

Understanding The Child Early Reading and Development Education Program (CERDEP)

CERDEP

“This is the inclusive term for full-day programs for four-year-olds administered by the SC Department of Education (SCDE) and the Office of First Steps (SCFS) funded by the state of South Carolina. It includes public schools, non-profit independent schools, and child care centers that adhere to program and quality requirements for CERDEP funding and serve eligible four-year-olds.”

CERDEP 4K

“This is the term for CERDEP in public schools that are state funded and run by the local school district with the school district and SCDE as the reporting and oversight agency.”

First Steps 4K

“This is the term for the state-funded CERDEP programs run in non-public school settings with SC First Steps as the oversight and reporting agency.”

Potentially Underserved

“This refers to students eligible for, but not accessing CERDEP. Some of these students may be accessing district-funded or other programs, or it may not be known. If a student is a Pupil in Poverty (PIP) and their 4K experience is either Unknown, Other Public 4K (non CERDEP), or Private 4K — the students is considered Potentially Underserved by CERDEP. Head Start students are not counted as CERDEP or Potentially Underserved.”

In school year 2024-25, **56,741** students enrolled in kindergarten; of those students, **36,708 (65%)** are pupils in poverty.

18,069 four-year-olds were served by CERDEP programming in the 2023-24 school year AND were enrolled in public kindergarten in the 2024-25 school year.

CERDEP 4K

Of the **18,609** four-year-olds,
14,484 (79%) were in CERDEP 4K

12,392 were pupils in poverty
1,893 were not pupils in poverty

10,181 were enrolled on both the 45th and 135th day of instruction of the 23-24 school year.
Attendance data are not included.

First Steps 4K

Of the **18,609** four-year-olds,
3,763 (21%) were in First Steps 4K

3,414 were pupils in poverty
340 were not pupils in poverty

3,010 were enrolled for at least 120 days of instruction. Of those students **2,563** attended for 120 days or more.

Head Start

Based on data received from the parent/caregiver kindergarten enrollment surveys for students enrolled in kindergarten during school year 2024-25, **1,201 four-year-olds in poverty were served in Head Start during school year 2023-24.**

Potentially Underserved

In the 2023-24 school year, **there were 18,342 students potentially eligible for CERDEP programming who did not participate in CERDEP or Head Start.**

**Full Report: South Carolina Education Oversight Committee -
State-Funded Full-Day 4K Annual Report 2023-24 & 2024-25 (March 2025)**



Definitions and Data Sources

CERDEP 4K

“CERDEP in public schools: Data comes from SCDE using 5K data with CERDEP 4k designation.”

First Steps 4K

“CERDEP in non-public school settings: Data comes from First Steps enrollment for the current reporting year and is matched with 5K data from SCDE to ensure each student is counted once.”

Head Start

“Head Start programming: data comes from SCDE 5K data where Head Start was listed as the 4K experience at enrollment in kindergarten.”

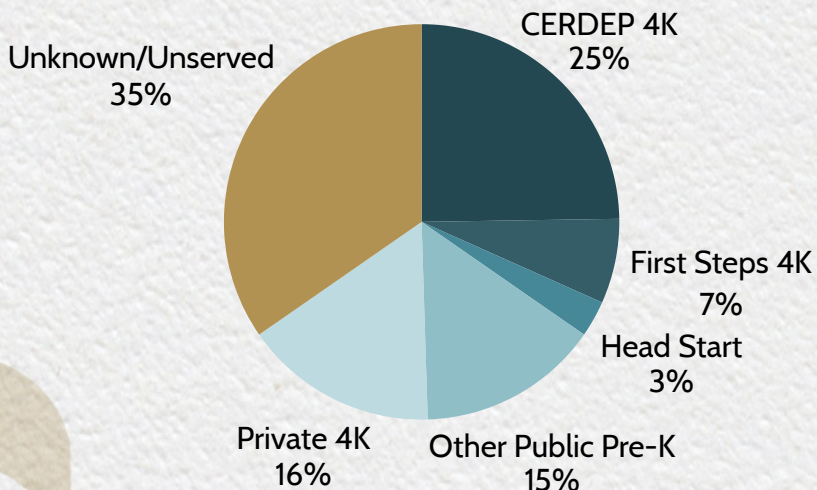
Other Public 4K (non-CERDEP)

“4K classes offered by public schools that are not funded by CERDEP (e.g. EIA or district funded): Data comes from SCDE using 5K data with other 4K designation.”

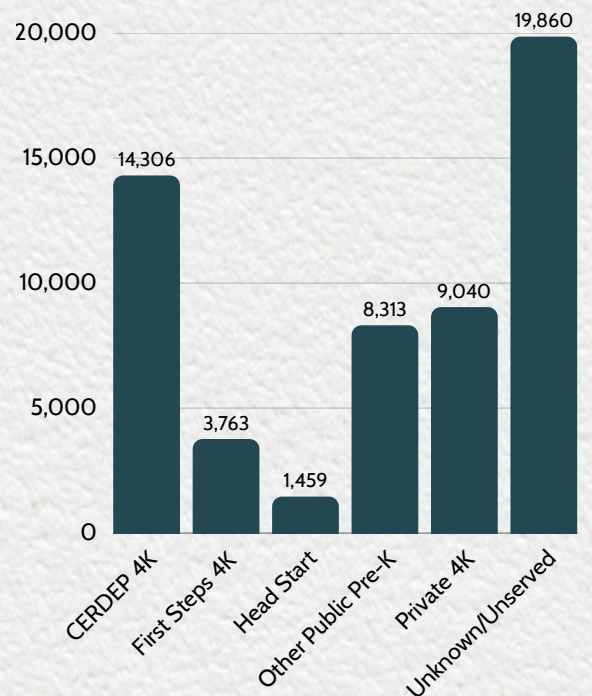
Private 4K

“4K classes in non-public school settings that are not funded using state CERDEP dollars (e.g. SC Child Care Scholarships, private pay, etc.): Data in this category reported within comes from SCDE 5K data where private 4K was listed as the 4K experience at enrollment in kindergarten.”

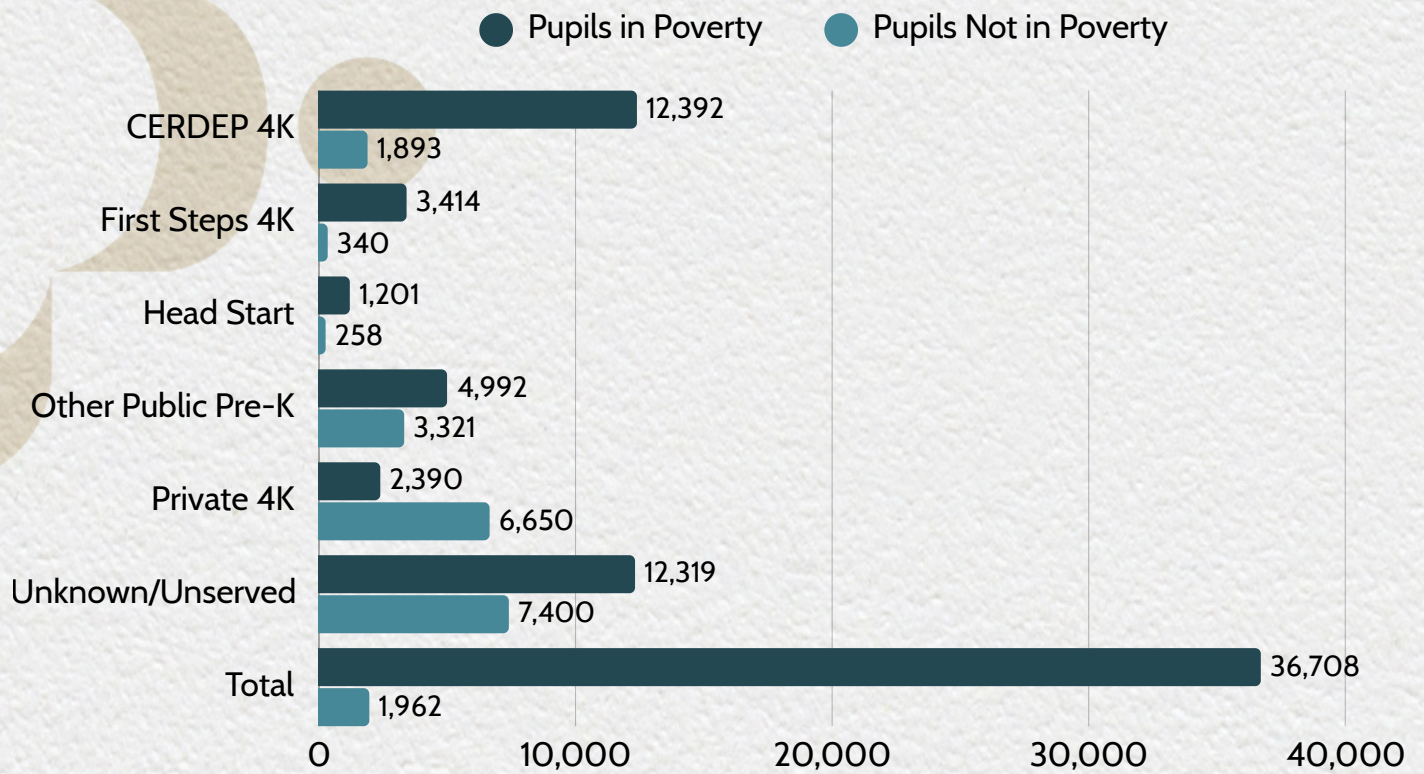
% of Total Enrolled Kindergarten Students SY 2024- 25 by 4K Experience



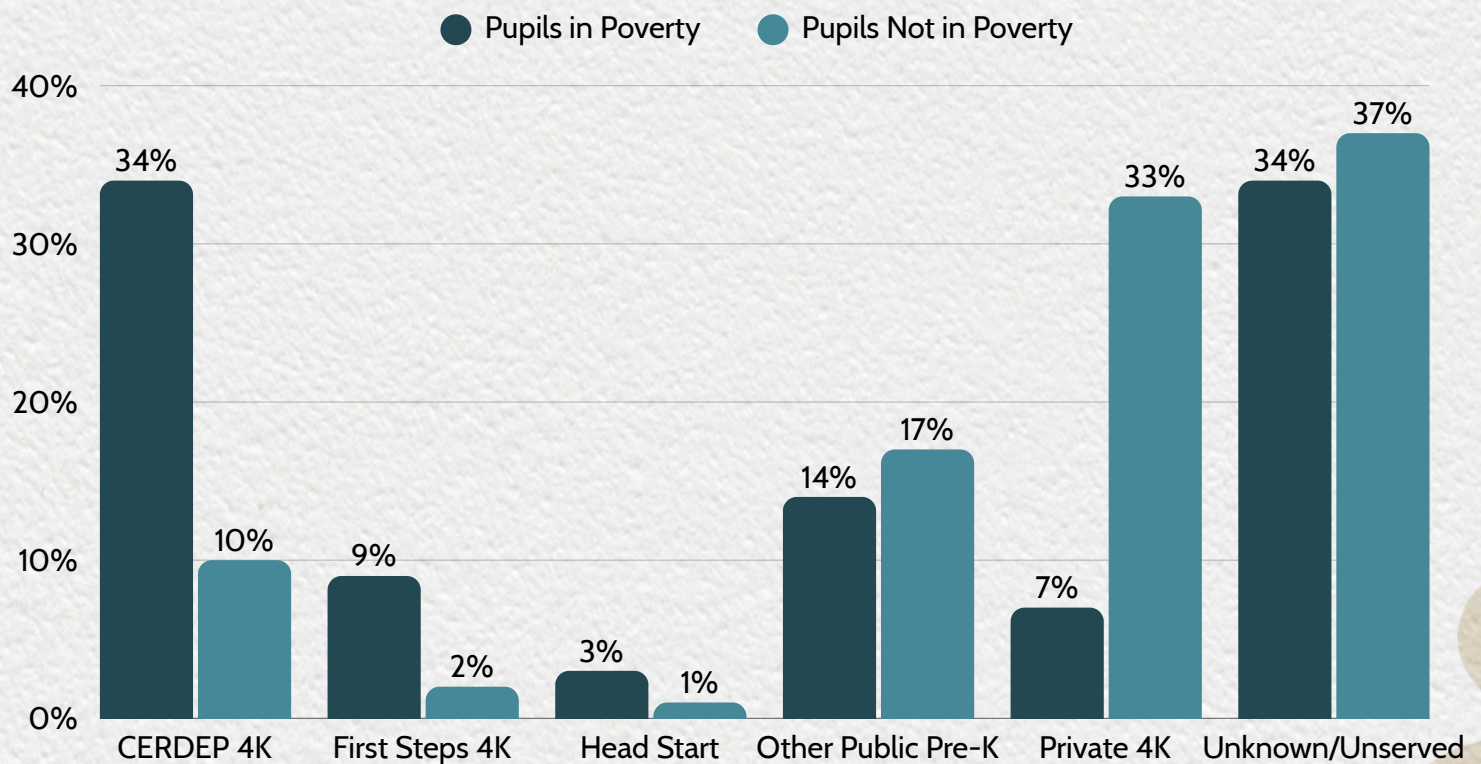
Total Enrolled Kindergarten Students SY 2024- 25 by 4K Experience



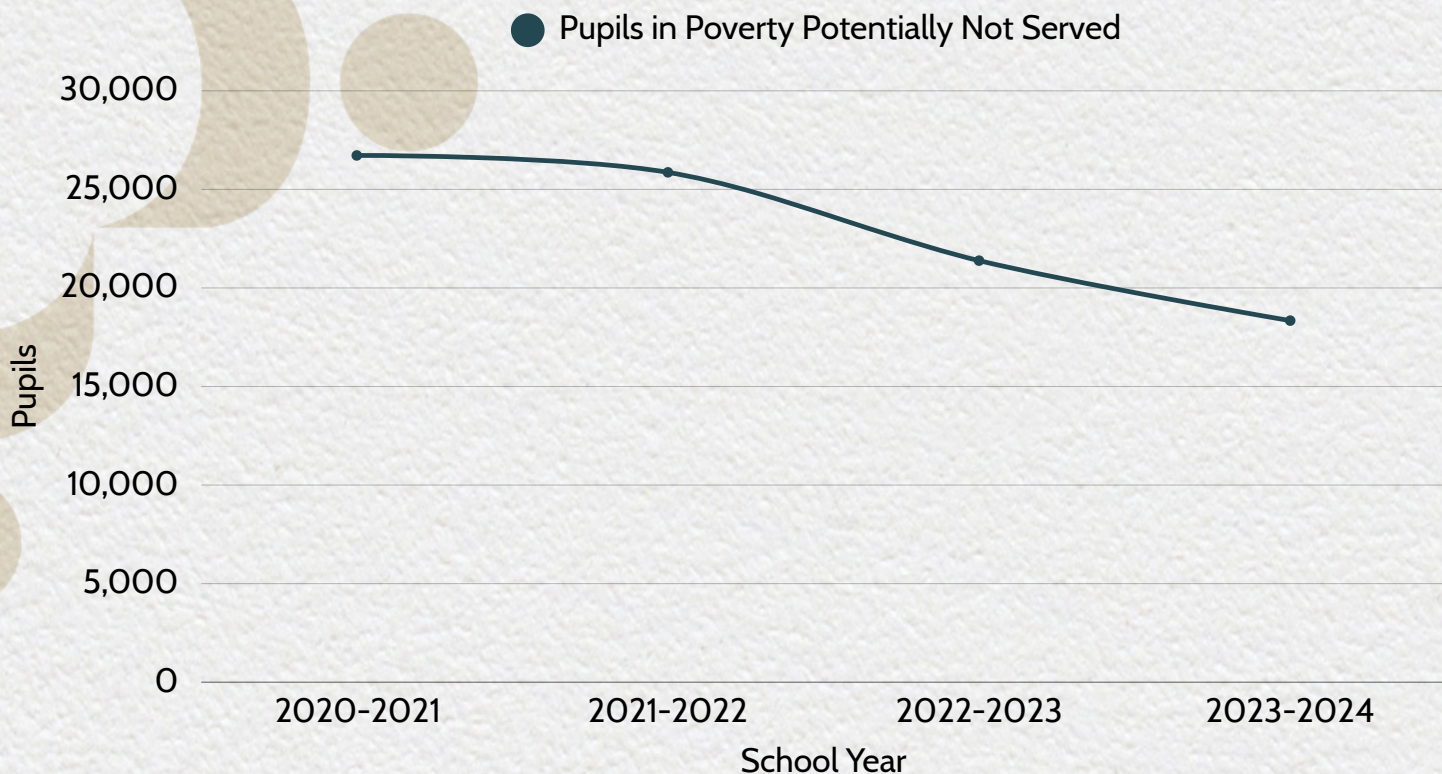
Pupils in Poverty 5K (SY 2024-25) Served in 4K Experience (SY 2023-24)



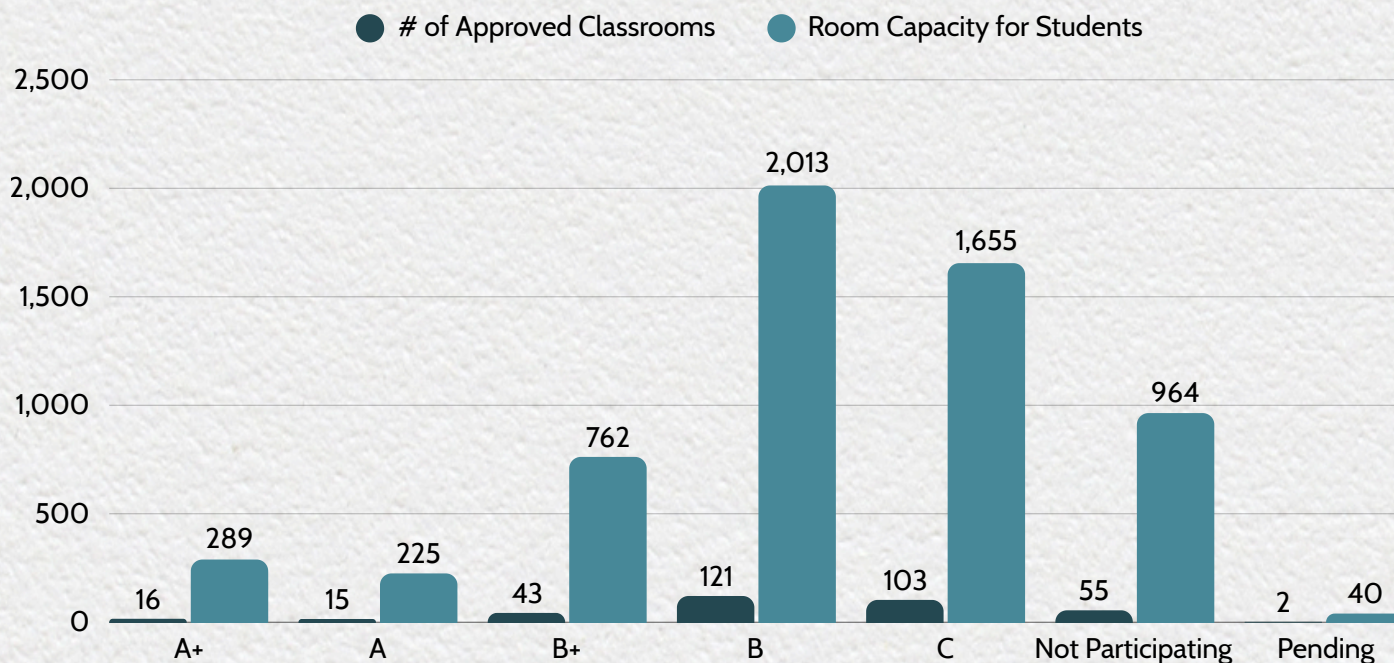
% of Pupils in Poverty 5K (SY 2024-25) Served in 4K Experience (SY 2023-24)



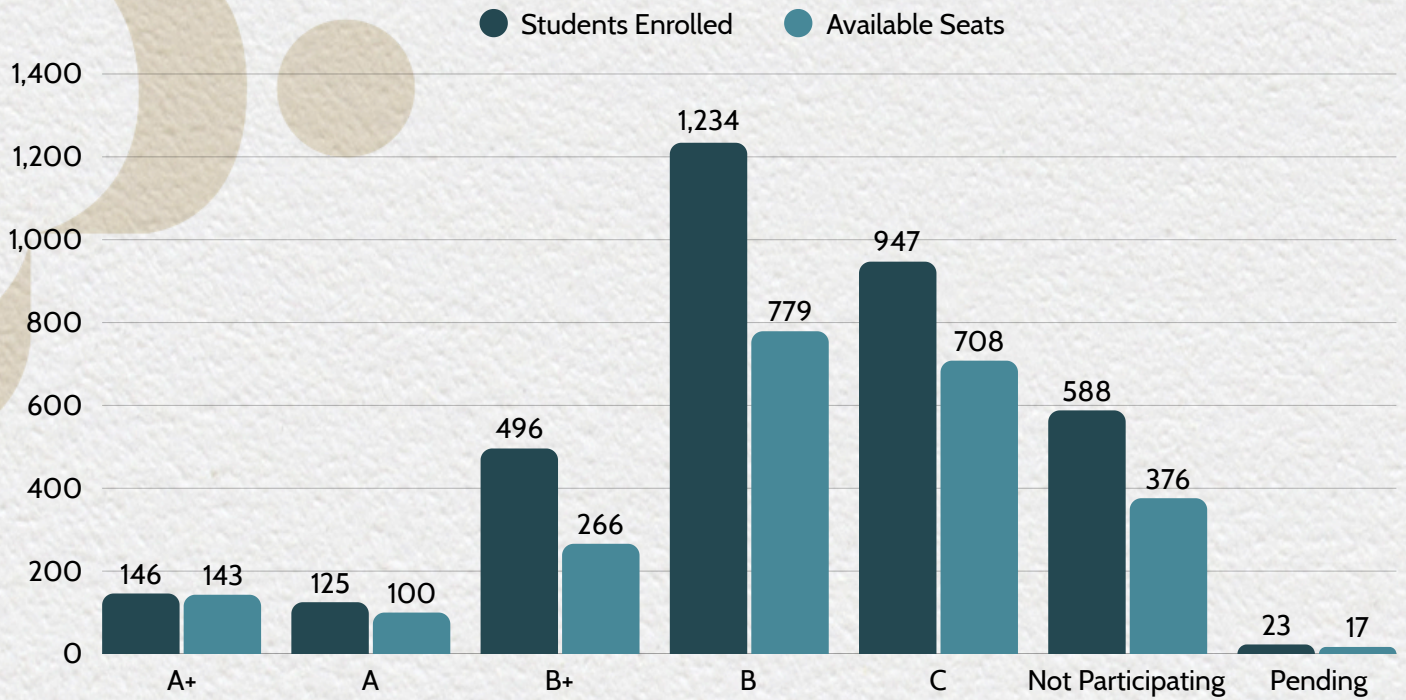
Pupils in Poverty Potentially Not Served by CERDEP (SY 2020-2021 to 2023-2024)



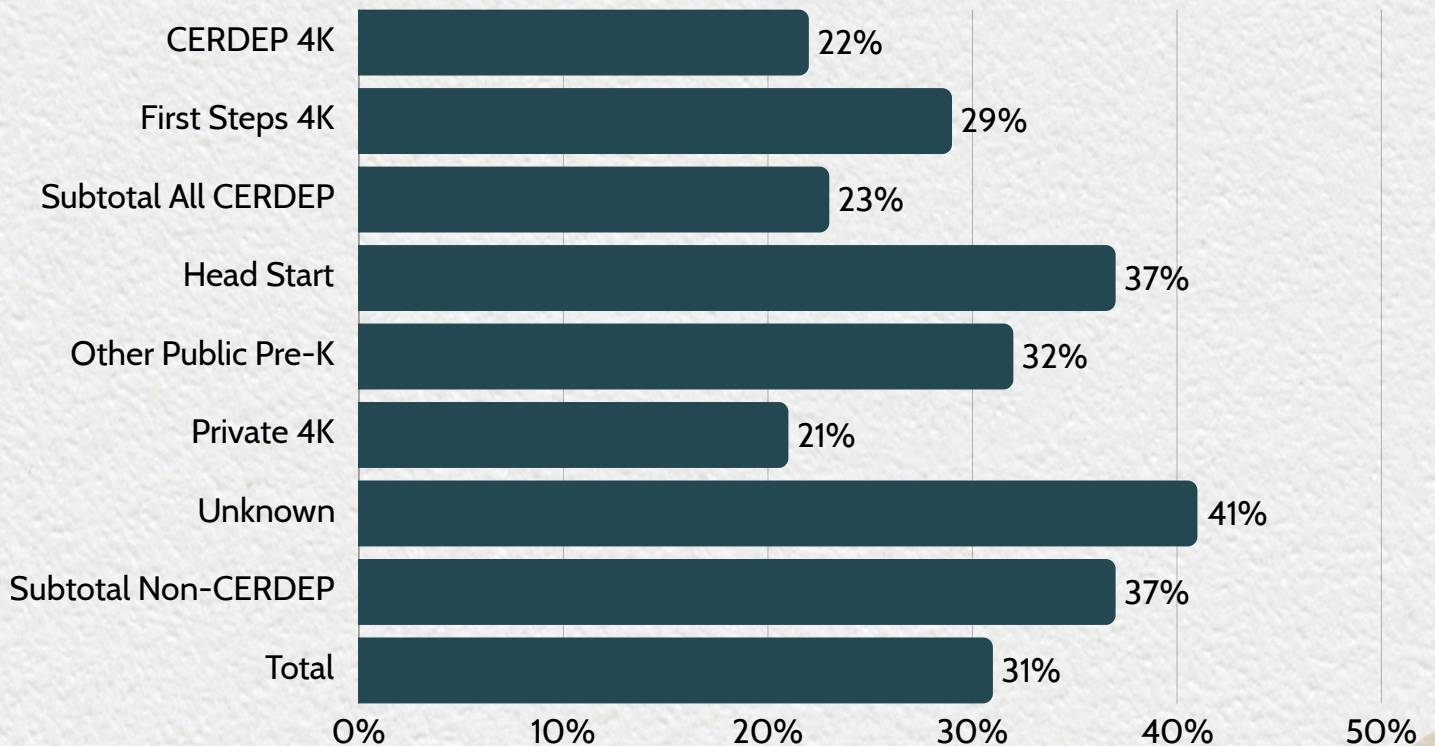
First Steps 4K Classrooms by ABC Quality Rating, 2024-25 School Year Capacity:



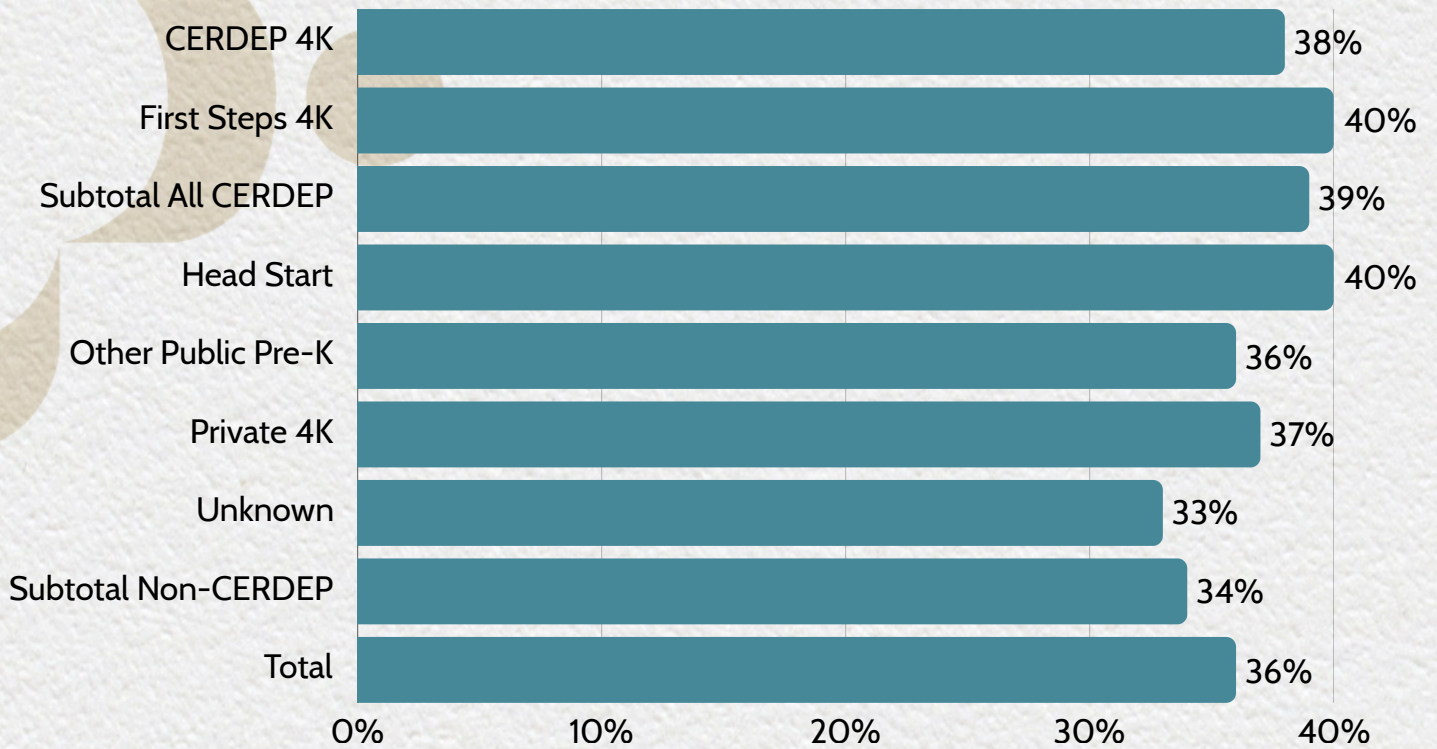
First Steps 4K Classrooms by ABC Quality Rating, 2024-25 School Year Available Seats:



Pupils in Poverty Kindergarten Readiness by 4K Experience: Emerging Readiness



Pupils in Poverty Kindergarten Readiness by 4K Experience: Approaching Readiness



Pupils in Poverty Kindergarten Readiness by 4K Experience: Emerging Readiness

