



Help Me
Grow
Western New York

Help Me Grow Western New York's Impact on At-Risk Pre-kindergarten Students

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Help Me Grow Western New York Interested Collaborators

NY State

- Office of Children and Family Services
- Department of Health
- Maternal and Infant Health Program
- Healthy Families NY
- Early Care and Learning Council
- Zero to Three Network
- Early Childhood Direction Centers
- Council on Children and Families
- Education Department
- Docs for Tots

WNY Region

- Chautauqua County Child Coalition
- Genesee County Early Childhood Coalition
- Children's Health Home of Western New York (CHHWNY)
- WNY Infant Toddler Resource Network
- WNY Behavior Summit

Erie and Niagara Counties

- Erie County Department of Social Services
- Niagara County Department of Social Services
- Erie and Niagara Counties Early Intervention (EI) Programs
- Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara
- United Way's Erie/Niagara Birth to 8 Coalition – 50 community partners
- Niagara County Quality Improvement Project
- Kaleida Health Early Childhood Direction Center...and more!

Early Childhood Landscape: NYS



- 1.4 million children, birth to 5 years of age
- Ranks 49th of 50 for developmental screenings
- 710,864 children aged 3-5 years
- 112, 578 (16%) in public pre-kindergarten (PK), 2014-15
- NYS 2014-15 budget committed \$1.5 billion over five years to support phase-in of the first-ever state-funded full-day PK program.



NYS UPK Mandates: 5 Domains



Curriculum aligns with Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core and covers the five domains of development:

1. Approaches to learning;
2. Physical development and health;
3. Social and emotional development;
4. Communication, language and literacy;
5. Cognition and knowledge of the world.



NYS UPK Mandates: Family Supports



Must provide, directly or through referral, support services to children and their families necessary to support the child's participation.

Must have partnerships to support the non-academic needs of young children and their families, which may include: health and human service providers; cultural, educational, business and other community resources.



NYS UPK Mandates: Screenings



Must have a child screening and assessment process that complies with applicable regulations, including procedures for collecting and protecting screening and assessment results and provisions for sharing results with families.

Must have a process for assessing the developmental baseline and progress of all children participating in the program. At minimum, such process provides for assessment in the development of language, cognitive, and social skills.



NYS UPK Mandates: Screenings, cont.



Must use a developmental screening tool that is valid and reliable.

Must document the developmental progress of each child using an assessment tool(s) that is valid and reliable.

Screening and assessment results must be used to inform instruction that addresses the needs of individual children.

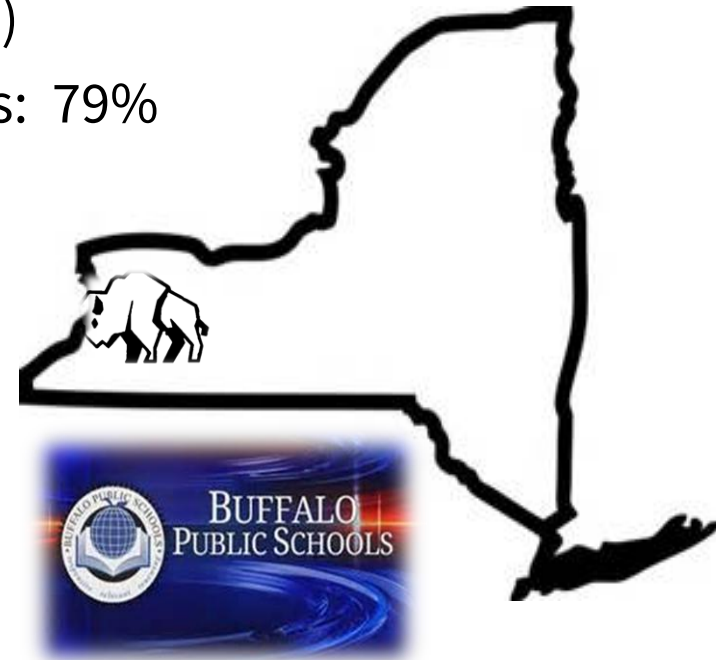
Must document that aggregated screening and assessment results are used to inform program practice.

Staff must receive professional development in effective use of screening and assessment data.

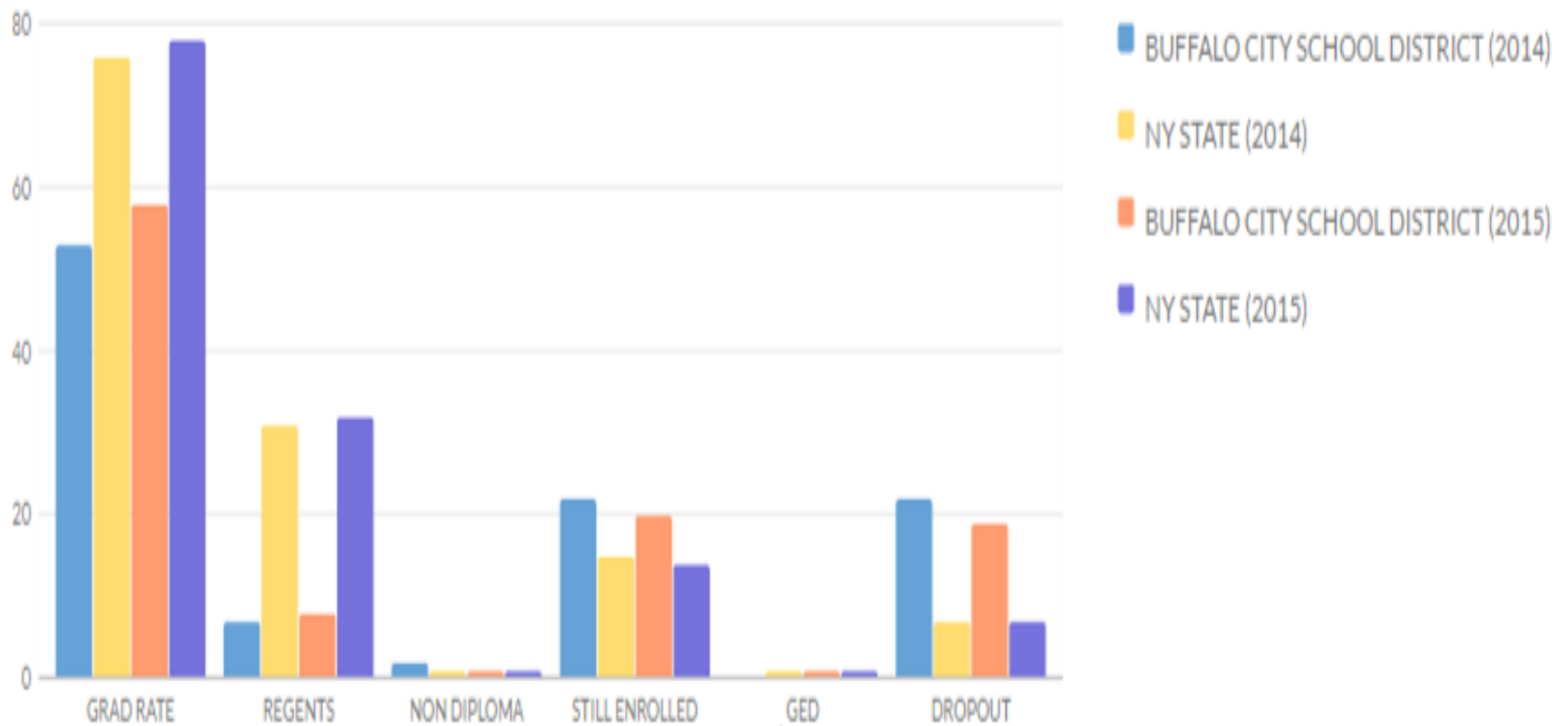


Buffalo Public School District (BPSD)

- 57 schools (PK-12)
- PK-12 enrollment: 34,764 (2014-15)
- PK3 and 4 enrollment: 2,599 (2014-15)
- Economically disadvantaged students: 79%
- Students with Disabilities: 22%
- English Language Learners: 14%
- Ethnicity:
 - Black/African American, 49%
 - White, 21%
 - Hispanic/Latino, 18%
 - Asian/Pacific Islander, 8%
 - Other, 4%



BPSD High School Graduation Rates



BPSD 3rd Grade Student Proficiency

English Language Arts



English Language Arts: 12% of BPSD students proficient

English Language Arts: 31% of NYS students proficient

Mathematics: 13% of BPSD students proficient

Mathematics: 38% of NYS students proficient



Help Me Grow/BPSD Partnership

- Help Me Grow created unique ASQ URL/portal and permissions for BPSD.
- Help Me Grow worked with BPSD Registration to establish shared contact information for all students and families entering PK.
- Help Me Grow staffed 3 additional summer interns to assist in contacting families and facilitation of the project
- Help Me Grow developed a parent engagement letter with Buffalo Public Schools that was sent to all families explaining the project (see Handout 1). The letter was also posted on the BPS website.
- <http://www.buffaloschools.org/UniversalPK.cfm?subpage=113370>
- All PK teachers and assistants trained on how to interpret ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE results and access Help Me Grow for community supports.

Parental Involvement

Help Me Grow staff contacted families and offered them 3 options to complete an ASQ screening:

1. Complete the ASQ with HMG staff on the phone
2. Have HMG mail a copy of the ASQ to them along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to return the completed ASQ to HMG staff for electronic input.
3. Access unique BPS ASQ link (URL) to complete an online screen.



Teacher Training Day One

All BPS Pre-Kindergarten teachers and aides (~175) attended a mandatory one and half day Help Me Grow Training.

Day One Training Included:

- Ice Breaker Activity
- Help Me Grow Overview
- NYS Education Screening Mandate
- ASQ overview
- Research
- Developmentally Appropriate Practices and Milestones of Development
- Analysis of ASQ results
- Appropriate Linkages



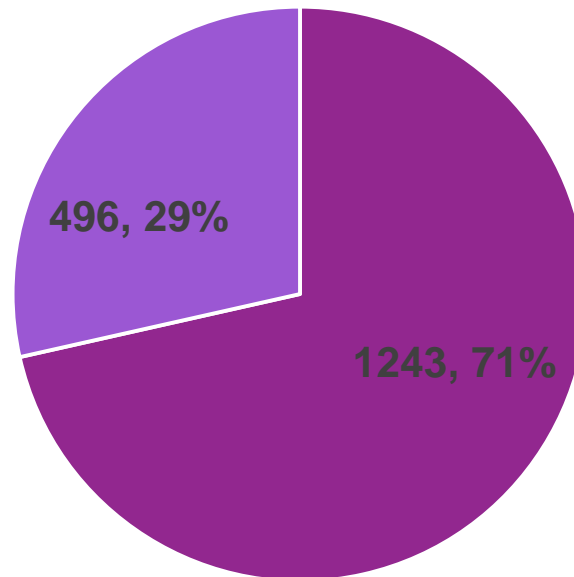
Teacher Training Day Two

- Teachers and aides were divided into groups; groups rotated into 5 different rooms
- Rooms reflected ASQ 3 Domains:
 - Communication
 - Gross Motor
 - Fine Motor
 - Personal Social
 - Problem Solving
- In each room teachers were given a review of the domains and an example of a classroom activity to promote that domain.
- They were then asked to brainstorm as a group other activities they could implement in the classroom to encourage development in that domain.



HMGWNY & BPSD Screenings

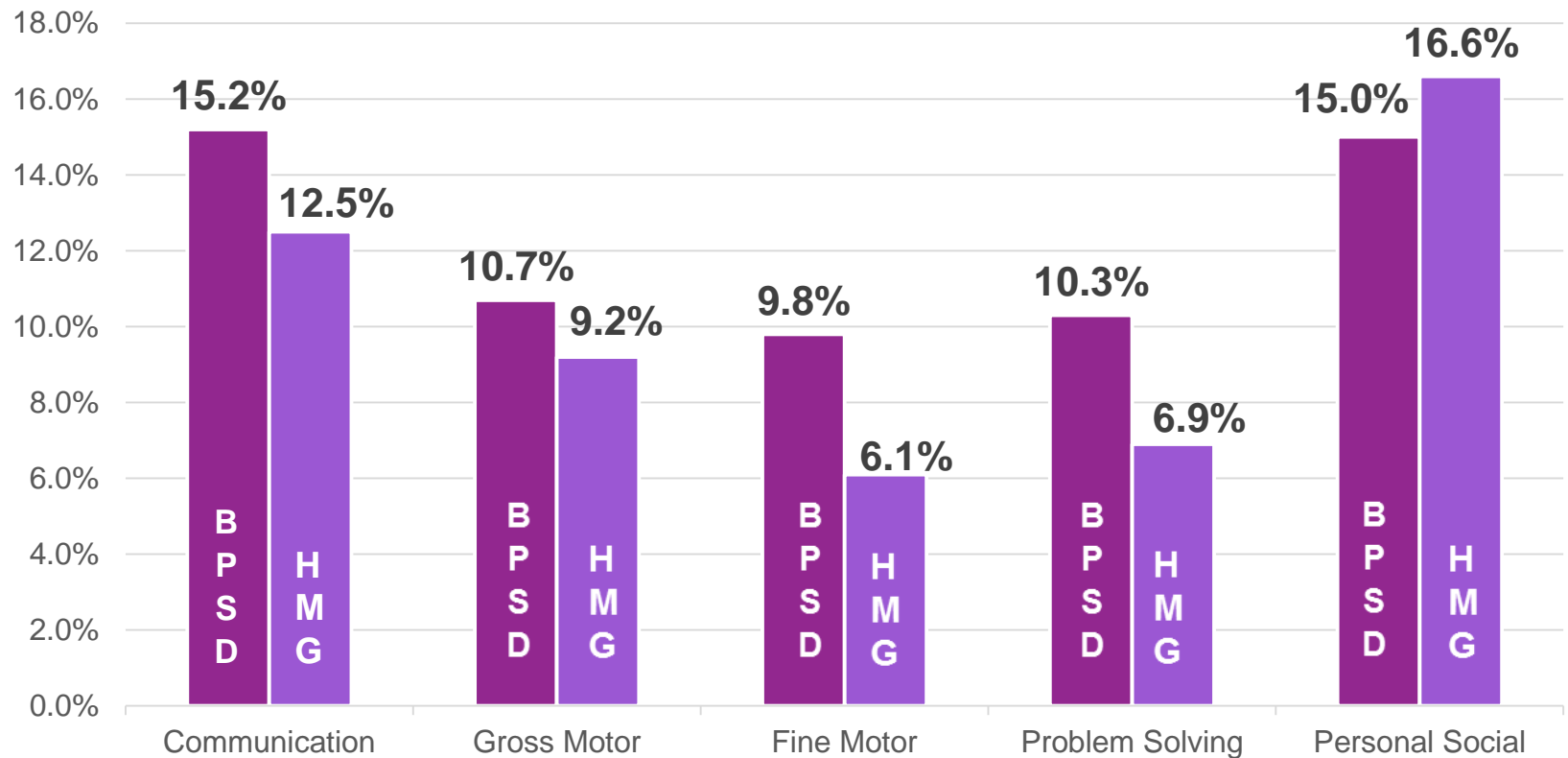
Total HMGWNY Screenings: 1,647



■ Other HMG ■ BPSD

BPSD & HMGWNY Comparative ASQ-3 Results

Domains with Areas for Concern/in Monitoring Zone



As of 4/1/2016. Multiple concerns may be expressed regarding a single child.

BPSD & HMGWNY Comparative Referrals

HMGWNY

IDEA/Part C (Early Intervention)

Health/Primary Care Providers

Behavioral Services

Parent/Caregiver Supports

Child Care Providers

Buffalo Public School District

Health/Primary Care Providers

Parent/Caregiver Supports

Basic Needs Resources

Behavioral Services





Help Me Grow Western New York & Buffalo Public School District

Lessons Learned



Help Me Grow & Buffalo Public School District:

Lessons Learned

- Recruit high-level district champions and stay close to on-the-ground staff.
- Research existing district resources, personnel, issues of concern.
- Use written agreements.
- Identify potential barriers in collaboration with employees/administrators.
- Listen, respect, offer solutions to existing problems.
- Work within existing district systems and processes; don't make more work!



Help Me Grow & Buffalo Public School District: Lessons Learned, cont.

- Partner with institutions of higher education for research, training, and intern assistance. Plan ahead based on academic calendars.
- Be aware of union issues.
- Consider legal issues including FERPA, parent consent, data sharing. Work with a district legal representative.
- Plan well in advance for parent engagement and teacher/admin/aide training. (Refreshments/food are key!)
- Format communications for ease of replication.
- Plan for foreign language and multicultural needs.

Help Me Grow & Buffalo Public School District: Lessons Learned, cont.

- Identify a single point of contact within the district to serve as internal liaison and troubleshooter.
- Map out data sharing protocols in detail and in writing.
- Analyze your capacity based on the district's size, resources, and needs.
- Identify and address potential areas of duplication in screenings.
- Be clear about what screenings are and are not. They are not assessments!
- Know the PK regulations and systems in your state.



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➤ Questions?

➤ Experiences to share?

Thank you for joining us!

