



Creating Educational Pathways for Student Success

Great We Grow | 2023-2024 Community Impact Report



GREAT WE GROW
Southshore

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.

48%

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)

Changing how we work together to prepare children for lifelong success

Great We Grow is a collaboration that brings together families, preschools, elementary schools and community partners to break down silos and think differently about the educational journey. By working collectively to increase kindergarten readiness and improve elementary school transition, we'll ensure every student has the chance to succeed from day one — in the classroom and in life.



Meet the partners



Corr Elementary

167

PRESCHOOLERS SERVED
by partners in 2023-24
(ages 3 through 5)

What success looks like by May 2026



Improve Kindergarten Readiness

- Minimum CLASS score of 5.5
- 70% Corr VPK and 30% PEEPS students meet/exceed EOY STAR achievement score before entering kindergarten
- 55% learning gains for VPK
- 60% excellent and 100% above performance designation of VPK providers



Advance Student and School Achievement

- 50% BOY STAR achievement for new kindergarteners
- 70% EOY STAR achievement for kindergartners
- 60% EOY ELA achievement for third-graders
- School grade: A



Strengthen Educational Pathways

- 60% kindergarten stay rate for Corr 4-year-olds
- 35% enrollment contribution from partner preschools

Our strategic road map



Facilitate a community of practice that brings educators together:

- 3- and 4-year-old teachers
- Lead kindergarten teacher
- HCPS staff

Support Frog Street implementation

(integrated academic and behavioral curriculum with progress monitoring)

Support CLASS and STAR assessments

Host back-to-school and year-end events to recruit more partner school students

Engage teachers and families to discuss best school choices for child

More children ready for kindergarten

2023-24 results summary



Increasing Kindergarten Readiness

- Corr Elementary (4.25) and Kids R Kids (4.92) are not yet meeting our **CLASS score** objective of 5.50.
- 57% of partner 4-year-olds met or exceeded the achievement score on the **end-of-year STAR assessment**.
- 35% of partner VPK students achieved a **learning gains** score of 55% or higher.
- No providers have yet achieved an excellent **performance designation** per state accountability requirements.



Strengthening Educational Pathways

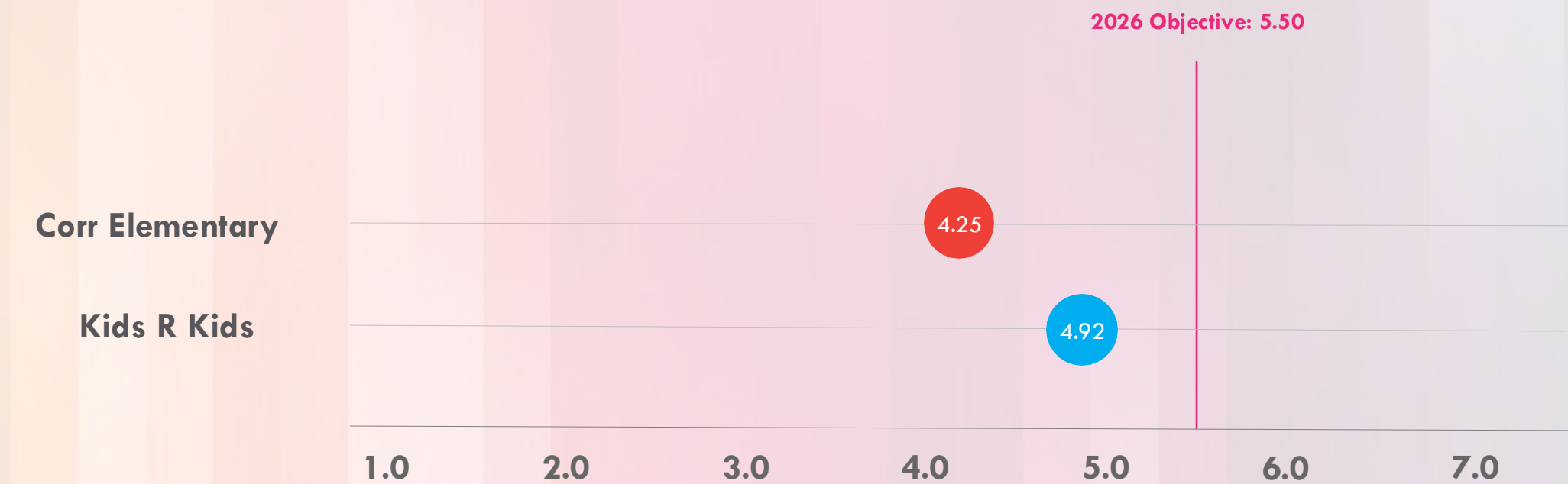
- 66% of 4-year-olds stayed at Corr Elementary for kindergarten, an increase of 13% from the previous year and exceeding our **stay rate** objective (60%). More stayed from PEEPS (88%) than VPK (74%).
- About 1 in 4 Corr **kindergarten students came from partner schools**, working toward our 35% objective.



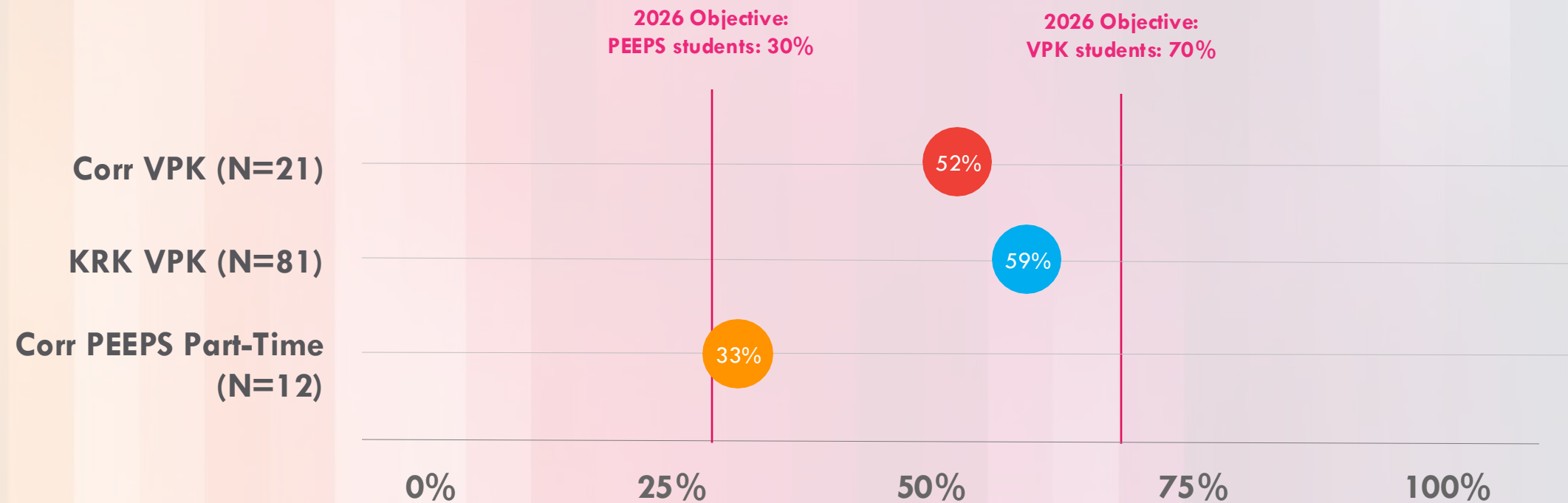
Advancing Student and School Achievement

- Although only 39% of Corr kindergarten students were **ready for kindergarten**, they showed a 10% learning gain by the year's end on the STAR assessment.
- Just 43% of Corr third graders **met or exceeded the ELA achievement score**, below both the average district score (51%) and program objective (60%).
- Corr Elementary's **school grade** remained a C for 2023-24 as it works toward an A.

Corr Elementary and Kids R Kids are not yet meeting the CLASS score objective of 5.50

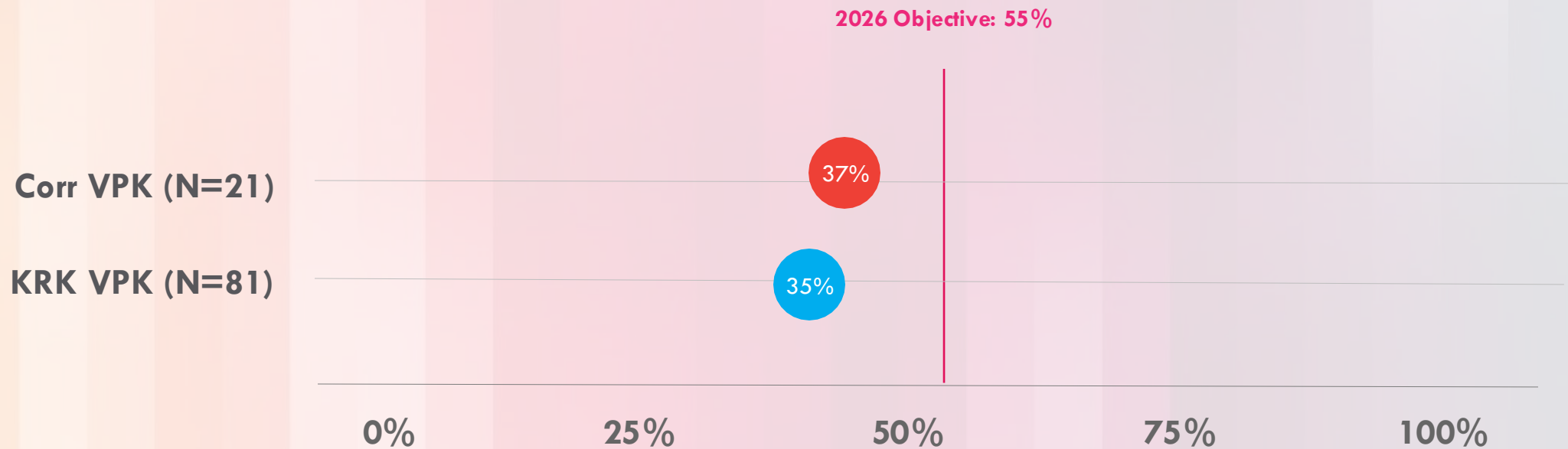


57% of 4-year-olds at partner schools met or exceeded the achievement score on the end-of-year STAR assessment



THIS CHART SHOWS 4-YEAR-OLD STAR ACHIEVEMENT SCORES AT THE END OF THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR.

35% of partners achieved a learning gains score of 55% or higher on the end-of-year STAR assessment



THIS CHART SHOWS 4-YEAR-OLD LEARNING GAINS BASED ON STAR DATA FOR THE 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR.

No VPK partner has yet achieved an excellent performance designation per state accountability requirements

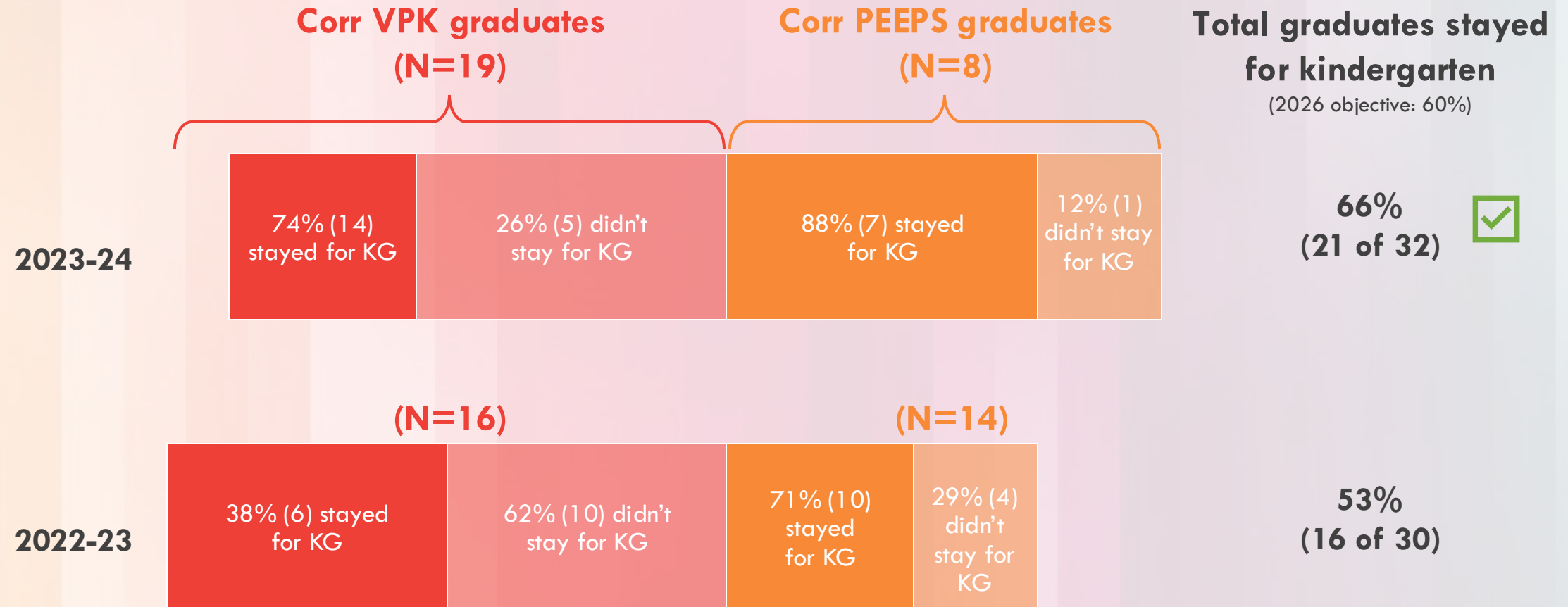
2026 Objective: 60%
excellent; 100% above

VPK Class	Performance Points Earned	Performance Designation	2026 Objective
Kids R Kids	32	Meets	Excellent
Corr Elementary	26	Below	Excellent

Performance Designation Scoring Key

- 100-61: Excellent
- 60-46: Above Expectations
- 45-28: Meets Expectations
- 27-16: Below Expectations
- 15-0: Unsatisfactory

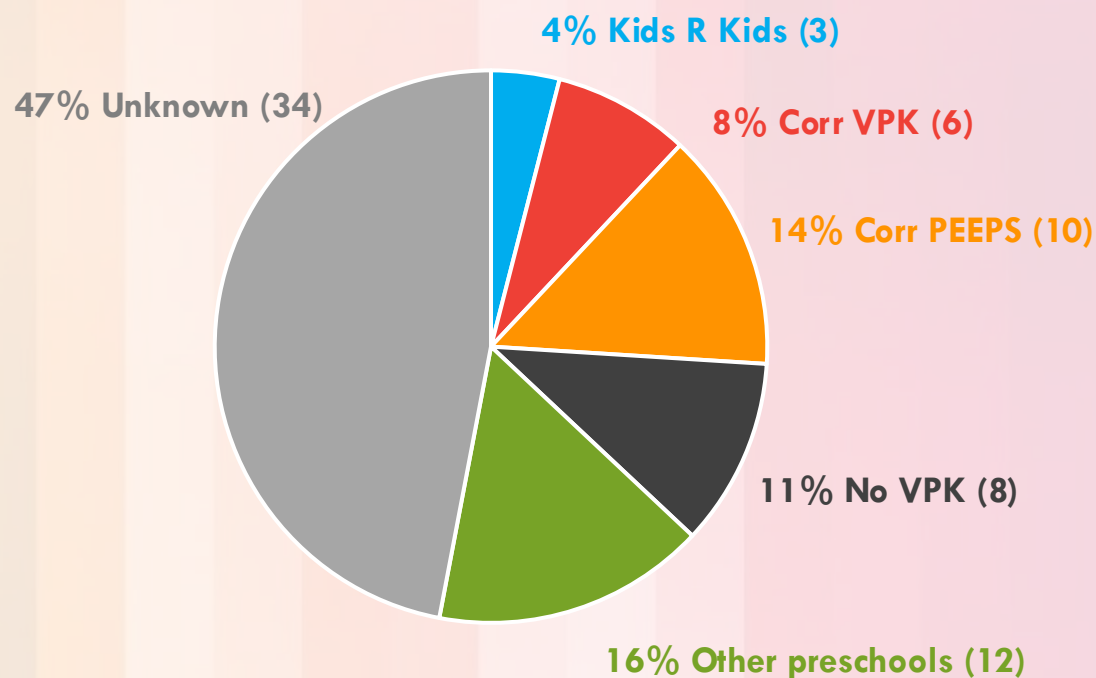
66% of 4-year-olds stayed at Corr for kindergarten, with more staying from PEEPS (88%) than VPK (74%)



About 1 in 4 Corr kindergarten students came from partner schools in 2023-24, working toward our objective of 35%

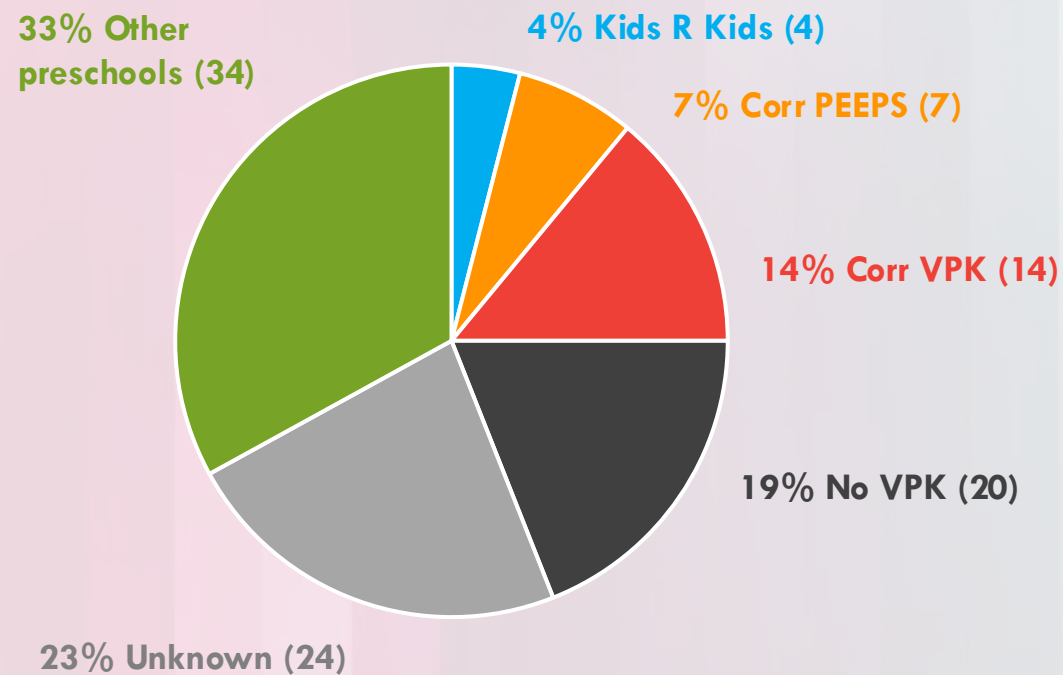
2022-23

26% of Kindergarten Students
Came from Partner Schools

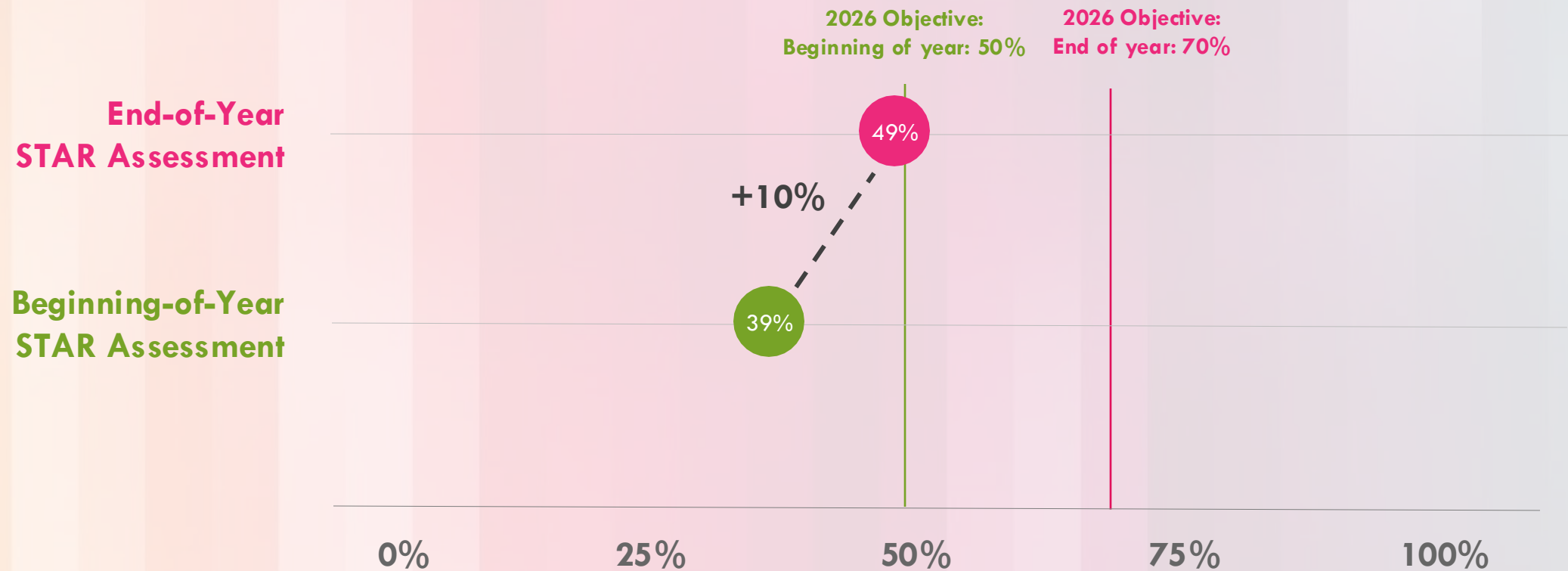


2023-24

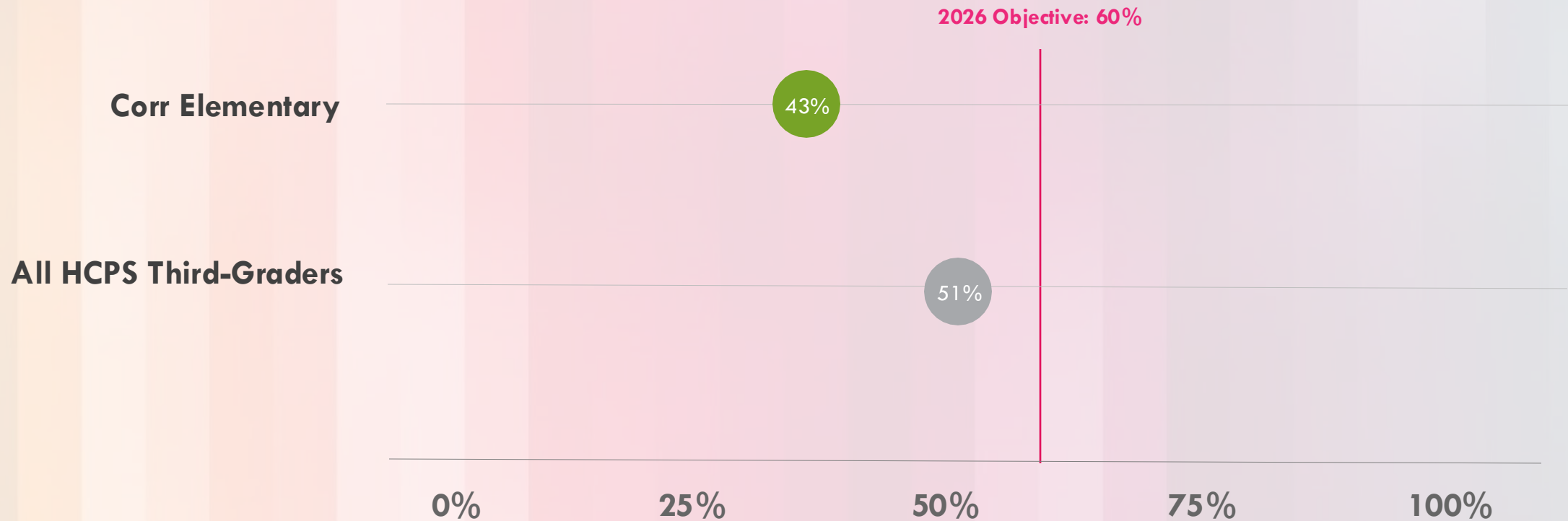
24% of Kindergarten Students
Came from Partner Schools



Although only 39% of Corr kindergarten students were ready for kindergarten, they showed a 10% gain by the year's end



Third-graders at Corr Elementary scored below the Hillsborough County average in ELA during 2023-24



Corr received a school grade of C for the 2023-24 school year, maintaining its grade from the previous year

SCHOOL GRADES	2022-23	2023-24	GOAL
Corr Elementary	C	C	A



Results Dashboard

- ▲ Up or ▼ from previous year
- ☑ Already achieved 2026 objective

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	22-23	23-24	Annual Change	2026 Objective
IMPROVING KINDERGARTEN READINESS				
4-year-old CLASS assessment score				
Corr Elementary	5.93	4.25	-1.68 ▼	5.50
Kids R Kids	5.09	4.92	-0.17 ▼	5.50
4-year-old achievement (end-of-year STAR)				
Corr VPK	65%	52%	-13% ▼	70%
Corr PEEPS	59%	33%	-26% ▼	30% ☑
Kids R Kids VPK	37%	59%	22% ▲	70%
4-year-old learning gains (end-of-year STAR)				
Corr VPK	56%	37%	-19% ▼	55%
Kids R Kids VPK	10%	35%	25% ▲	55%
Partner Performance Designation (end-of-year)				
Corr VPK students	Above	Below	▼	Excellent
Kids R Kids VPK	Below	Meets	▲	Excellent
STRENGTHENING EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS				
Kindergarten stay rate	53%	66%	13% ▲	60% ☑
Kindergarten enrollment contribution	26%	24%	-2% ▼	35%
ADVANCING STUDENT & SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT				
Kindergarten readiness rate (beginning-of-year STAR)				
Corr Elementary	36%	39%	3% ▲	50%
All kindergarteners in Hillsborough County	56%	52%	-4% ▼	80%
Kindergarten achievement (end-of-year STAR)	57%	49%	-8% ▼	70%
Third grade ELA achievement	40%	43%	3% ▲	60%
Corr Elementary school grade	C	C	-	A

“

Great We Grow Southshore has not only enhanced the preschool experience for our students; it has helped our teachers focus on the fundamental skills necessary for kindergarten success.

— Kara Allen, director, Kids R Kids Southshore



**For questions about
Great We Grow in Southshore:**

Sheff Crowder
Sheff@connfoundation.org
813-758-9403





Glossary

Glossary: General terms

- **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
- **Gains:** Students who show one year's worth of growth based on standardized academic assessments for their grade level

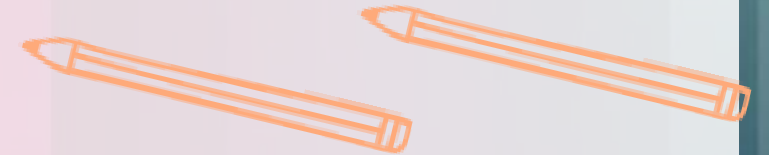


- **Kindergarten readiness:** Percent of students demonstrating readiness for kindergarten based on meeting or exceeding the achievement score on the STAR assessment at the beginning of the school year
- **Stability:** The number of students who start and complete an academic year at the same school
- **Stay rate:** The percentage of students from a certain school boundary who attended on a given date (neighborhood, public choice or charter schools)



Glossary: Assessments

- **CLASS:** An observational tool used to measure the quality of interactions teachers have with children which impact learning and development from infancy through age 5 to assess school readiness
- **4-year-old STAR:** The state-mandated assessment that evaluates readiness for all VPK children in private preschools and public schools
- **Kindergarten STAR:** The state-mandated assessment that evaluates kindergarten readiness for all children entering public schools
- **FAST Assessments:** The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking, which includes VPK through grade 10 ELA Reading and VPK through grade 8 Mathematics assessments



Glossary

ACRONYMS

- **N**= Total number of students

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

- **PEEPS** (Pre-Kindergarten Exceptional Education Preschool Services): Provides educational opportunities for children ages 3 to 5 who have special needs
- **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

