



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF

Early Childhood  
Education

# 2023 Legislative Presentation

Secretary Barbara Cooper, Ph.D.



# Ages of Population Served



Birth to Age 8

# **ADECE Budget Information**

- **Office of School Readiness/Pre-K**
- **Summer/Afterschool Learning**
- **Strong Start, Strong Finish: Pre-K – Third Grade**
- **Operations and Maintenance**
- **HIPPY - First Teacher Home Visiting**
- **Alabama Family Central**

# Impacts of First Class Pre-K

**Children who attend First Class Pre-K are:**

**More  
likely to  
be:**

**Kindergarten  
Ready**

**Proficient  
in Reading**

**Proficient  
in Math**

**Less likely  
to be:**

**Retained  
in Grade**

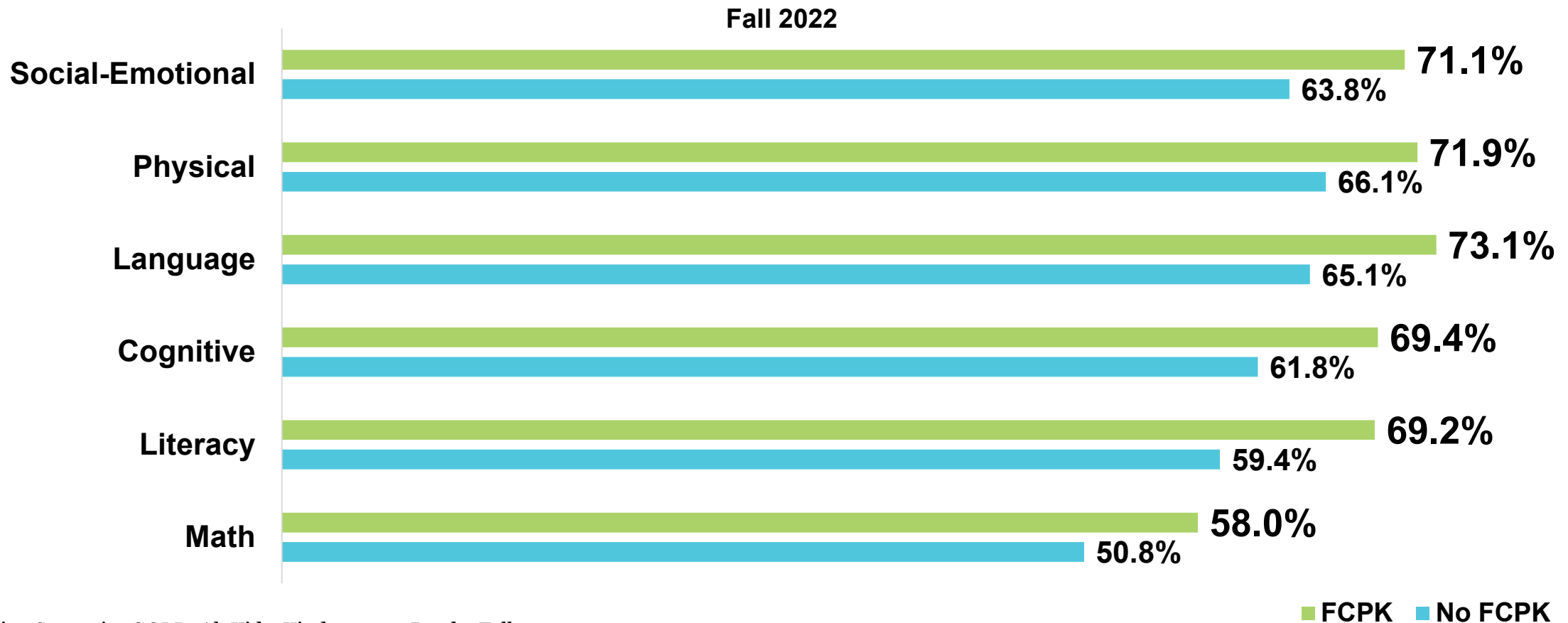
**Chronically  
Absent**

**Less likely  
to:**

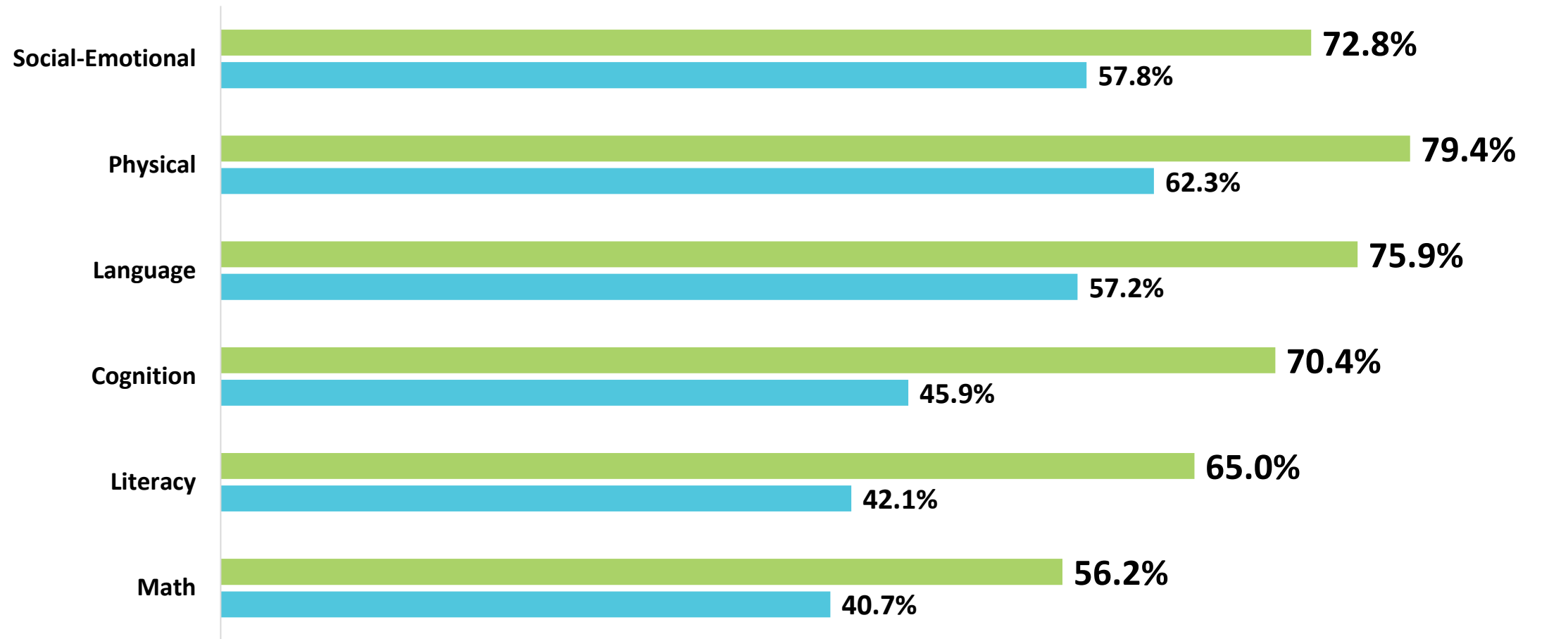
**Need  
Special  
Education**

**Have  
Disciplinary  
Issues**

Children who attend **First Class Pre-K** are more likely to enter school Kindergarten Ready in all six domains of the AlaKiDs assessment.

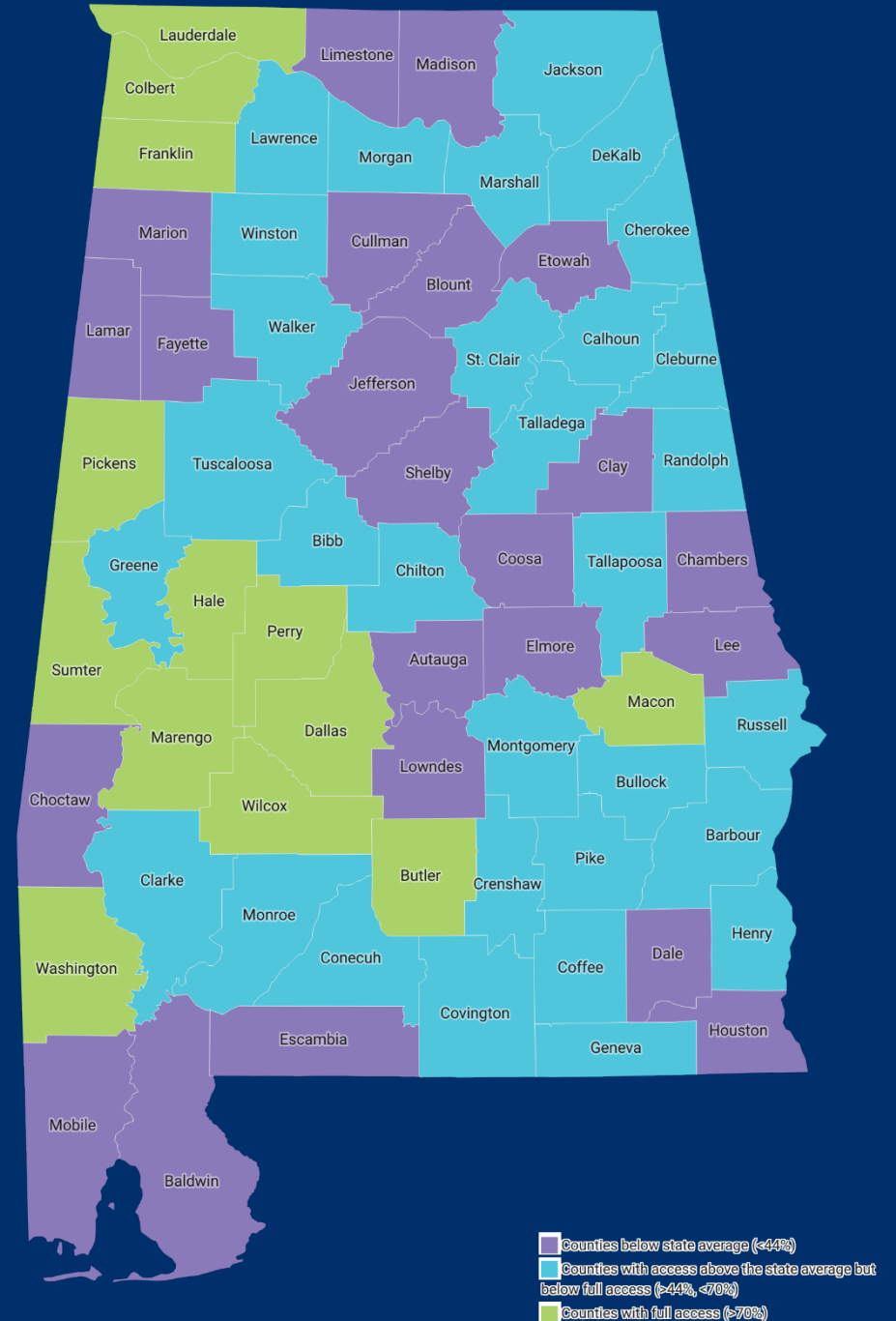


# First Class Pre-K has a greater impact in Kindergarten classrooms that are part of the Turnaround Schools Initiative.



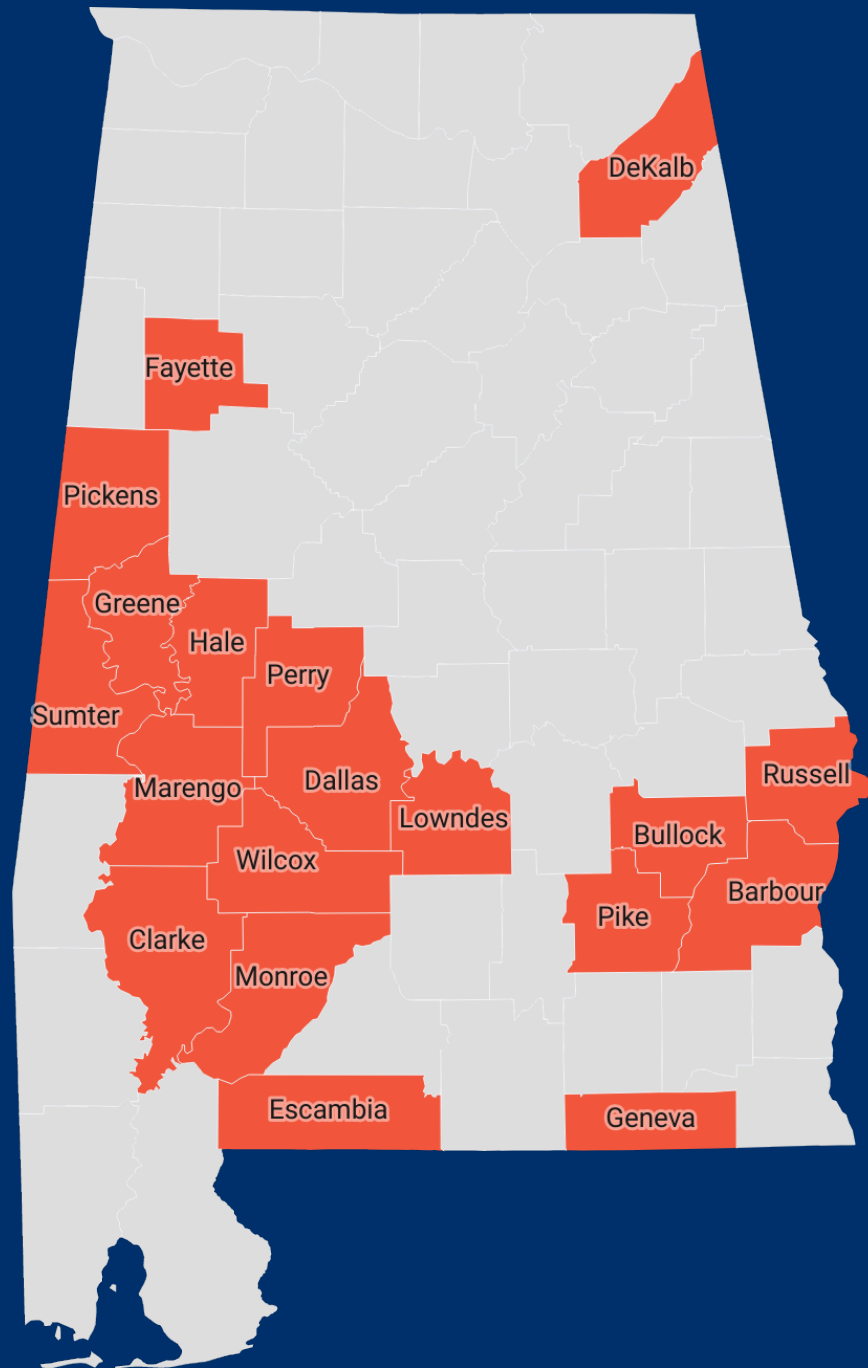
# First Class Pre-K Access Map

Goal: provide 70%  
access to Alabama  
4-year-olds



# Prioritizing First Class Pre-K

Counties where  
more than 20% of  
the population falls  
below the federal  
poverty guidelines.



# **Strong Start, Strong Finish**

## **Alabama Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**

Fifteen counties have answered the call and are working with their Children's Policy Council to improve third-grade reading proficiency through the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. The ADECE is committed to assisting all 67 counties to improve literacy by becoming a Campaign for Grade-Level Reading county.

## **Pre-K-3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning**

P-3 works to ensure student success and achievement gap closure by expanding access to the high-quality First Class Pre-K program model and taking the most successful parts of K-3 initiatives to establish a strong foundation of early learning experiences. In 2022-2023 the program expanded to serve 264 classrooms.

## **AlaKiDs Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**

Alabama Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (AlaKiDs) helps to identify learning needs and possible developmental challenges for children entering kindergarten.

# First Teacher Home Visiting Programs Deliver Results



IMPROVED

health outcomes for  
mothers and babies



REDUCED

cases of child abuse  
and neglect



IMPROVED

school readiness



REDUCED

emergency room visits  
and child injuries

# COVID-19: Challenges to Opportunities

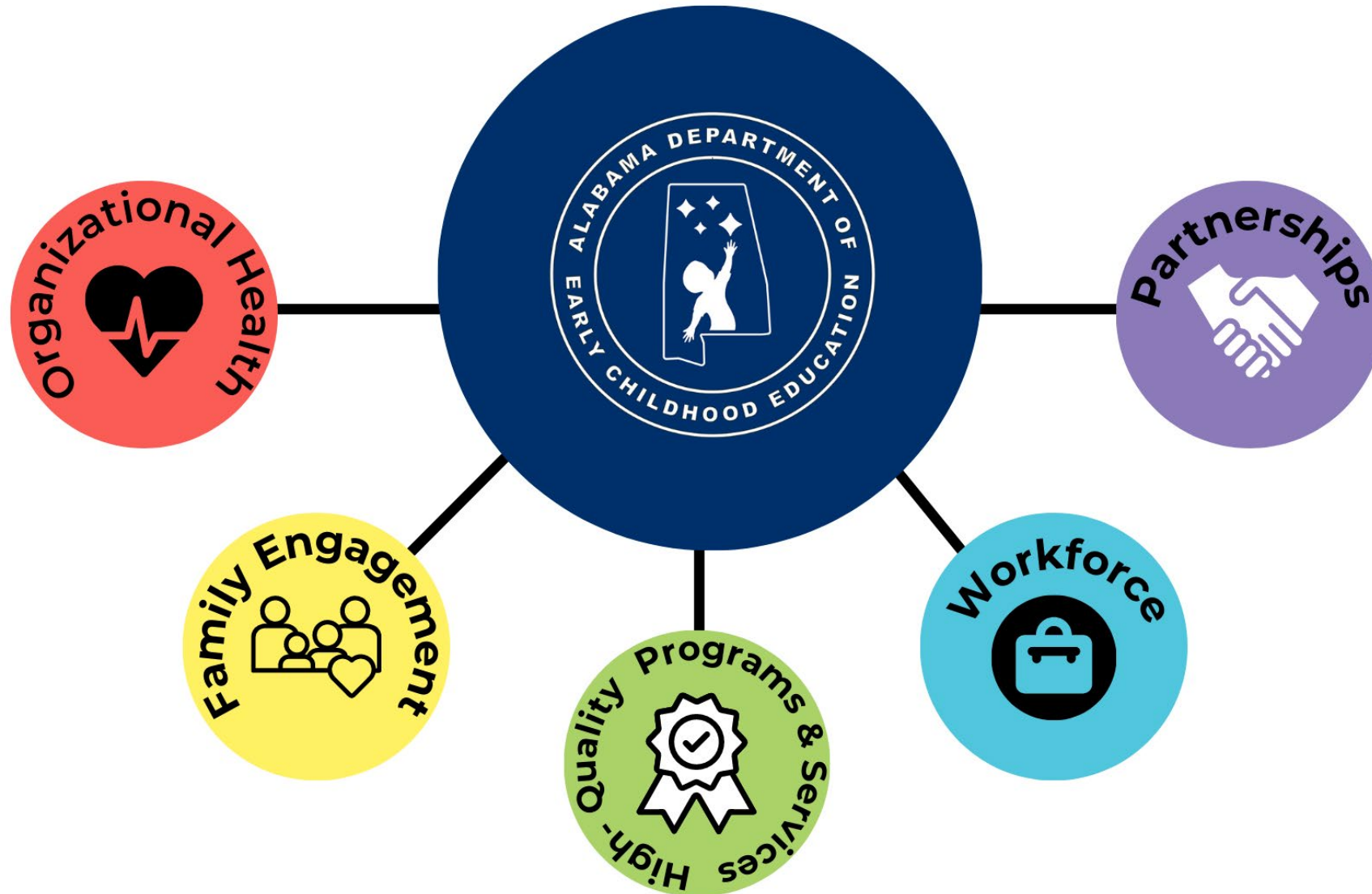
- Developed a Mid-Year First Class Pre-K classroom funding application process to recruit additional classrooms based on need
- Developing key partnerships with State agencies and other organizations providing services to children
- Allocated funds to cover services and supports not implemented or delayed due to the extended impact of the pandemic
- Focusing on supporting the Early Childhood Education workforce with the ECE Apprenticeship and other opportunities
- Strengthened focus on continuous quality improvement
- Supporting Governor Ivey's Turnaround Schools Initiative
- Expanding summer learning classrooms

# Workforce Development

- The Early Childhood Educator Apprenticeship Program
- Career Technical Education Program
- Scholarship Awareness
- Online Degree Programs
- Job Exploration Training Program
- Partnerships with other State Agencies
- Prioritizing Teacher Compensation & Wage Increases
- PDG B-5 Planning Grant



# ADECE Strategic Priorities



# Thank you!

[children.alabama.gov](http://children.alabama.gov)



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
Early Childhood  
Education

