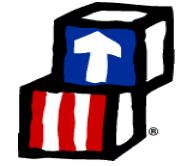




Vermont Head Start Association



The Value of Head Start Early Education and Comprehensive Health and Family Services for Children, Families and School Districts



School Readiness: Early Education for At-Risk Children and Closing the Achievement Gap

- High quality early education services
- Research-based curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold developmental assessment aligned with the Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) and in accordance with the federal Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework
- Focus on children's social, emotional, cognitive and physical development

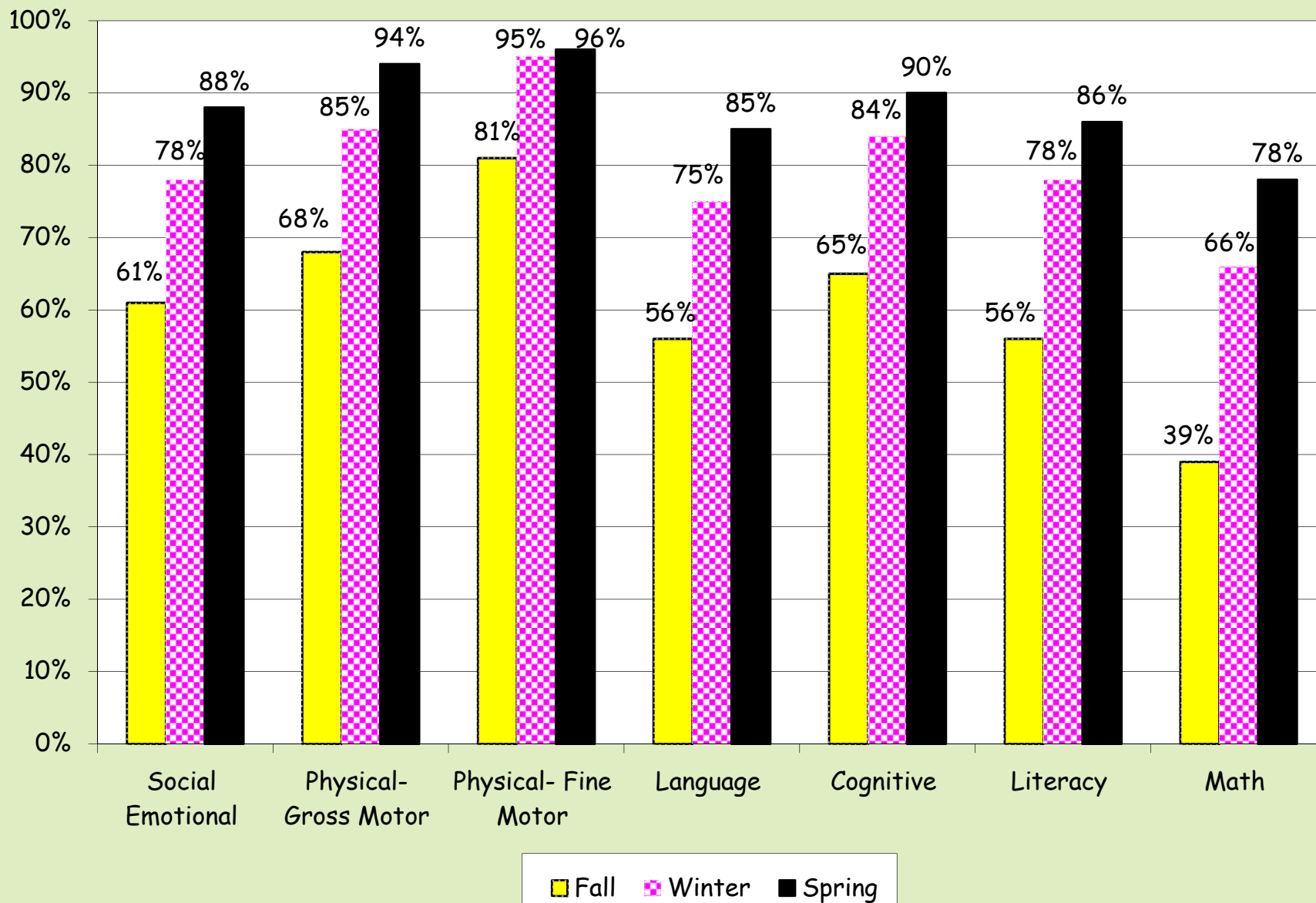


School Readiness: Early Education for At-Risk Children and Closing the Achievement Gap

- Specifically designed to support school readiness and transition to kindergarten
- Expertise in serving children with special needs, and individualizing services for all children
- Supporting the family to support the child's classroom experience

CVHS - Child Outcomes and School Readiness 2014 - 2015

Head Start children meeting or exceeding widely held expectations



Coordination of Children's Health Services

- Health, behavioral and developmental screenings
- Medical, dental and mental health services
- Food and nutrition services
- Assuring that children have health care providers
- Assuring that children are up-to-date on exams and receive needed follow-up treatment



Coordination of Children's Health Services

VT Head Start Program Information Report Data 2015-2016

- 99.2% (1,167): *Medical home* at the end of enrollment year
- 90.4% (1,064): *Up-to-date on VT EPSDT schedule* for well child care at the end of enrollment year
- 91% (1,071): *Dental home* at the end of enrollment year



Family Engagement and Social Service Support for Families

- Individualized home visits designed to engage parents in their children's growth, learning and development
- Assisting families in accessing social services and community resources to meet their needs
- Addressing a wide range of stressors and crises with the goal of helping to assure family stability and well-being
- Supporting parents to set and realize their own goals



Family Engagement and Social Service Support for Families

VT Head Start Program Information Report Data 2014-2015: Homelessness

- 13.4% (146): Families experiencing homelessness that were served during the enrollment year
- 65.8% (96): Families experiencing homelessness that acquired housing during the enrollment year

Family Engagement and Social Service Support for Families

- Supporting parents in making progress toward their own goals
- Involving parents in program and community leadership
- Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework



Highly Qualified Management and Service Teams

- Content area specialists include child development specialists, mental health consultants, dental hygienists, dietitians, safety personnel and others
- Teams assure coordination and support for the physical, social and emotional development of children, as well as their academic skills
- Systems designed to prepare children for successful kindergarten transition, to reduce challenging behaviors, and to close the achievement gap for students from low-income families

Head Start Dedicates Federal Resources to School-Based Partnerships

- Leveraging federal, state and local funding to optimize services and outcomes for children
- Head Start employs licensed teachers assigned to school-based programs – value per teacher (e.g., CVHS) for 2015-2016 exceeds \$63,000 per teacher



Benefits for Schools, Children and Communities

- Savings attributable to Head Start in terms of reduced costs downstream in areas such as special education, behavioral interventions, and other ancillary services
- Predominantly mixed socio-economic groups of children in VT Head Start–school-based programs
- Federal monitoring assures high quality and consistency in programs, with emphasis on environmental health and safety
- Overwhelming support of parents and communities



Benefits for Schools, Children and Communities

- Experience in using qualitative measures such as CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) to measure emotional support, classroom organization, and the instructional support teachers provide to children
- Social service and family engagement supports stronger communities and family engagement with the school and improve child outcomes



Questions?

