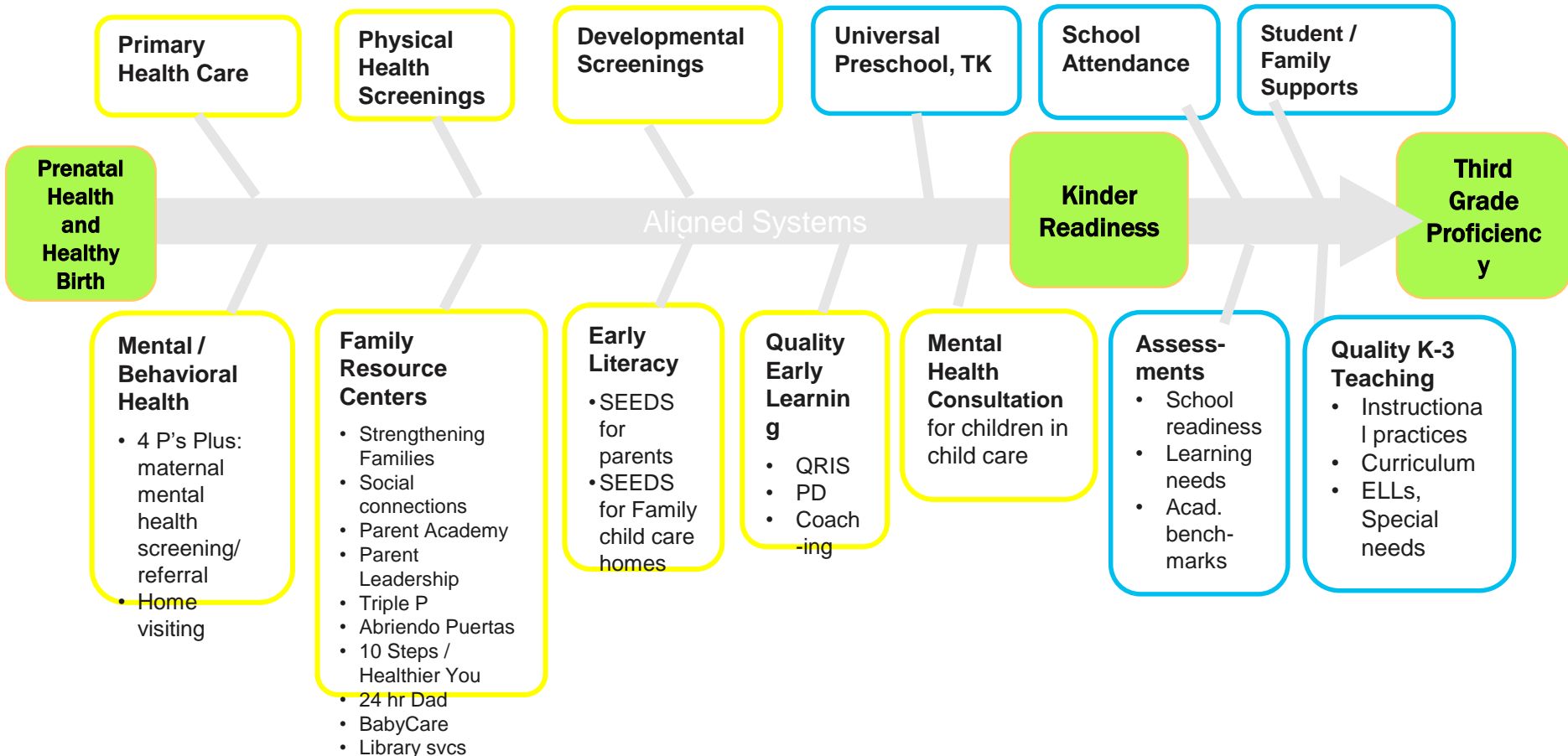
- Our role in the Alum Rock community
- What we think it means to be “ready for kindergarten”, and what we need for our children’s early success in school
- The challenges we face in helping our children transition into kindergarten and be successful readers by third grade
- The opportunities and assets in our Alum Rock community

Our Goals with the B-3rd Initiative

- By 2020, we want to be able to demonstrate:

Collaboration	Providers came together and built the necessary policies and procedures to connect children and families to needed services
Preschool	More children are enrolled in preschool
Quality	More preschools are of higher quality
Services	More children and families are connected to critical services for early learning, health and social wellbeing
Family Engagement	More families are engaged with their children, and informal and formal systems of care
Kindergarten readiness	More children are ready for kindergarten
Third grade reading	More children are reading at grade level by third grade

Our B-3rd Model



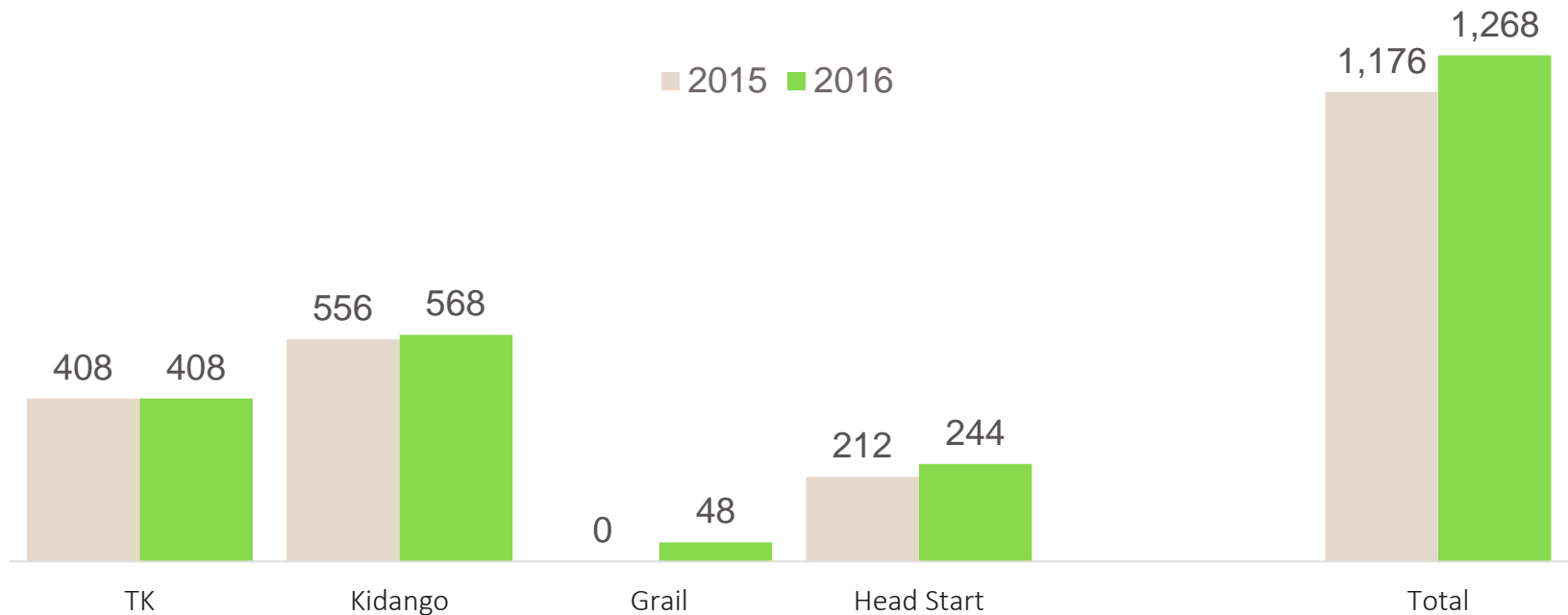
Yellow: Birth to 5 system
Blue: Pre-K to 3rd system

Early Wins: Our Activities

- Spring 2017:
 - With the help of Optimal Solutions Consulting, created Early Learning Strategic Plan for the district
 - Obtained resources to build 92 more preschool slots
- Summer 2016:
 - Hired Director of Early Learning at ARUSD to oversee integration
 - Created centralized eligibility process to fill subsidized spaces
- Fall 2016:
 - Opened Family Resource Center at Caesar Chavez Elem. School
 - Created brochure of services to help with cross referral
 - Obtained data sharing agreements and enrollment data from preschools
 - Conducted baseline kindergarten readiness assessment

Early Wins: We added more spaces!

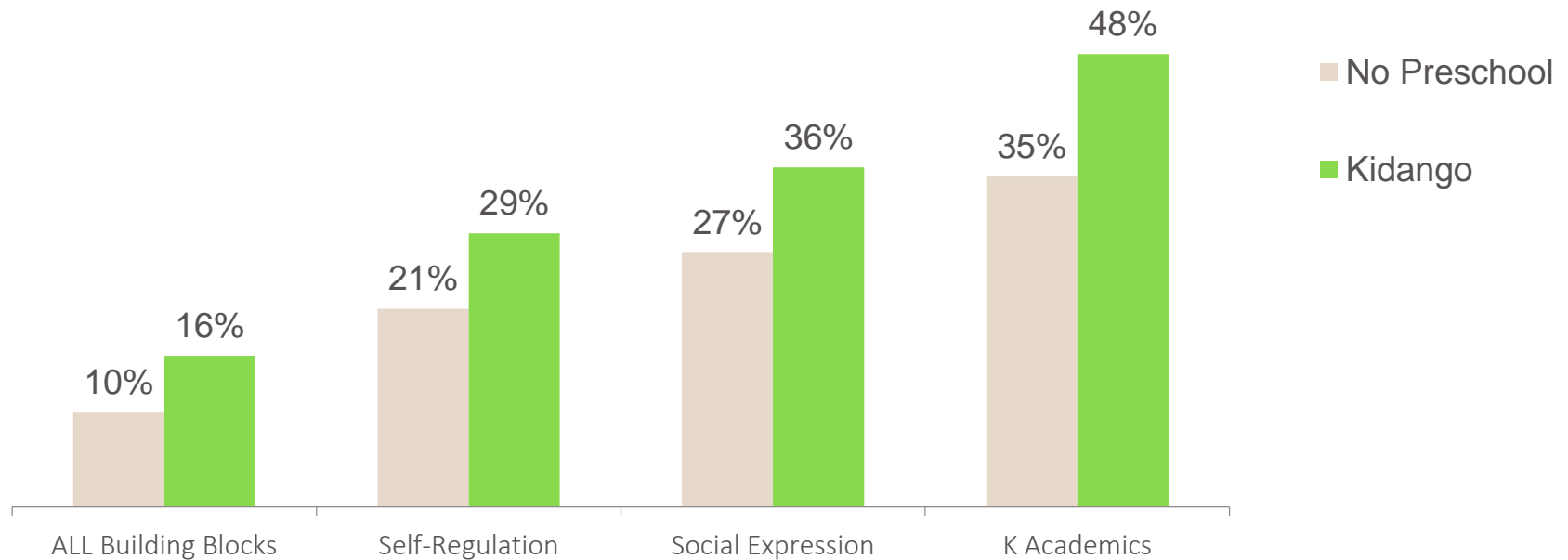
- Preschool capacity was increased by nearly 100 spaces between 2015 and 2016



Source: Enrollment records from ARUSD, Kidango, Head Start, Grail Family Services.

Early Wins: Preschool matters!

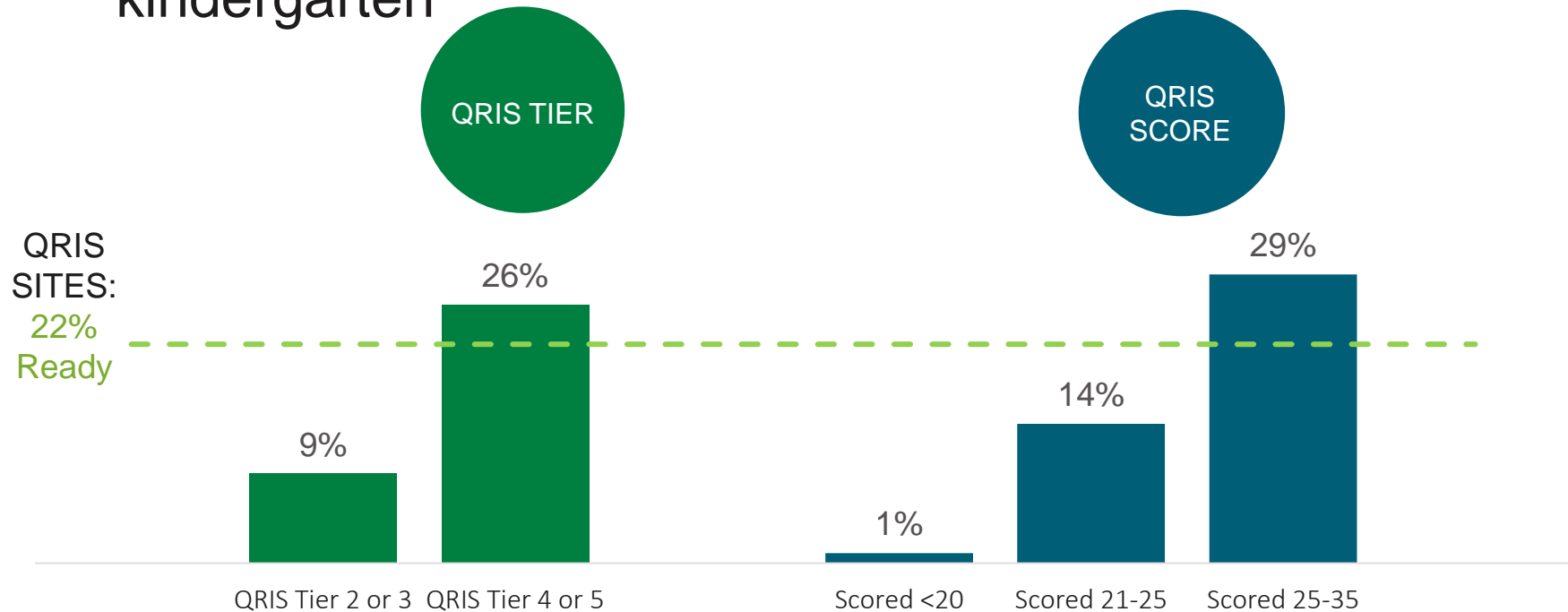
- Children attending Kidango preschool had higher readiness than children without preschool



Source: Kindergarten Observation Form, Parent Information Form 2016; N=207-223.

Early Wins: Quality matters!

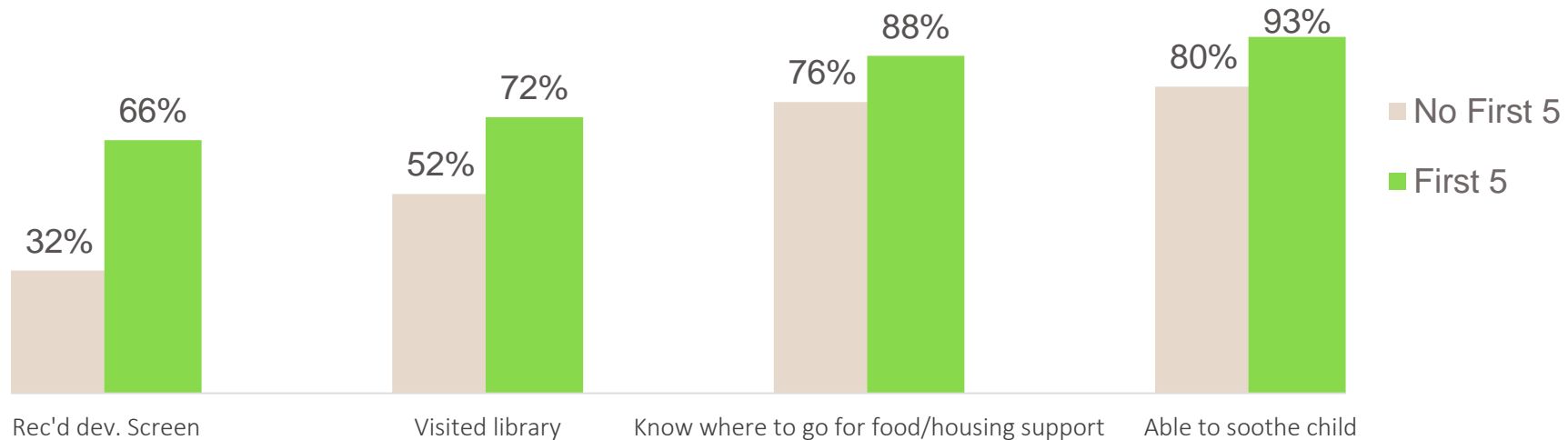
- Kindergartners who graduated from more highly rated QRIS sites were more likely to be fully ready for kindergarten



Source: Kindergarten Observation Form/Parent Information Form; Child Care Provider Databases/F5 Santa Clara QRIS Rating Data; N=65. Adjusted for gender, special needs, English learner, age, maternal education, race/ethnicity to make groups statistically comparable.

Early Wins: FIRST 5 matters!

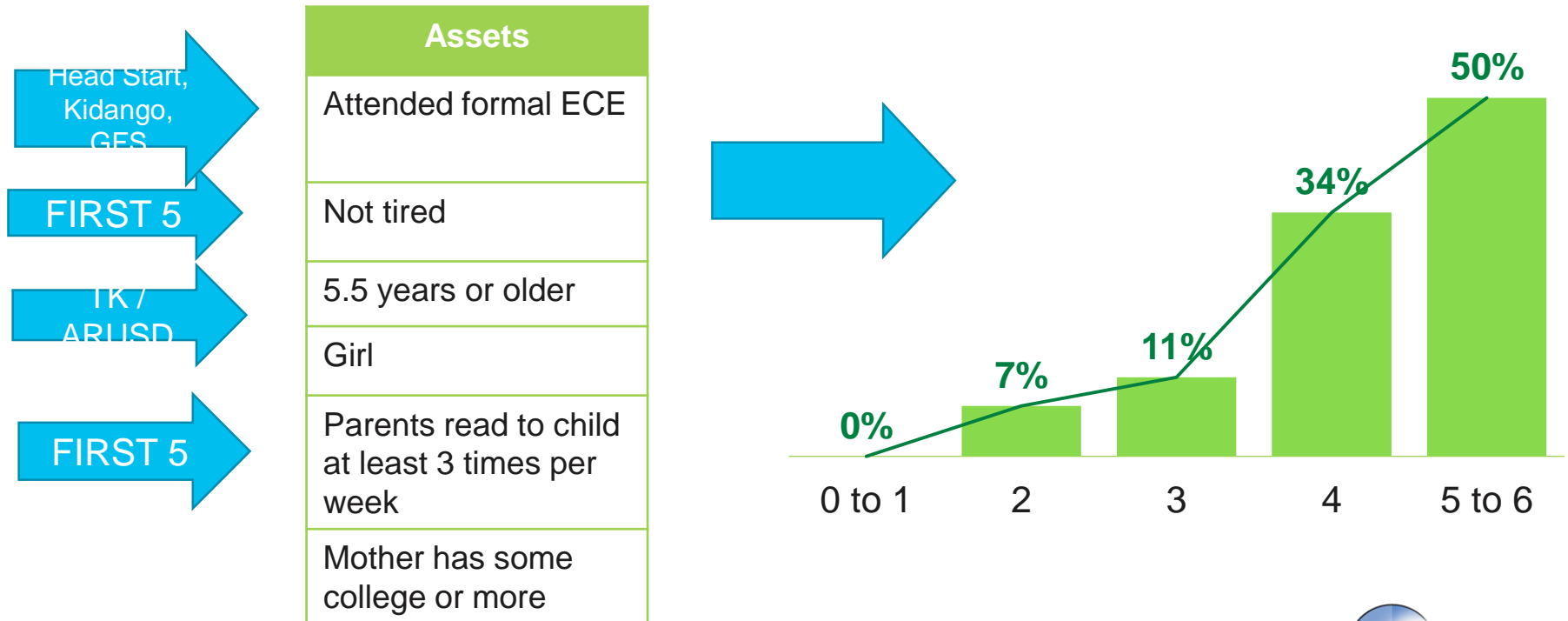
- FIRST 5 participants were more likely to...
 - Receive a developmental screening
 - Access community-based enrichment opportunities for children
 - Say they know where to go for food or housing support
 - Say they are able to soothe child when upset



Source: Parent Information Form/F5 Santa Clara Service Data; N=349-356.

Cumulative Effect Of Assets

- The more assets they had, the more likely students were to be fully ready for kindergarten...and this initiative is building those assets



Questions for the Alum Rock team?

- The community of Alum Rock?
- The model?
- Who's involved?
- Collaboration: What's making us tick?
- The data?
- The support?
- Challenges?
- Next steps?

Thank you!

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