



Preparing Children for Kindergarten and Life

Great We Grow | 2022-2023 Community Impact Report



GREAT WE GROW
Tampa Preschool Partnership

Children who are ready for school are ready for life.

Too many of our children are unprepared. Together, we must change that.

90%

of brain development occurs **before age 5.**

4 in 10

households in Hillsborough County don't earn enough to afford basic necessities.

42%

of children in Hillsborough County are **not ready for kindergarten today.**

Ready for kindergarten = ready for life

- ✓ Graduate from high school
- ✓ Earn higher incomes
- ✓ Healthier as adults

Sources: *Neuropsychology Review*, United for Alice 2023, Hillsborough County Public Schools, "The Life Cycle Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program" (2016)

Working together to prepare children for lifelong success

The Tampa Preschool Partnership brings together early education center leaders to better educate and advocate for Tampa's youngest children and their families. By sharing resources and expertise across the community, we work collectively to **increase kindergarten readiness and improve kindergarten transition**, so every child has the chance to succeed from day one – in the classroom and in life.



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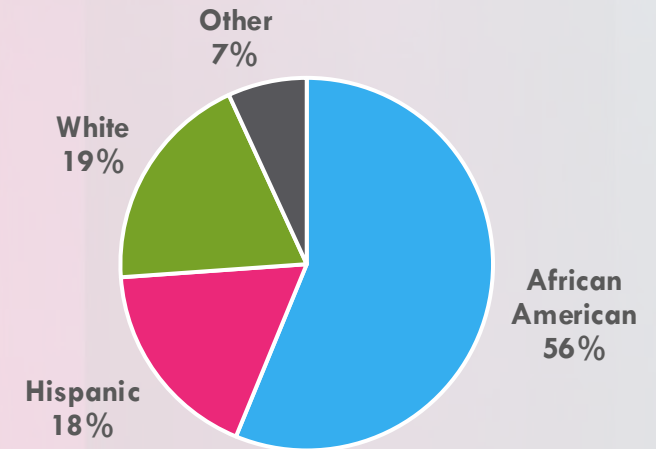
Meet the partners



379

PRESCHOOLERS SERVED
by partners in 2022-23
(infants through age 5)

STUDENT RACE & ETHNICITY



What success looks like by May 2026

A

Improve the Quality of Early Learning Providers

- All partner centers will **meet or exceed the state-mandated CLASS score of 4.0**, with a goal to achieve a 5.0 or higher.
- 100% of teachers will have or be pursuing a minimum of a **Child Development Associate credential**, with 50% having or pursuing an **Associate in Arts or Science degree or higher**.
- 100% of partner centers will be **nationally accredited**.

B

Advance Student Academic Outcomes

- 90% of 4-year-olds will score **at or above level** on the end-of-year **STAR assessment**.
- 100% of Metropolitan Ministries students will **exceed the average score (50) on the NIH Toolbox** and **increase their scores in at least one executive functioning area**.

C

Strengthen Educational Pathways

- 60% of children at partner centers will **transition to elementary schools rated B or higher**.
- 100% of children at partner centers will **transition to elementary schools rated C or higher**.

Our strategic road map



2022-23 Results

A

Improve the Quality of Early Learning Providers

- All partner centers **achieved a CLASS score above 4.5**. The Learning Center received the highest score for 2022-23 at 6.39.
- 85% of teachers at partner centers have or are pursuing a **Child Development Associate** credential or higher. 40% have or are actively pursuing an **AA/AS** or higher.
- 100% of partner centers have or are pursuing their **national accreditation and Gold Standard Quality Care** designation.

B

Advance Student Academic Outcomes

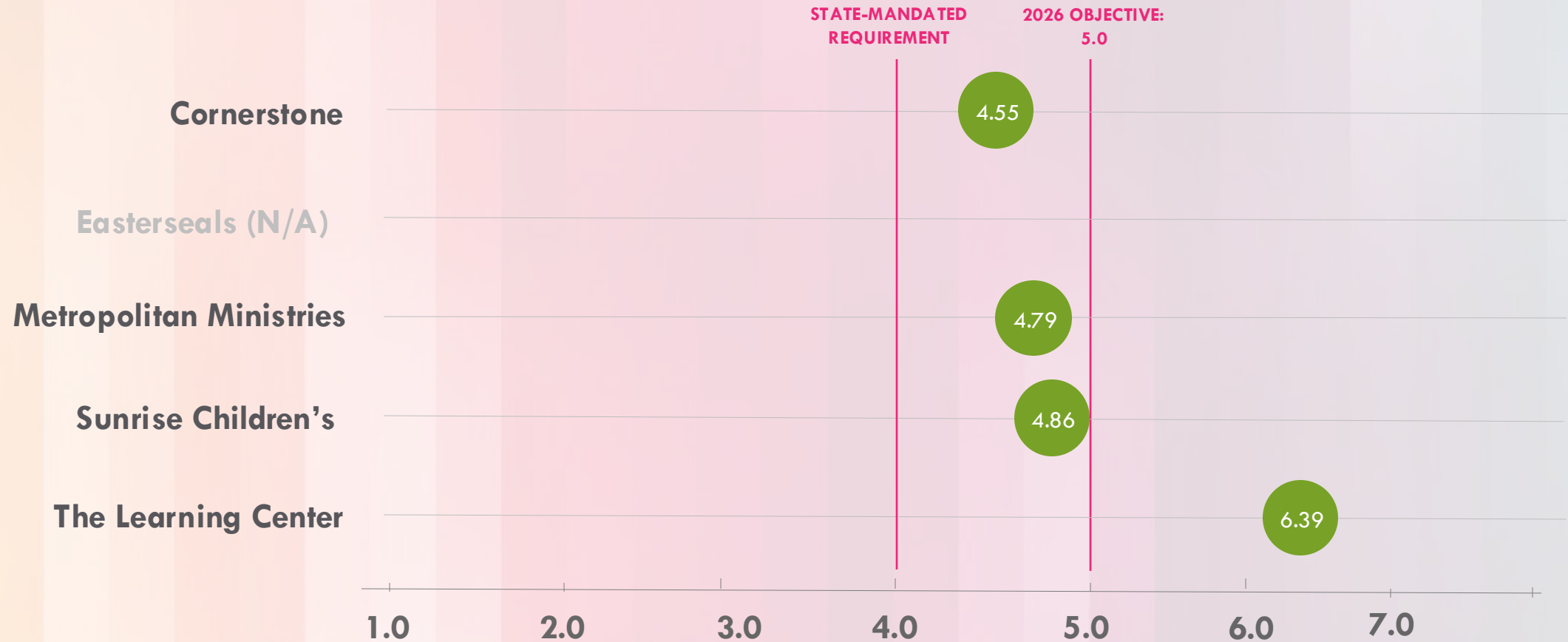
- 86% of Sunrise and 91% of Rosa Valdez Cornerstone students were **at or above level** on the end-of-year STAR assessment. 2022-23 data is not available for remaining partners.
- 85% of Metropolitan Ministries students increased their score in at least one **executive functioning concept** on the NIH Toolbox assessment.

C

Strengthen Educational Pathways

- 39% of children from partner schools went to a **B-rated elementary school** or higher.
- 90% went to a **C-rated school** or higher.

All partner centers achieved the state-mandated CLASS score of 4.0 for the 2022-23 school year, with one above 5.0



85% of teachers have or are pursuing a CDA or higher and 40% have or are actively pursuing an AA/AS or higher

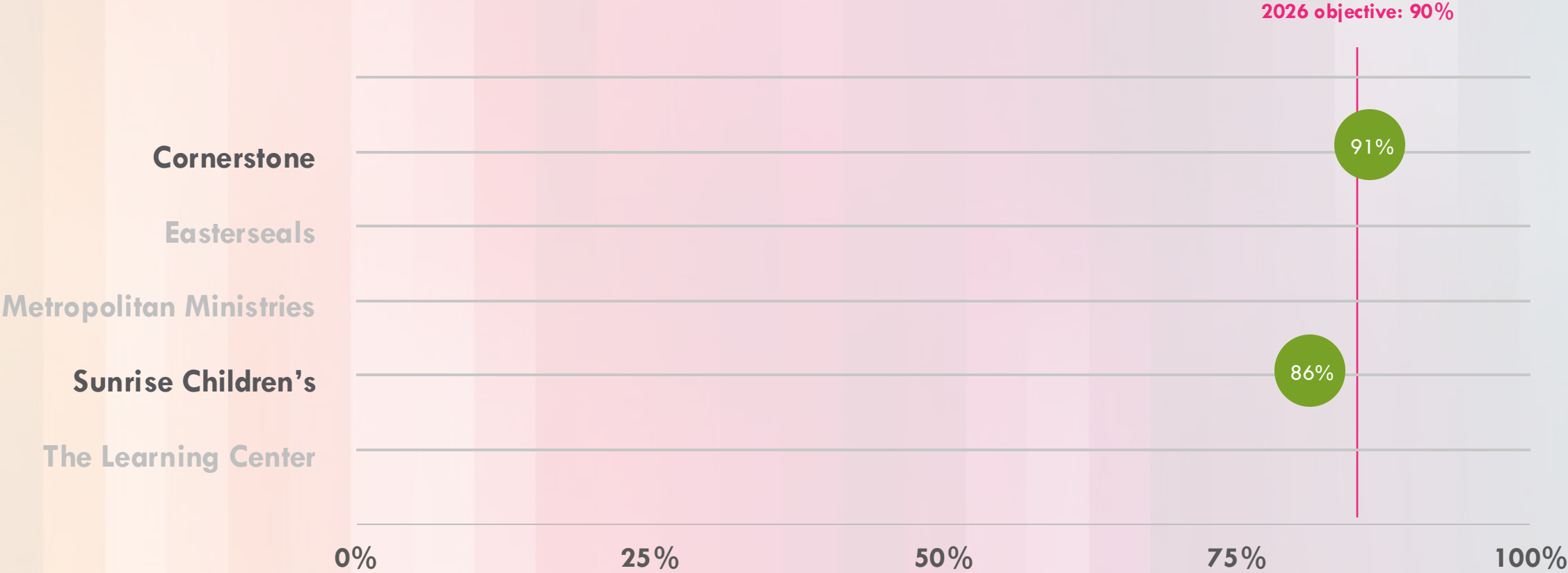
DEGREE	Cornerstone	Easterseals	Metropolitan Ministries	Sunrise Children's	The Learning Center	PARTNERSHIP TOTAL
BA/BS	3	6	-	3	5	17
Pursuing BA/BS	-	-	-	-	-	-
AA/AS	4	-	-	1	2	7
Pursuing AA/AS	1	-	2	-	-	3
CDA Only	2	10	5	4	6	27
Pursuing CDA	2	-	-	-	1	3
45 Hours Only	2	2	5	-	1	10
Total Teachers	14	18	12	8	15	67
TOTAL pursuing CDA or higher	86% (12)	89% (16)	58% (7)	100% (8)	93% (14)	85% (57)
2024-2025 goal of CDA or higher	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total pursuing AA or higher	57% (8)	33% (6)	17% (2)	50% (4)	47% (7)	40% (27)
2024-2025 goal of AA or higher	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%

Every partner center has or is pursuing their national accreditation and Gold Seal Quality Care designation

QUALITY RATINGS	Cornerstone	Easterseals	Metropolitan Ministries	Sunrise Children's	The Learning Center
Accreditation	NAC Award dates 07/2022 to 07/2026	NAC Award dates 07/2019 to 07/2023	NECPA Award dates 05/2021 to 05/2024	NAC Award dates 08/2022 to 08/2026	Self-Study Phase
Gold Seal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

- NAC: National Accreditation Commission — Association for Early Learners
- NAEYC: National Association for the Education of Young Children
- NECPA: National Early Childhood Program Accreditation
- Gold Seal Quality Care Program: (see page 19 in the glossary for more details)

Cornerstone had the highest percentage of 4-year-olds who met or exceeded expectations on the STAR assessment



THIS CHART SHOWS 4-YEAR-OLD STAR ASSESSMENT SCORES AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR. ONLY TWO OF FIVE PARTNERS WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE DATA.

85% of Metropolitan Ministries students increased their score in at least one executive functioning concept on the NIH Toolbox assessment

▲ Meets or exceeds national average score

NIH Toolbox Concept	Pre-Toolbox Metro Min (N=39)	Pre-Toolbox National Avg	Post-Toolbox Metro Min (N=35)	Post-Toolbox National Avg
Sorting Memory	36% ▲	35%	54%	65%
Picture Vocabulary	82% ▲	69%	97% ▲	80%
Oral Reading	100% ▲	73%	110% ▲	81%
Pattern Processing	54% ▲	54%	80% ▲	65%
Picture Sequencing	72% ▲	55%	80% ▲	68%

THIS CHART SHOWS EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SCORES FOR STUDENTS AT METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES THAT WERE CONDUCTED BASED ON WHEN THEY STARTED AND FINISHED THE PROGRAM DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. NATIONAL AVERAGES ARE FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH TOOLBOX ASSESSMENT NATIONWIDE STANDARDS.

Most children at partner schools went to a C-rated school or higher, with work still to be done in this area

Students Who Transitioned to A or B Schools	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	2026 Objective
Cornerstone	36%	36%	9%	64%	55%	60%
Easterseals	12%	37%	23%	18%	28%	60%
Sunrise Children's	0%	100%	33%	67%	57%	60%
The Learning Center	38%	69%	75%	99%	80%	60%

Students Who Transitioned to A, B or C Schools	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	2026 Objective
Cornerstone	63%	63%	100%	100%	91%	100%
Easterseals	24%	100%	69%	100%	94%	100%
Sunrise Children's	0%	100%	50%	100%	100%	100%
The Learning Center	76%	100%	25%	100%	20%	100%

Results DASHBOARD

▲ Up or ▼ from previous year

☑ Already achieved 2026 objective



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	Annual Change	2026 Objective	
IMPROVE QUALITY OF EARLY LEARNING PARTNERS								
CLASS Assessment Average (All Partners)	4.46	4.46	5.16	5.32	5.15	▼	5.0	☑
Teachers with CDA or Higher								
Comerstone Rosa Valdez	-	-	64%	100%	86%	▼	100%	
Easterseals	-	-	29%	100%	89%	▼	100%	
Metropolitan Ministries	-	-	100%	100%	58%	▼	100%	
Sunrise Children's Services	-	-	71%	100%	100%	-	100%	☑
The Learning Center	-	-	25%	100%	93%	▼	100%	
Teachers with AA Degree or Higher								
Comerstone Rosa Valdez	-	-	86%	73%	57%	▼	50%	☑
Easterseals	-	-	100%	25%	33%	▲	50%	
Metropolitan Ministries	-	-	100%	100%	17%	▼	50%	
Sunrise Children's Services	-	-	100%	67%	50%	▼	50%	☑
The Learning Center	-	-	100%	30%	47%	▲	50%	
National Accreditation								
Comerstone Rosa Valdez	NAC	NAC	NAC	NAC	NAC	-	100%	☑
Easterseals	NAC	NAC	NAC	NAC	NAC	-	100%	☑
Metropolitan Ministries	NECPA	NECPA	NECPA	NECPA	NECPA	-	100%	☑
Sunrise Children's Services	NAC	NAC	NAC	NAC	NAC	-	100%	☑
The Learning Center	None	None	None	Pursuing	Pursuing	-	100%	☑
ADVANCE STUDENT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES*								
Student Assessment: At or Above Level on EOY STAR Assessment*								
Comerstone Rosa Valdez	100%	67%	100%	100%	91%	-	90%	☑
Easterseals	62%	-	-	72%	-	-	90%	
Sunrise Children's Services	50%	20%	67%	75%	86%	-	90%	
The Learning	87%	38%	94%	90%	-	-	90%	
Metropolitan Ministries NIH Toolbox Increase on 1+ Skill	-	-	-	-	85%	-	100%	
STRENGTHEN EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS								
B or higher rated school (All Partners)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023			
	22%	61%	35%	62%	39%	▼	60%	
C or higher rated school (All Partners)	41%	91%	61%	100%	90%	▼	100%	

* Prior to 2022-23, schools used the VPK Assessment to assess proficiency. As of 2022-23, data is based on the STAR Assessment.

The plan forward

Improve the Quality of Early Learning Providers

- Each partner school will focus on ensuring all teachers have or are pursuing a minimum of a Child Development Associate credential, **encouraging an Associate in Arts or Science degree** or higher.
- Schools will use **INCENTIVE\$** and **TEACH Scholarships** to encourage participation.

Advance Student Academic Outcomes

- Continue **bringing partners together** to improve end-of-year scores for 4-year-olds.

Strengthen Educational Pathways

- Engage preschool teachers to **discuss elementary school choices with families** to influence the best decision for each child.
- Continue our **“Navigating the Journey from Preschool to Kindergarten”** initiative for 4- and 5-year-olds to engage and educate preschool parents about elementary school choices.
- Continue and grow **parent-engagement activities** at all center locations.

“

The foundation for our children's lives — and our entire community — depends on their experiences during early childhood. Good experiences lead to better academic outcomes, employment opportunities, earning potential and health. The first five years of a child's life predict how the rest of it will turn out.

”

— Bob Buesing, 21-22 board chair,
Conn Memorial Foundation



GREAT WE GROW
Tampa Preschool Partnership

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Glossary of Terms

Glossary: Assessments



- **STAR assessment:** State-required assessment that all private and public VPK providers must administer to children at the beginning, middle, and end of a VPK program, to evaluate kindergarten readiness on performance standards in early literacy and mathematics
- **NIH Toolbox:** A set of integrated tools that measure cognitive, emotional, motor and sensory functions starting at age 3 among diverse cultures, ethnic and geographic groups; developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- **Gains:** Students who show one year's worth of growth based on standardized academic assessments for their grade level
- **Kindergarten readiness:** Percent of students demonstrating readiness for kindergarten based on state (STAR) assessments



Glossary: General terms



- **VPK:** Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten: Free, state-funded pre- kindergarten program for 4- and 5-year-olds who reside in Florida; families must choose a half-day program for the school year or a full-day program for the summer
- **School Readiness:** A state-funded program that offers financial assistance to low-income families for early child education and care so families can become financially self- sufficient and young children can be successful in school
- **Achievement:** The percentage of students performing at or above the standard for their age or grade level
- **Economically disadvantaged:** Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program
- **CLASS:** An observational tool used to evaluate a teacher's interactions with children from infancy through age 5
- **Accreditation:** Indicates the level of quality whereby the provider demonstrates the capacity, commitment, and competence to support high-quality learning and ongoing program improvement
- **Gold Seal:** In 1996, the Florida Legislature established the Gold Seal Quality Care program to acknowledge childcare facilities and family day care homes that have gone above the required minimum licensing standards to become accredited by recognized agencies whose standard reflects quality in the level of care and supervision provided to children. The Gold Seal is not an accreditation, but a voluntary designation for an accredited agency



Acronyms



- **AA/AS:** Associate in Arts/Associate in Science (two-year degrees)
- **BA/BS:** Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (four-year degrees)
- **CCFP:** Child Care Food Program
- **CDA:** Child Development Associate
- **ELCHC:** Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County
- **HCPS:** Hillsborough County Public Schools
- **NAC:** National Accreditation Commission - Association for Early Learners
- **NAEYC:** National Association for the Education of Young Children
- **NECPA:** National Early Childhood Program Accreditation
- **PM:** STAR Assessment Progress Monitoring Windows
- **STAR:** PreK4 - 2nd Grade Early Literacy, Reading, and Mathematics Assessment
- **VPK:** Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

