

Overview of the WaKIDS Pilot

House Education Committee
House Early Learning & Human Services Committee

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February 3, 2011

Our Presentation Today

- Background and Context
- WaKIDS Pilot Development & Budget
- Key Components
- Teacher Feedback
- Whole Child Inventory Outcome Data
- Panel: WaKIDS in Action

Why WaKIDS?

- Support smooth transition into kindergarten for children
- Inform teacher instruction
- Build partnerships among parents, providers, teachers
- Address the educational opportunity gap
- No consistent data on child progress until third grade
- Importance of focusing on “whole child” development



2009-2011 State Operating Budget

- \$100,000 to “identify and test a kindergarten assessment process and tools in geographically diverse school districts. School districts may participate in testing the kindergarten assessment process on a voluntary basis.”
- Report due to Legislature on January 15, 2011
- Required matching private grant funding secured from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Thrive by Five Washington

WaKIDS Pilot Partners

■ WaKIDS Advisory Team:

- Kindergarten teachers
- Parents
- Early care & education professionals
- Assessment directors
- Child development specialists
- Tribal representatives
- Equity/cultural specialists
- Special education specialists
- Elementary principals
- OSPI, DEL, Thrive, Gates Foundation

■ Voluntary school districts

■ University of Washington

What Does WaKIDS Look Like?

■ Family connection

- Families are welcomed
- Teachers and families begin building strong relationships
- Teachers gather information from families about children

■ Early learning collaboration

- Early learning professionals and kindergarten teachers determine processes for exchanging useful information about children to support transition
- Ideas are shared to better prepare children for kindergarten

■ “Whole child” assessment

- For the pilot, determine which tools provide the most useful information to inform instruction, so teachers are better able to support all their students. Measure cost and time needed to administer various tools.
- Comprehensive across four domains based on state early learning guidelines and kindergarten standards.

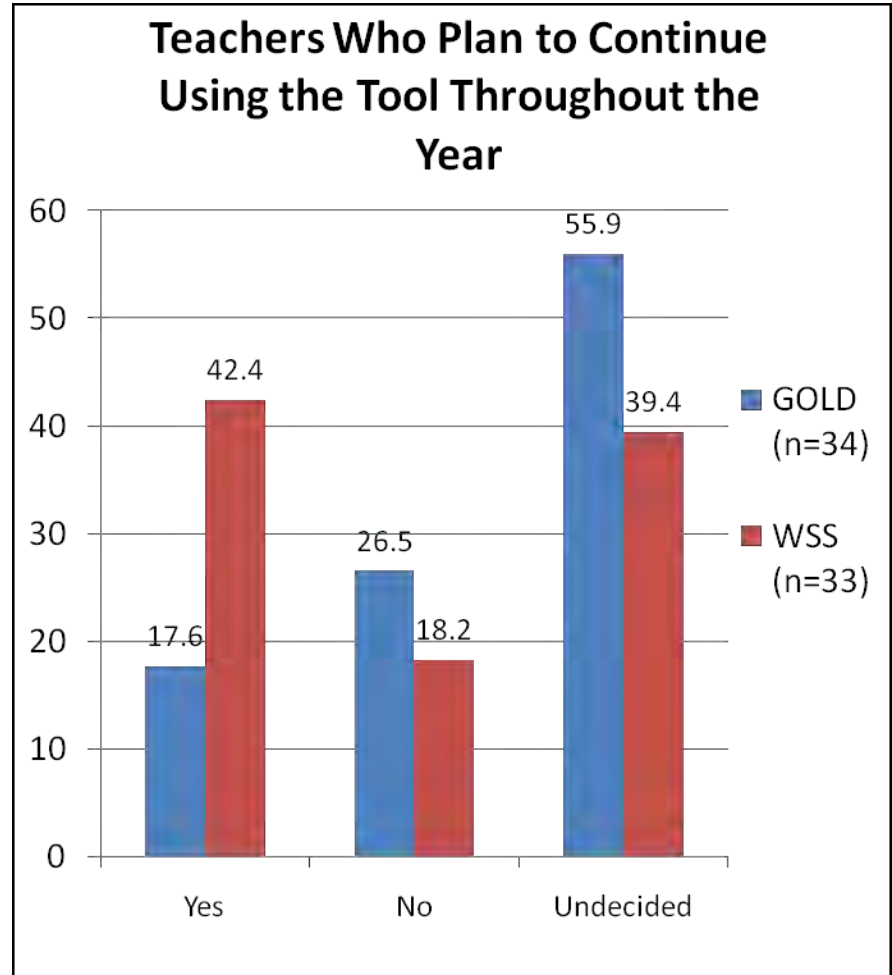
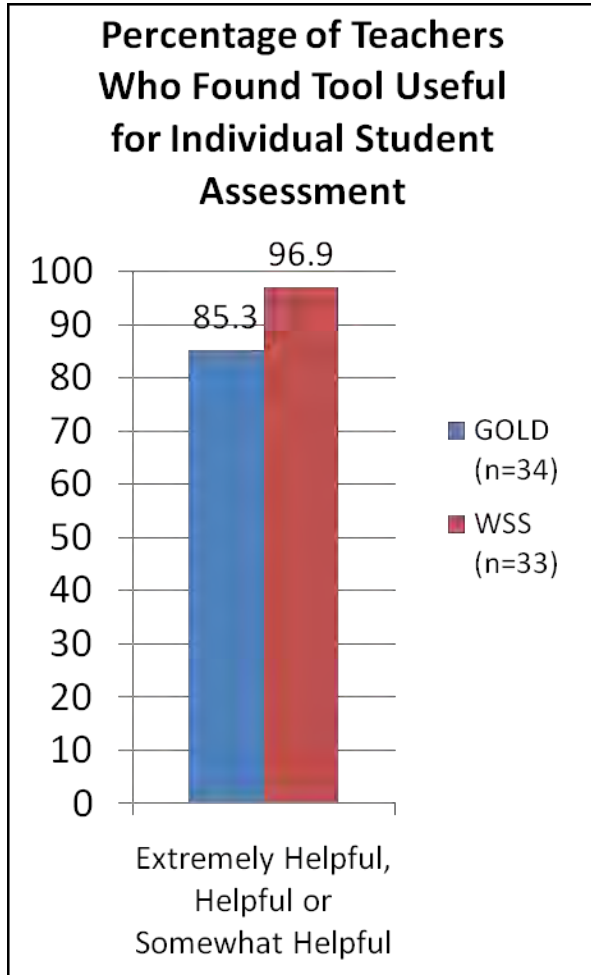
Teacher Feedback: GOLD and WSS

Teachers found the tools useful for:

- Bringing attention to areas not always assessed
- Identifying individual students' strengths and weaknesses
- Showing a learning progression of how students can continue to improve their skills
- Providing information in order to differentiate instruction.

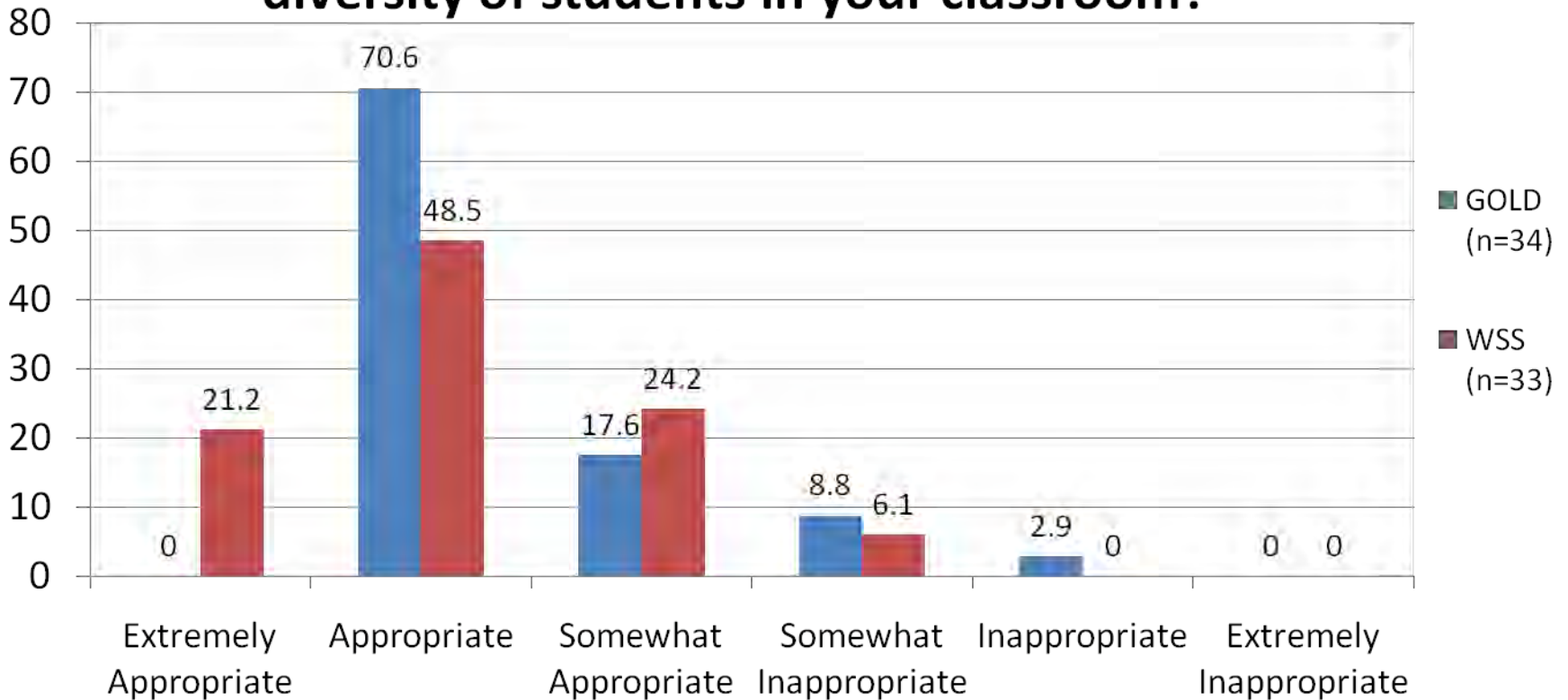


Teacher Feedback: GOLD and WSS



Teacher Feedback: GOLD and WSS

How appropriate was the assessment given the range of abilities and linguistic/ethnic/cultural diversity of students in your classroom?



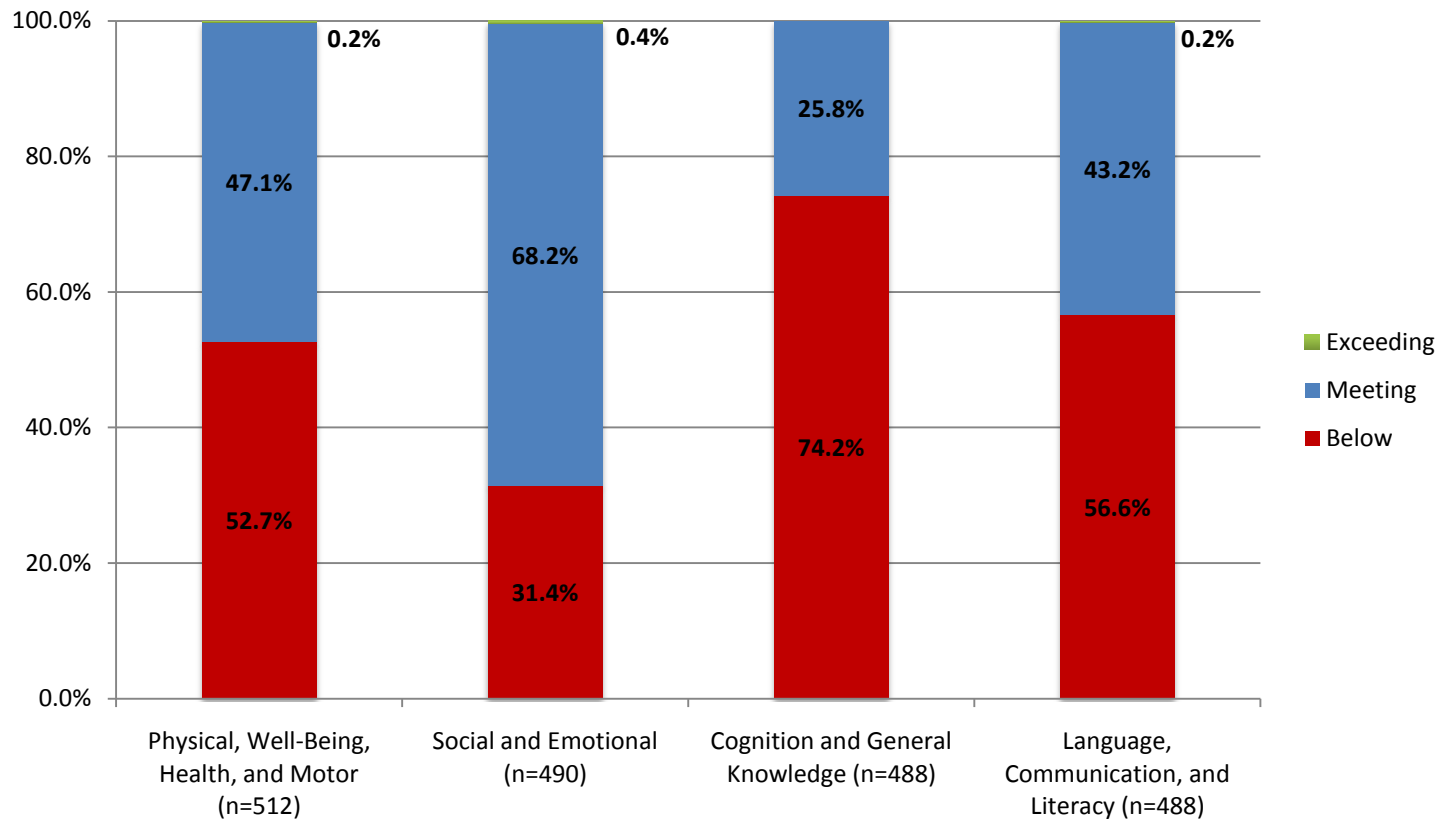
Whole Child Inventory: What We Know

- First statewide kindergarten assessment across multiple domains of child development
- More than one-third of children enter kindergarten below expected skill level
- Nearly half of children enter kindergarten below expected skill level in language, literacy and communication
- Results illustrate preparation gap

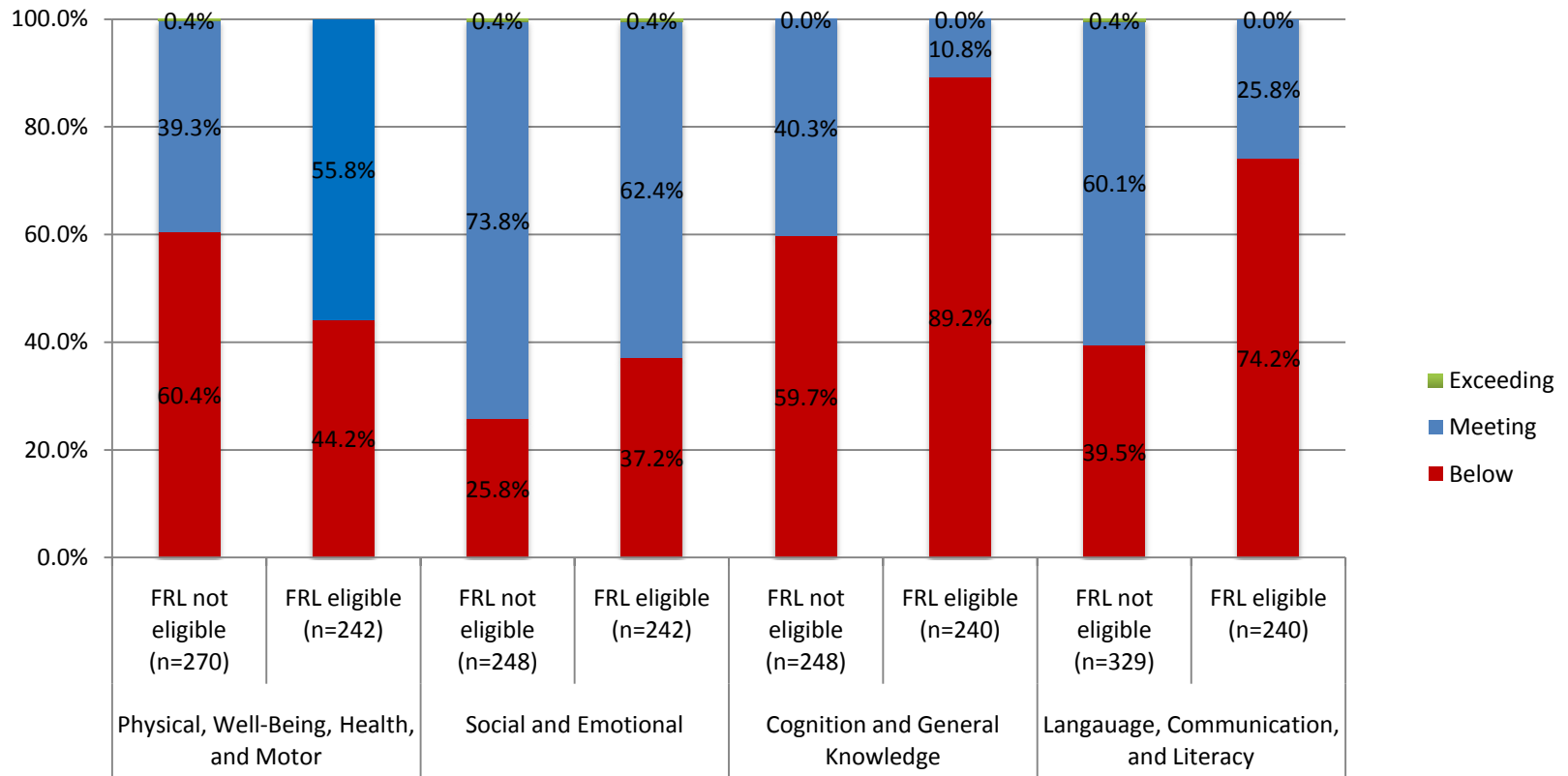


Results: Teaching Strategies Gold

Tool 1: GOLD Achievement in Four Domains for All Students

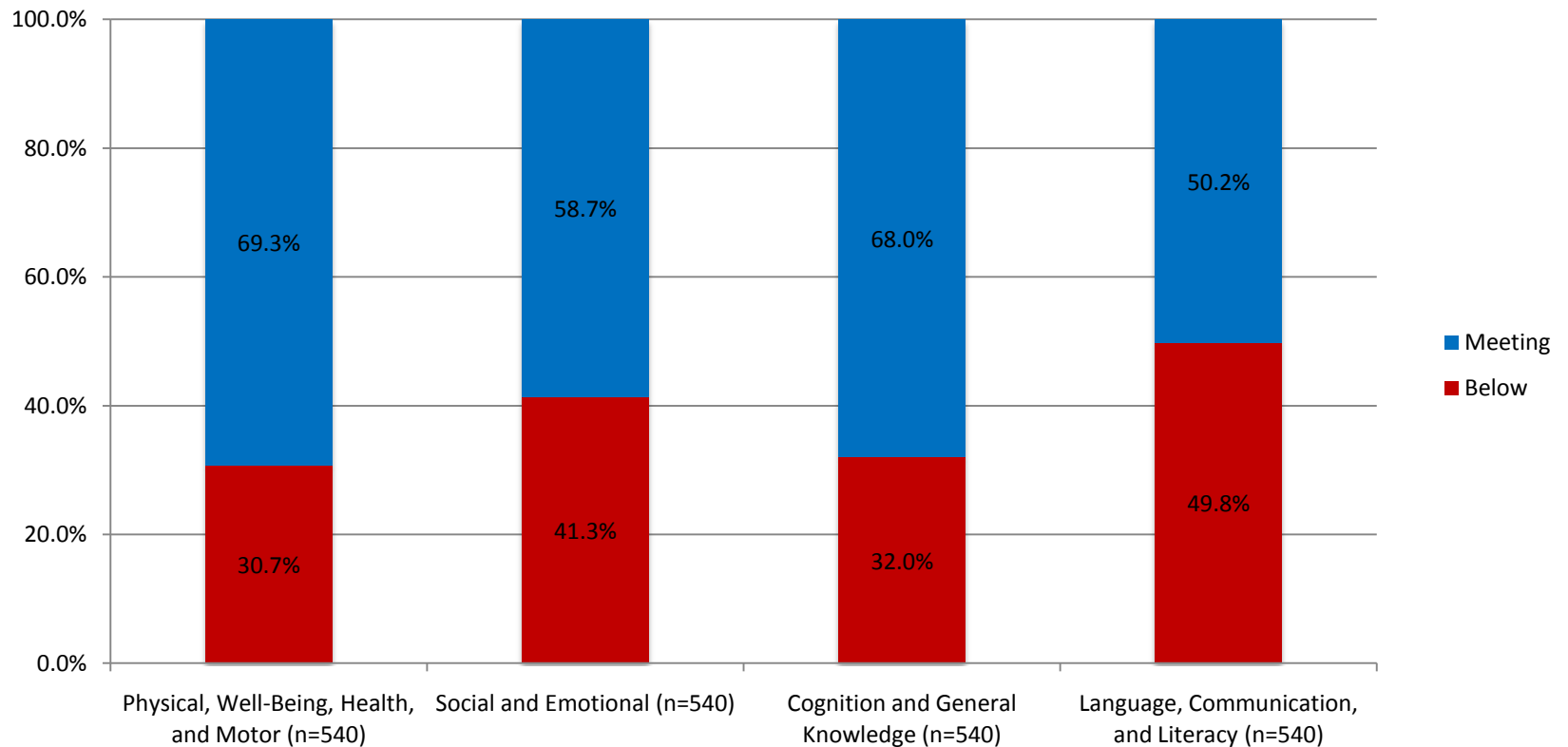


GOLD Achievement in Four Domains by Free or Reduced Price Lunch Eligibility

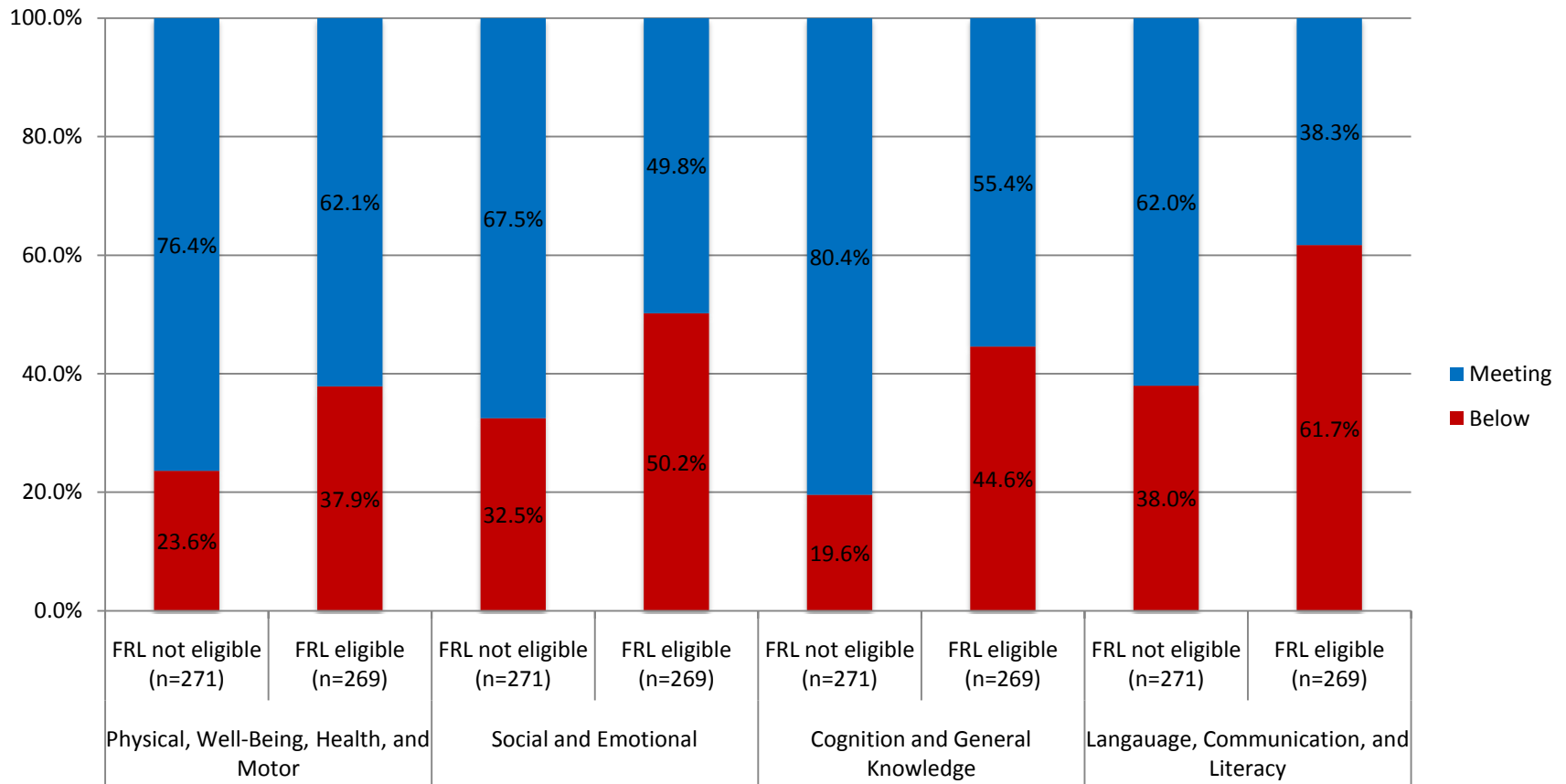


Results: Work Sampling System

WSS Achievement in Four Domains for All Students



WSS Achievement in Four Domains by Free or Reduced Price Lunch Eligibility





Next Steps

- HB 1510: OSPI request legislation to expand WaKIDS to schools with state-funded full day kindergarten
- Select one child assessment tool to be used statewide
- Ensure teachers have at least one day of WaKIDS training before school starts with follow-up communications and training to support teachers *during* the implementation of WaKIDS
- Strengthen the Early Learning Collaboration component and prek-third grade alignment



WaKIDS in Action

Krista Goudy-Sutterlict, Preschool Teacher

Toppenish School District & Yakima Nation

"K'waláni nam áshanisha skulitpámapa iniit!"

Hortensia West, Kindergarten Teacher

Naval Avenue Elementary, Bremerton School District

Surina Warren-Nash, Parent

Ridgefield School District, Vancouver

Questions?

