



Early Childhood Programs



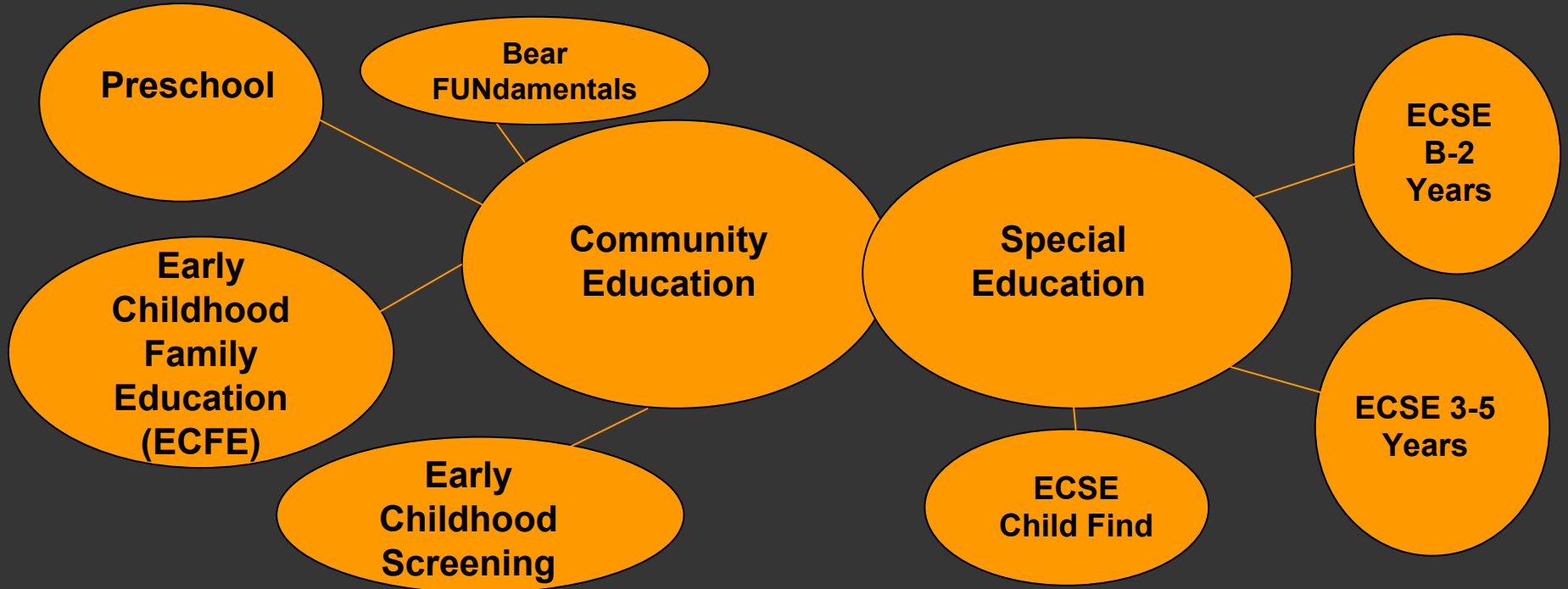
“We believe in the critical importance of early learning opportunities and intervention for the optimal development of the whole child. Our inclusive early childhood program options honor the unique gifts of every child in the White Bear Lake school community.”

Serving Families & Children in White Bear Lake Area Schools
Ages Birth-Five Years Old

The Impact of Early Childhood Education

- 90% of brain development occurs before the age of 5.
- Early education has positive impacts on *cognitive skills, behavior, and health*.
- Extensive analysis by economists has shown that education and development investments (\$4-9 per dollar invested) in the earliest years of life produce the greatest returns, such as reduced crime, welfare, and educational remediation.
- “World’s Best Workforce”: Under MN Statute section 120B.11, School Boards are to adopt a long-term, comprehensive strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning. This plan addresses the following five goals:
 1. *All Children are ready for school.*
 2. *All third-graders can read at grade level.*
 3. *All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed.*
 4. *All students are ready for career and college.*
 5. *All students graduate from high school.*

What does Early Childhood look like in White Bear Lake Area Schools?



2017-2018: At a Glance

Children Served in B-5 Programming in White Bear Lake Area Schools

Approx. 800 total students

Preschool:

**325
Children**

*Includes approx.
100 Bear Fun.

ECFE:

**168
Children**

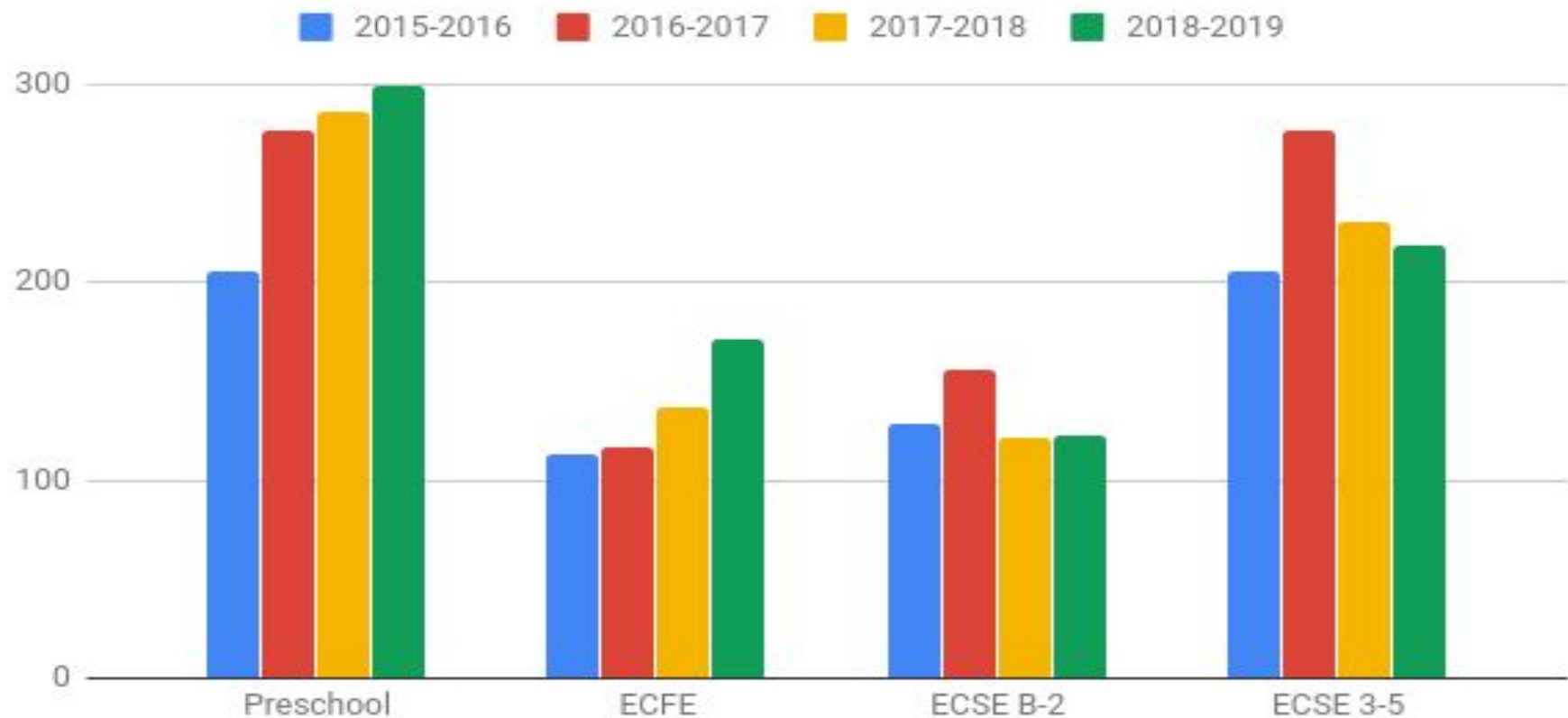
ECSE B-2:

**121
Children**

ECSE 3-5:

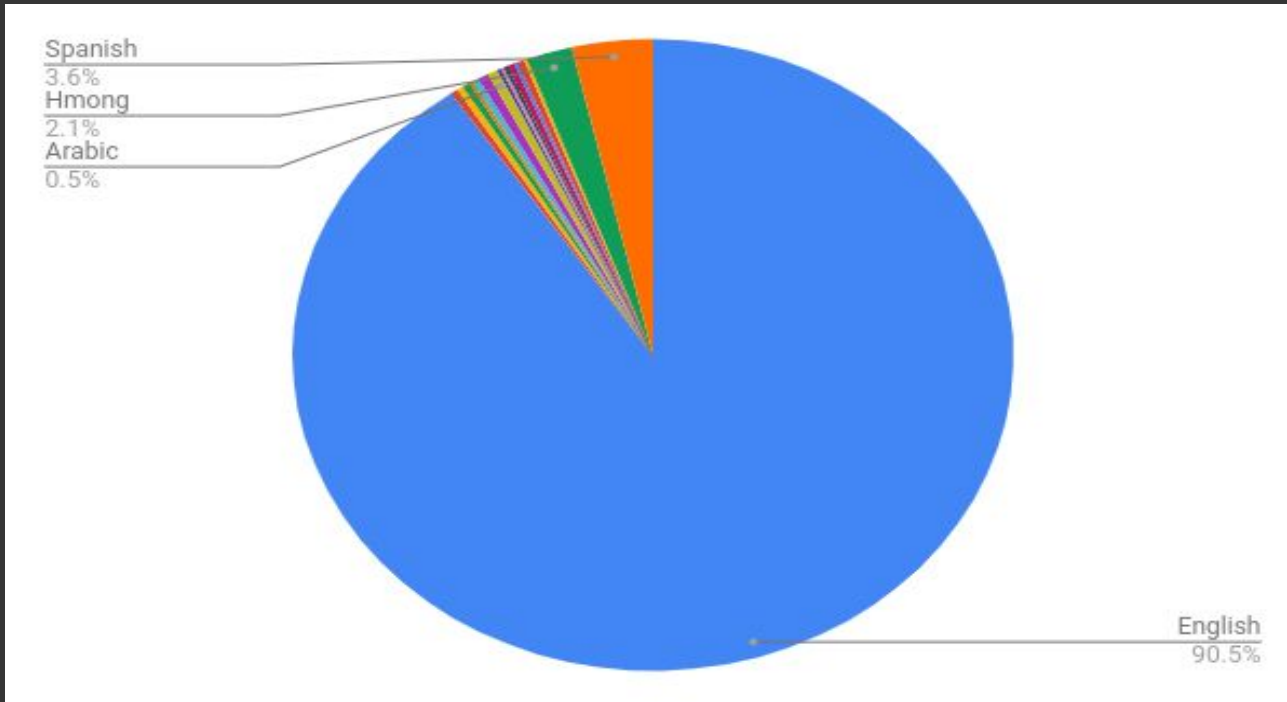
**139
Children**

Three Year Growth Trend in Early Learning Programs



Who are our Programs Serving?

- 16 different home languages represented



PRESCHOOL in White Bear Lake Area Schools is:

- **Programming for 3 and 4 year olds.**
- **Multiple Options - 2, 3, & 4 day options.**
- **30 different sections of preschool currently offered.**
- **6 locations - Normandy Park Early Childhood Center, Tamarack Nature Center, 4 Elementaries (Hugo, Birch, Vadnais, Lakearies)**
- **Classes offered - Daytime, Evenings, Saturdays**
- **Most classrooms have 6-8 designated Inclusion slots for ECSE placement.**
- **83% of preschool enrollment is resident students.**
- **26% of current Kindergarteners in White Bear lake Area Schools attended a District Early Childhood program.**

**Parent *Aware*
Rated Program**



Highest Possible Rating

Our Preschool Programs are Parent Aware rated. This means that White Bear Lake Area Schools is committed to providing a high quality early childhood education experience.

What is Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)?

ECFE: It is a public school program that has been in existence for 44 years or all Minnesota families with children between the ages of birth and kindergarten. Established in Minnesota in 1974, ECFE is the largest and oldest program of it's kind in the country.

ECFE Program Philosophy: The program recognizes parents as a child's first and most significant teachers.

The ECFE Mission: To strengthen families through the education and support of all parents to provide the best possible environment for the healthy growth and development of their children.

Universal Access: ECFE is required to provide a universal fee scale so that all families can access the support and information that ECFE provides.



ECFE Programming in White Bear Lake Area Schools

Traditional classes with 3 Components:

- 1) Parent Discussion/Education
 - 2) Early Childhood Education
 - 3) Parent/Child Interaction Time
- 25 different sections of ECFE currently offered
 - We also offer: Special Topic Classes, Age Specific Classes, Family Literacy, and Drop-In & Play Classes
 - Outreach
 - Family Events
 - 87% of ECFE enrollment is resident students.

Early Childhood Collaborations & Outreach Programs in White Bear Lake Area Schools

- **Solid Ground**
- **Tamarack Nature Center**
- **Food Shelf**
- **Childcare Providers**
- **Public Library**
- **WIC/Public Health**
- **Baby Showers**

Early Childhood Screening in White Bear Lake Area Schools is:

- A quick snapshot of child's development.
- Early is best! Screening by 3 is recommended.
- Mandated prior to Kindergarten in public schools.
- ECS is scheduled most Fridays at Normandy Park Early Childhood Center.
- Currently **88% of the 689 Kindergarteners** have been screened.

Early Childhood Child Find Activities in White Bear Lake Area Schools

Children are identified as needing an evaluation or ECSE services in the following ways:

- District Early Childhood Screening
 - Family makes referral and seeks out services
 - Physicians
 - Child Care Providers
 - Help Me Grow- MDE website
 - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Services are provided by the ECSE team and are aligned as much as possible with Preschool programming to promote maximum Inclusion with peers.
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Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Early Intervention (B-2)

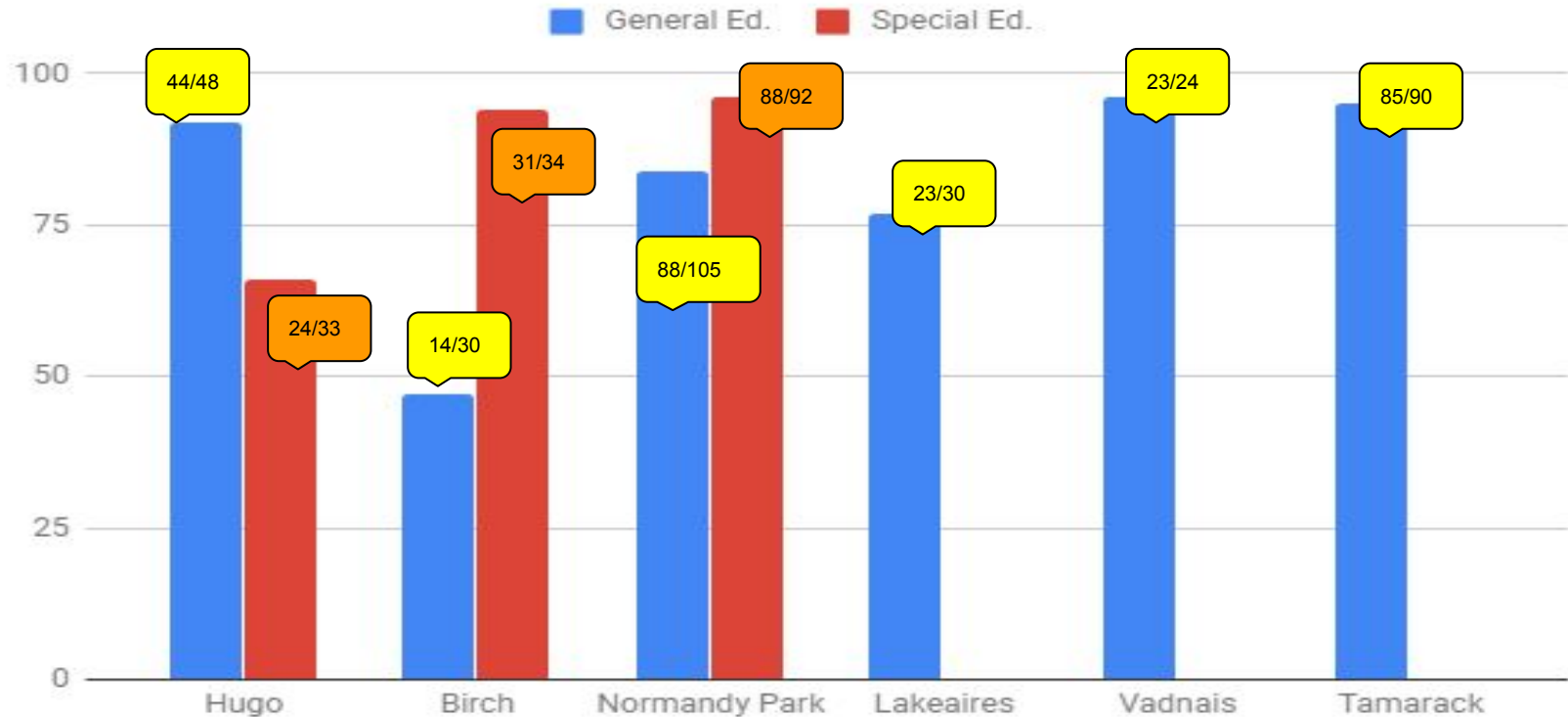
- District services for children birth through 2 yrs 11 months offered to families who have children assessed with significant delays or with medically diagnosed conditions associated with a high probability of developmental delay.
- Presently serving over 100 children and their families.

ECSE 3-5

- Preschool experiences for students age 3-5 who meet state criteria for a developmental delay or categorical disability (ex. Autism Spectrum Disorder, Speech Language Impairment)
 - Presently serving over 200 children.
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Current Reality: % of Total Capacity by Location (12/1/18)

***The Birch location received funding the first week of school and was able to fill 14/30 of the slots by November 2018



Planning for the Future of Early Childhood in White Bear Lake Area Schools

- Early Childhood lays the foundation for all that is to come!
- Early Childhood in White Bear Lake Schools is made up of five program areas housed under Community Education and Early Childhood Special Education.
- Our programs are focused on aligning best practices for young children's personalized optimal growth and development.
- White Bear Lake Schools Early Childhood programs are growing to meet the needs of the community.
- As of December 2018, 86% of the total 3-5 years old preschool slots are full among the six District Preschool Locations. This does not include ECFE or center-based ECSE Preschool & Language Classes.
- 84% of the center-based ECSE slots for children 3-5 years old are full (12/01/18).