

2007 Head Start Reauthorization:

Implications for Curriculum, Professional Development, and Promoting Linkages in Head Start and the Early Education and Care Community

**National Head Start Association
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Presentation by Barbara A. Saunders, M.Ed.

Credits to Joan Lombardi for sharing her slides on Dawn of a New Era and the National Center for Children In Poverty for National Statistics

Why this is such an important Head Start Reauthorization?

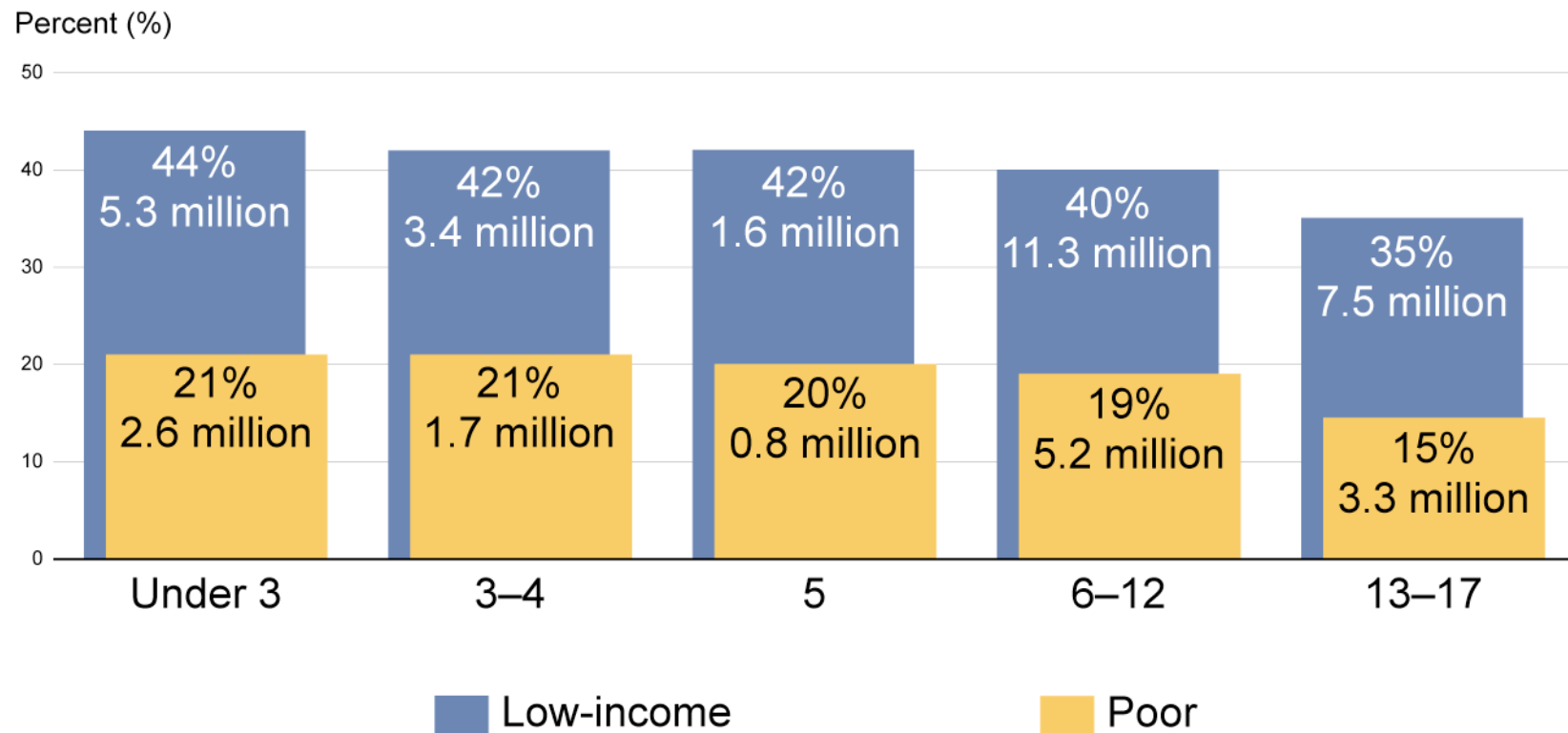
- ❑ A transforming moment for the nation and the world
- ❑ The economic crisis is having a serious impact on children and families
- ❑ Early childhood has more visibility than ever...accountability is high (ARRA \$\$)
- ❑ Important reforms pending- health, education and child care
- ❑ The potential for Head Start as leader and ECE partner to improve outcomes for children, families, and early childhood professionals

Lets talk about.....

- Where we have been
- The new era in early childhood
- Reauthorizing the next generation
of Head Start

But first how are the children....

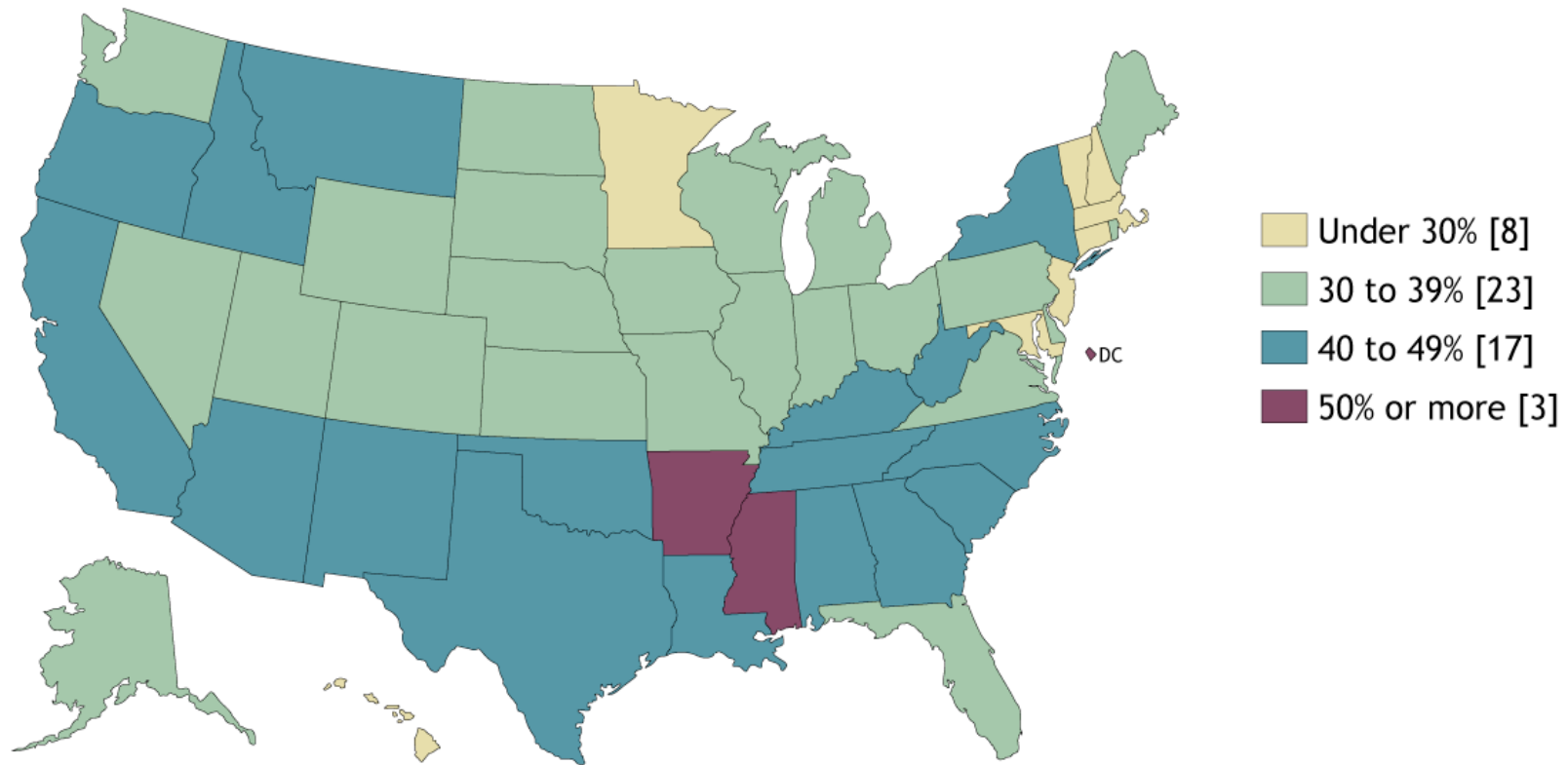
Children living in low-income and poor families, by age group, 2004



Source: National Center for Children in Poverty. (2006). *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children: Birth to Age 18*.

Variation by State: All Children

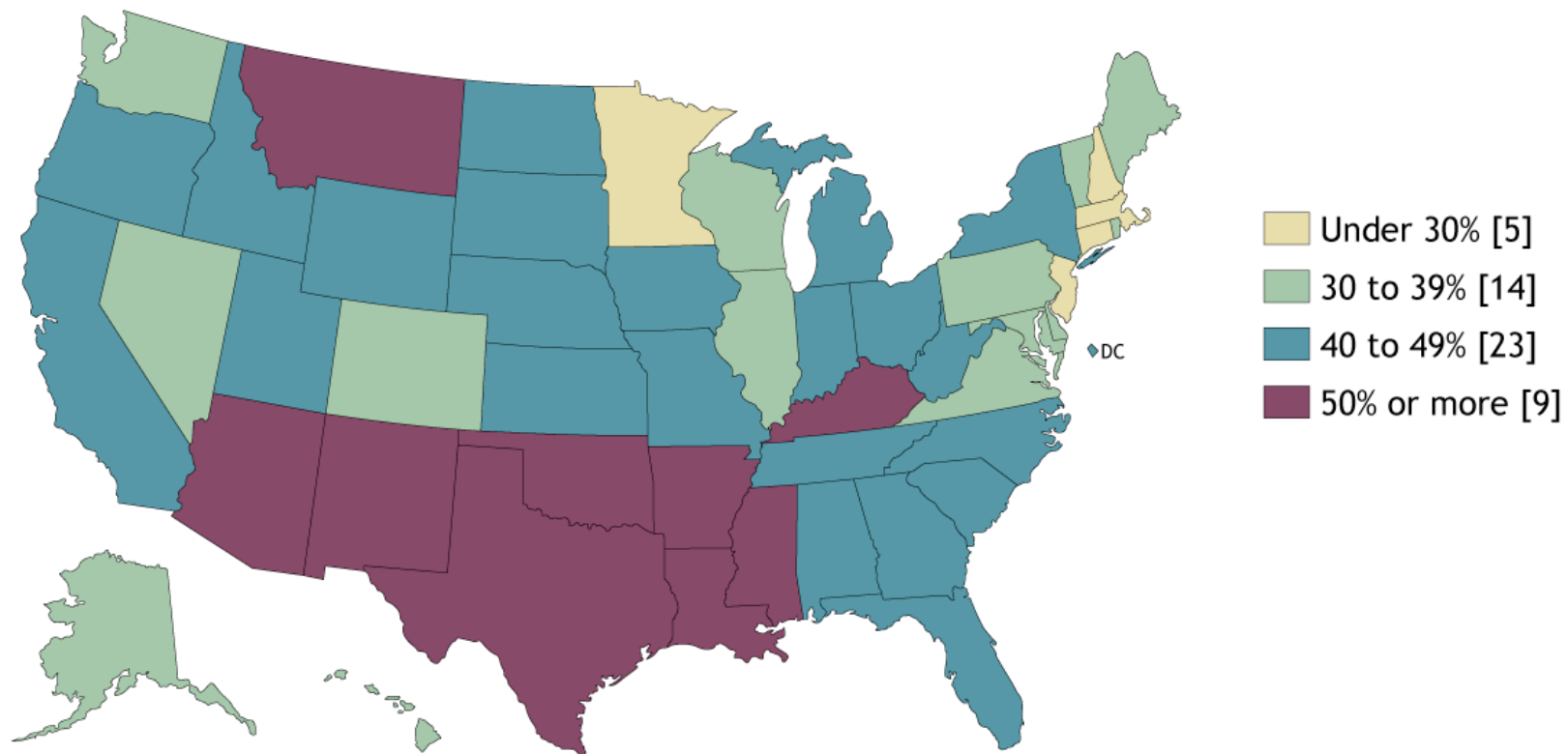
Low-income rates for all children across the states, 2006



Source: *Low-Income Children in the United States: National and State Trend Data, 1996-2006*. (2007). National Center for Children in Poverty, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

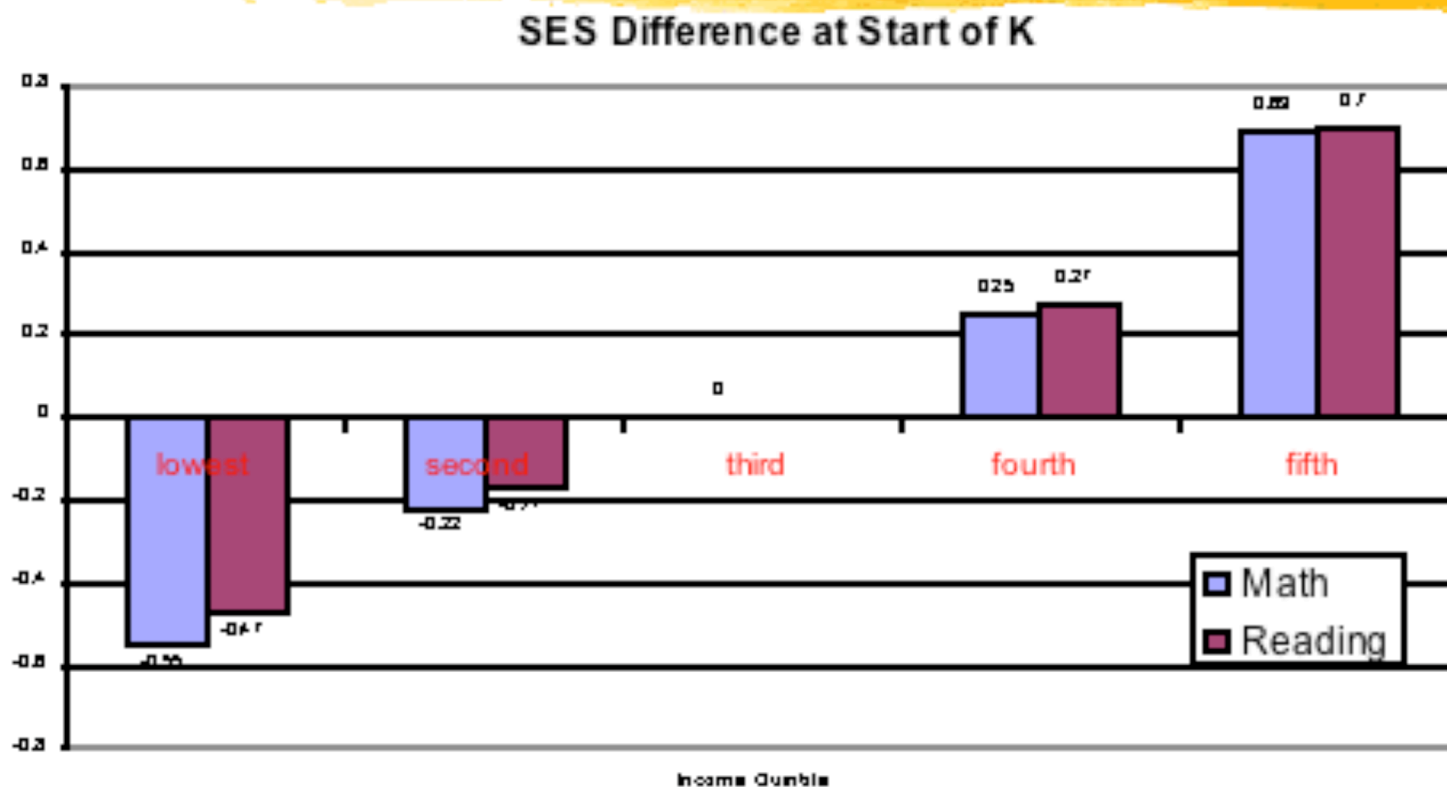
Variation by State: Children Under Six

Low-income rates for young children across the states, 2006



Source: Data prepared by the National Center for Children in Poverty, based on U.S. Current Population Survey, March Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2005-2007.

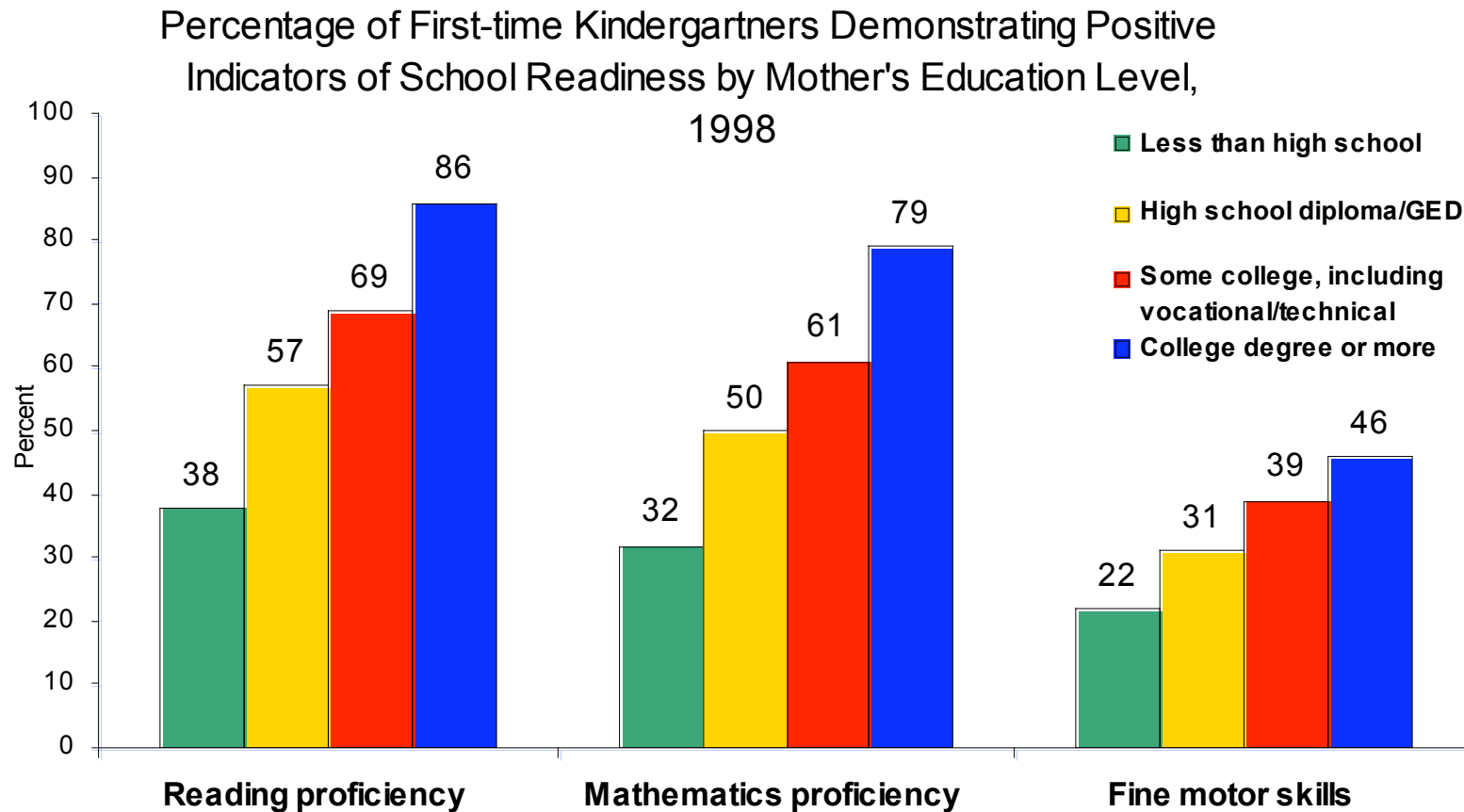
An uneven start



Household income quintile ranges, U.S. Census Bureau, 2000: lowest: 0 - \$18,000; second: \$18,000 - \$33,000; third: \$33,000 - \$52,000; fourth: \$52,000 - \$82,000; fifth: \$82,000 and over

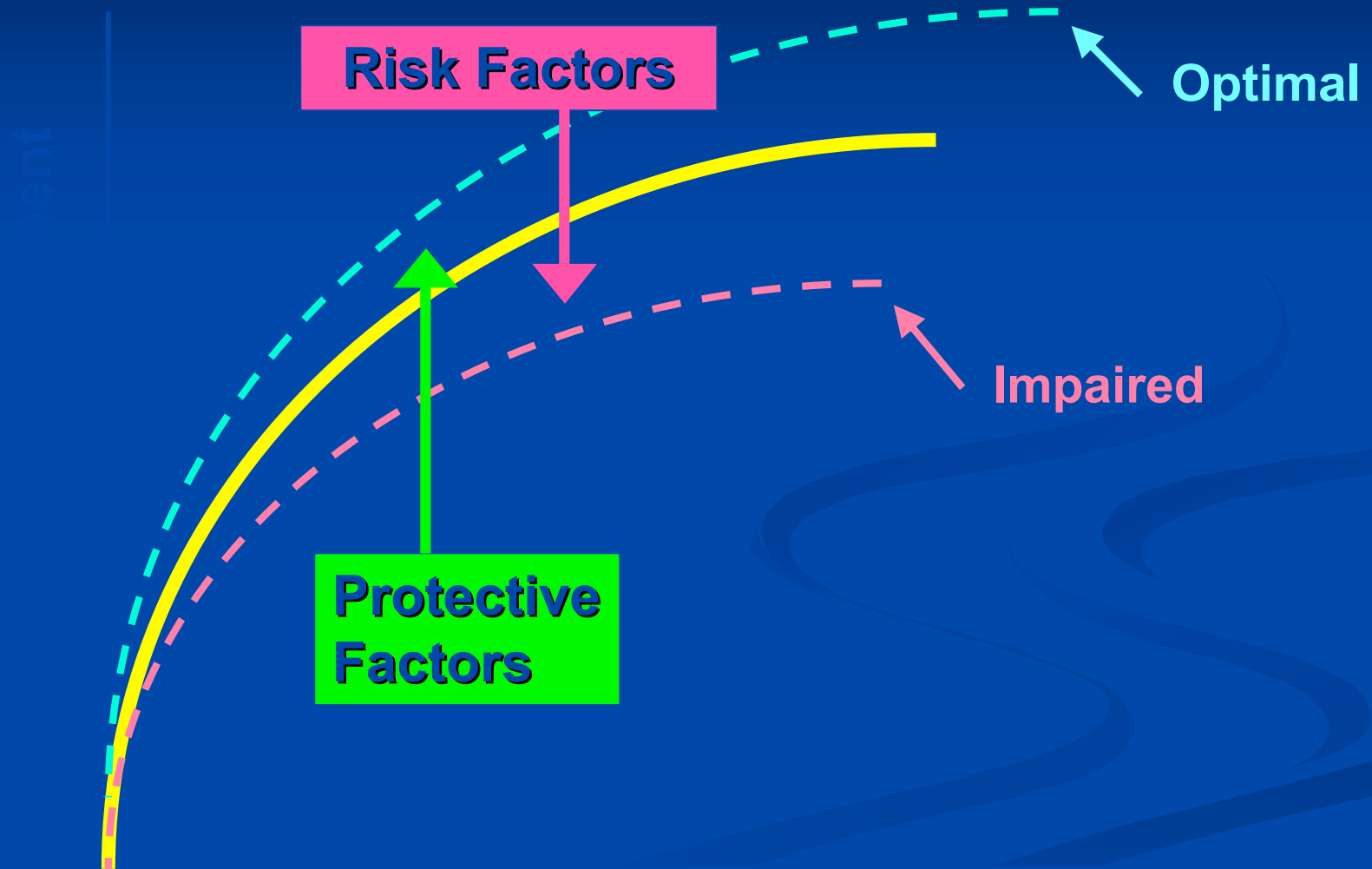
SOURCE: Valerie Lee and David Burkam, *Inequality at the Starting Gate*, Economic Policy Institute, 2002, p.18.

School readiness by mother 's education level



Source: Child Trends and Center for Health Research. (2004). Early Child Development in Social Context. Data from K. Denton, E. Germino-Hausken, and J. West (project officer), America's Kindergartners, NCES 2000-070, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2000).

A Child's Developmental Trajectory Can Be Modified With Appropriate Interventions



Looking back on policy.....

□ **Three trains**

Head Start 1965

Child Care grows in the 70's, CCDBG 1990

Preschool emerges in the 80's

□ **State prek expansion**

Lasting Effects of Preschool (1979), Perry
Preschool Data (mid 80's), Readiness Goal
(1989)

□ **Brain decade- mid 90's**

Early Head Start 1995, significant Federal
investments in child care and Head Start

Early childhood at the turn of the century

- Federal funding flattens, and state prek grows
- Tracks start to come together in the late 90's and early 2000– unifiers, system building
 - Governance
 - Quality Rating Systems
 - Early Learning Guidelines
 - Prek and Head Start into Child Care
- Focus on accountability



More recently

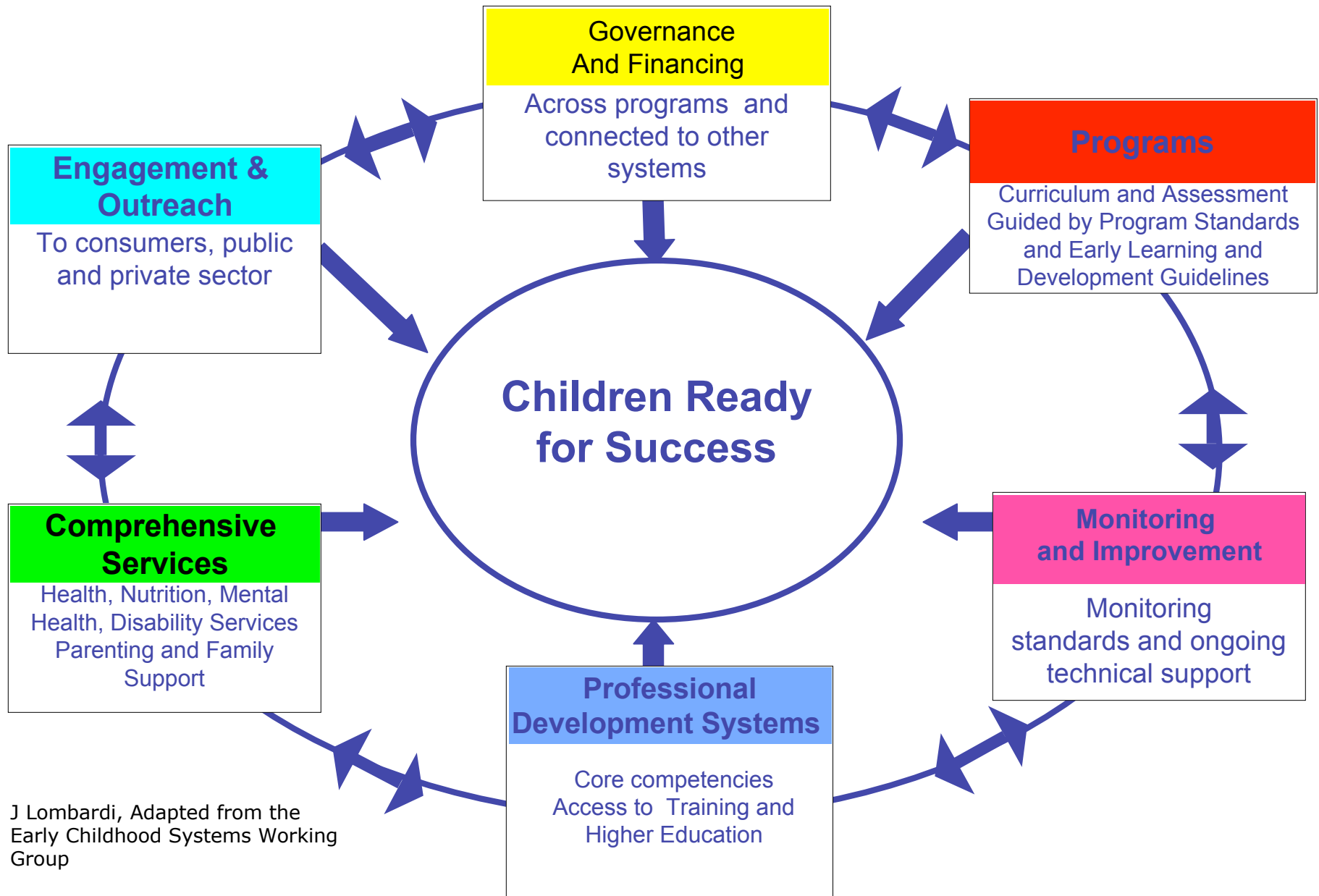
- About mid decade 0-3 issues again emerge driven by science and advocacy
- 2008 The election shines a light on early childhood
- New era of early childhood dawning

Characteristics of a new Head Start Reauthorization

- High quality programs for children prenatal to age five—**Priority Needs**
- Continuity with quality early primary and Pre-K Partners—**Collaboration**
- Common infrastructure across all early childhood programs—**Early Learning Outcomes and Professional Development for Teachers**

Early Childhood Development System

A sample format



J Lombardi, Adapted from the Early Childhood Systems Working Group



Reauthorizing

The Next Generation of Head Start

Implications and
Opportunities for
Curriculum,
Professional
Development, and
Promoting Linkages in
Head Start and the
Early Education and
Care Community

1. Promote alignment of curricula and assessment in Head Start Programs with...

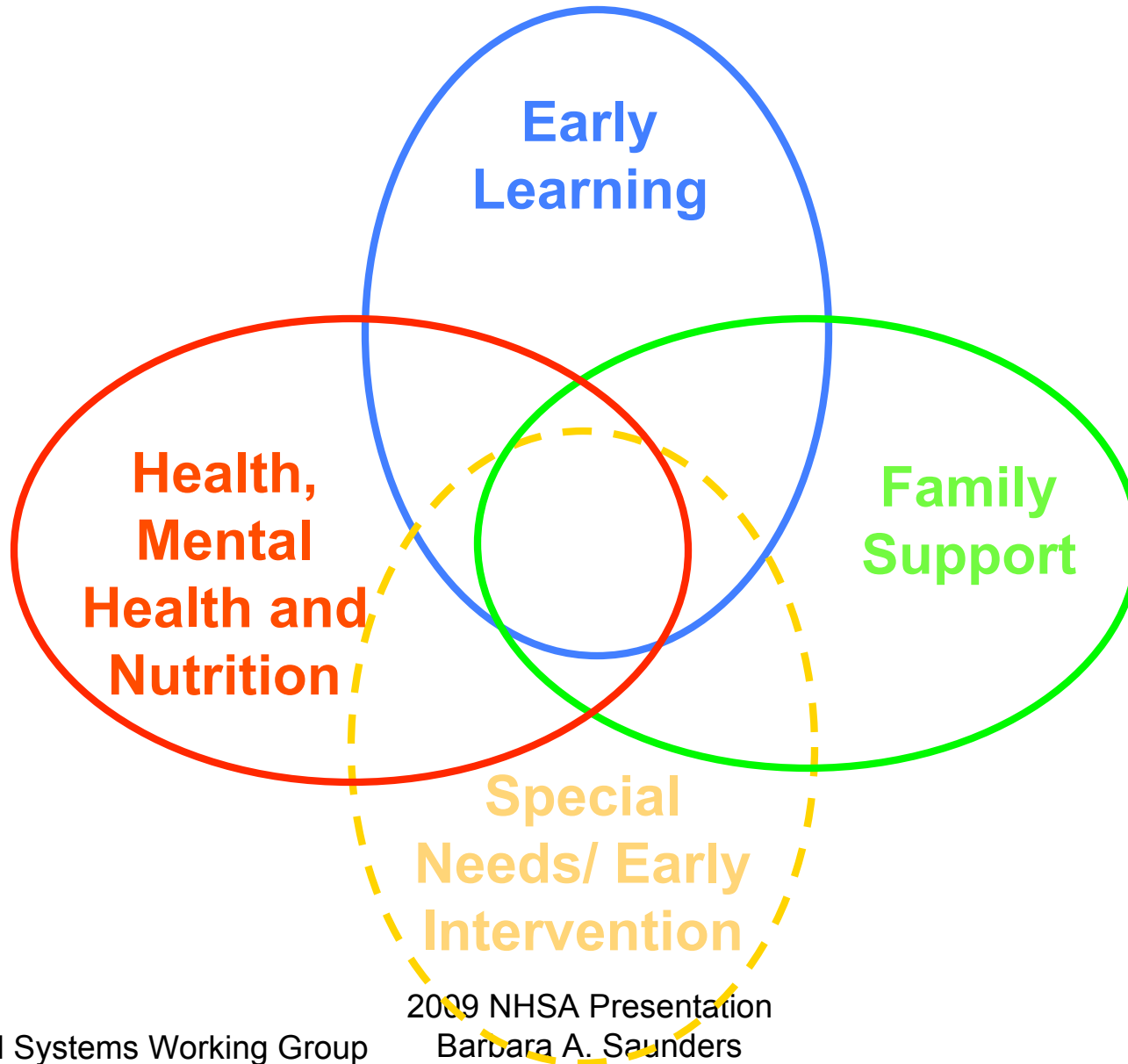
- Head Start Child Outcomes Framework
- State Early Learning Guidelines
- Scientifically Valid Research
- Evidence Based Positive Outcomes
- Professional Development
- A Scaffolded Individualized Instruction Plan
- Scope and Sequence—
A Systematic Approach
to Learning

2. Promote better linkages between Head Start agencies and other child and family agencies

Including...

- Family/Child Services
- Health/Mental Health Services
- Welfare/Child Protective Services
- Disability Services
- Family Literacy Services
- English Language Services
- Education and Community Services

State Early Childhood Advisory Councils



3. Enable Head Start Agencies to Better Access Professional Development Opportunities...

- Align with State Professional Development Systems.



3. Enable Head Start Agencies to Better Access Professional Development Opportunities (cont'd)

- Meet the degree requirements in Head Start Reauthorization
- Include Distance Learning Opportunities
- Align with ECE Core Competencies
- Ongoing Education and Inservice

4. Enhance Collaboration, Coordination and Alignment of Head Start Services...

Develop a Strategic Plan that will enhance collaboration of Head Start Agencies with other entities providing PRIORITY AREA services...

- ❑ Early Childhood Education and Development (Museums, Camps, etc.)
- ❑ Health Care/Mental Health Care
- ❑ Welfare/Child Protective Services
- ❑ Family Literacy/Reading Readiness Programs (Public Libraries)
- ❑ Children with Disabilities
- ❑ English Language Learners
- ❑ Homeless Families/Children in Foster care
- ❑ Workforce Development

5. Develop a Plan for the Provision of Full Day/Full Year Services

Supporting Continuity of Services With:

- Pre-K
- Child Care
- Summer Enrichment
- Transition to Kindergarten

6. Refocus on Outcomes for Low Income Children

- Build in time for rich experiences
- Promote dispositions and approaches to learning
 - Joy
 - Persistence
 - Curiosity
 - Order
 - Language and literacy skills
- Build in coaching and continuous assessment to improve practice

6. Play a role in moving from program to community-wide strategies

UTILIZE Curriculum, Professional Development and Collaboration in...

- ❑ Connecting programs across the community
- ❑ Developing community wide information systems
- ❑ Looking beyond program outcomes to community wide outcomes

7. Head Start Reauthorization and ARRA Funds...Connect Investment With Purpose

- ❑ Outcomes Driven: Child, Family, Teachers
- ❑ Community Assessment and Strategic Action Plan
- ❑ Quality Enhancement: Curriculum, Professional Development, Collaboration
- ❑ Expansion of Services: Curriculum, Professional Development, Collaboration
- ❑ Blended Funding for Classrooms: PreK-Head Start-Child Care Funds
- ❑ State Early Learning Advisory Council Partners
- ❑ Transparency ~ Up Front Investment ~ Results



8. Advocate for and Encourage the voice of those most affected by poverty

- In the health care debate
- In the education reform debate
- In the child care debate
- In the welfare debate
- At the local, state and federal level

QUESTIONS????

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