



LUISA SANTOS
SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 9



FUTURE CALL

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

July 1st, 2025

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LuisaSantos.com



LITTLE GIRL. BIG DREAMS.

ADVOCATE TO POLICY MAKER



WHAT WE KNOW

Kindergarten Readiness Rates

49%

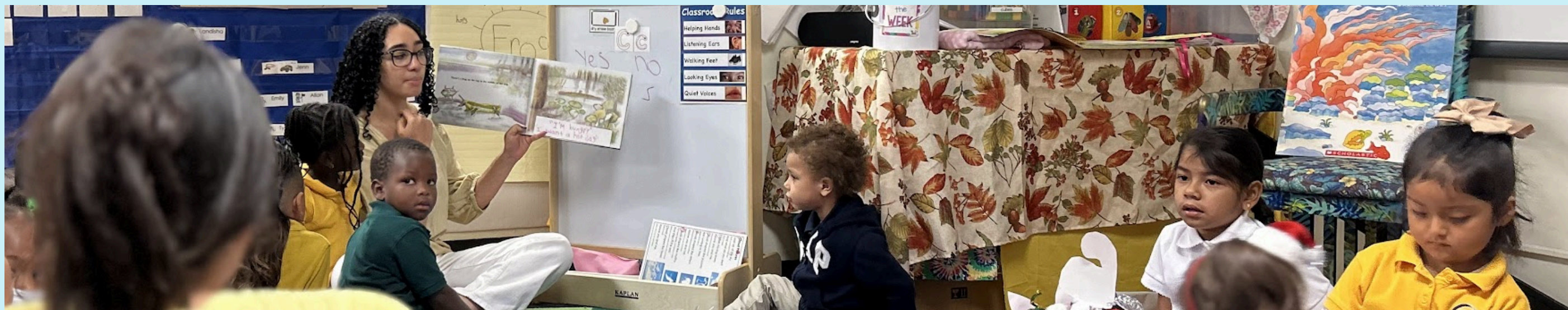
Miami Dade County

51%

State of Florida

62%

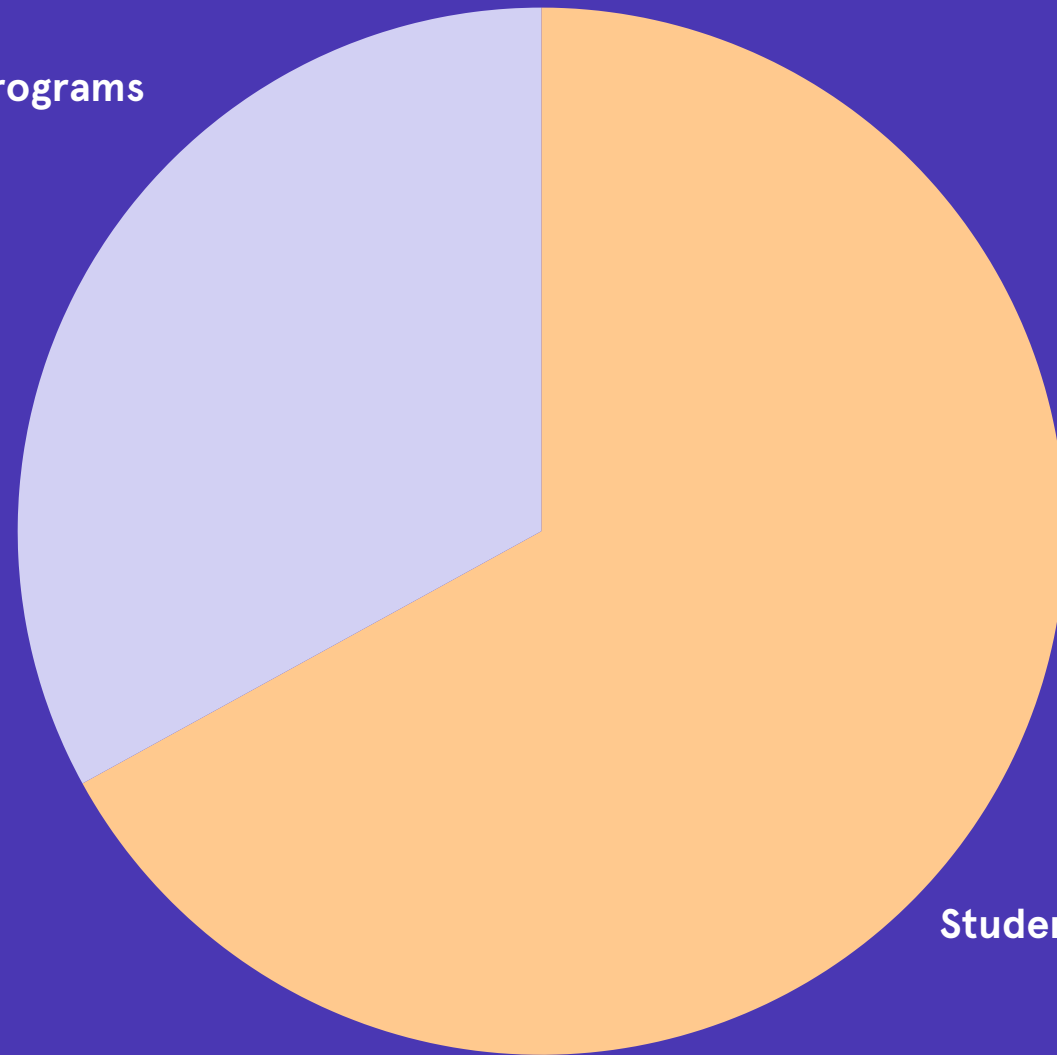
M-DCPS VPK completers



WHAT WE KNOW

Miami-Dade 22-23 VPK (FLDOE)

Students in Public VPK Programs
33%



Students in Private VPK Programs
67%



RESEARCH

- The Children's Trust
- Early Learning Coalition
- The Children's Movement
- Private providers
- ECE Site Tour with the Conn Foundation in Hillsborough (Nov. 2024)



RESEARCH – DIFFERENT MODELS

- Met with Conn Foundation
 - Goals in starting Nonprofit Preschools in Public Schools (Nov. 2024)

By harnessing our insights as opportunities, we can cultivate an educational pipeline to improve kindergarten readiness

Insight #1

In HCPS, only 5 of our 179 schools that offer kindergarten have a readiness rate of 80% or higher.

Opportunity #1

Focus additional resources on kindergarten readiness by school, with an emphasis on C- to F-rated schools.

Insight #2

About 8 in 10 children in VPK are in private programs that have little or no connection to the district.

Opportunity #2

Grow district programs and achieve greater collaboration with private preschool providers.

Insight #3

68% of HCPS elementary schools are currently underutilized.

Opportunity #3

Leverage unused classroom space to advance kindergarten readiness, transition and retention.

How the model works

- Bring a private preschool onto an underutilized public elementary school campus
- Experienced facilitator provides ongoing support and accountability
- Teachers work together from Pre-K3 through kindergarten on shared objectives, curriculum and outcomes
- Teachers receive monthly professional development stipend and access to Waterford digital tools to improve academic performance
- Replicable model designed to expand proven results to more areas with support from community funders

DISTRICT 9 ECE

Ensured we visited all
District 9 ECE sites



M-DCPS EFFORTS ALIGNED

Dr. Steve Gallon
District 1

H-7:
Expansion Of Early
Childhood Programs
Through Provider
Partnerships (May 14,
2025)

**Dr. Dorothy
Bendross-Mindingall**
District 2

H-6:
Reimagining Educational
Spaces: Transforming
Underutilized School Sites Into
Early Childhood Centers In
Miami-Dade County Public
Schools (May 14, 2025)

H-7:
H-7 Early Childhood
Curriculum Development:
Primary Focus On Equity And
Engagement In M-DCPS
(October 16, 2024)

Mr. Danny Espino
District 5

H-14:
Enhancing and
Expanding M-DCPS'
Early Childhood
Education Options
(April 17, 2024)

**Board Chair Maria
Teresa Rojas**
District 6

H-2:
Proposed Miami-Dade County
Public Schools (M-DCPS) 2024
State Legislative Program
Priority – State Funding For
Programs To Serve Pre-K 3
Students (September 6, 2023)

H-6:
Student Regression and
Learning Loss in the Early
Grades – Prekindergarten,
Kindergarten, First Grade,
Second Grade, and Third
Grade (August 16, 2023)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK



1. Expanding Resources and Best Practices Supporting Quality Programs:

M-DCPS will continue to support programs in creating a high-quality learning environment for students.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK



2. Accountability:

M-DCPS must continuously review the standings of all early childhood education programs to maintain a high standard of excellence.

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3. Early Literacy:

Early literacy is foundational for long-term academic success, and M-DCPS will continue to be committed to fostering early reading habits.

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4. Collaboration and Advocacy:

M-DCPS will continue to build and strengthen partnerships across the state to support early childhood education.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK



5. Family and Caregiver:
M-DCPS will continue to support families in actively engaging in their children's early education.

NEXT STEPS

Recommendations to Superintendent:

1. Schedule a School Board workshop **no later than September 30, 2025**, to provide an in-depth overview of the **current state of ECE in M-DCPS**, including but not limited to:

Identify key areas for future growth and alignment with this ECE Framework

List of ECE programs offered in M-DCPS and corresponding funding models

Year-over-year, site-level program demand, including the number of seats available, the number of students on waitlists, and the total students enrolled, since the adoption of the 2021-2026 strategic plan

Analysis of the 0-5 year old population demographics by geographical area to inform future demand

Provide an overview of progress monitoring for upcoming ECE designations (including CLASS, FAST Star Early Literacy, and learning gains) and performance analysis related to the state, the county, and the private sector.



LUISA SANTOS 
SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 9

THANK YOU
LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

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