

# Benefits of Early Registration: Why Kindergarten Matters



**Ken Smythe-Leistico**

University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development

[www.readyfreddy.org](http://www.readyfreddy.org)

# Path to School Success



## Enrollment

- Outreach
- Community Engagement

## Quality Kindergarten Transition

- Relationship building
- School visits
- Prepare for new roles

## Successful Start

- 1<sup>st</sup> Day Attendance
- Teacher-family partnership

## Success in School

- Engaged Parents
- Ongoing attendance
- Academic Success

# Success in School: Did you know?

- Nationally every year, 1 in 10 kindergarten students misses a month of school
- In low income areas this ratio of chronic absence is 1 in 4
- Of those chronically absent in Kindergarten, only 17% are reading at grade level in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.



**Longitudinally, kindergarten attendance is the strongest early predictor of high school drop out**

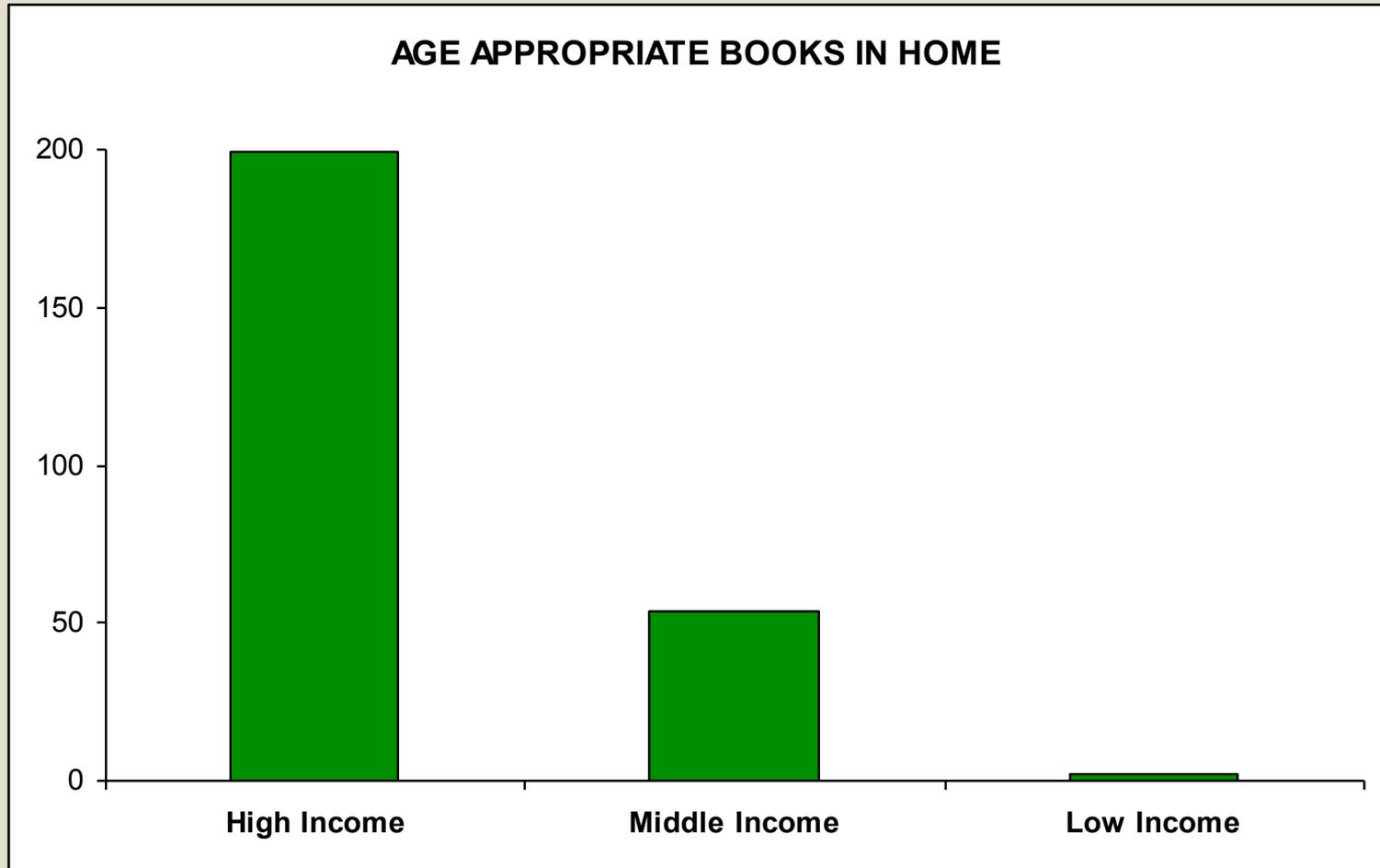
# Let's go back further...

## Factors that influence early success

- Tied to the experiences of early childhood
- Strong influence of income
- Protective factor of parent involvement



# Differences in Opportunities



# Early environment

- The more words a child knows at 3, the better his reading is later
- 3-year-olds whose parents went to college know more than twice as many words as other kids
- By the time they are 4, low-income kids have heard about 32 million words less than high-income kids

# Foundation for the future

A large, golden-brown pyramid stands prominently in a vast, sandy desert under a clear, bright blue sky. The pyramid's surface is composed of many small, weathered blocks of stone, showing signs of age and erosion. The perspective is from a low angle, making the pyramid appear towering and majestic. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

**High School**

**Middle School**

**Elementary School**

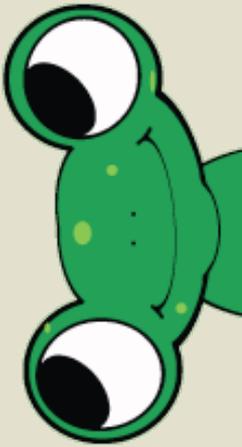
**Early Care and Education**

# Crumbling from beginning

High School  
Middle School  
Elementary School  
Early Care and Education



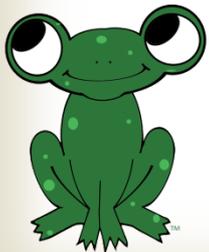
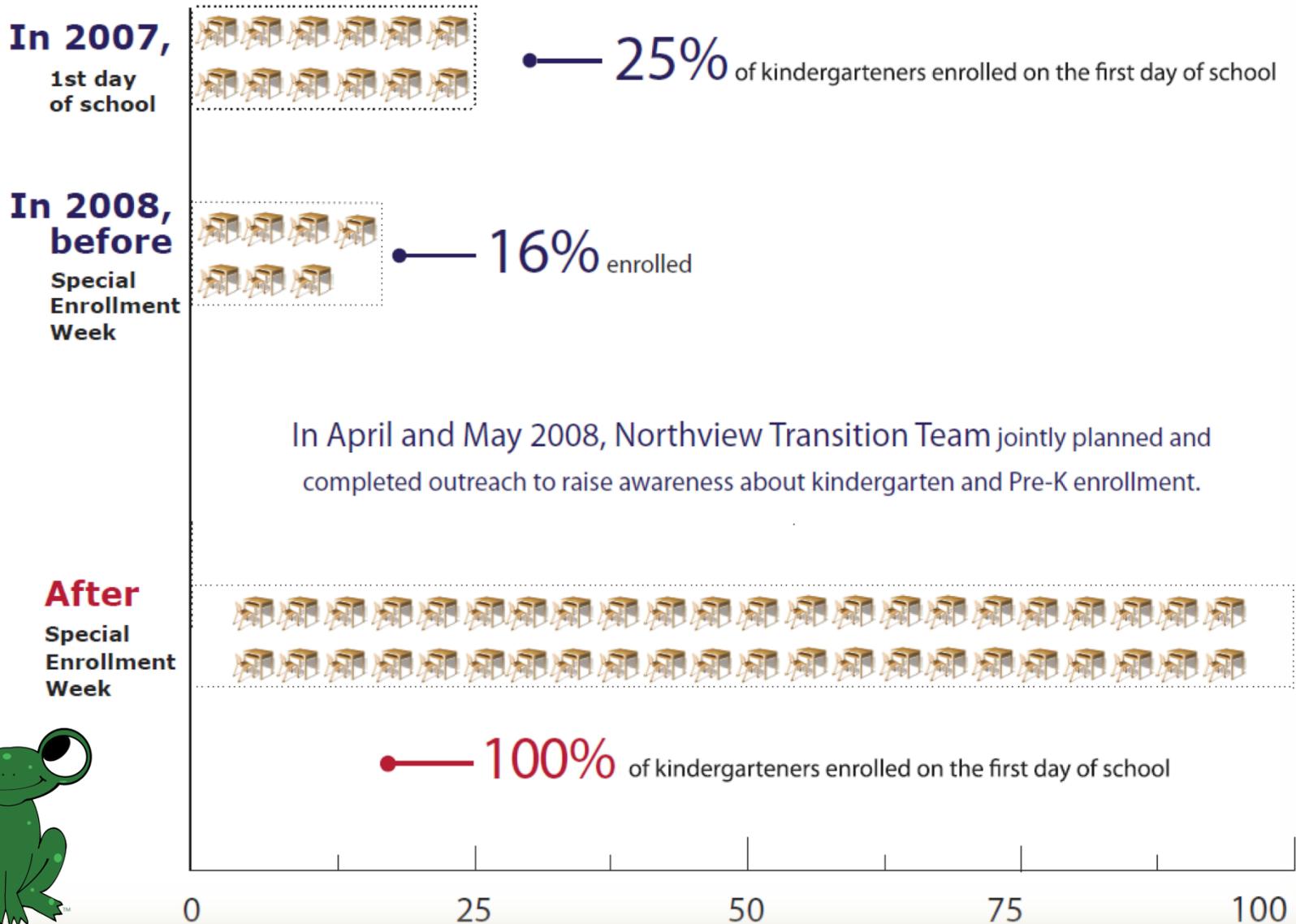
# Enrollment: Did you know?



- Every year, Pittsburgh Public Schools struggles to ensure Kindergarten students are enrolled early enough to allow for transition opportunities.

| School               | K Enrollment (June)<br>2010-2011 |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lowest PPS Schools   | < 30 %                           |
| District Average     | 49 %                             |
| Intervention Schools | 65 %                             |

# School-Community-Parent Partnership Helped Increase School Enrollment at Northview ALA



# Enrollment: Lessons learned



- Be visible
- Be strategic
- Be concrete
- Be welcoming
- Be simple

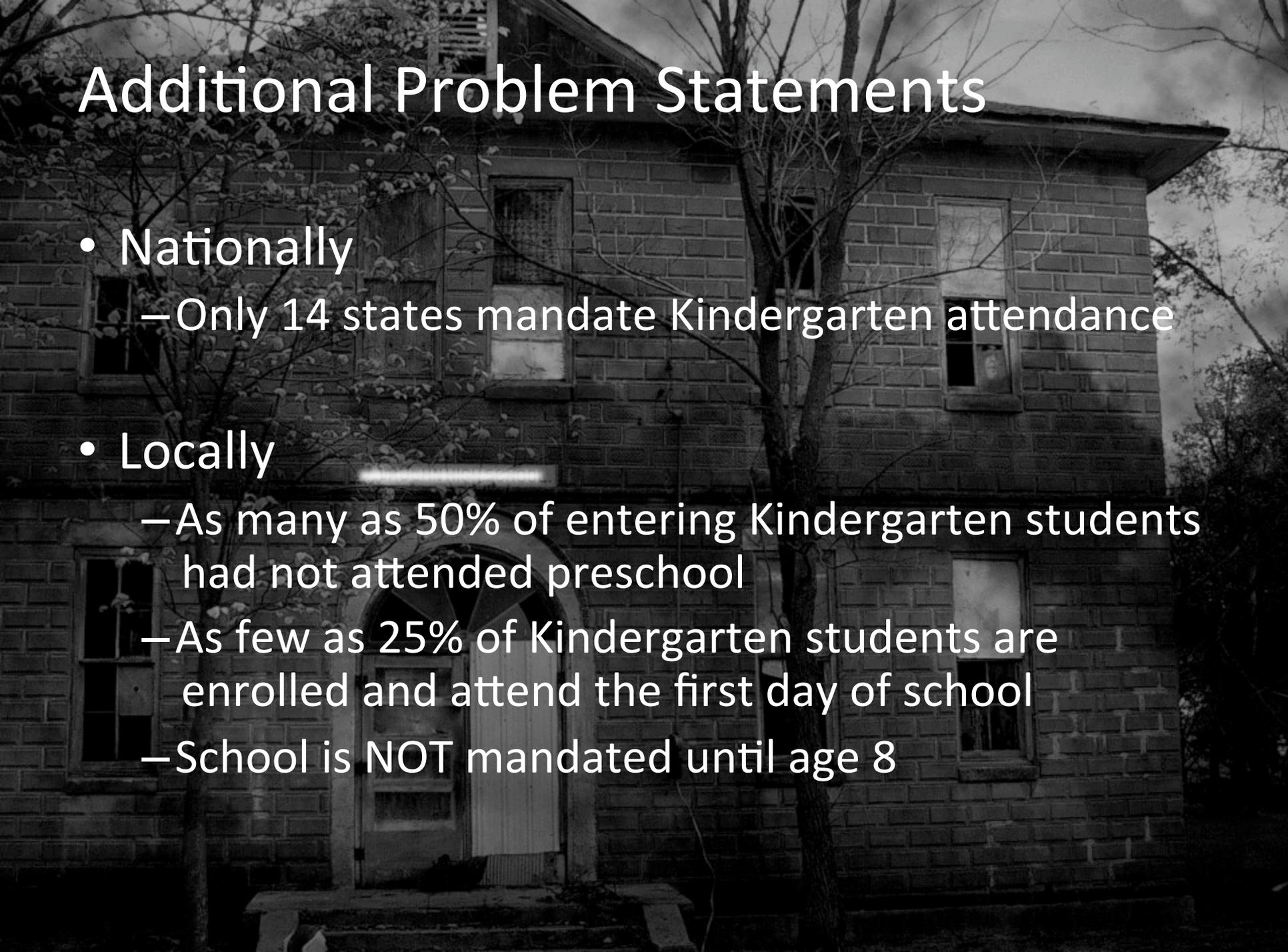




## Quality Transition: Did you Know?

- Nationally, teachers report that 48% of children beginning kindergarten struggle with the transition to school.
- 95% of the nation's kindergarten teachers endorsed the most frequently reported transition practice—talking with the child's parent **after** school starts.

# Additional Problem Statements



- Nationally

- Only 14 states mandate Kindergarten attendance

- Locally

- As many as 50% of entering Kindergarten students had not attended preschool

- As few as 25% of Kindergarten students are enrolled and attend the first day of school

- School is NOT mandated until age 8



# Quality Transition

- Kindergarten transition is a series of events and interactions that foster ***relationships*** between rising kindergarten ***families*** and school personnel while promoting comfort in the facility and reducing anxieties for ***all***.



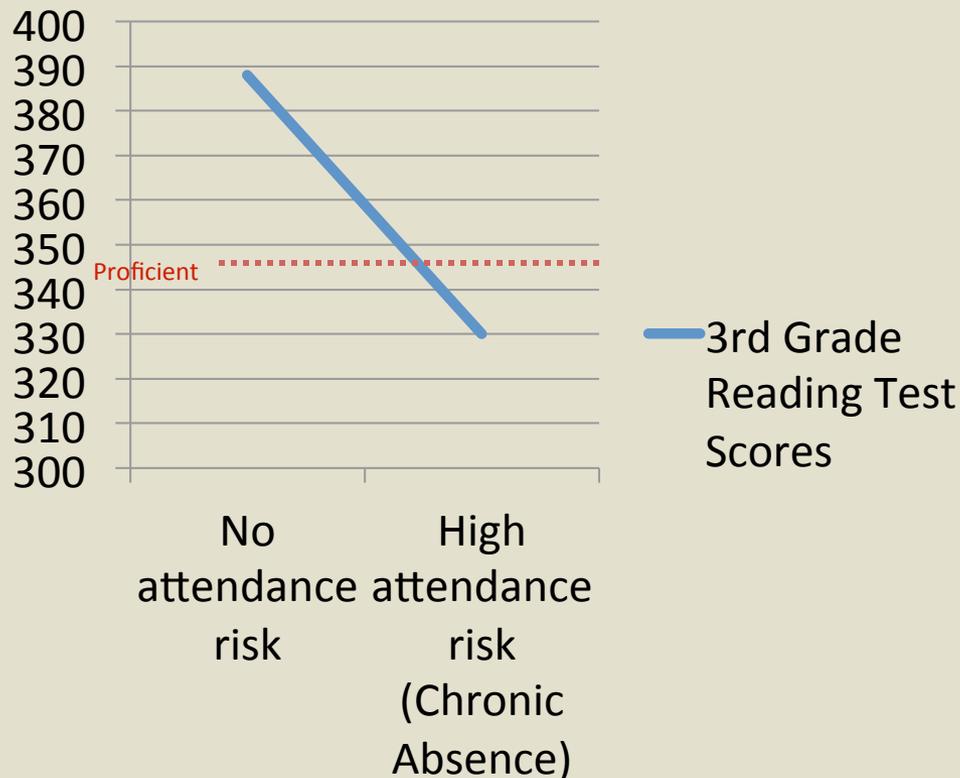
# Successful Start: Did you know?

- Being present the first day seems to matter
  - Children who were **PRESENT** on the first day of Kindergarten missed an average of **9 days** of Kindergarten
  - Children who were **ABSENT** on the first day of Kindergarten missed an average of **18 days** of Kindergarten
    - PPS School A 2009-2010

# Use it or Lose it

- Even the most “ready” children drop below proficiency by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade if they fail to attend in Kindergarten

## 3rd Grade Reading Test Scores



\* Applied Survey Research (2010)

# Closing the achievement gap



"For low-income children, every month of additional schooling [Kindergarten] closes one-tenth of the gap between them and more advantaged students."

SAM WANG and SANDRA AAMODT



# Resources



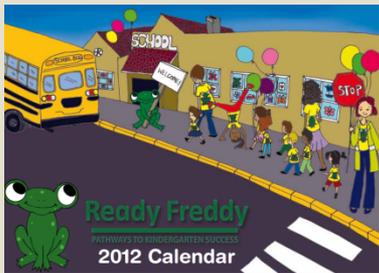
- Strategies, tools, and national literature



- Samples of curricula



- Videos of events and parent voice



- Materials for families

Ken Smythe-Leistico



[leistico@pitt.edu](mailto:leistico@pitt.edu)



**(412)244-5385**



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KEEPING IN TOUCH