#### Leading for Equity in ECE Steve Barnett, NIEER, Rutgers University





## **Problems and Possibilities**

- Achievement gaps remain a major challenge
- Gaps emerge and become large prior to K
- High-quality pre-K can greatly reduce gaps
- Despite much hard work,
  - Enrollment is not increasing
  - Quality remains too low
- Pre-K is one part of a B/P-3 system



#### **High Quality UPK Effects on Black-White Gaps**

Estimated reduction in kindergarten math and reading achievement gaps between African American and white students, in months



https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education/report/2016/04/05/132750/how-much-can-high-quality-universal-pre-k-reduce-achievement-gaps/



#### **High Quality UPK Effects on Hispanic-White Gaps**

Estimated reduction in kindergarten math and reading achievement gaps between Hispanic and white students, in months



https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education/report/2016/04/05/132750/how-much-can-high-quality-universal-pre-k-reduce-achievement-gaps/



#### **High Quality UK Effects on Income Gaps**

Reduction in kindergarten math and reading achievement gaps between low-income and higher-income students, in months



https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education/report/2016/04/05/132750/how-much-can-high-quality-universal-pre-k-reduce-achievement-gaps/



# Percent of 4-year-olds in State Pre-K: (nationally from 15% in 2001 to 32% in 2015)





# Public program enrollment has grown, but total enrollment has stagnated

Figure 1. Percentage of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children enrolled in preprimary programs: 1990 through 2014



Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes | www.ceelo.org



## Most public programs targeted, but access is highly unequal

Figure 5. Percentage of 3- to 5-year-old children enrolled in preschool programs, by parents' highest level of education and attendance status: October 2014



Parents' highest level of education

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## Percent of State Programs Meeting Benchmarks: Change 2005 to 2015

- ELDS
- Professional Development
- Teacher Spec. Training
- Assistant Teacher CDA
- Teacher BA
- Class Size and Ratio
- Screening
- Meals
- Monitoring

75% to 100% 70% to 85% 75% to 85% 20% to 30% 55% to 60% 80% No Change 70% No Change 50% No Change 70% No Change

### **Revisions to NIEER Policy Benchmarks**

Old Sta	nda	ard		Nev	v St	andar	d
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Comprehensive Early	Comprehensive ELDS aligned,
Learning Standards	supported, culturally sensitive
Teacher-in-Service	PD, coaching, individualized plans for
(15 hours/year)	lead and assist. teachers
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Supports for Curriculum Implementation

MonitoringContinuous Quality Improvement(Site Visits/5 years)System

#### New Professional Development and CQIS Benchmarks



\* These multi-program states have programs with different quality standards. Data displayed on the map reflect quality standards benchmarks in the largest program in the state.





MAP 3. CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SCORES IN RELATION TO RESEARCH-BASED THRESHOLD (3)

Note: Instructional Support scores can range from 1 to 7. This report uses a threshold of 3 or higher to indicate high quality, based on prior research.



# **Data needed to inform leaders**

- Enrollment by location and demographics
  Collect data on child and family background
- Pre-K Quality by location and demographics
  - State data on observed quality in all SF pre-K
  - National study of observed quality in all ECE
- K-3 Quality—pushing up CQIS
- 0-3 Quality—pushing down CQIS into QRIS
- Maps for the GPS for program expansion and improvement, input to a CQIS



## **Thank You!**



Working together, what can we do to improve early learning equity and build a brighter future for all our children?