

UPK

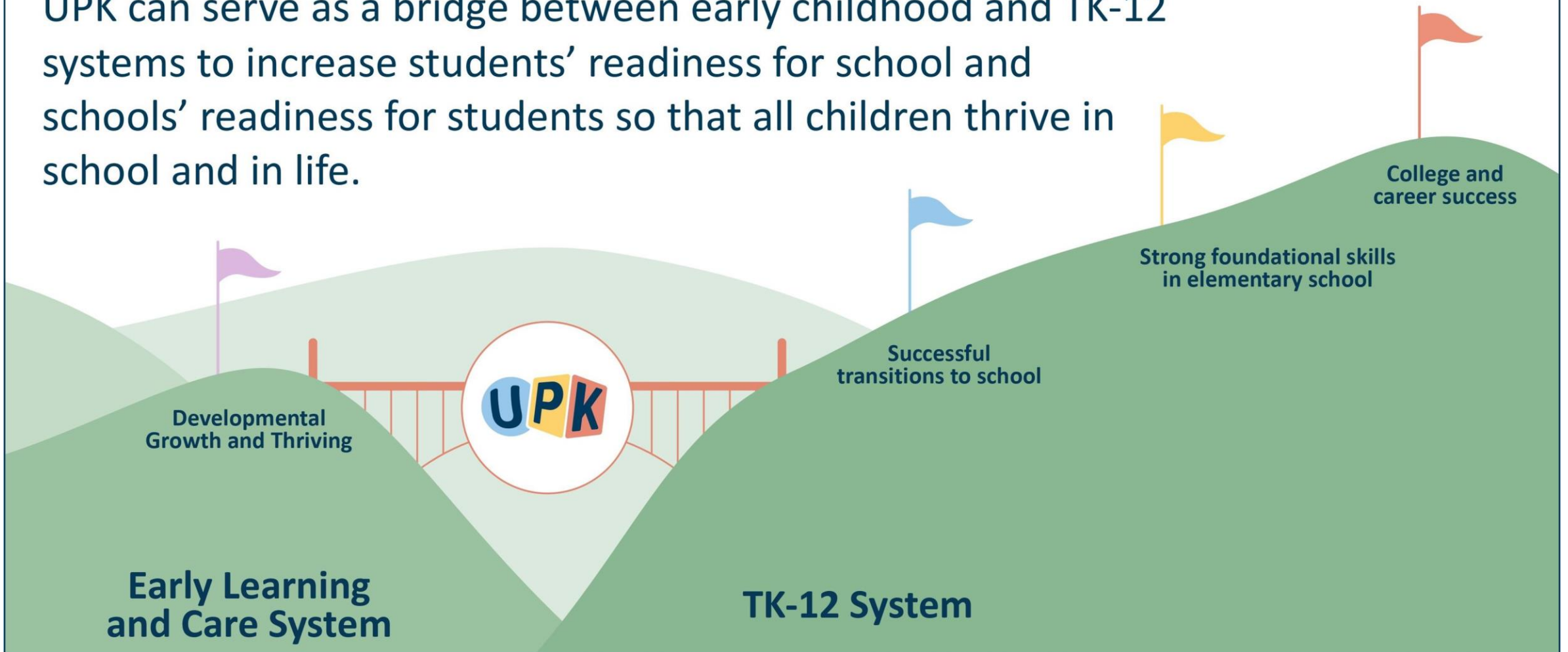
Universal
PreKindergarten

*California's
Great Start*



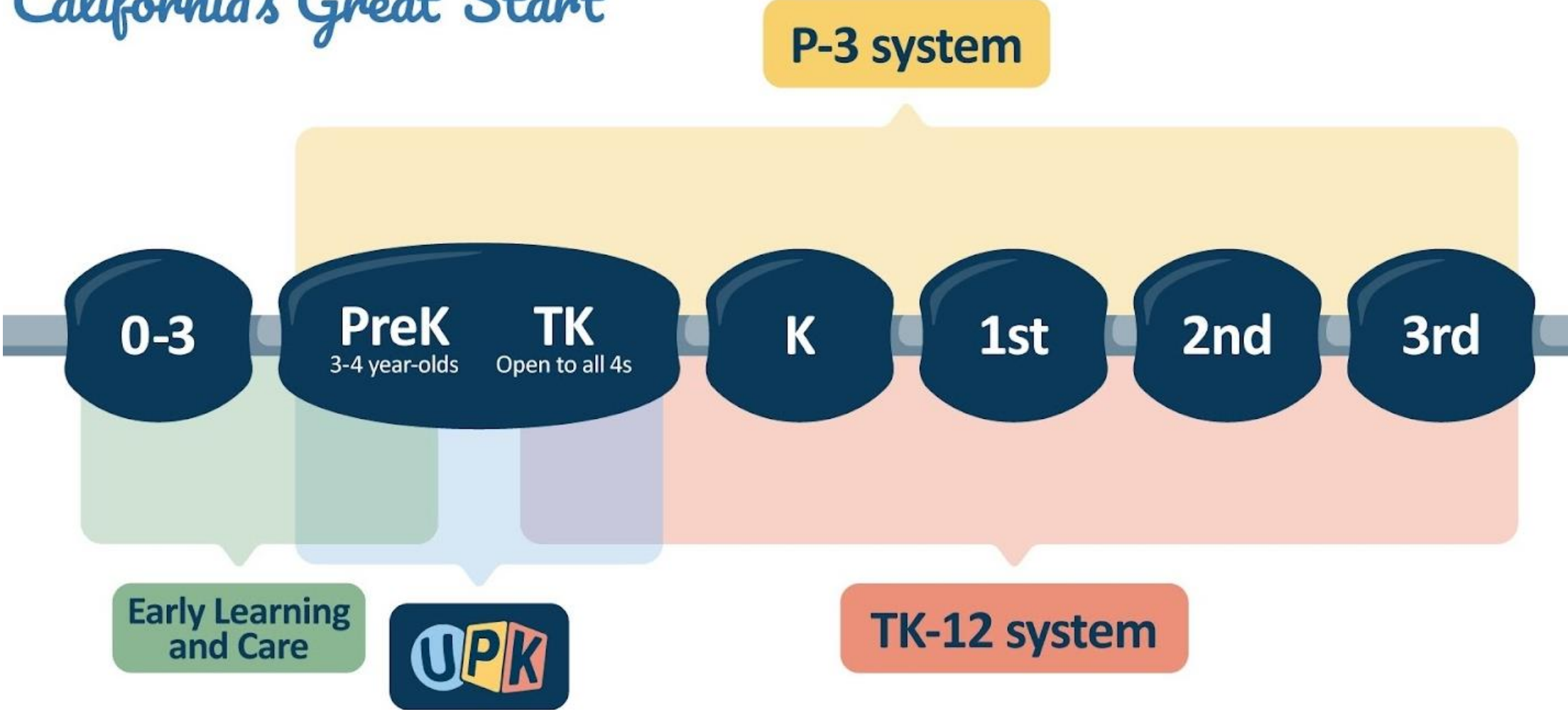
Alignment Between Systems

UPK can serve as a bridge between early childhood and TK-12 systems to increase students' readiness for school and schools' readiness for students so that all children thrive in school and in life.



California's Preschool to 3rd Grade Initiative

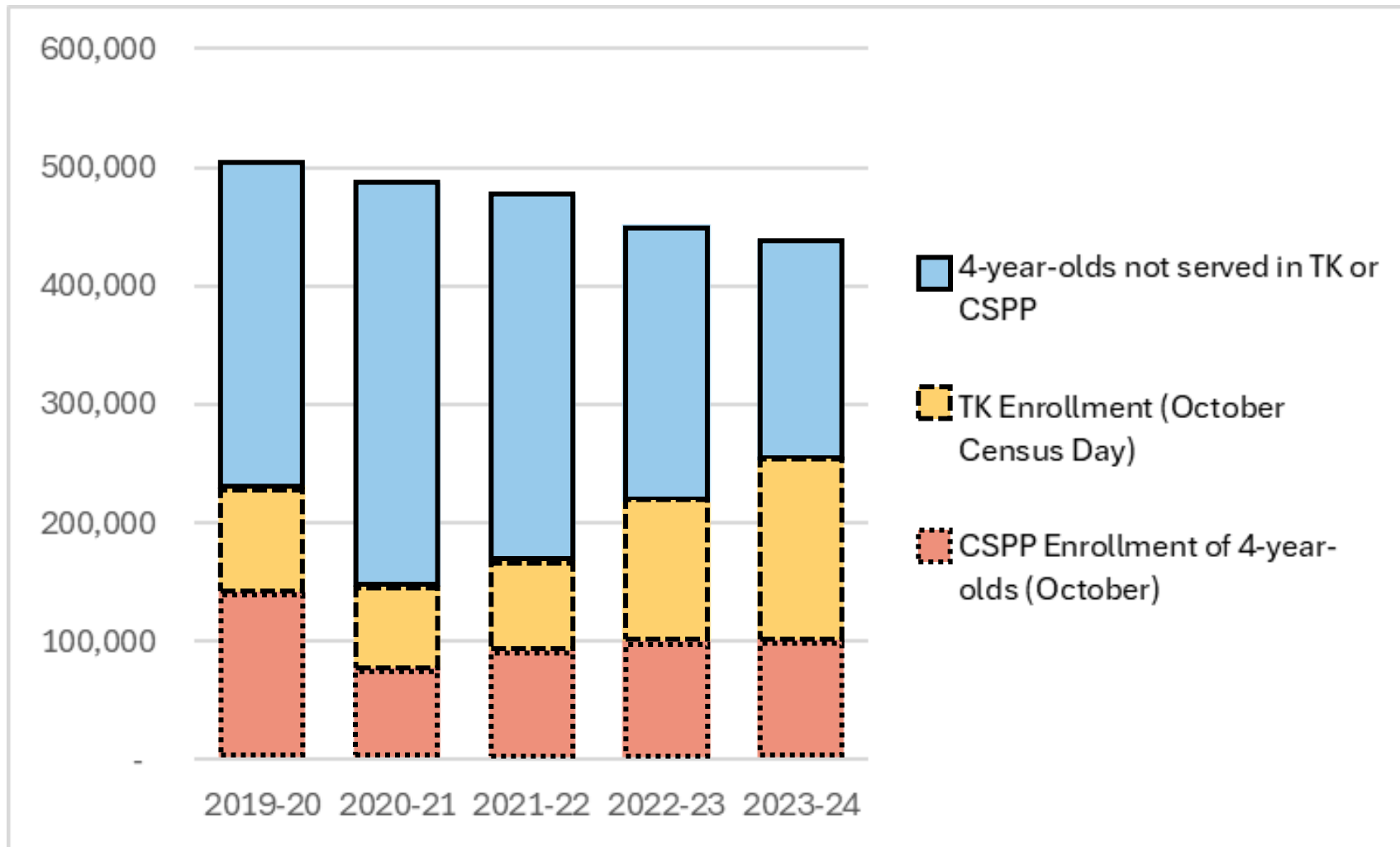
California's Great Start



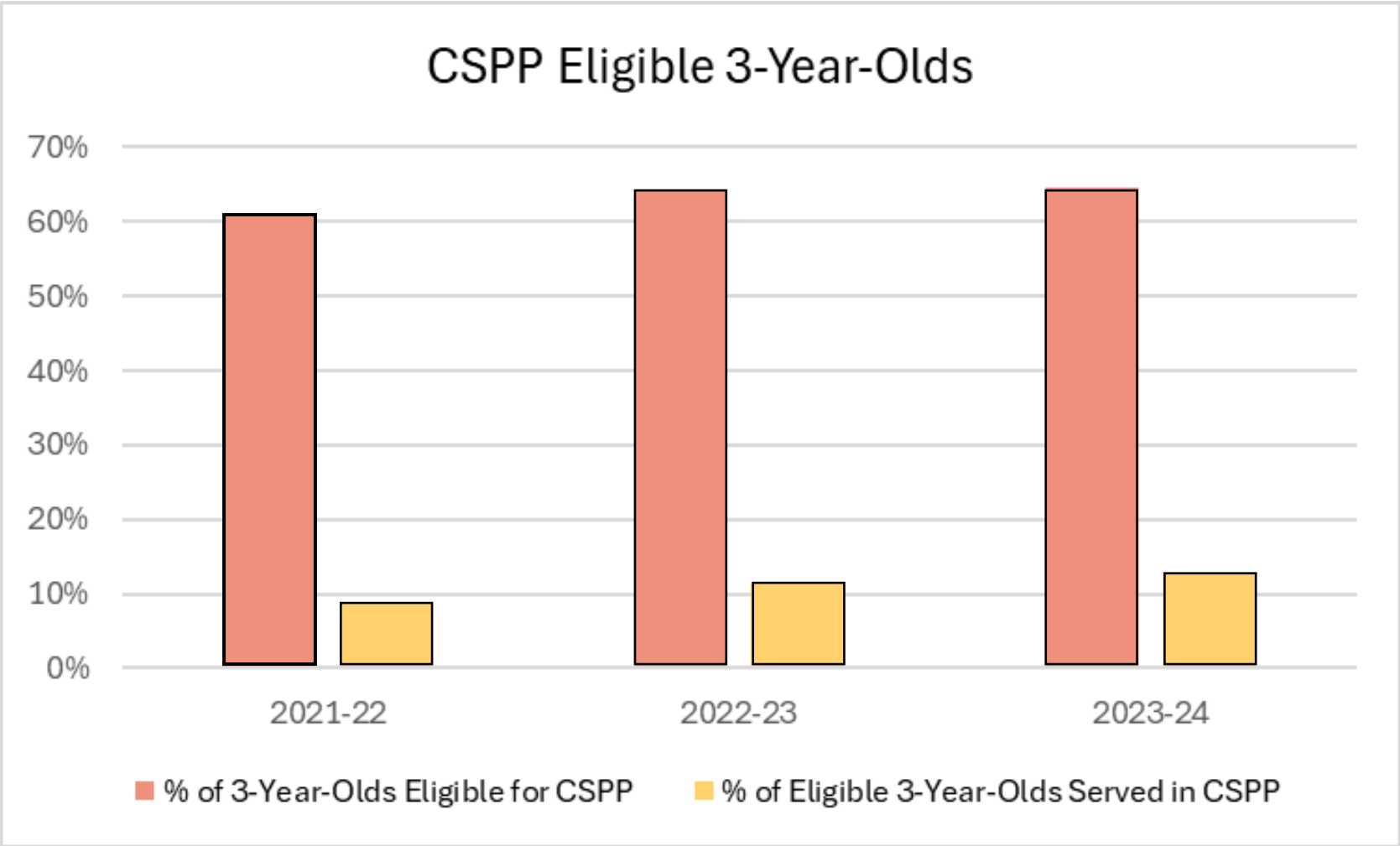
The Need for Multiple Systems to Shift



UPK Enrollment Trends: Four-Year-Olds



UPK Enrollment Trends: Three-Year-Olds



Great Start State Preschool (1)

- Inclusion for children with disabilities
 - In 2022–23, state preschool programs overall enrolled 5.6 percent children with disabilities
- Support for multilingual learners
 - In 2023–24, 76 percent of dual language learners in state preschool had a lead teacher that uses one or more of their home languages in the classroom

Great Start State Preschool (2)

- To build an **educator-first system** of improving **adult-child interactions** and enhancing equity, CDE is implementing the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) 2nd Edition® and the CLASS Environment tool across all state preschool programs.
- CLASS is widely used by more than 10 other states as well as Head Start as a quality monitoring tool for state-funded preschool programs and more than 200 empirical research studies substantiate the positive effects the CLASS tool and coaching have on early learning programs and outcomes for children.

UPK Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup Report (1)

Scope of Workgroup Recommendations:

- Best practices for increasing access to high-quality programs through a mixed-delivery model
- Update preschool standards to support equitable access
- Align with the Master Plan, without new systems changes that increase costs

UPK Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup Report (2)

- Workgroup heard from more than 30 researchers, hundreds of parents and hundreds of preschool educators and administrators
- Elevated family and practitioner voices from across the state and from backgrounds with historically limited access to system-level decision making, including:
 - Families enrolled in family childcare homes (FCCHs), center-based programs, dual immersion programs and tribal programs
 - Administrators across the system from CSPP Family Childcare Home Education Networks (FCCHENs) and FCCHs, center-based educators and administrators, and other practitioners

Quality: Child-Centered Learning Environments

- Require state preschool programs to adopt an evidence-based curriculum that is aligned with the Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations (PTKLF) and the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) and best supports the children they serve

Access: Improving Administration, Governance and Systems

- Encourage community schools serving elementary grades to support expanded access to high-quality UPK programs through a mixed-delivery model through collaboration with local preschool programs and early learning and care infrastructure to offer full-day options

Intersection of Quality and Access: Family Childcare Homes

- Provide pathways for FCCHs to join FCCHENs, including
 - Providing recommendations and technical assistance to CSPP contractors on how to offer services through a FCCHEN
 - Ensuring CSPP contractors and applicants are aware of expansion funding opportunities
 - Working with early learning and care infrastructure partners to communicate opportunities to join a FCCHEN to FCCH providers
 - Modifying the CSPP Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Block Grant Request for Applications to include stronger focus on FCCHENs

Educator Quality Supports

Provide financial incentives and invest in effective models for professionals to achieve permits, credentials, and degrees, and to progress along leadership pathways. Incentives could include scholarships or other financial aid, stipends, and resources to pay substitutes; effective models could include apprenticeships, other “earn and learn” programs, and models that offer online instruction or opportunities for evening and weekend coursework.

Thank you!



Access the report on the California Educators Together website:
<https://www.caeducatorstogether.org>



Photo Credit: Kidango Decoto Center; Union City, CA