

Pre-K and Student Achievement Impact

Nome Public Schools

Brief History

- Nome Public Schools has partnered with the two existing preschool providers from 2009-2019
- Two preschool providers –
 - Nome Preschool - private non-profit organization founded in 1970, mainly parent driven
 - Head Start - administered by local tribal non-profit organization
- These providers have the capacity to serve approximately 2/3 of the average kindergarten class each year (40 out of 60)
- The State of Alaska Preschool Grant allowed placement of certified teachers in the classrooms of the partner organizations

Brief History

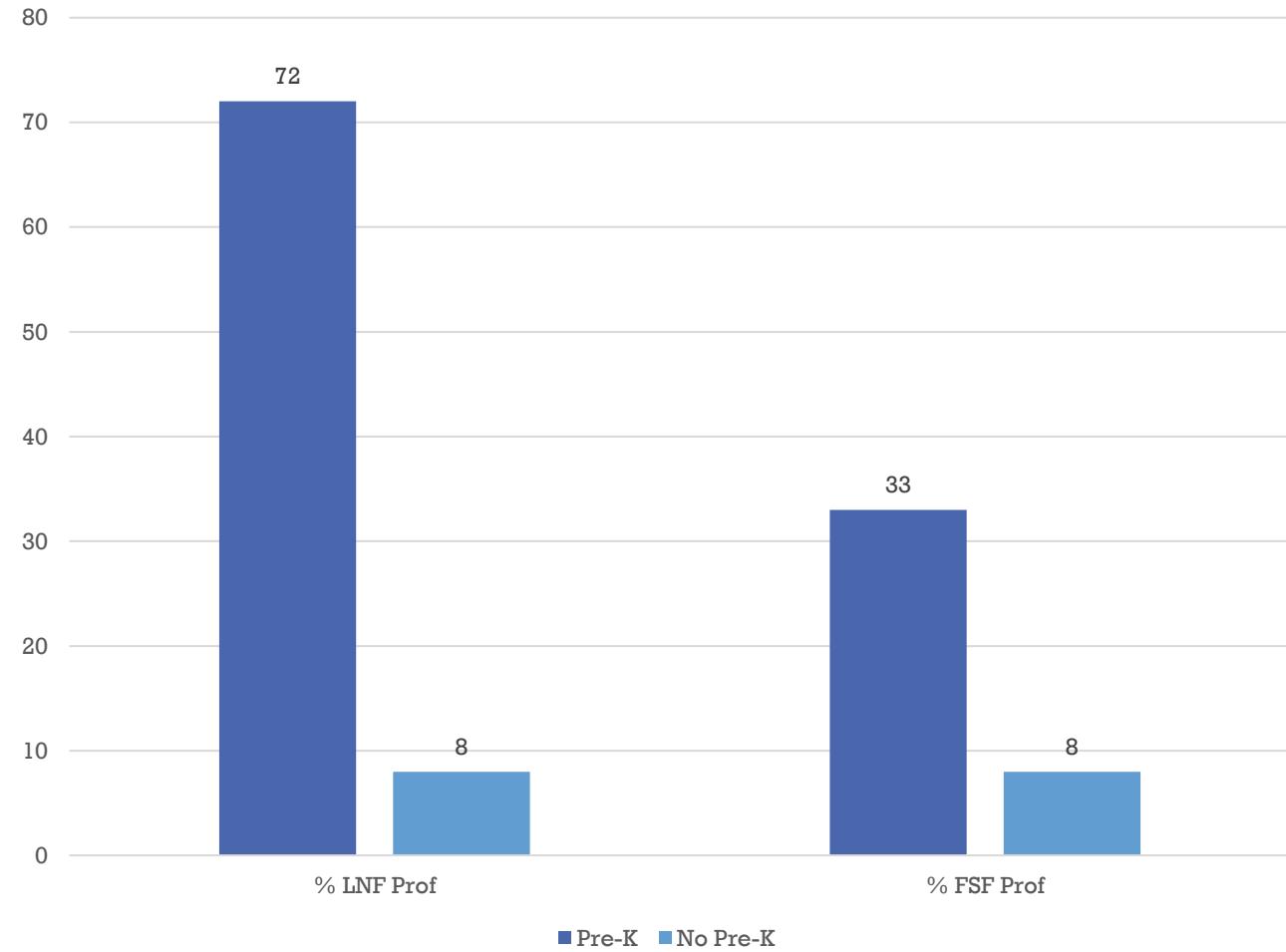
- The grant originally funded up to 3 teachers – two at Head Start and 1 at Nome Preschool – not consistent at filling all 3 slots with a certified teacher over 10 years
- We had 3 cycles of 3 year grants; the final cycle was a “sunset” period of decreasing funds, with a final year funded with carryover
- During the sunset period, uncertainty of funding the grant program by the Alaska Legislature which ran well into the late spring months meant increased difficulty in hiring/retaining preschool teachers

Brief History

- The last year with preschool teachers was the 2018-2019 school year
- Unable to hire any teachers in the spring of 2019 due to ongoing uncertainty around Governor's Veto of Pre-K grant funds
- Had to decline grant in the fall of 2019 – ongoing attempts to find teachers throughout the summer produced no results

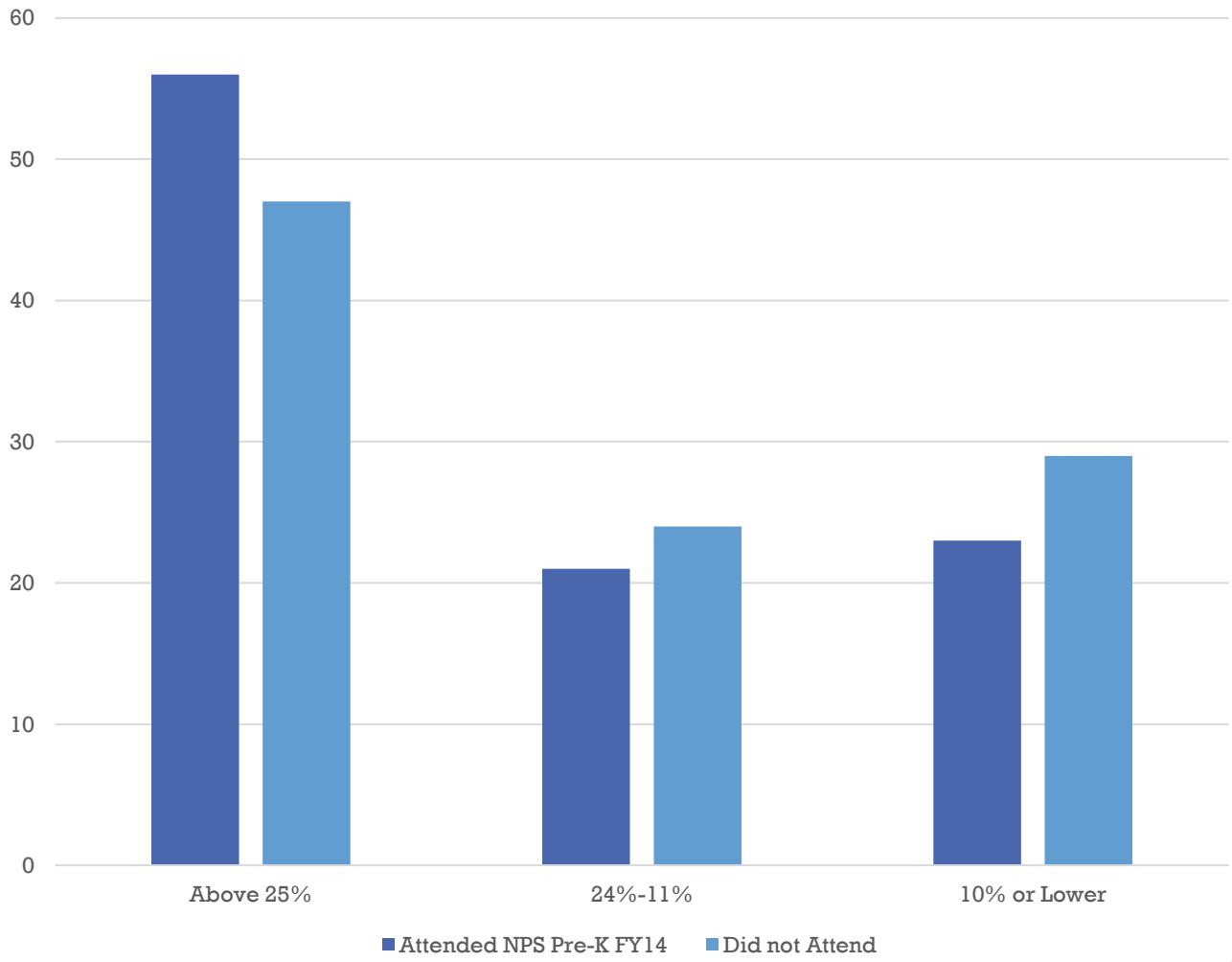
Class of 2029 Kinder

Nome Public Schools Fall 2016
Kindergarten DIBELS Results



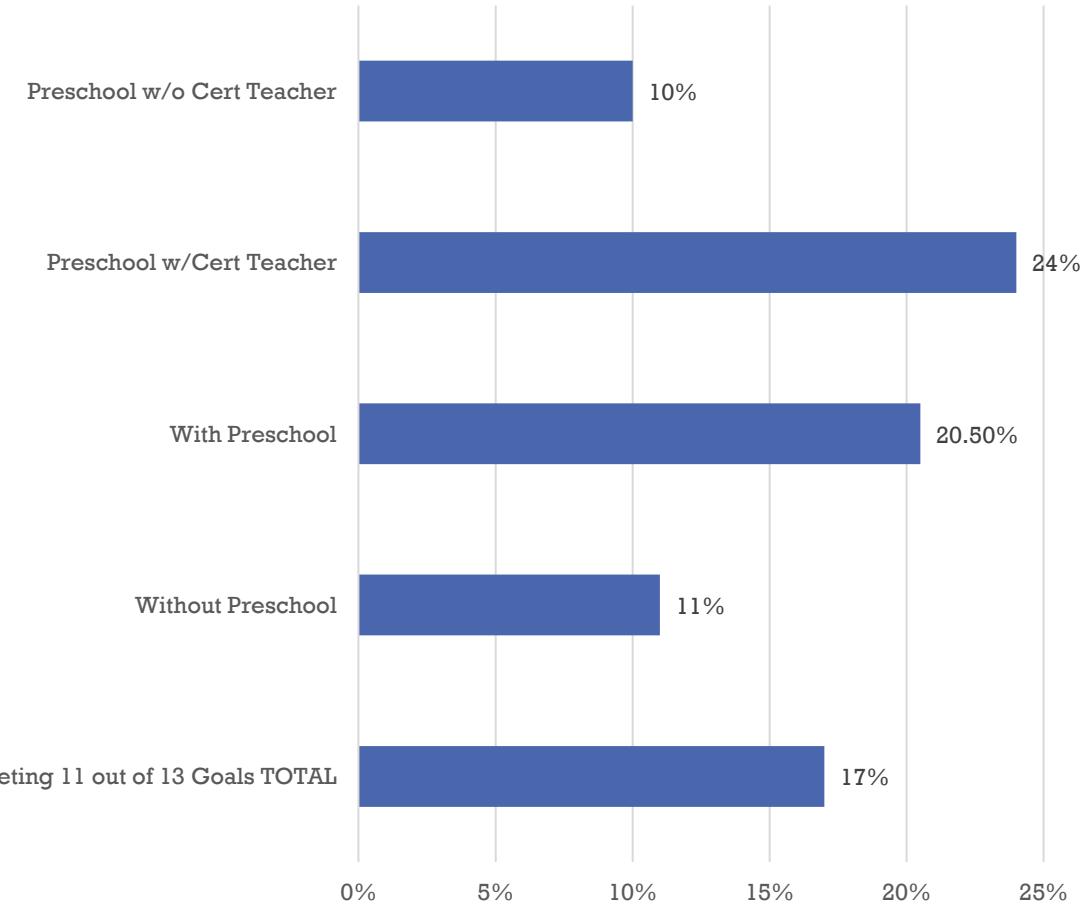
Class of 2029 2nd Grade

NPS Fall 2016 Grade 2 MAP Reading Results



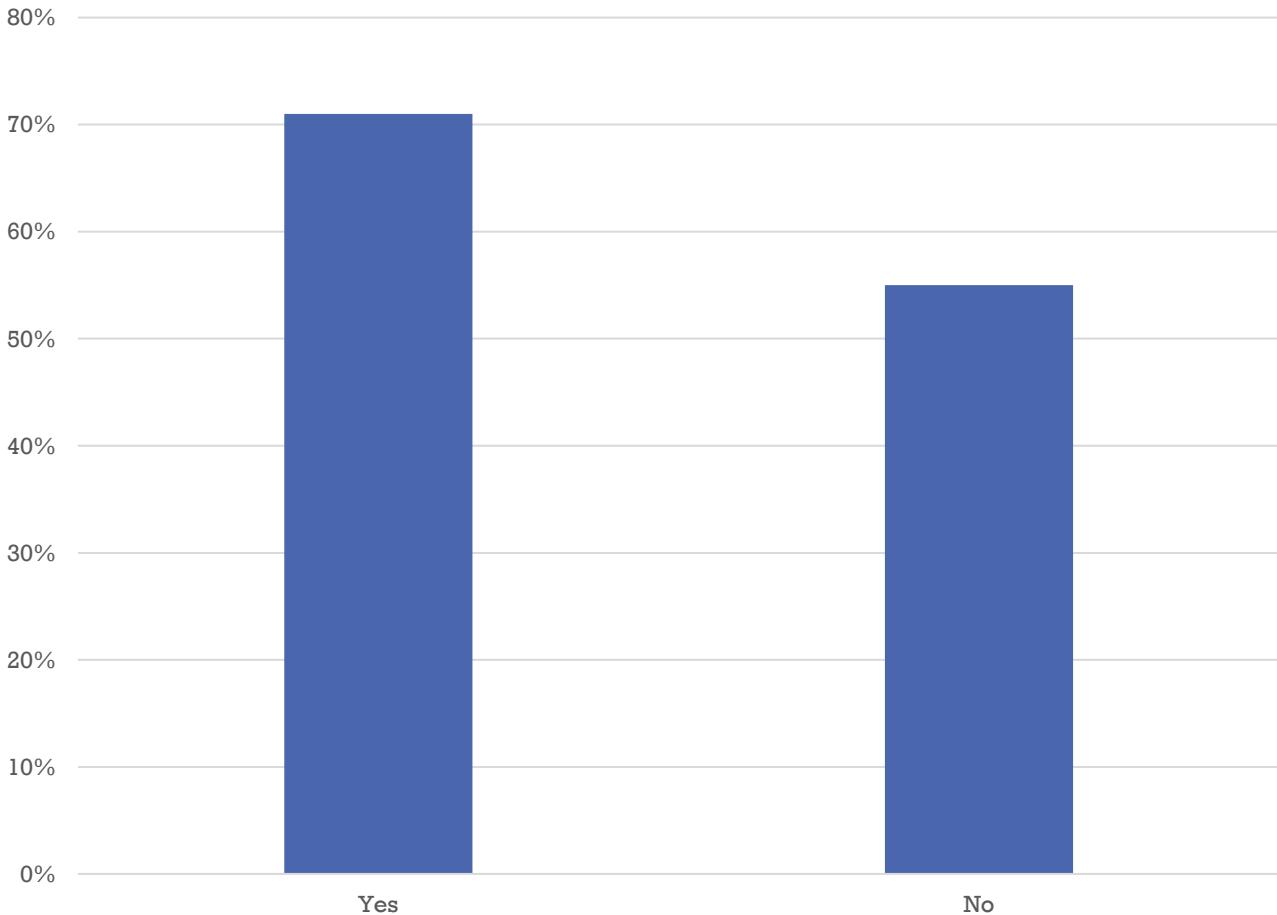
Class of 2031 Kinder

Developmental Profile Results Fall 2018
Nome Public Schools
% of Kinders Meeting 11 out of 13 Goals



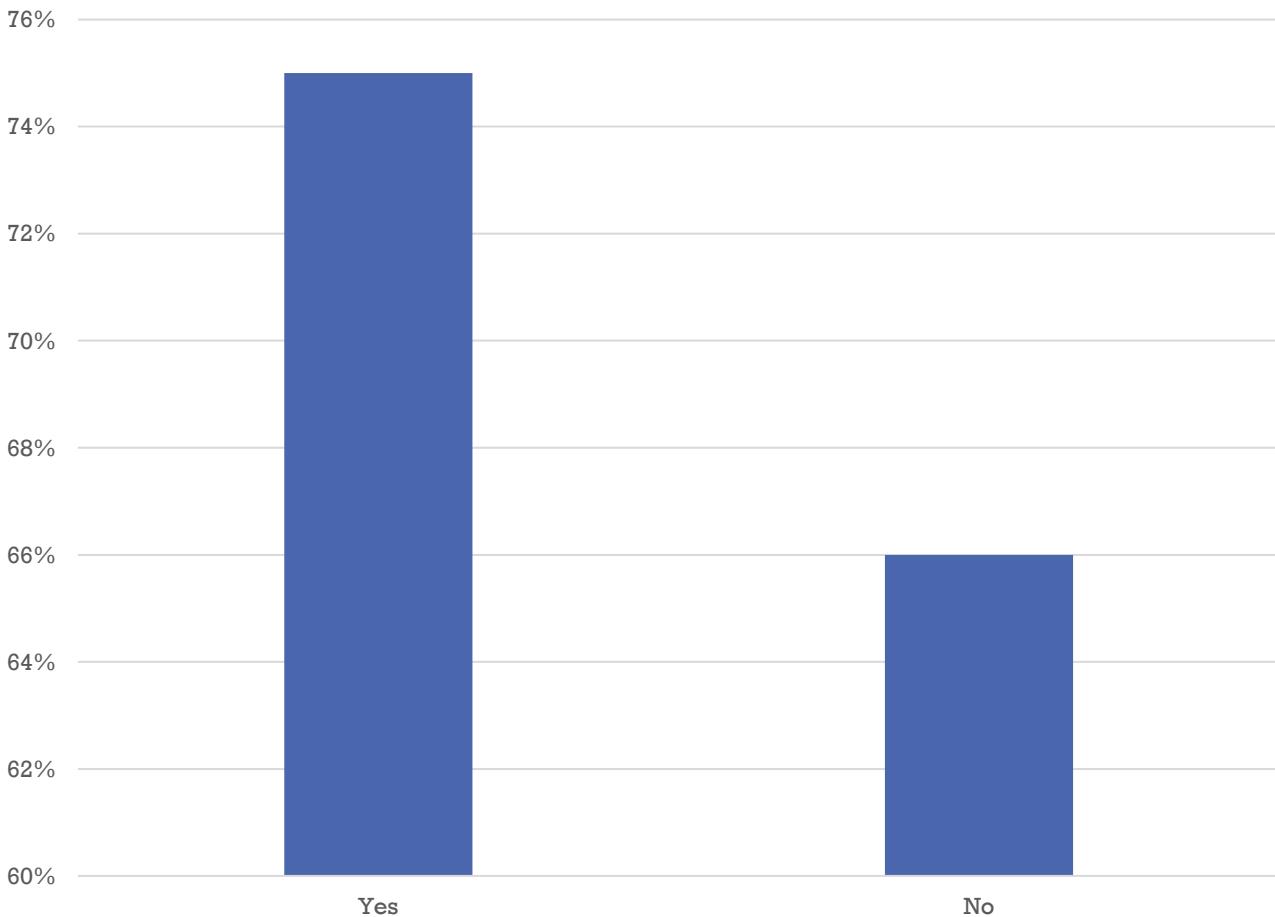
Class of 2031 Kinder

Fall 2018 MAP Reading Scores
Percent of Students Scoring in the 40th Percentile or Higher
With or Without Preschool



Class of 2031 Kinder

Fall 2018 MAP Reading Scores
Percent of Students Scoring in the 40th Percentile or Higher
Pre-K With a Certified Teacher versus Without



Current Situation

- Preschool partner organizations fill teaching positions with staff of varying educational background and experience
 - None are certified Alaska Teachers
 - None hold Bachelor's Degrees in any subject; some may have some college experience
 - Some hold Child Development Associate (CDA) certificates; others may be working towards completion
- Formal training on best practices in early literacy development may be lacking
- COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed any professional development collaborative opportunities between district and partner organizations

Conclusions

- While the data set is small, the pattern represented here is one we see repeatedly over the years:
 - Students who participate in a Pre-K program are better prepared for kindergarten, score better on kinder reading assessments, and the trend continues into later grades
 - When we have certified teachers in the Pre-K classrooms, the student gains are higher
- Work still needs to be done in our District to improve the ability of our early elementary teachers to be good reading teachers – we are a recipient of the State Literacy Grant with a total focus on increasing expertise in this area