

Committee of the Whole

April 2026

Duluth Preschool 2025-26

OUR MISSION

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

OUR VISION

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

Learning



Developing a love of learning through life-long inquiry.

Excellence



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

Equity



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

Belonging



Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

Successes and Changes

- Policy Council
 - Student Growth and Development
 - Coordinator Team
 - P-3 Initiative
 - Community Education
 - Retaining 150 State Funded seats through School Readiness and Voluntary PreK
-
- Government Shutdown impacting (NOFO) Notice of Funding Opportunity Grant Timeline: 2025-2026 funding extension to August 1, 2026
 - Retirement/Staffing

Recruitment and Enrollment

- Head Start Performance standard to maintain 97% enrollment [1302.15](#) for no less than 3 consecutive months

- Poverty guidelines released January 17, 2026
[2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)
- Community recruitment flyers and contacts
- Ongoing work with internal partners: ECFE and ECSE

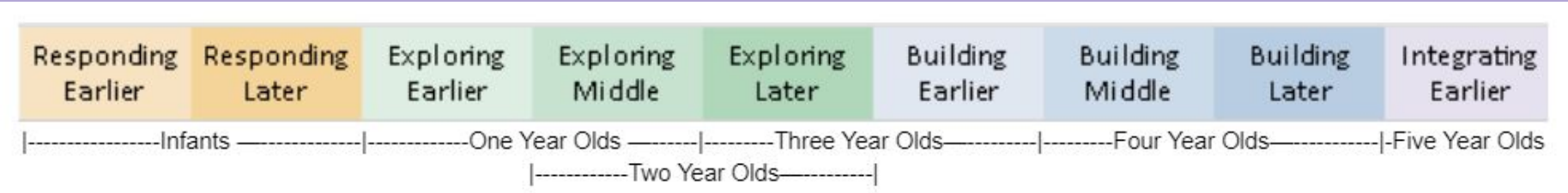
- March 1, 2026: Notification to returning families of Duluth Preschool acceptance and placement
- April 1, 2026: Notification to new families/children of Duluth Preschool acceptance and placement
- May 1, 2026: Notification to new families/children of Duluth Preschool acceptance and placement
- June 1, 2026: Notification to new families/children of Duluth Preschool acceptance and placement

DRDP Winter 2025-26

Duluth Preschool

The DRDP is a continuum of skills from early infancy to Kindergarten. For our data, averages are based on:

- Responding Earlier-Responding Later = Infants***
- Exploring Earlier-Exploring Middle = 1 year olds***
- Exploring Middle-Exploring Later = 2 year olds***
- Exploring Later-Building Earlier = 3 year olds***
- Building Middle-Building Later = 4 year olds***
- Integrating Earlier = Kindergarteners***



254 3-5 year olds enrolled at checkpoint cutoff

96% assessed

4% “Elected Not to Rate” (10 children-chronic absences)

Head Start = 173 children

School Readiness = 60 children

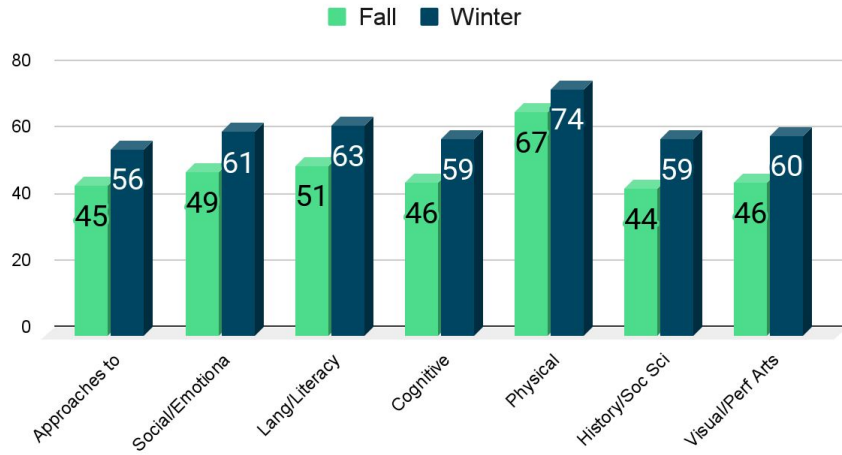
VPK = 21 children

***Only Head Start, VPK & School Readiness Classrooms have winter assessment data**

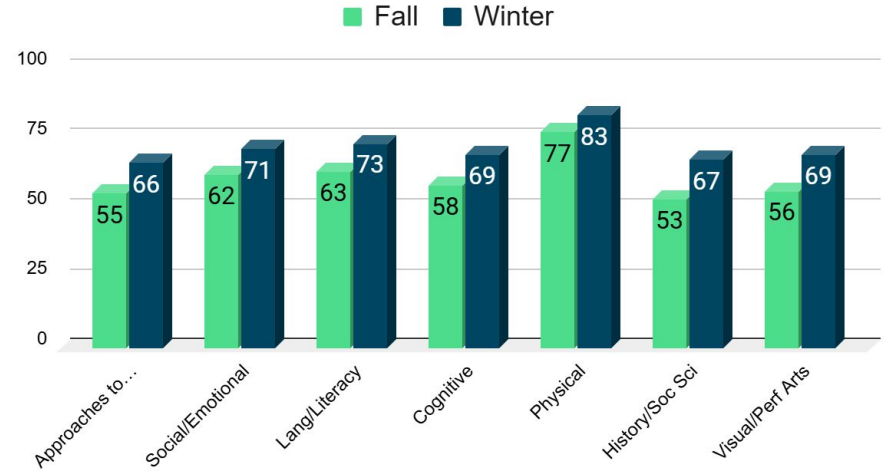
****One classroom did not complete the winter checkpoint due to staffing issues**

Head Start

Head Start 3-5's 25-26

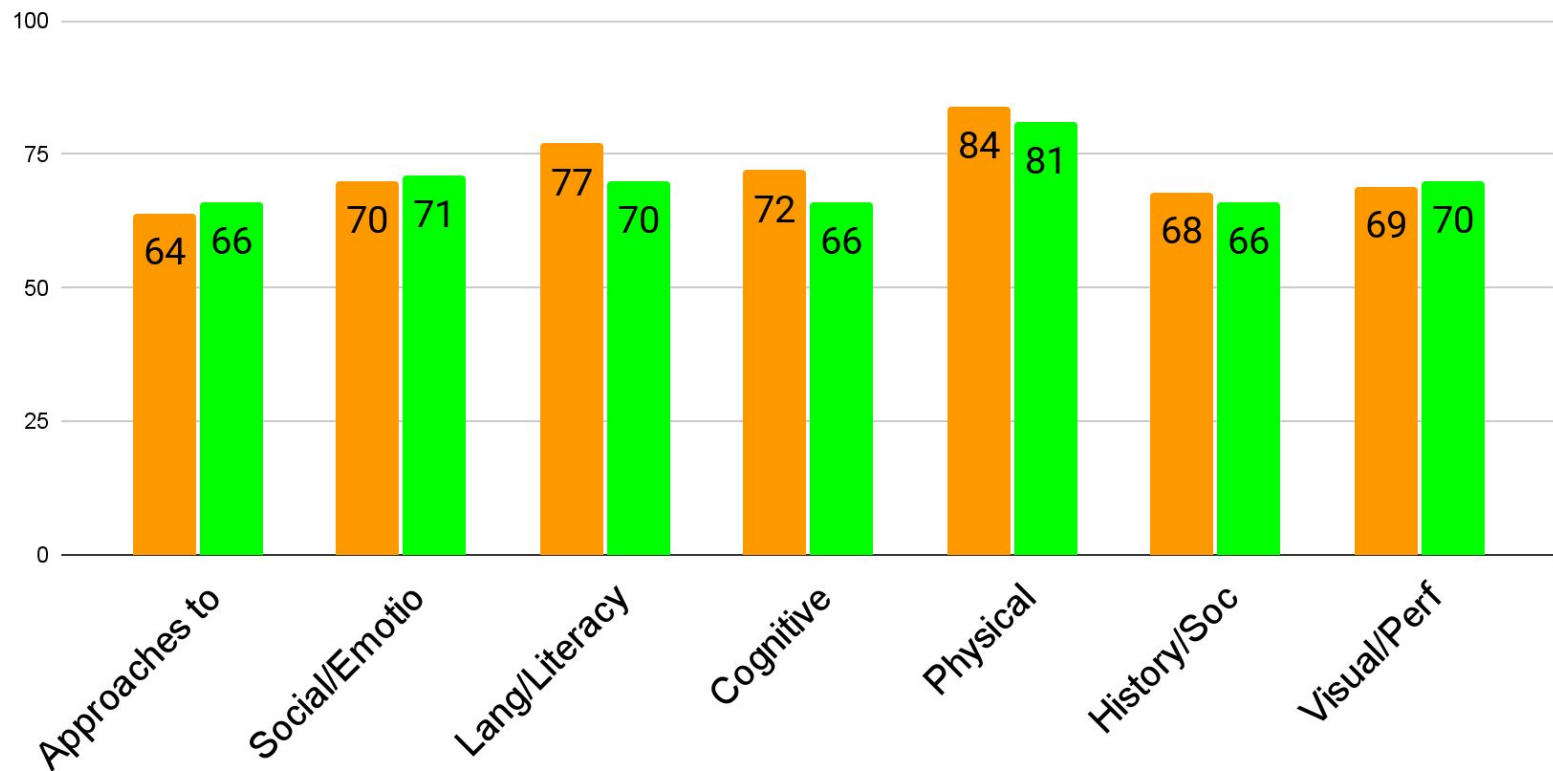


Head Start 4YO's

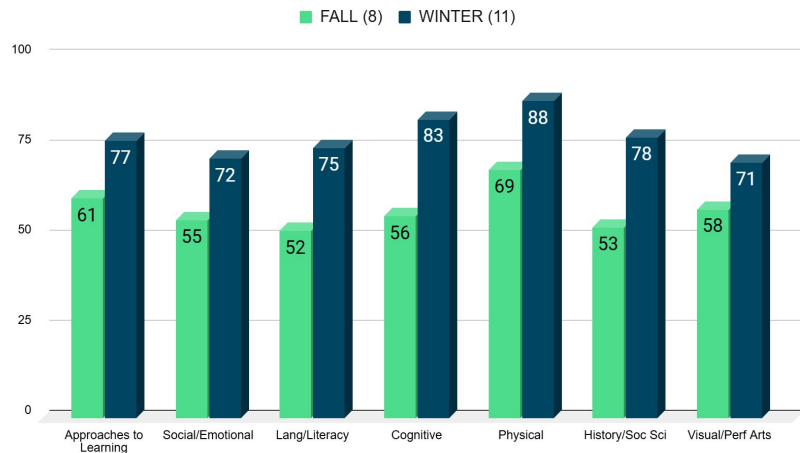


Head Start Male/Female 4 YOs 25-26

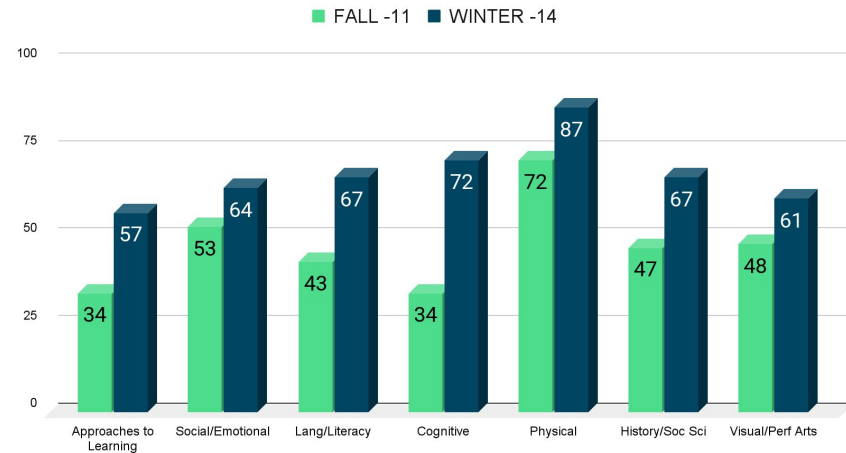
Male Winter Female Winter



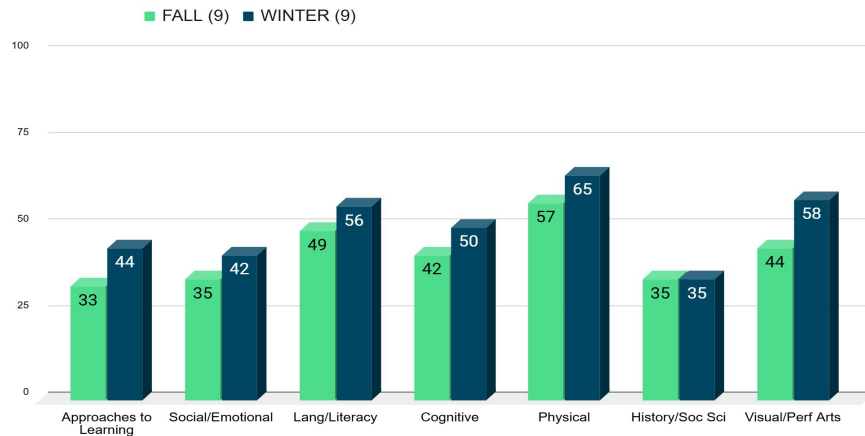
Head Start Speech IEP 4 YO's



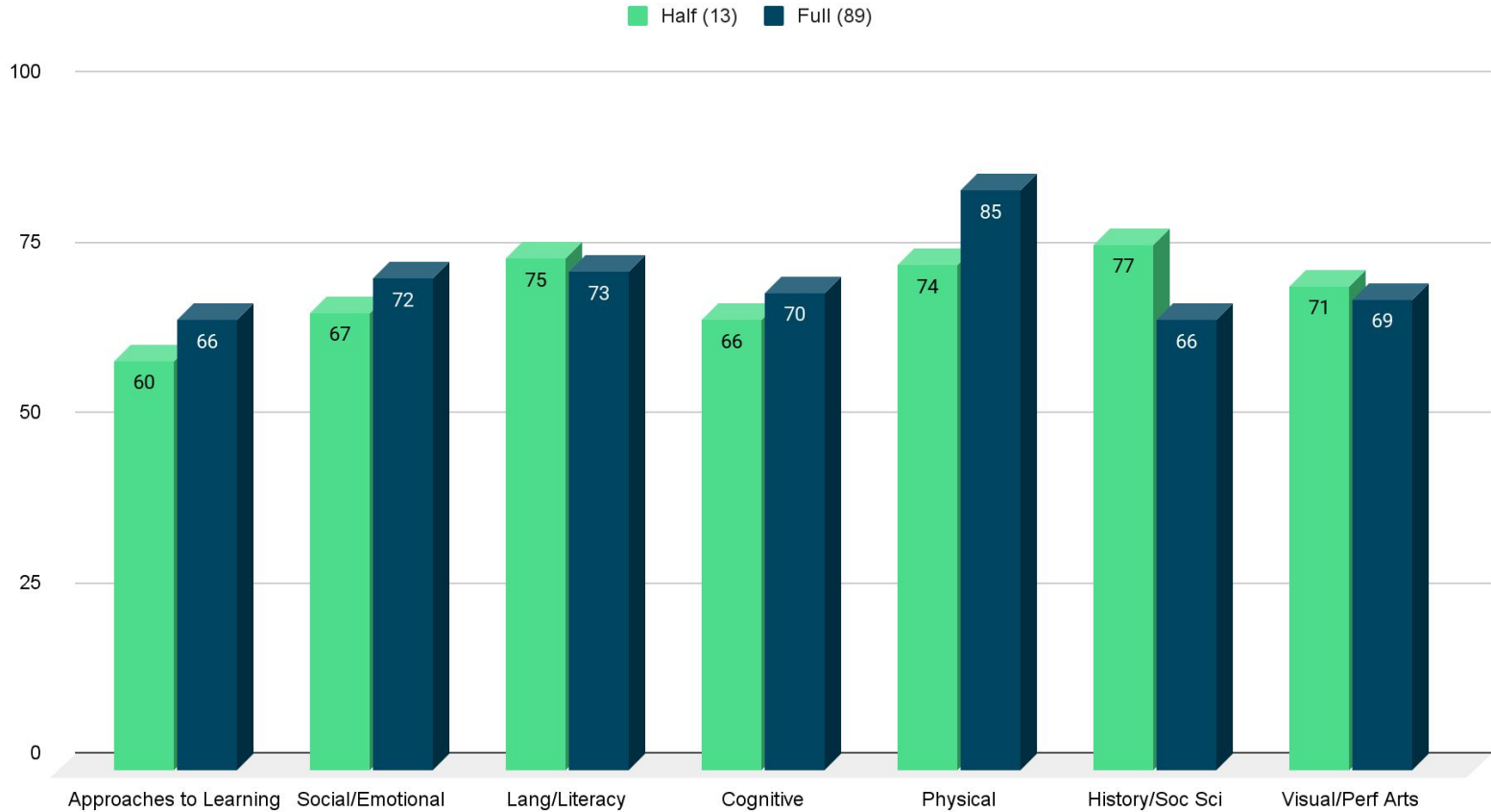
Head Start Developmental Delay 4YO's



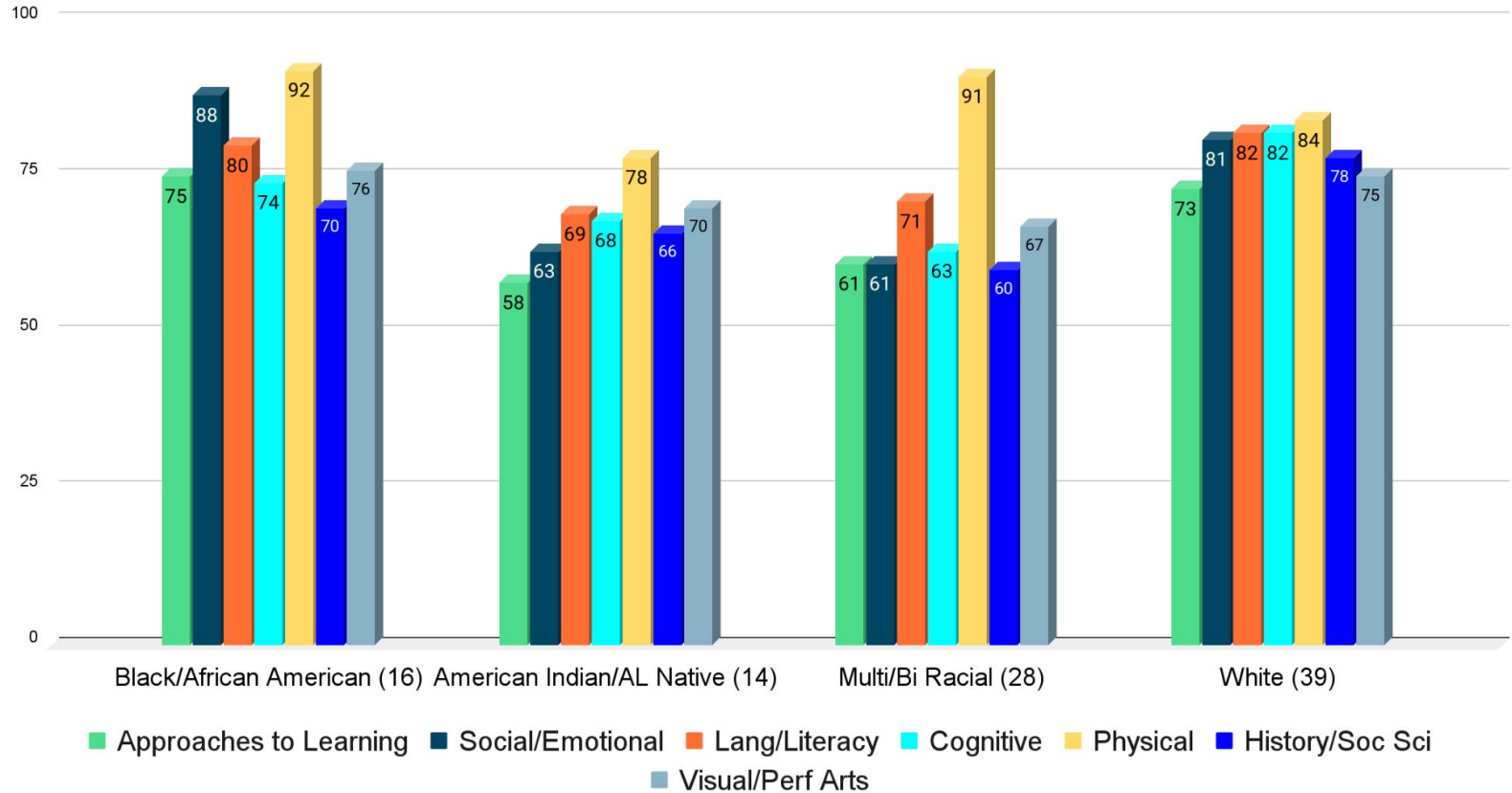
Head Start Para Supprt (1-1 or shared) 25-26



Winter: Head Start 4YO's Half and Full 25-26

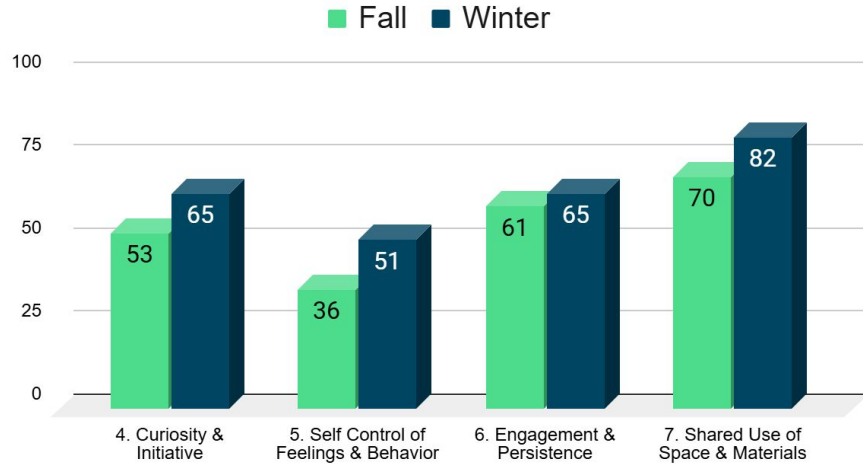


HS 4 YO's by Race: WINTER 25-26

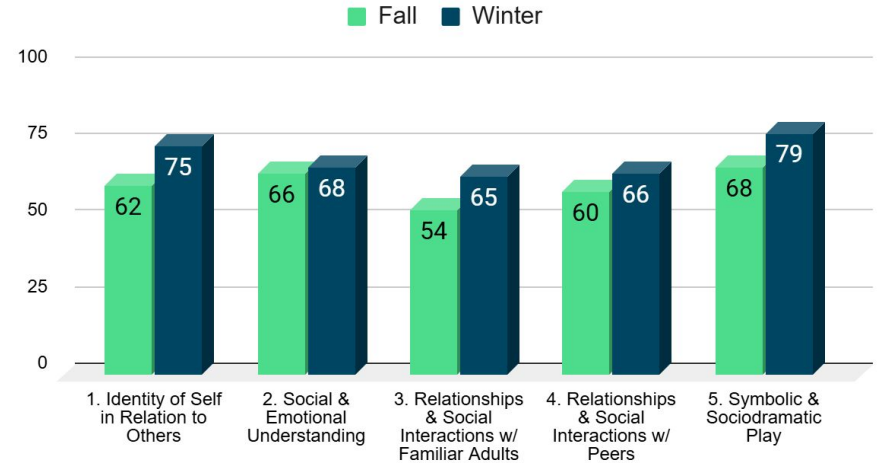


DRDP Domains by Objective 4 YO's

Head Start 4 YO's Approaches to Learning-Self Regulation

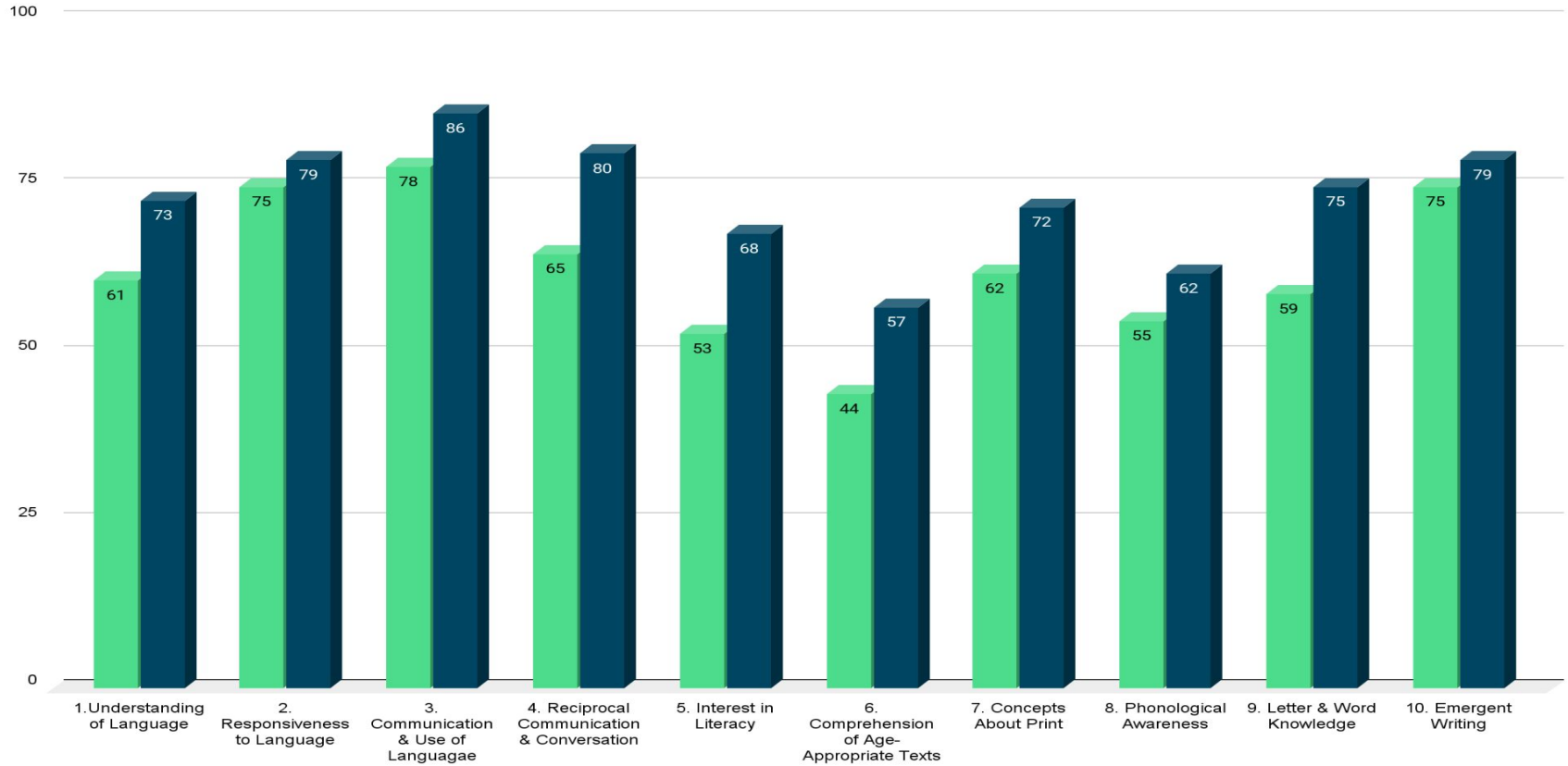


Head Start 4YO's Social & Emotional Development



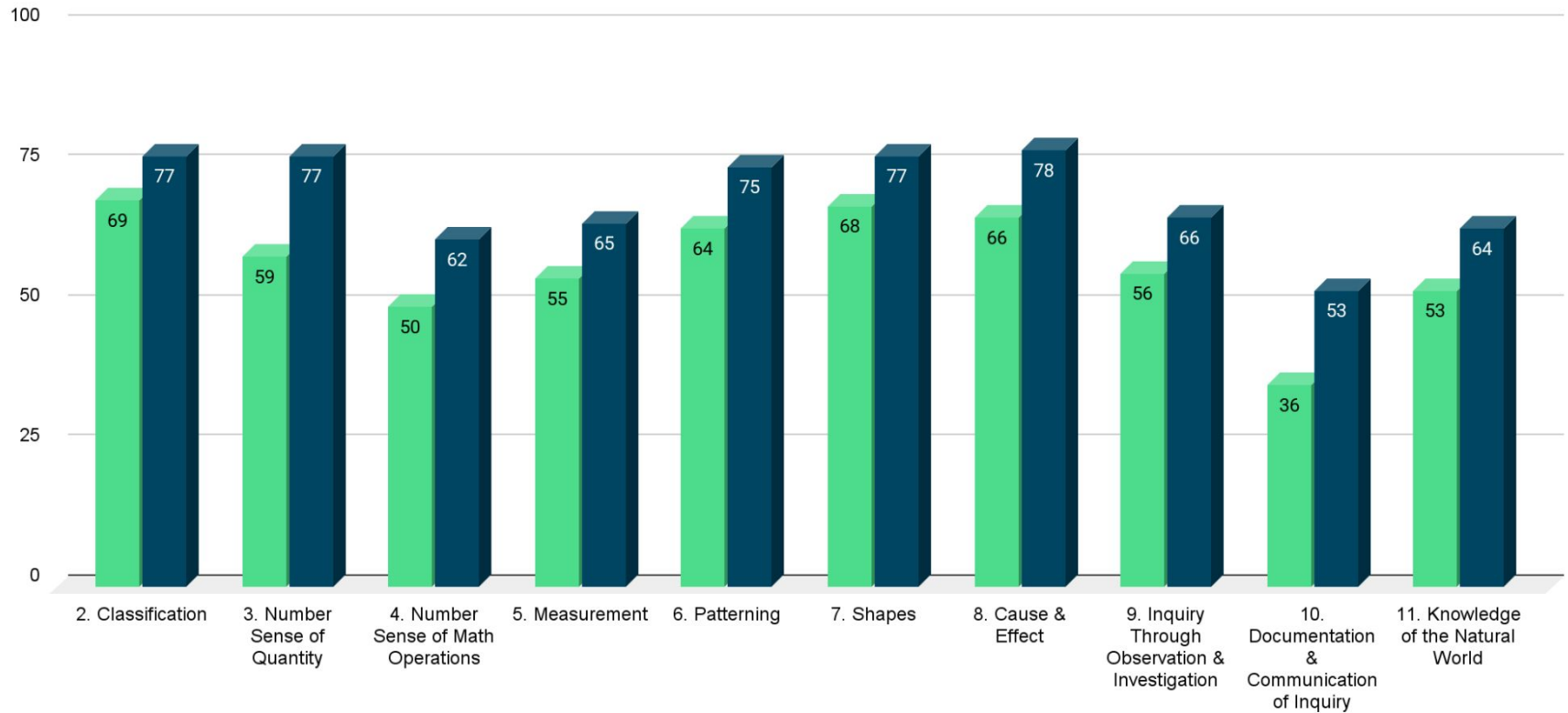
Head Start 4 YO's Language & Literacy Development

■ Fall ■ Winter

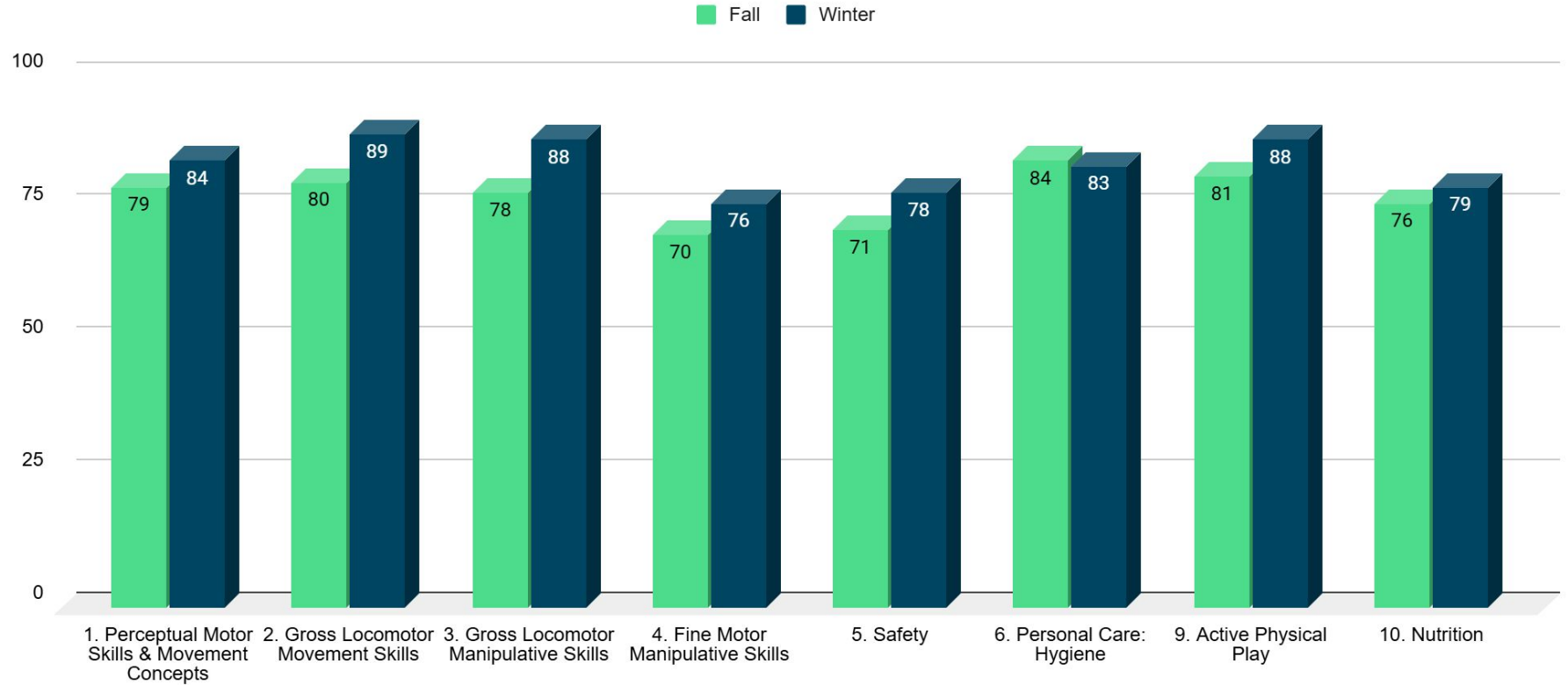


Head Start 4 YO's Cognition, Including Math & Science

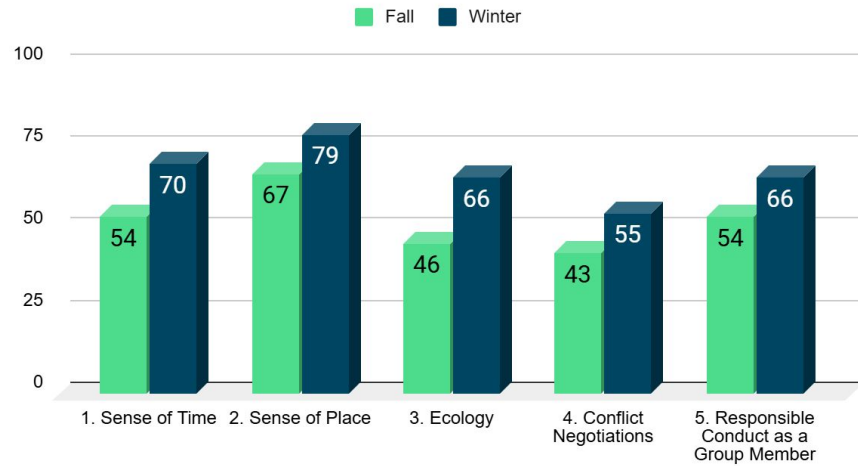
■ Fall ■ Winter



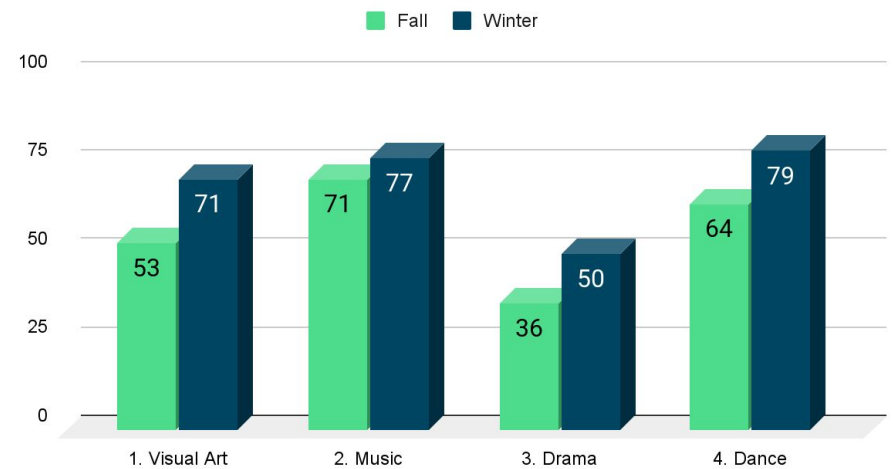
Physical Development and Health



History-Social Science



Visual & Performing Arts

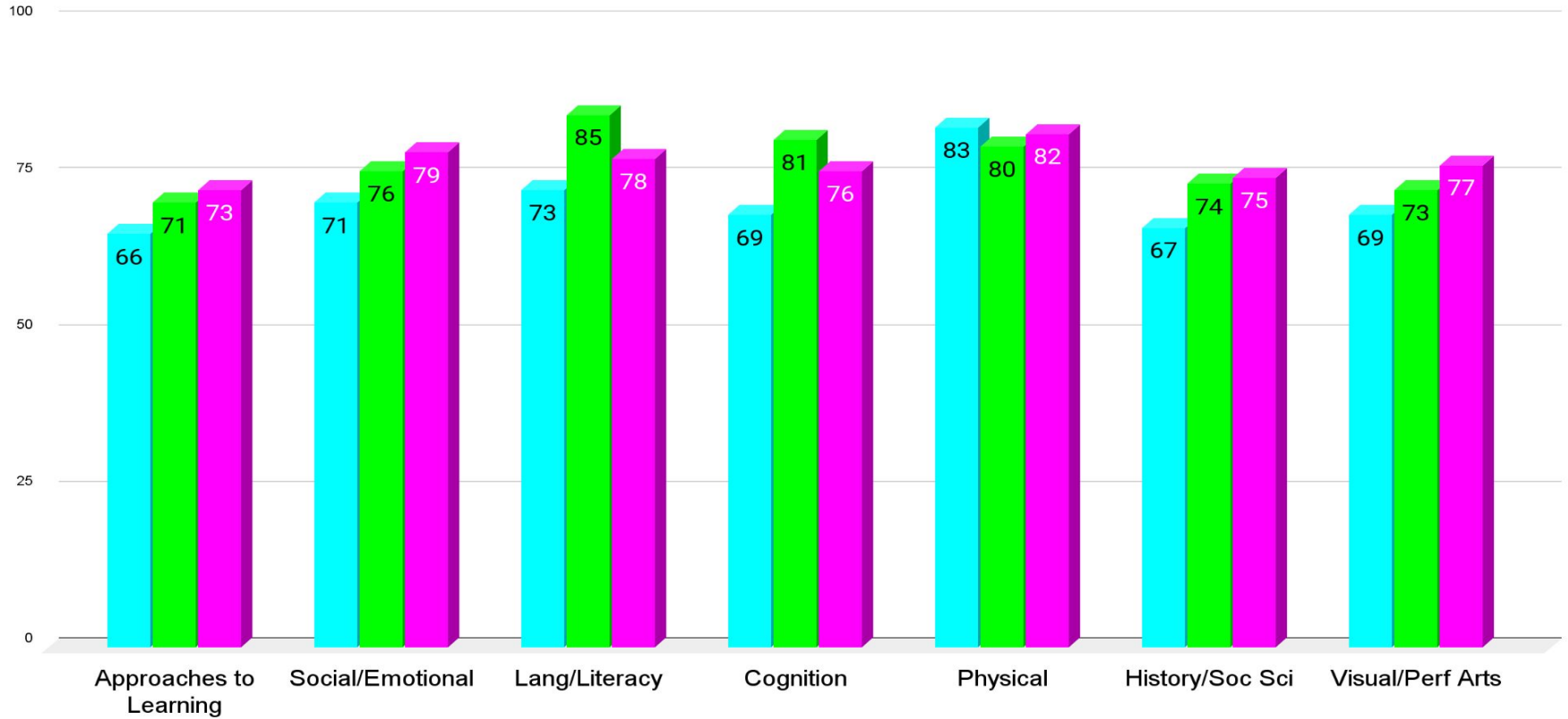


Program-Wide

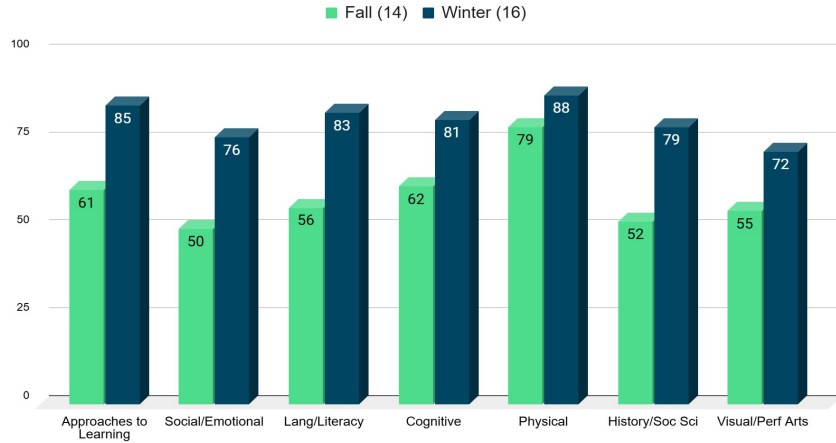
VPK/SR/Head Start

Program Comparison 4 YO's WINTER 25-26

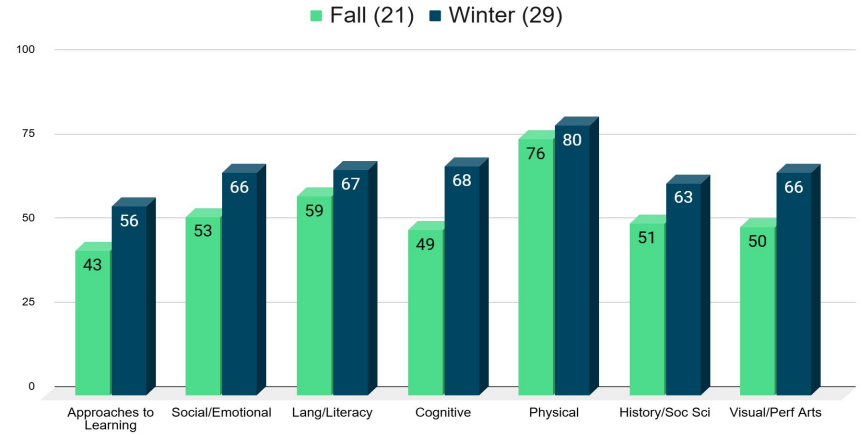
■ Head Start (102) ■ School Readiness (39) ■ VPK (19)



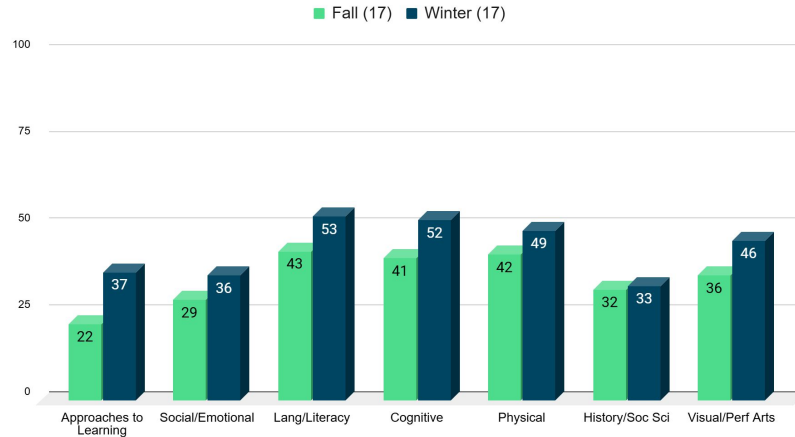
Program Speech IEPs 4 YO's 25-26



Program Developmental Delay IEP FALL 25-26 4 YO's



Program Para Support (1-1 or shared) IEP 4 YO's 24-25

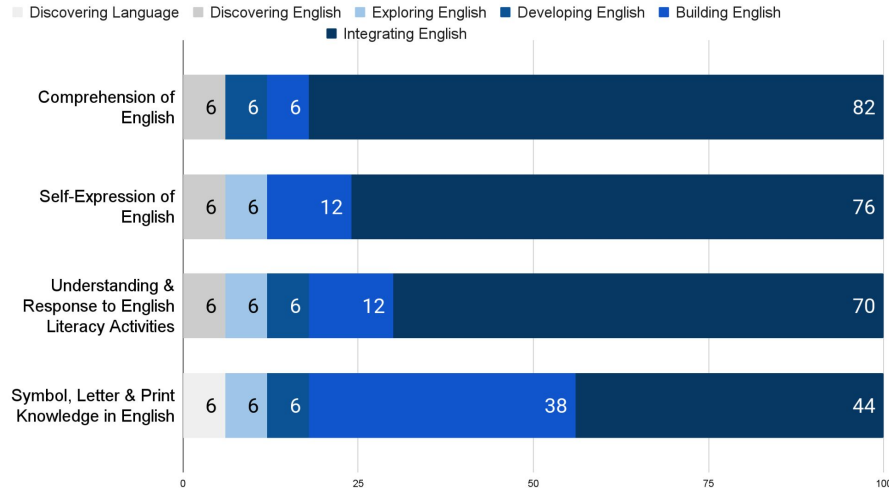


Dual Language Learners

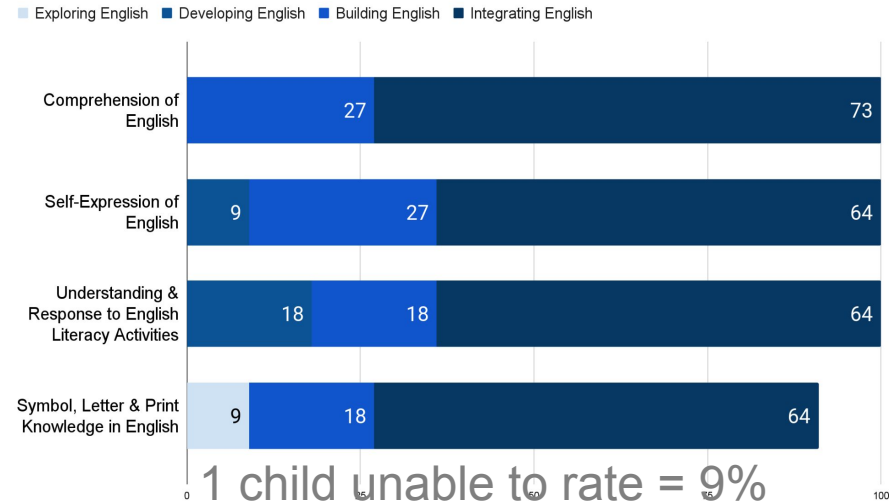
Home languages:
Portuguese, Spanish, Ojibwe, Vietnamese,
Dutch, Tibetan, Hausa, Russian,
Swahili/Kiswahili/Nandi



DLL-FALL 25-26 (16 students)

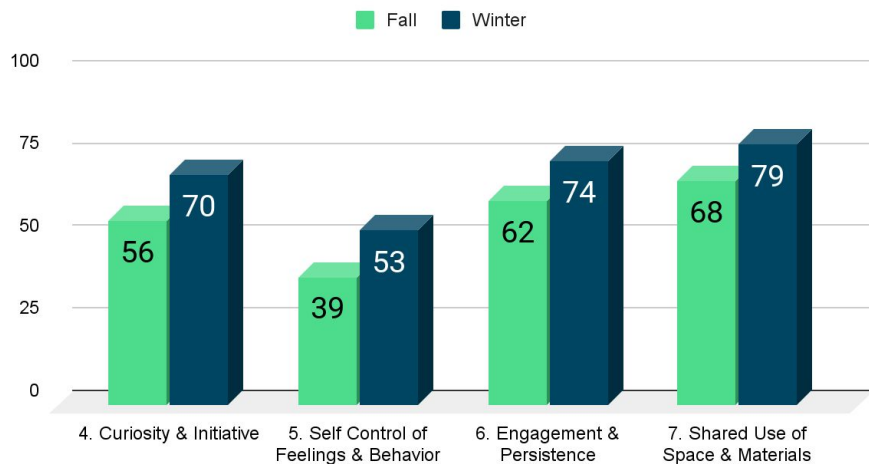


DLL-FALL 25-26 (11 students)

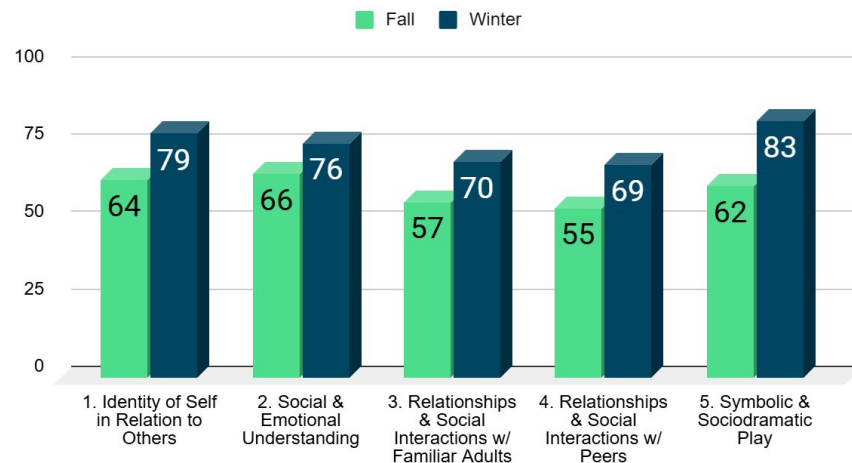


Domains by Objective: 4 Year Olds Program-Wide

Approaches to Learning & Self Regulation

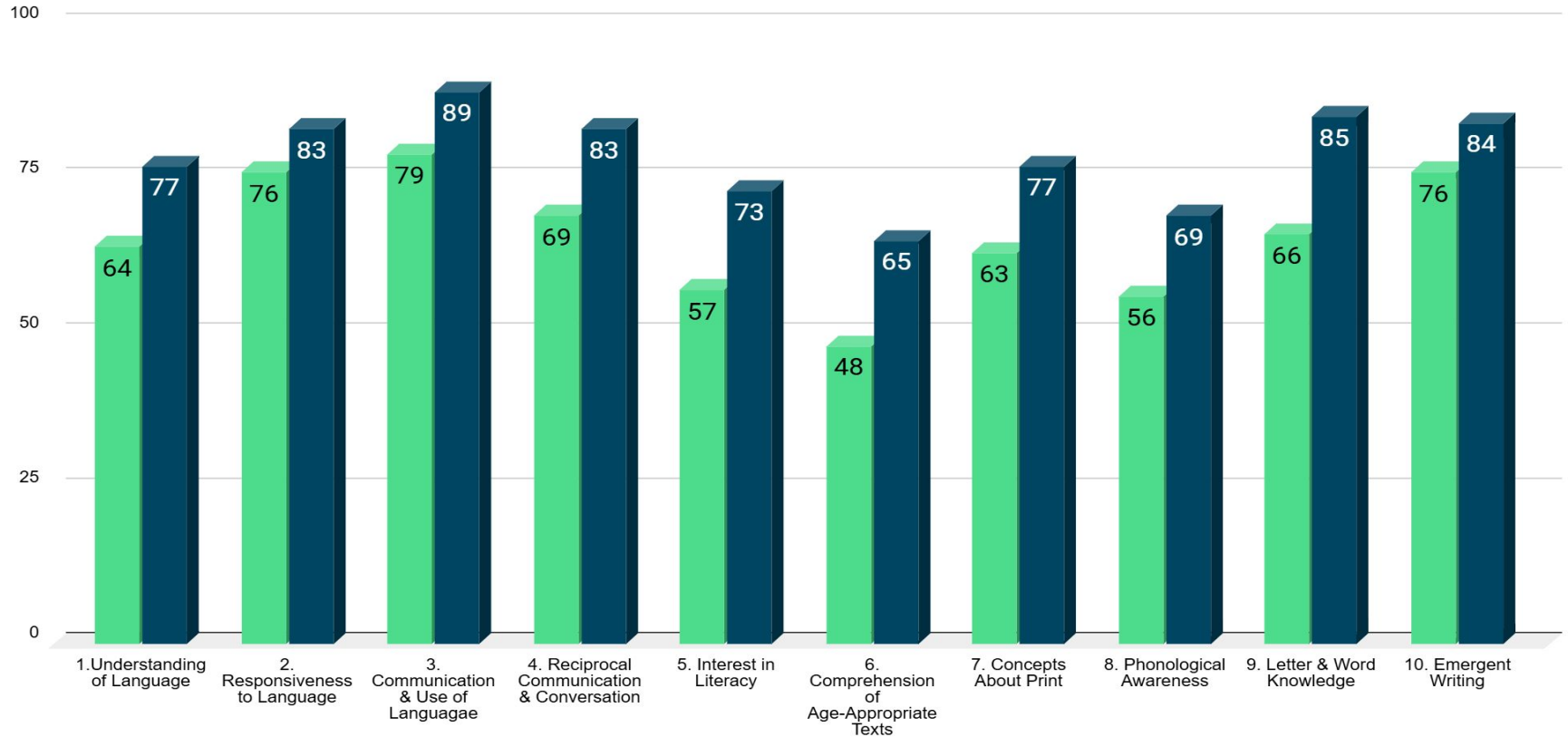


Social & Emotional Development



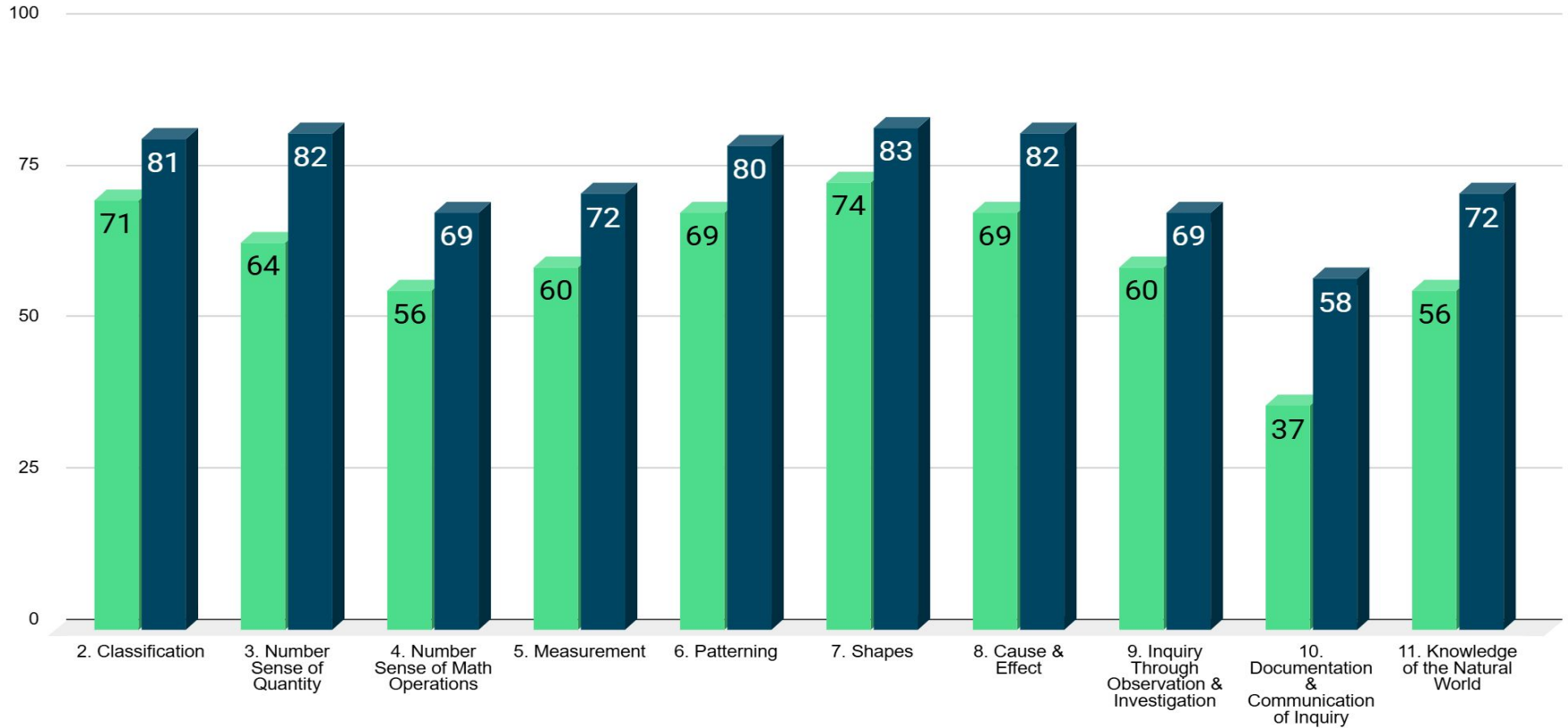
Language & Literacy

■ Fall ■ Winter

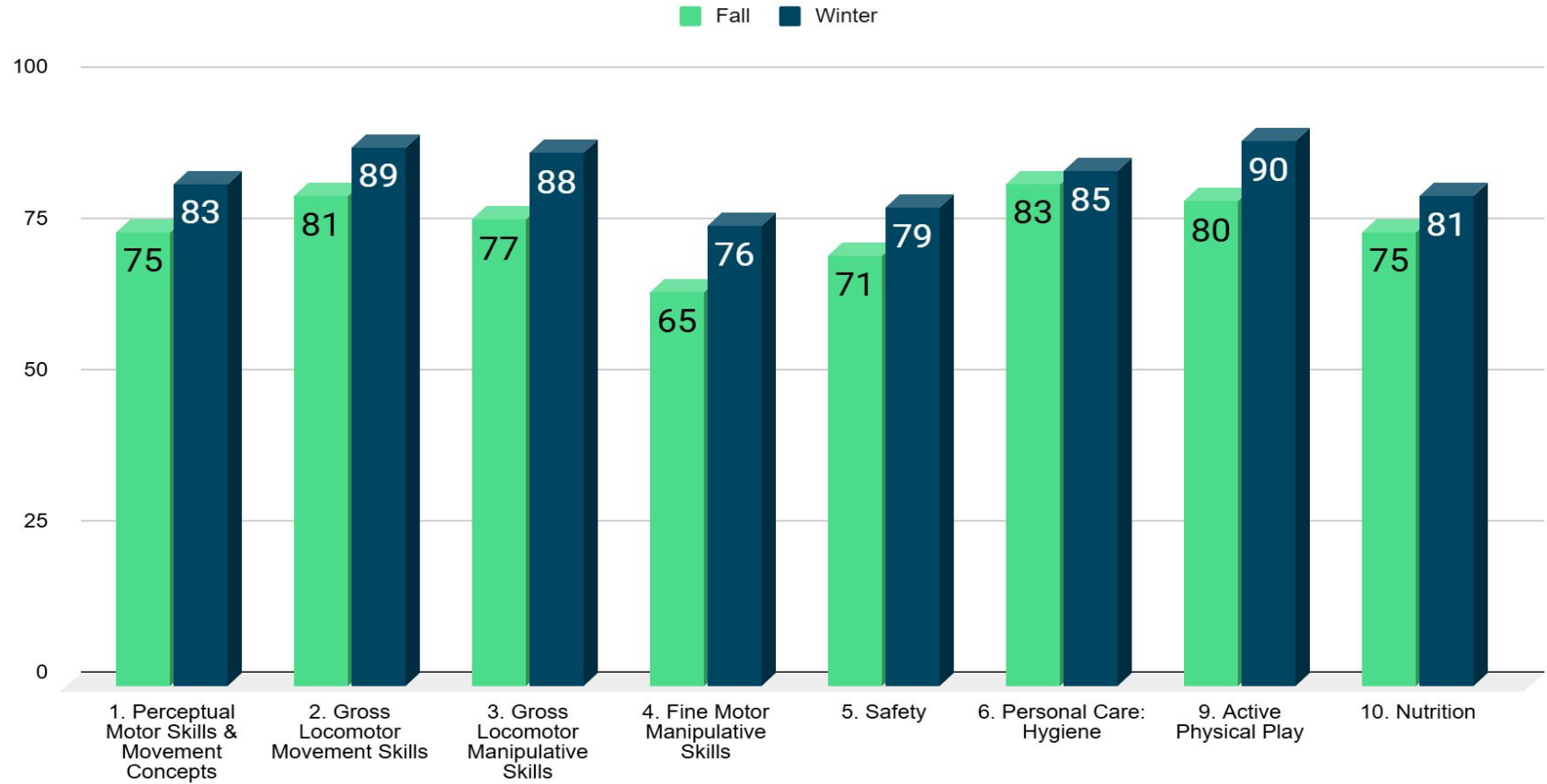


Cognition Including Math & Science

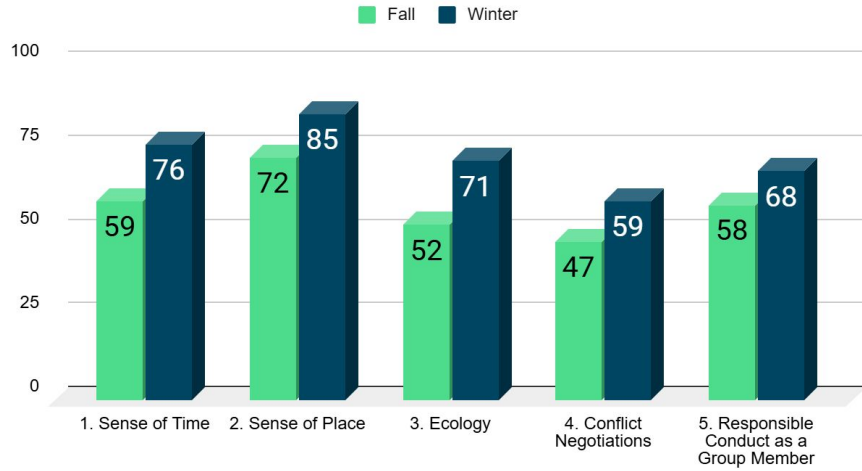
■ Fall ■ Winter



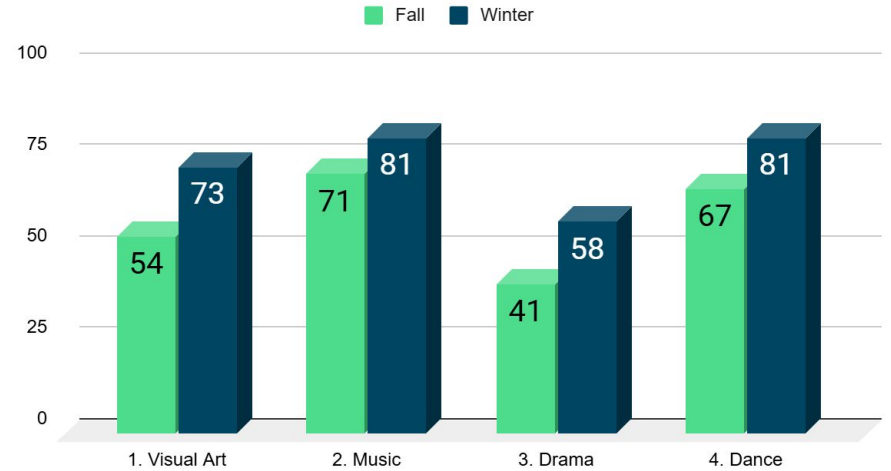
Physical Development-Health



History-Social Sciences



Visual & Performing Arts



Mental Health Support

Supports for mental health and well-being (from Head Start Standard 1302.45) (highlights related to mental health)

- To support a program-wide culture that promotes mental health, social and emotional well-being, and overall health and safety, a program must use a multidisciplinary approach.
- Ensures mental health consultation services are available at a frequency of at least once a month.
- *Mental health consultants.* A program must ensure that mental health consultants provide consultation services that build the capacity of adults in an infant or young child's life to strengthen and support the mental health and social and emotional development of children.

Mental Health Support

Time in classrooms

Structured observation

Consult with teachers

Consult with parents

Behavior Incident Data

Student support teams

Staff training

Program support

Referrals to outside services

Mental Health Support

Behavior Incident Reports (BIRs) are part of behavior tracking in Duluth Preschool

- **Physical aggression towards peers**
- **Physical aggression towards staff**
- **Property destruction (i.e. throwing materials)**
- **Risk taking** - unsafe climbing, biting non-foods, or other risky behavior
- **Inappropriate body behaviors**
- **Elopement** - attempting to leave the class or run away from the group
- **Withdrawn** - staying outside of the group's activities, or refusing activity options
- **Uncontrollable crying** - extended periods of crying without responding to comfort measures
- **Other** - some behaviors of concern don't fit neatly into a category

Mental Health Support

1,200 total incidents (representing 1727 total behaviors of concern)

Behavior Incidents by rate*

- Physical aggression towards peers - 444
- Physical aggression towards staff - 376
- Elopement - 197
- Property Destruction - 209
- Risk taking - 137
- Uncontrollable crying - 129
- Withdrawn - 107
- Self-harm - 39
- Inappropriate body behavior - 16
- Other documented behavior incidents - 73

*Total behaviors demonstrated, including data from incidents that involving multiple documented behaviors in one incident

Mental Health Support

Behavior Incident Tracking

- One piece of data that adds to our understanding of a child
 - Some students enter preschool with extremely high needs - whether environmental, developmental, medical/physiological, or a combination.
 - Preschool staff support individual needs through comprehensive services including behavior planning, resource and referral, family education, and classroom supports.
- One piece of data that adds to our understanding of program needs and resources
- Shows where supports are needed at the classroom and program level.

Special Education: Students Served under IDEA

Spring 2026 Data (as of March 25, 2026)



PROGRAM-WIDE SUMMARY

Total Enrolled (Actual): **283**

Students with Open IEPs: **99**

Students with Open IFSPs: **1**

Students with Closed IFSPs: **1**

Total Served (Program Wide): **101**

Percentage of Actual Enrollment: **35.7%**

Breakdown by Disability: **73 DD, 24
Speech/Language, 2 ASD, 1 EBD, 1
Hearing Impairment**



HEAD START

Actual Enrollment: **180**

Open IEPs: **60**

Percentage: **33.3%**

Breakdown: **43 DD, 16**

Speech/Language, **1 EBD**



VOLUNTARY PRE-K (VPK)

Actual Enrollment: **21**

Open IEPs: **6**

Percentage: **28.6%**

Breakdown: **3 DD, 2**

Speech/Language, **1 Hearing
Impairment**



SCHOOL READINESS (SR)

Actual Enrollment: **60**

Open IEPs: **27**

Percentage: **45%**

Breakdown: **20 DD, 5**

Speech/Language, **2 ASD**



STATE FUNDED

Actual Enrollment: **27**

Total Served: **8**

Percentage: **36.3%**

Open IEPs: **7 (31.8%)**

Open IFSPs: **0**

Closed IFSP (parent decline):
1 (4.5%)



★ ***Note:** Open IEPs for Head Start, including drops, is 64 (35.6% of actual enrollment of 180). **Breakdown: 45 DD, 18 Speech/Language, 1 EBD.**

Staff Professional Development

- Strengthening staff capacity
- Supporting staff wellness
- Supporting the whole child and their family through parallel process

[2025-26 Staff Training Template](#)

[2026-27 Staff Training Template](#)

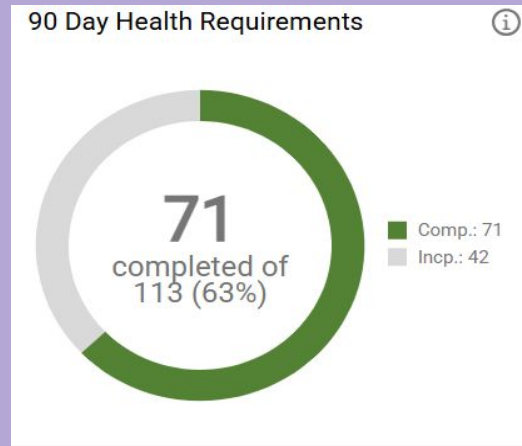
Health and Nutrition

Vision and Hearing Screening



39 students failed vision screening. The Duluth Preschool Program secured 17 free pair of glasses from Prevent Blindness

Well Child Check and Dental



The Children's Dental Services comes to the schools to do preventive care.

Incident/Accident Reports

- 18 incidents/accidents
- 2 reported to the Office of Head Start
- 1 reported to DHS

CLASS Observations

CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System), measures classroom interactions, using behavioral evidence in the areas of:

- Emotional Support
- Classroom Organization
- Instructional Support

The scoring ranks from 1 (low) to 7 (high)

Self Assessment

The following program wide recommendations support continuous quality improvement.

1. Continue to explore opportunities to hire and engage more substitute paraprofessionals and teachers, through a continued partnership with Kelly Education
2. Continue to build staff capacity in working with challenging child behaviors, both through strengthening intervention strategies, teacher mentoring and collaborative observations and ongoing parent partnership
3. Continue Internal Monitoring, supporting individual sites and staff through a parallel process seeking optimal outcomes for our children and their families.
4. Continue to support teams in inputting data through Child Plus and Educlimber (BIRs), informing program decisions through data collections and exploration.
5. Continue to explore program goals for the NOFO 2026-31

Partnerships

The Depot
Viewcrest Nursing Home
Hawks Ridge
First Witness
Fire Station #1
YMCA
Growing Little Loves Creative Art Space
Duluth Public Library
Bayfront (partnership with Parks & Rec)
LSC Dental
Lincoln Park
Bagley Nature Center*
Children's Museum
Superior Zoo*
Great Lakes Aquarium
Playfront*
Duluth Art Institute

*scheduled for the
Spring 2026

Where are we in the grant cycle?

- Current extension ending August 1, 2026
- Checking into [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for the NOFO
- Monthly check in with OHS
- Preparing for a possible grant extension
- Preparing for a possible NOFO- 5 year competitive opportunity

Questions

Thank You