



FY2018 Pre-K Survey Data

Chloe Wexler

January 30, 2020

FY2018 Survey Data

- AOE surveyed school districts in 2018 to determine how many hours of Pre-K education was offered in public schools and how many students were enrolled
- In FY2018 the Pre-K ADM count was 7,649 – the survey included information on 7,183 students (94%).
- 45% of the surveyed population was enrolled in public programs and 55% were enrolled in a private or public program outside of their district of residence

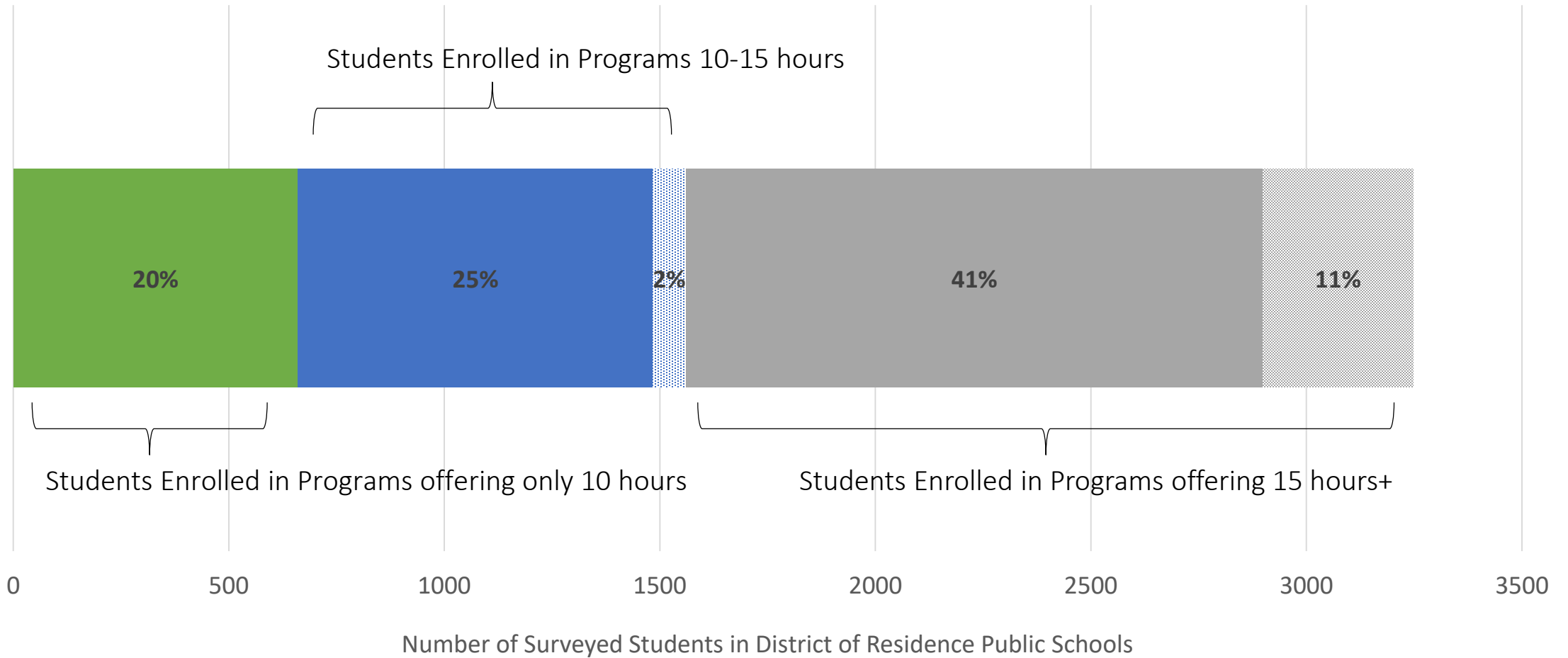
Public and Private Programs

- 10 hours of publicly funded prekindergarten education is paid for by the school district of residence
 - Public School of Residence* – if a parent chooses to enroll their student in a public program in their district of residence the cost of the program is included in the school district budget
 - Other providers* – if a child is enrolled in a private program or in a public program operated by another school district (outside their district of residence) a specified tuition rate is paid by the district of residence
- Note the district of residence is responsible for both costs - one programmatic and one based on the annually set tuition rate
- In FY2018 the tuition rate for Pre-K was \$3,178 (FY20 \$3,356, FY21 \$3,445)
- Based on the report “Preliminary Evaluation of Pre-K Education Programs Report, April 2017” the cost of providing 10 hours of Pre-k is approximately \$5,500. Costs vary around the state from \$6,500 in the Northeast to \$5,000 in the Champlain Valley.
 - It is noted that this average cost is inclusive of tuition payments (~\$3,000) indicating that the cost of instruction in public schools is likely higher around \$6,500 - \$7,000 per student

Public Programs (District of Residence)

- In FY2018 – 45% of the surveyed population attended public programs in their district of residence
- Of those students 80% attend programs that offer additional hours – 66% receive additional hours of instruction (some students only attend 10 hours even if district offers additional hours)
- The additional hours offered ranged from 1 hour to 28 hours
- Based on the number of students enrolled in programs with additional hours the average number of additional hours offered was 8.5 (additional hours weighted by student enrollment)
- The mode (the number that appears most often in a set of data) is 10 additional hours

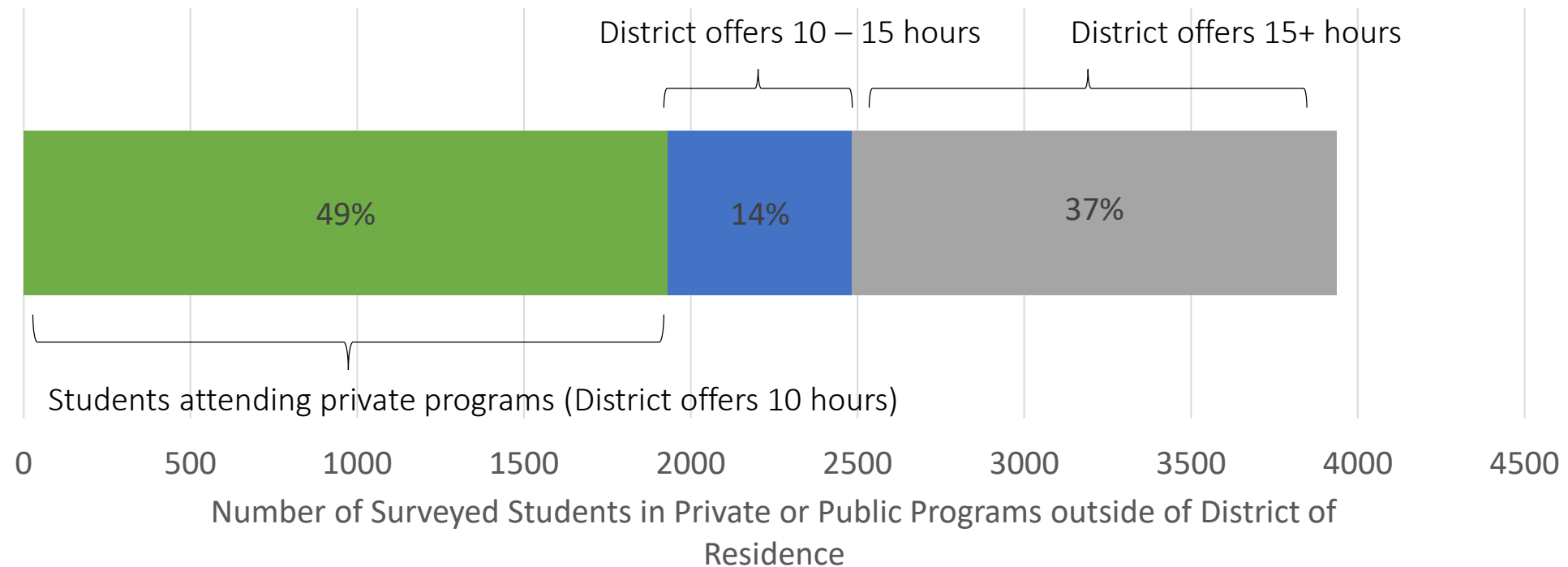
Public Programs (District of Residence)



Note – the shaded portions of the bar chart indicate students in districts offering additional hours that are only attending 10 hours

Tuition Students (Private Programs)

- In FY2018 – 55% of the surveyed population received a tuition waiver
- Of those students 51% attended a private programs even though their public district was offering additional hours (37% attended a private program when their public district offered 15+ hours)



Cost Estimates

- Based on the surveyed distribution of students a preliminary estimate for the cost of expanding publicly funded Pre-K from 10 hours to 15 hours is in the range of \$10 - \$12 million
 - 24% of the cost is attributed to the public sector (80% of students are already enrolled in programs with additional hours), the remaining 76% attributed to a 50% increase in tuition rates to account for the 50% increase in hours
- Some of the important caveats are as follows:
 - Analysis is focused on fiscal implications to the Education Fund
 - The analysis does not account for possible economic impacts to the private sector
 - Does the increase in hours offered affect private capacity?
 - Does the increased funding benefit or hinder the economic viability of private facilities?
- Other important questions include if additional hours will create movement of students from the private to public sector and vice versa?
- What are the additional costs associated with adding hours in a public setting where some of programmatic costs are already incorporated in budgets?