



**NEW LONDON**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Year-Round Schooling to Support our Elementary Learners*

**May 13, 2024**



*united in excellence*

# About New London Public Schools

A racially, culturally, and socio-economically diverse community, New London Public Schools serves southeastern Connecticut students. The district currently **serves more than 3,300 students** in grades PreK-12 and consists of six (6) district campuses: one Pre-K school, three K-5 elementary schools, one middle school, and one 9-12 high school, which houses three magnet pathways.

In July 2021, NLPS launched a **multi-age, multi-year, session based year-round schooling option** for kindergarten and first grade students to improve student learning outcomes and strengthen district-community relations. The district expanded the program to 2nd and 3rd grade students last year, and all participating students continued with the program. The district is preparing to expand to 4th and 5th grades for the 2023-24 school year.



# Students lead our learning



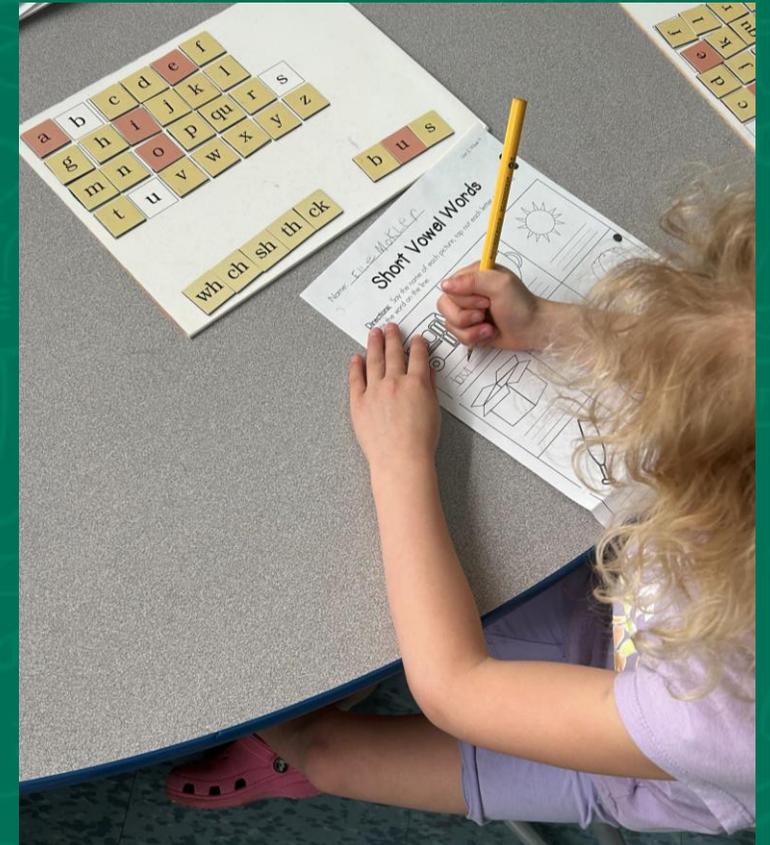
# Readers have choice...



*...as well as voice*



# Science of Reading in Action





# Make connections



# Count and represent numbers, groups, equations



# Show what you know and can do



# Home school connection



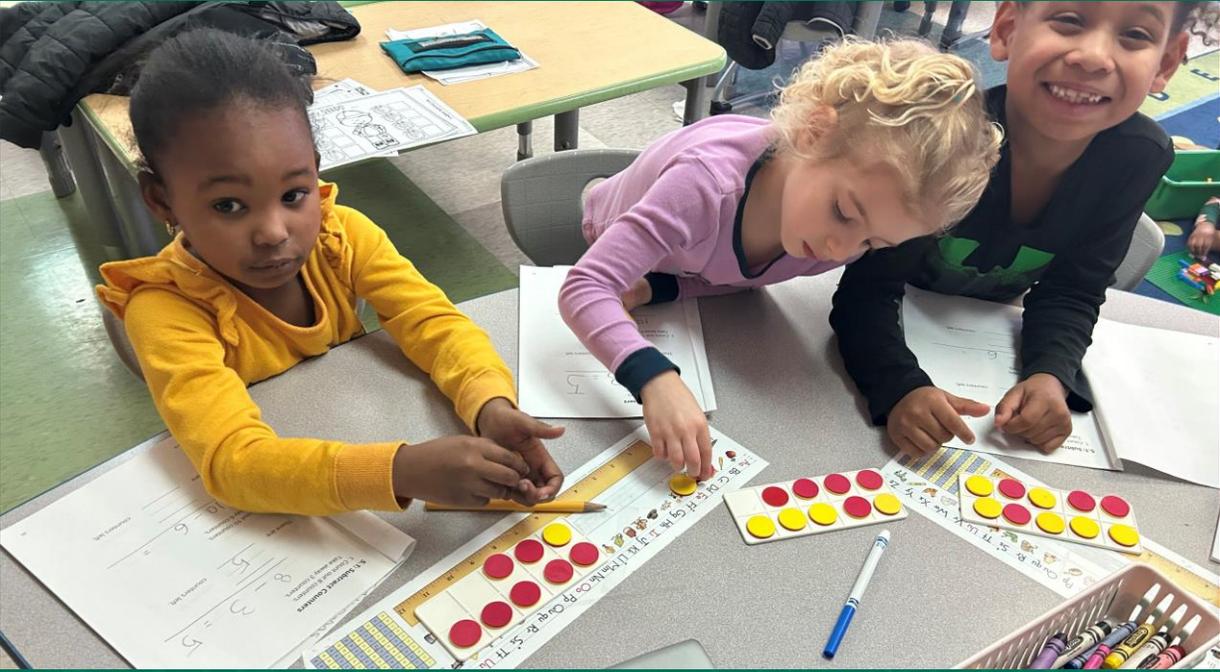
# K or I? Can you tell?



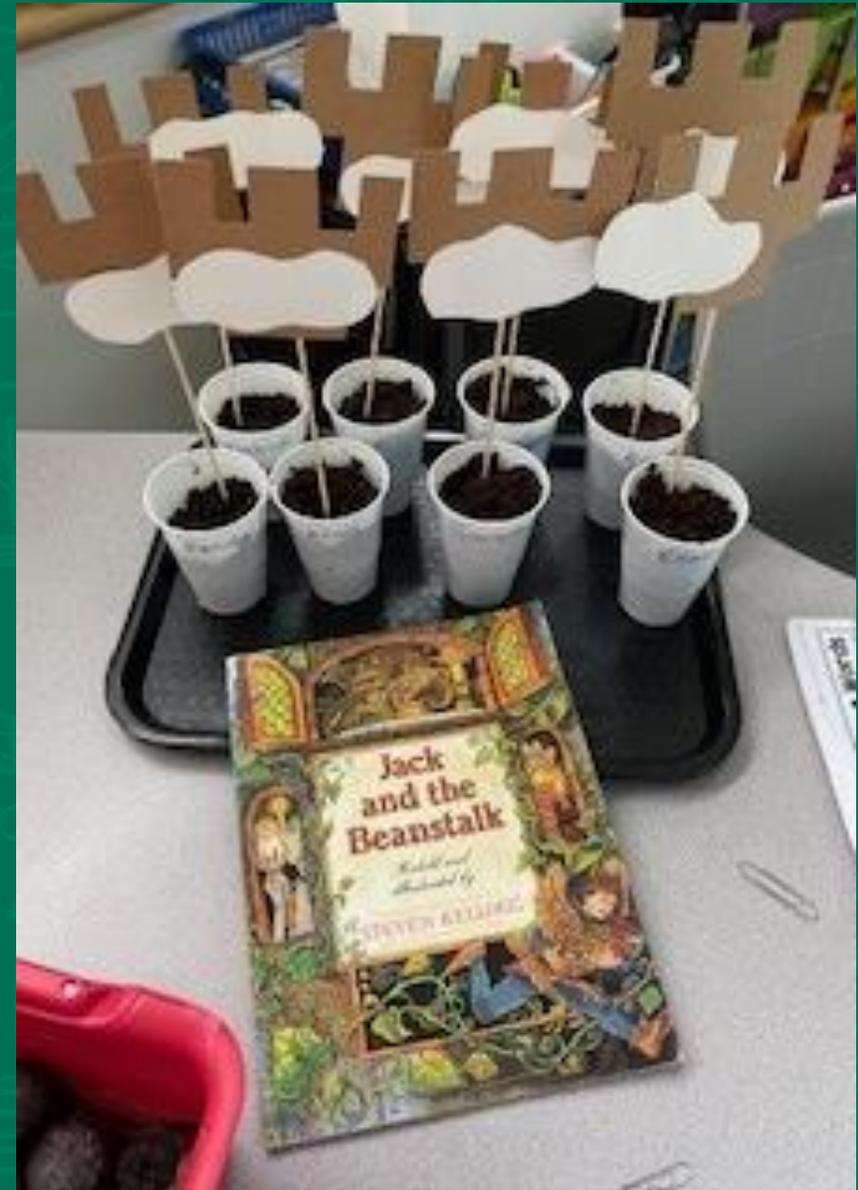
# Play based learning



# Choose your strategy



# Science exploration



# Community Partners: Audubon Society



# Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center



# Hispanic Health Council



# Connecticut Science Center



# New London Parks & Rec - Ocean Beach



# Arts in Action



# Parents as partners



*Parents as partners, not just twice a year, but every six weeks!*



*Let's take this show on the road!*



# *New London's Journey to Innovation*

**1**

**The  
Opportunity**

**2**

**The Core  
Challenge to  
Address**

**3**

**The  
Fundamental  
Change Idea**

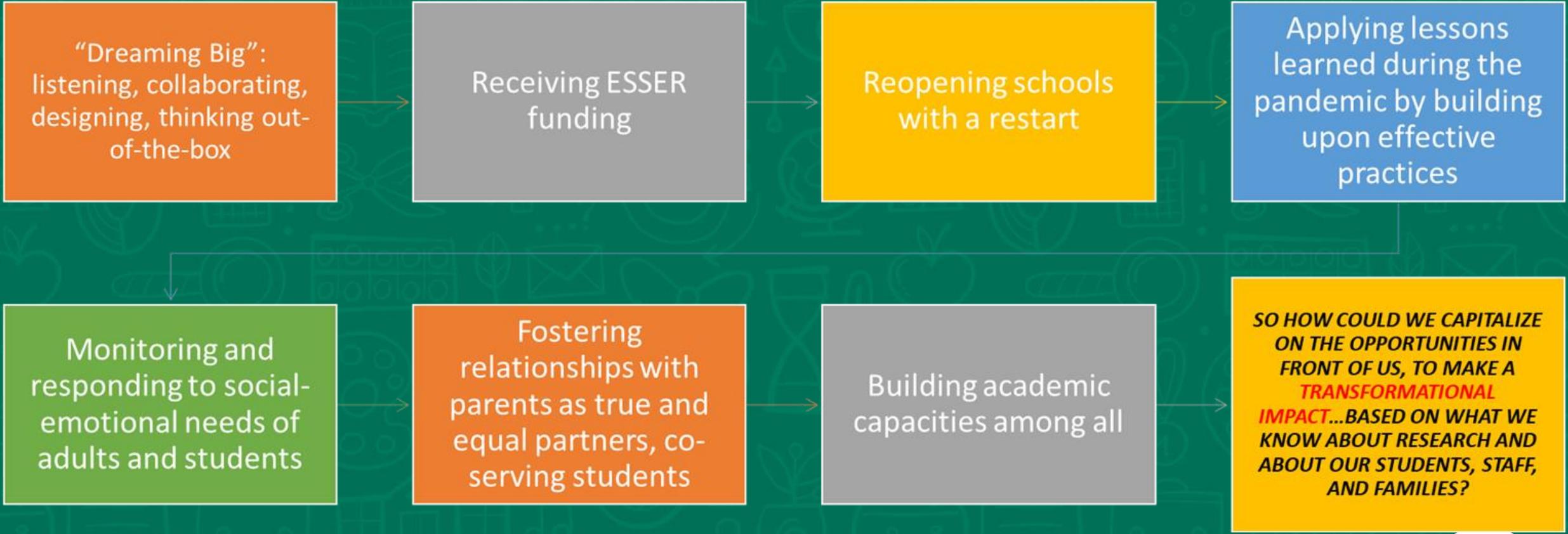
**4**

**Designing  
and  
Implementing**

**5**

**The Impact  
on our  
Students**

# 1. The Opportunity:



## 2. The Core Challenge to be Addressed

Too many of New London's early learners – especially those who have been traditionally underserved – lacked equitable opportunities to engage in small group, rigorous instruction that would support them to explore their interests and **develop a lifelong love of learning.**

Many families lacked visibility into how their children were doing or how they could support their children's growth.

At the same time, some teachers reported feeling burnt out and in need of new forms of collaboration and support.



### 3. The Fundamental Change Idea



Research shows us unequivocally the importance of kids becoming proficient in reading and math by the time they finish 3rd grade – **yet for decades, we've been thinking about schooling for early learners in the same way.** And inequities are only worsening.

In New London, we decided that we want to **approach birth to 8 schooling differently** – we want to create new opportunities for our kids and our families.

A key part of this idea was questioning why schooling needs to follow a traditional calendar and instead **designing a program that would support students continuously throughout the year and engage families in their children's ongoing growth and development.**

# 4. The Design and Implementation Process

## Key Features of Year-Round Schooling:

- Year-round program is divided into **six week learning sessions** followed by two week breaks
- **Teacher teaming** allows teachers to work in teams to be able to co-plan lessons and differentiate and deliver instruction in critical content standards
- **Families are active members of the educational team.** Families meet with teachers at the end of each six-week session to review student data and collaborate on goalsetting
- **Collaboration with community partners** has allowed students and families to participate in field trips and enrichment activities that build real-world connections to learning
- **Aligned to the teachers' contract** and the district's school hours

# 4. The Design and Implementation Process

Principles New London embraced throughout design and implementation:

- **Blending of strategy and implementation** – start small, observe what’s working and not working, address problems, and scale effective practices
- Operations, instruction, and use of time must be **responsive** to student needs
- Embrace of a **problem-solving** mentality
- **Community partnerships** open up new opportunities



# 5. The Impact on our Students

What do you see when you walk into a year-round classroom?



## 5. The Impact on our Students' Achievements

As of June 2023, across the K-1 and 2-3 year-round schooling programs, **81% of participating students met literacy proficiency benchmarks** and **96% met growth targets**, exceeding performance of peers in 10-month school programs.

