Presentation to the Education and Local Government Committee

September 12, 2018
Jamie Palagi, Administrator, Human and Community Services Division, DPHHS
Mel Roesler-Begalke, Preschool Teacher, Troy Public Schools
Jennifer Owen, Director, Explorer's Academy, a Head Start Program

Increasing access to high quality preschool for 4 and 5 year old children in Montana

High level overview HB 639

◦ Section 11 and 12 of HB 639
  ◦ $6 Million over the biennium one time only funding
  ◦ To increase access to preschool for 4 and 5 year olds
  ◦ T o test multiple delivery models

◦ Program Criteria
  ◦ Minimum 5.5 hours/day or 28 hours/week
  ◦ Teaching credentials (licensed in public school, BA with 20 ECE credits
      in non public school settings)
  ◦ Research based curriculum, aligned with Montana Early Learning
      Standards
  ◦ Prioritization of enrollment to high needs children (25%)
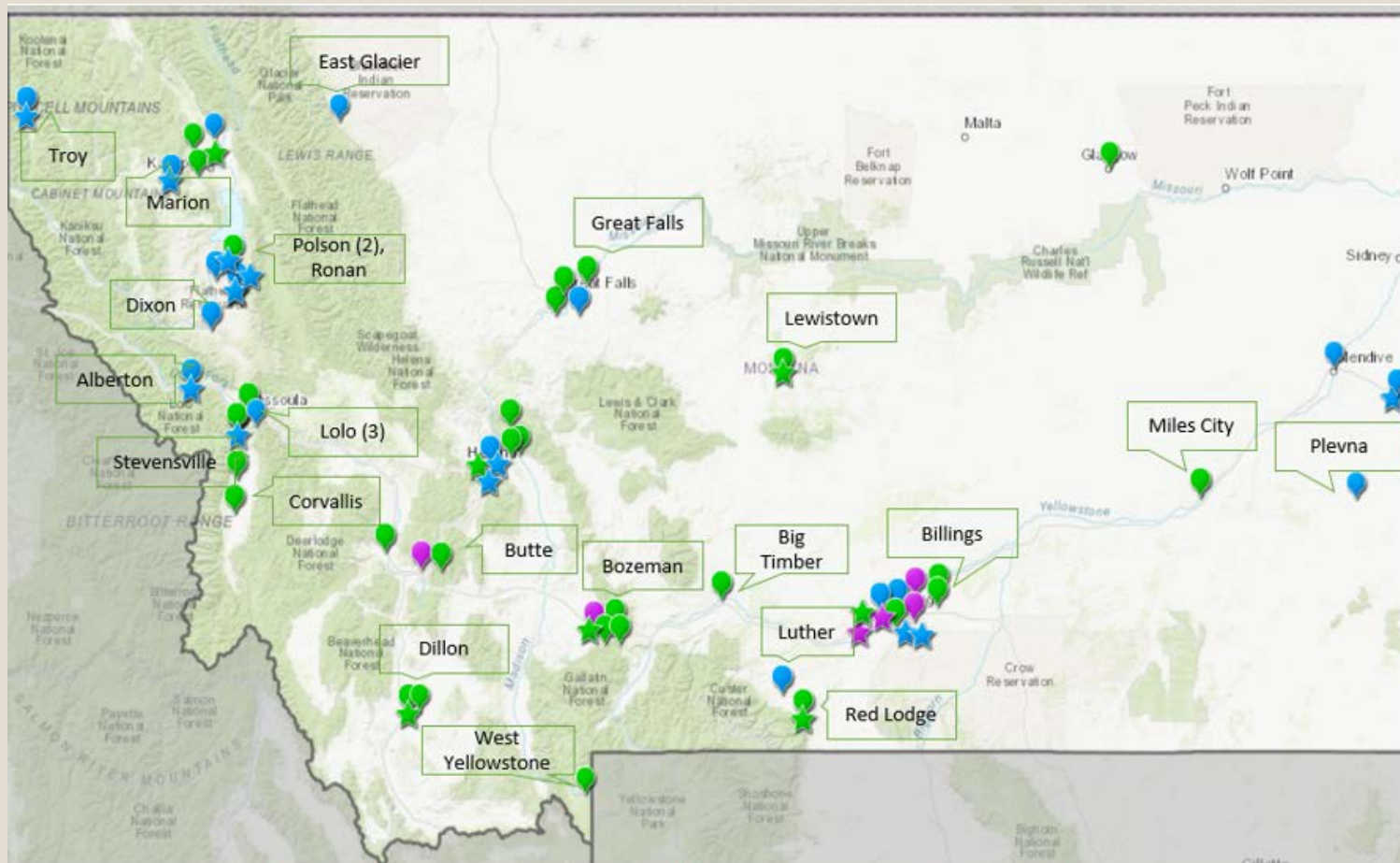 ◦ 1:10 staff to child ratios; class sizes no more than 18 students

Eastgate Elementary

STARS Preschool Programs across the state

47 applications, 17 grantees chosen for year one with 20 classrooms

Applications		Awarded Programs	
Symbol	Program Type	Symbol	Program Type
📍	Public School	⭐	Public School
📍	Head Start/Early Head Start	⭐	Head Start/Early Head Start
📍	Private Preschool	⭐	Private Preschool

Year One Classroom Distribution by Community Size
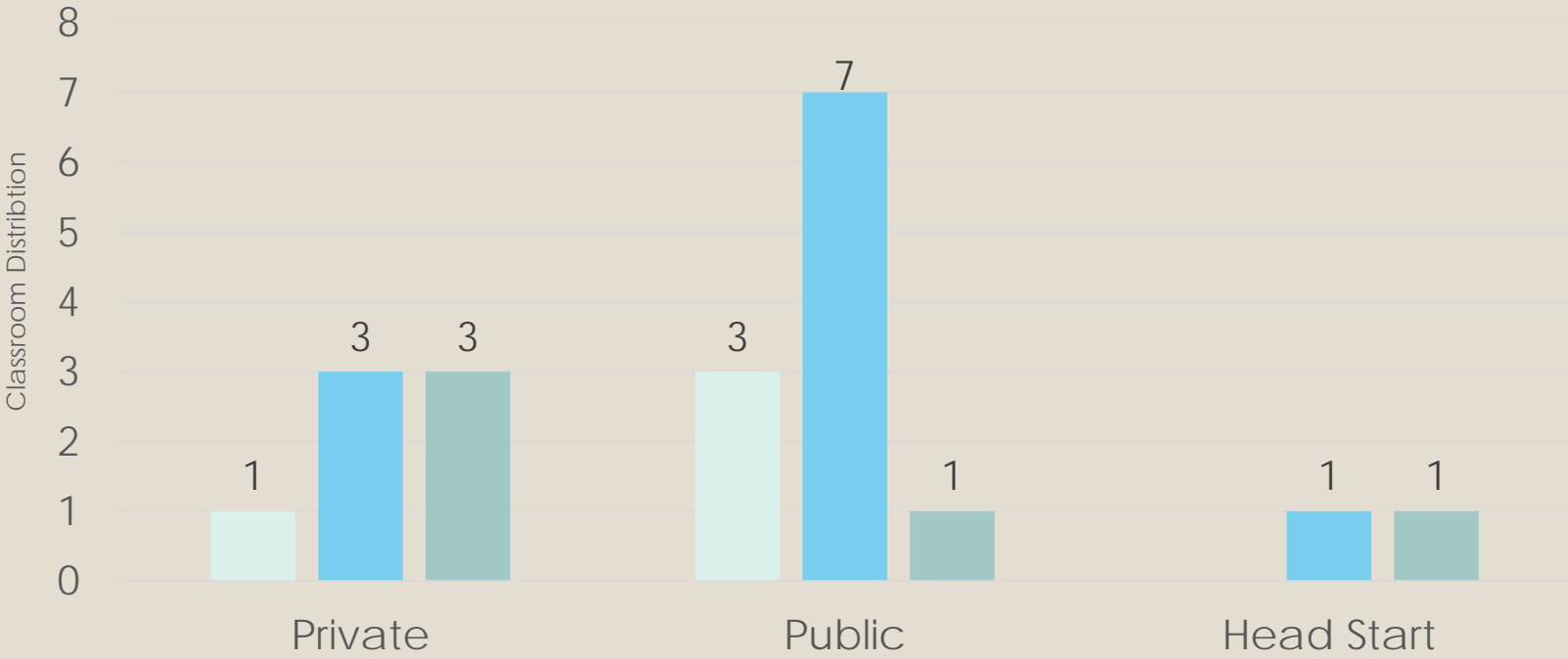
Year One High Level Findings

Student Demographics

Household Size

3 or Less Household Members	21%
4 - 6 Household Members	72%
7 or More Household Members	7%

Ethnicity

	STARS Preschool	2017 Montana Population Estimates - US Census
White	80%	86%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	10%	7%
Two or More Races	5%	3%
Hispanic/Latino	4%	4%
Asian	< 1%	< 1%
Black	< 1%	< 1%

Family Income

Less than $10,000	8%
$11,000 - $30,000	21%
$31,000 - $50,000	19%
$51,000 - $70,000	23%
Over $70,000	28%

Parent Education
Completion of 2 Year Degree or Higher

Neither Parent	46%
One Parent	31%
Both Parents	23%

Year One – Student Enrollment by Program Type
Percent of Students Identified With High Needs

71%
Students with High Needs

43%
Students with High Needs

61%
Students with High Needs
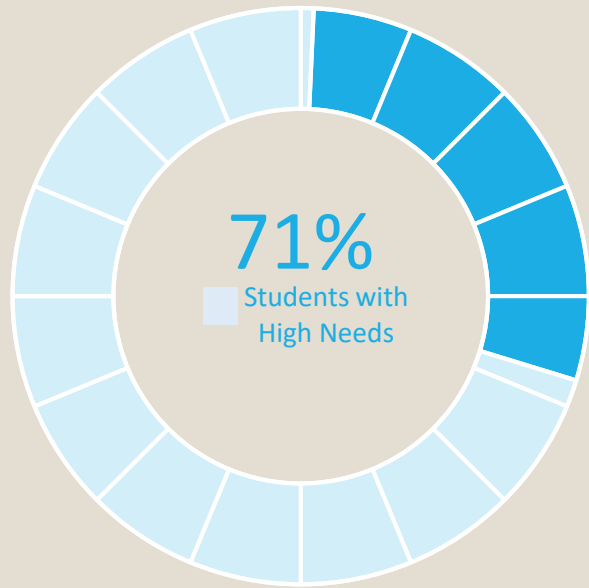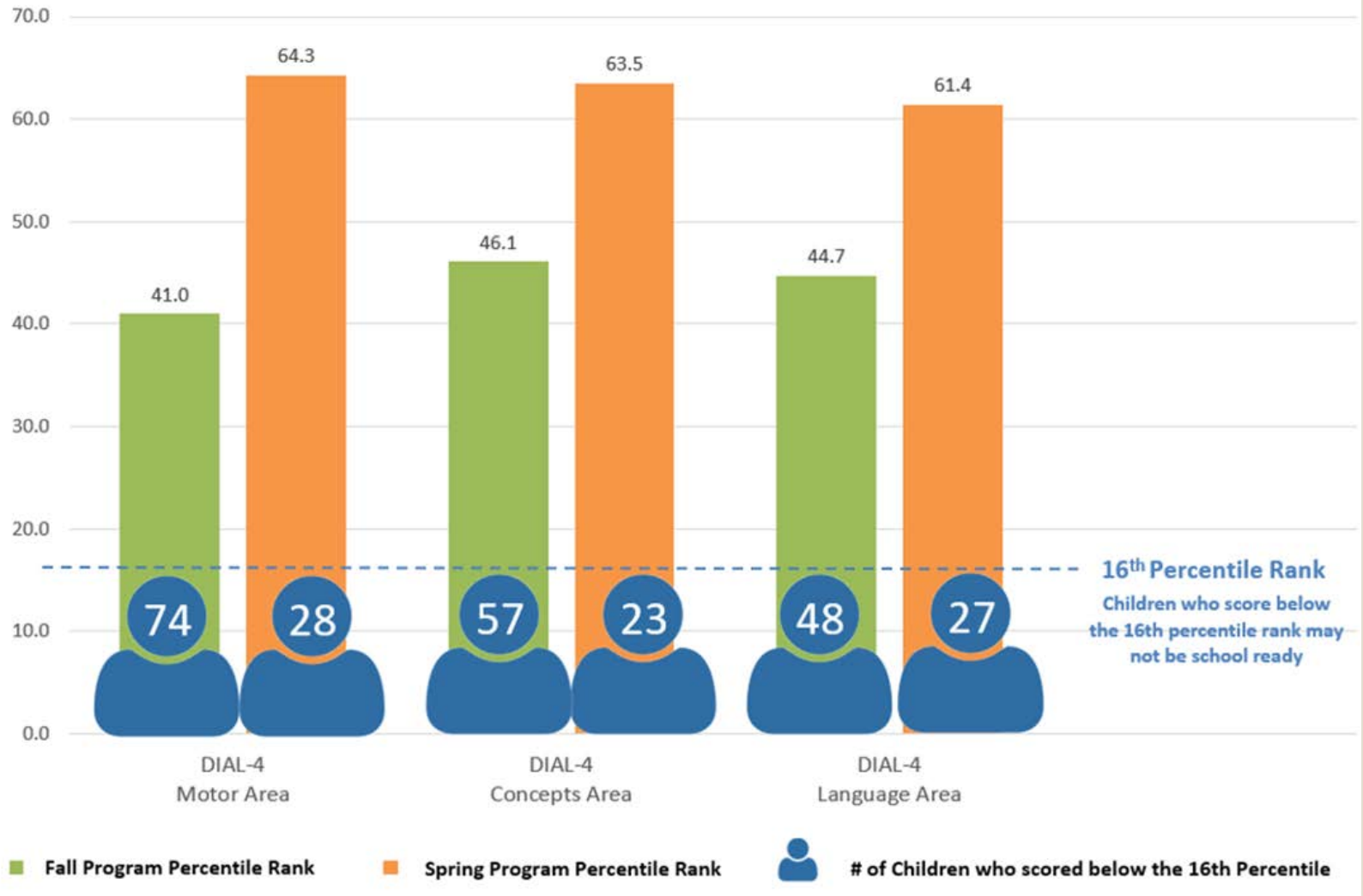
Public
197 Total
Student Count
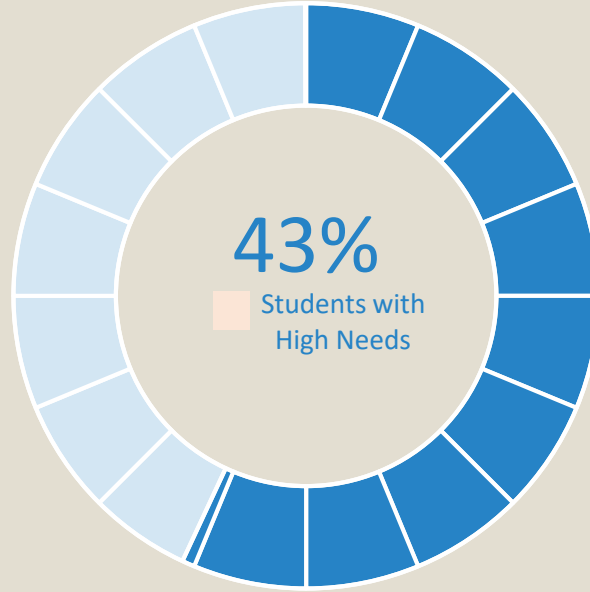
Private
109 Total
Student Count
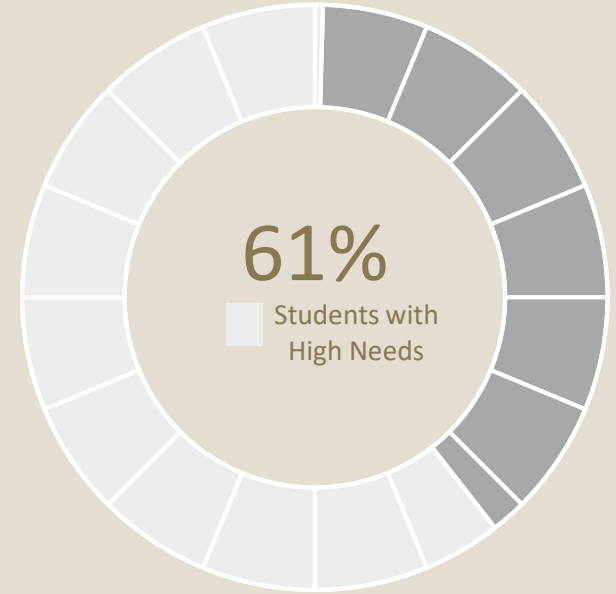
Program
306 Total
Student Count

School Readiness Results

Dial-4™ Baseline Percentile Rank
Fall to Spring Assessment

Kindergarten Readiness
21% Increase from Fall Assessment

Fall Dial Assessment

77% School Ready

4% receiving special education services

53% identified with high needs

23% Potential delay

32% receiving special education services

74% are identified with high needs

Spring Dial Assessment

93% School Ready

5% receiving special education services

58% are identified with high needs

7% Potential delay

32% receiving special education services

74% are identified with high needs

Effectiveness of multiple delivery models:

◦ No program type significantly outperformed another

◦ Each type of program had unique strengths

◦ Private programs excelled in ensuring a developmentally appropriate environment to support social-emotional learning.

◦ Children in enrolled in public school programs showed slightly stronger growth on developmental indicators between Fall and Spring.

Recommendations for future:

◦ Continue to invest in preschool to increase access for children with diverse family and demographic backgrounds

◦ Future investments should include:
  ◦ Include multiple delivery models;
  ◦ Support implementation of research-based curriculum;
  ◦ Ensure developmentally appropriate environments;
  ◦ Provide opportunities for educator professional development and training;
  ◦ Continue to strengthen school-family partnerships and family engagement.

◦ Consider health and safety standards for preschool, data infrastructure needs- including connecting early childhood and K-12 data

◦ Continue system alignment across child care, preschool, and public K-12 schools.

For more information:

◦ The full evaluation report will be available at the end of September 2018.

For more information, visit starspreschool.mt.gov

Contact

Siri Smillie, Education Policy Advisor to Governor Bullock, 444-3188, ssmillie@mt.gov

Jamie Palagi, Administrator HCSD, DPHHS, 444-6676, jpalagi@mt.gov