



# Education Support Services board briefing

Disparity Reduction Line of Business

# Presenters

- Kareem Murphy – Assistant County Administrator, Disparity Reduction
- Christa Mims – Director, Education Support Services
- Monica Long – Field Services Client Programming Division Manager, DOCCR
- Sarah Davis – Deputy County Attorney
- Kelsey Dawson – Be at School Division Director, County Attorney's Office
- Amy McNally – Deputy Director, Hennepin County Library
- Sara Hollie – Director, Public Health
- Denise Stewart – Senior Department Administrator, Well-Being

# Agenda

- **Education Support Services**
  - Education timeline
- **Grow, Learn, Thrive strategic vision**
  - Education convening
  - Grow, Learn, Thrive in action
- **Next steps**
  - Governance structure and alignment



# Our commitment to disparity reduction

Through policies, services and programs we will drive disparity reduction and work to benefit people's lives in the areas of:



Health



Income



Justice



Education



Employment



Housing



Connectivity

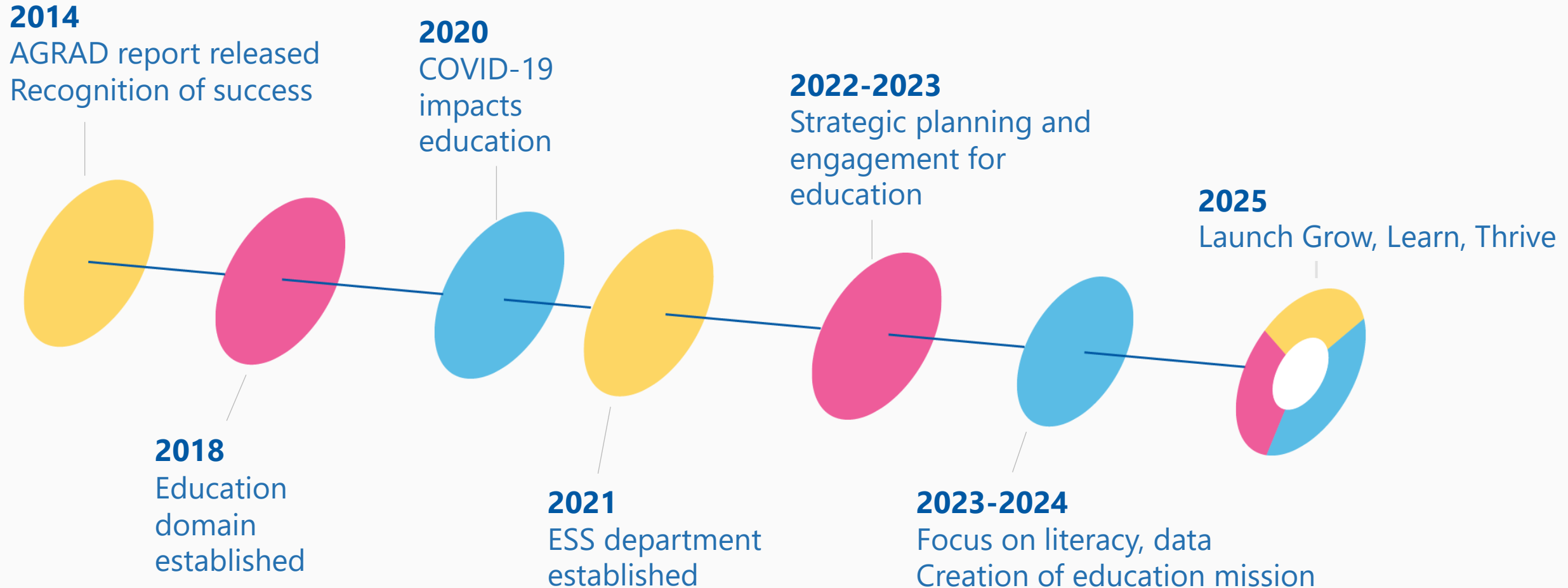




# Education Support Services

Christa Mims, Education Support Services Director

# Education timeline









Healthy childhood development, family stability, mental health, and wellbeing

Literacy, academic skill development, student support in the PreK-12 system

High school graduation, internships, skill development for college and career

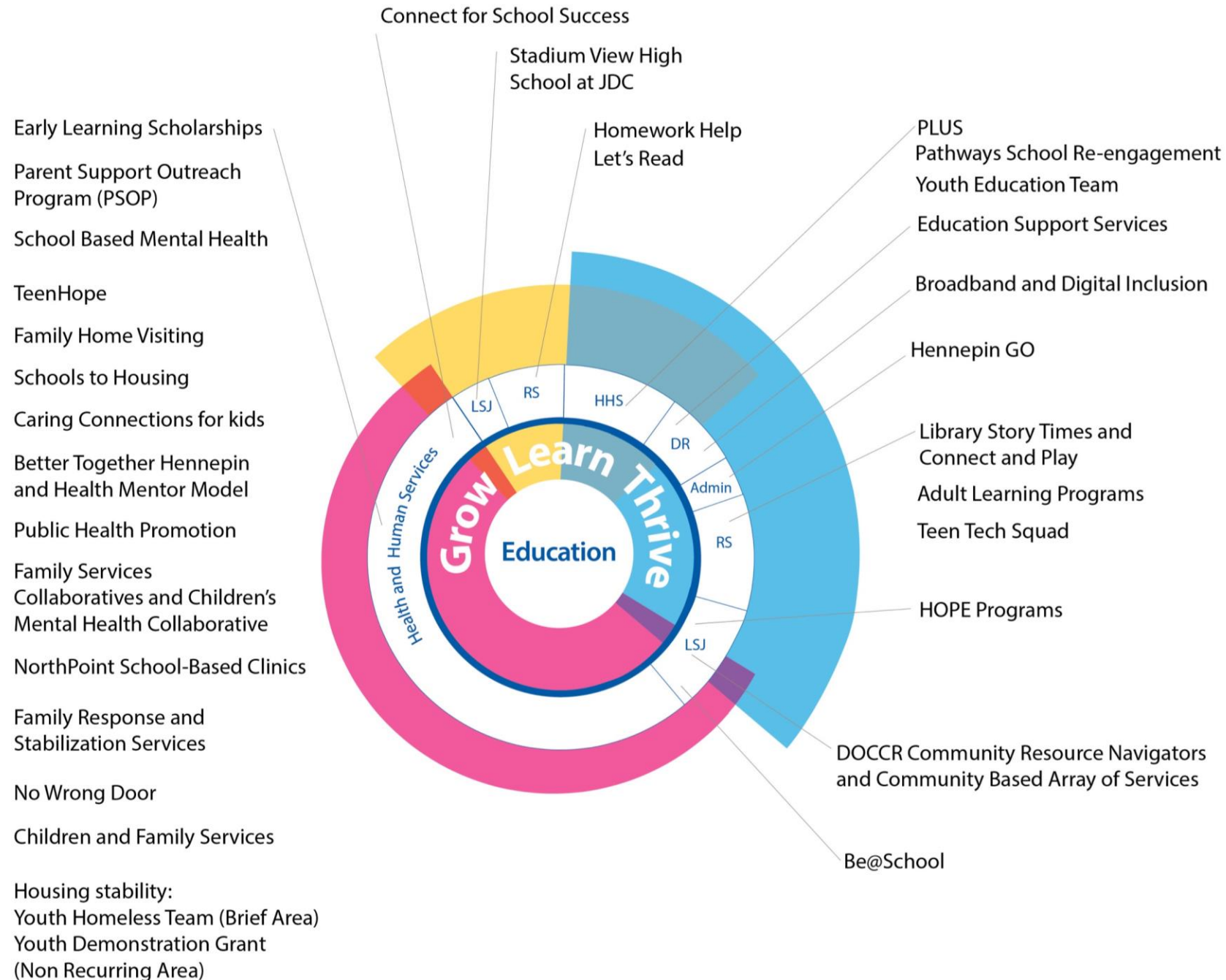




# Education across the county\*

\*Does not reflect every Hennepin County service/program that supports education

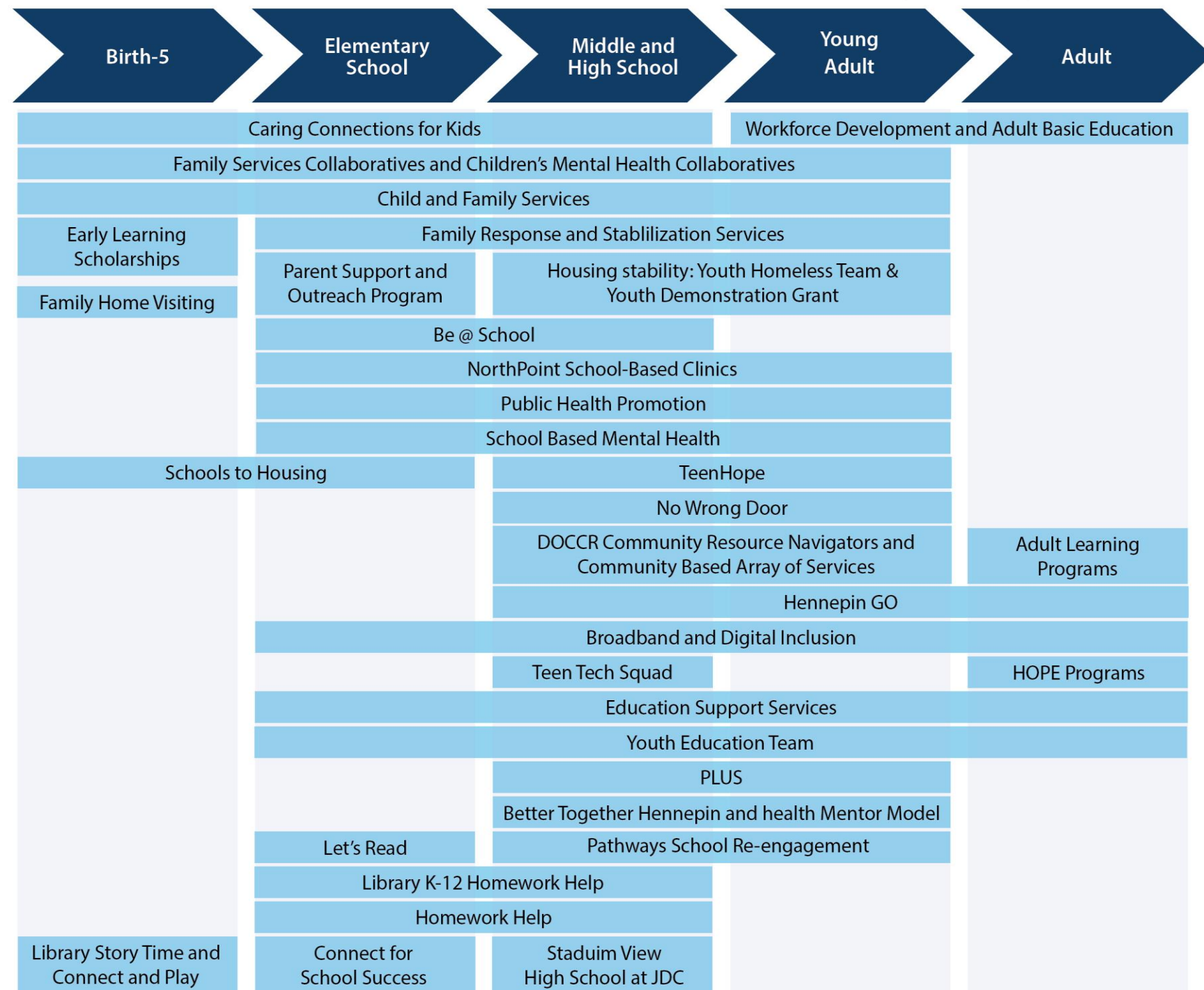
Education Support Services – April 24, 2025



# Education across lifespan\*

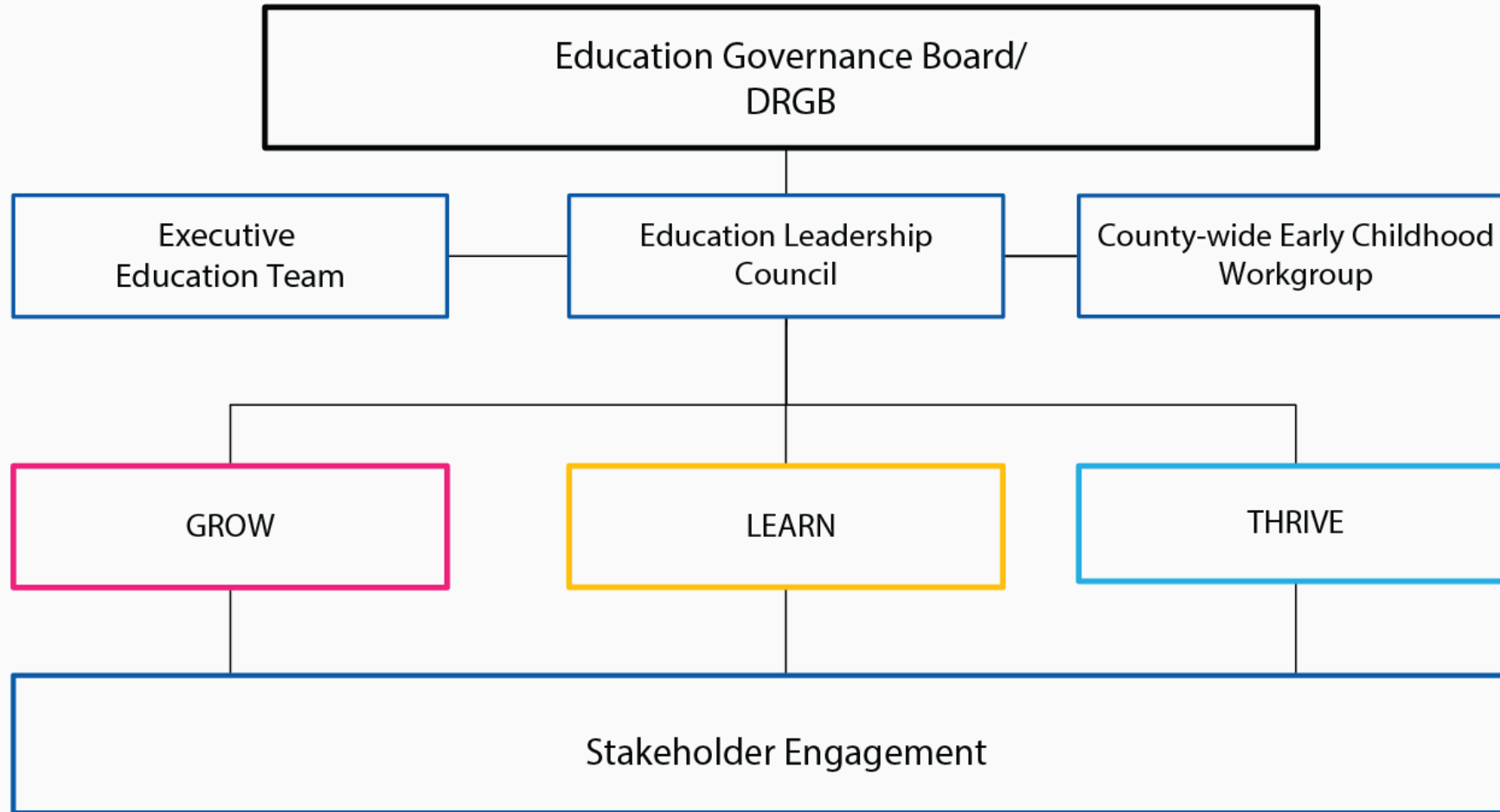
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Education Support Services – April 24, 2025





# Governance structure



# Education convening: First step of implementing Grow, Learn, Thrive





# Grow, Learn, Thrive in action





# Early learning scholarships



Helping children in Hennepin County attend high-quality childcare and early education to ensure they enter kindergarten ready to succeed

3,486

Children received scholarships  
in 2023-24 fiscal year



# Education Support Services: A success story

A ninth-grade student was receiving supports in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and was still struggling.

ESS helped the family review the IEP and assisted the family through a new evaluation that resulted in an updated IEP that added support around task completion and comprehension of learning material.

Since then, the student has been thriving instead of just getting by in classes.

The student was also connected to tutoring services and has increased reading skills from a fourth-grade level to above-grade level.



# Education Support Services



Improved scores on literacy assessments



Improved or maintained high grades in English and math

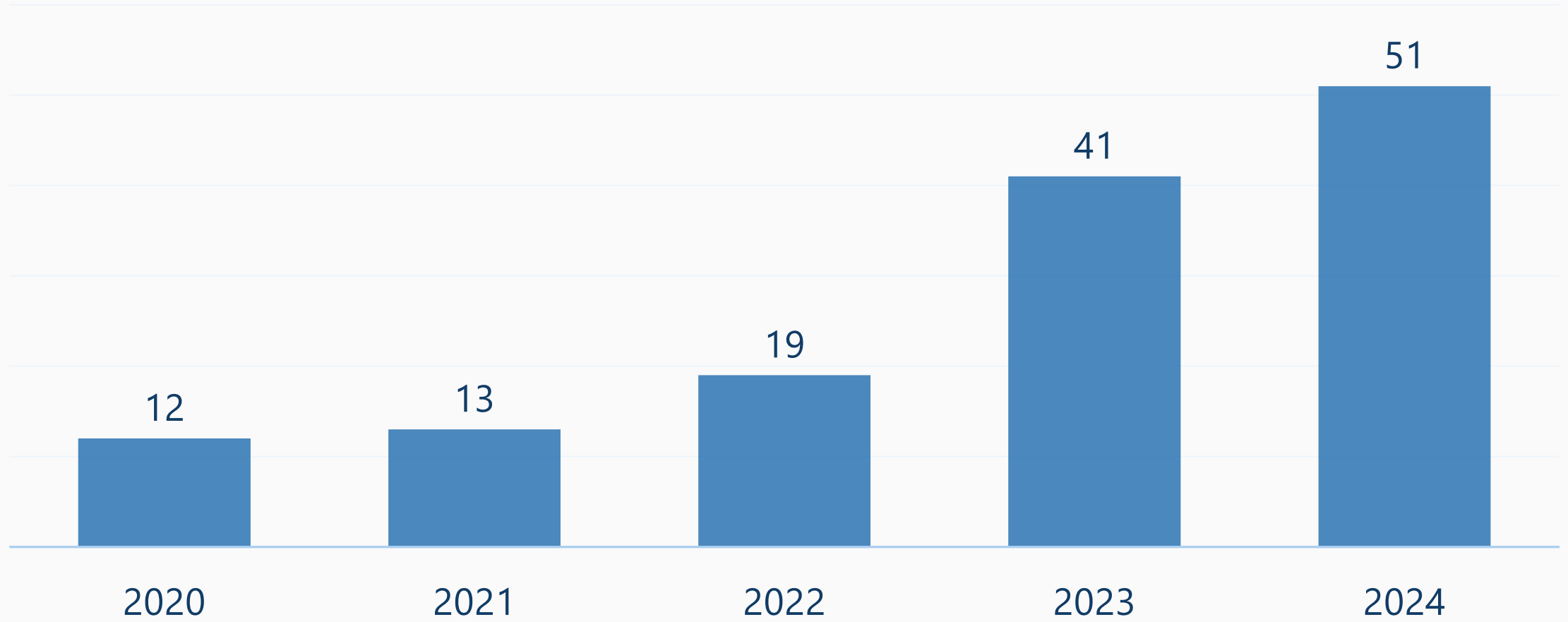


Improved confidence in school





# DOCCR: Referrals to ESS



# DOCCR: Education partnerships

## Education Support Services

- Youth supports, credit recovery, skill remediation
- Adult General Educational Development (GED) programming

## Well-Being area of Human Services

- Pathways to Success and Prodigy Program
- PLUS Program

## Hennepin County Libraries

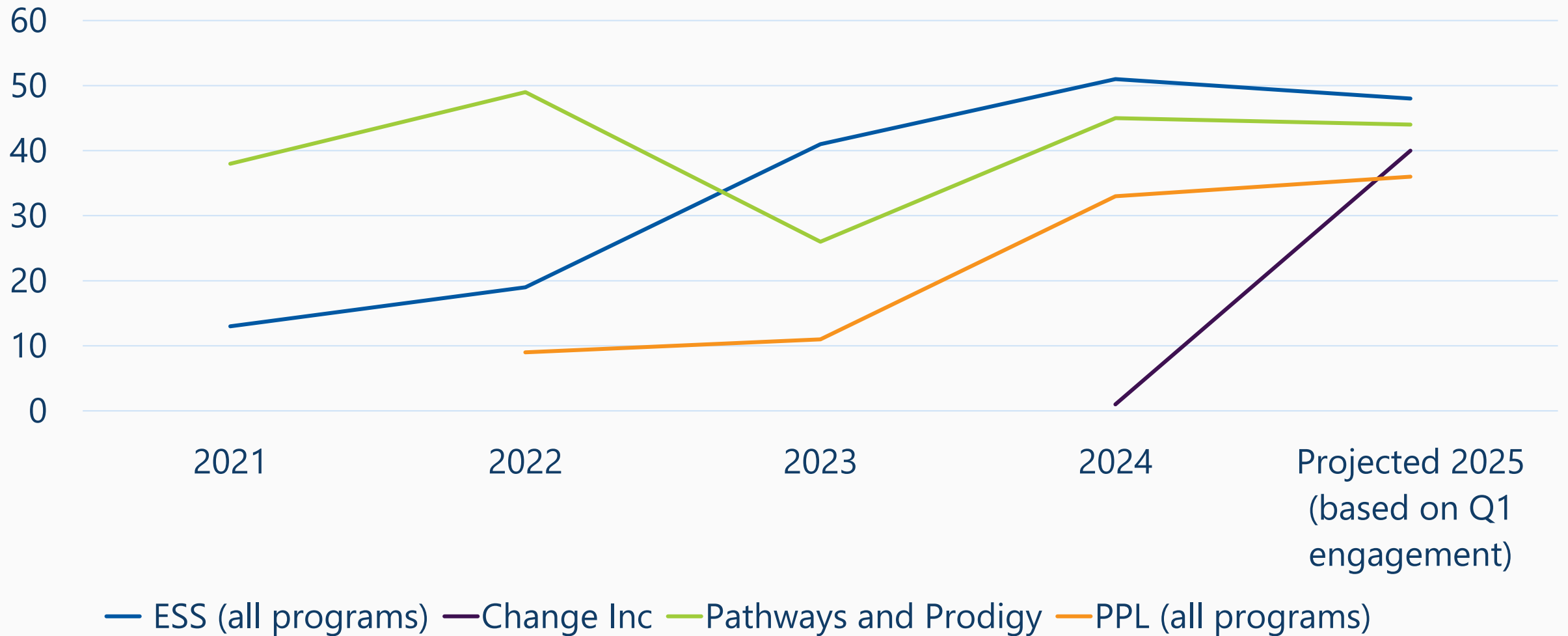
- Book distributions
- LIT(eracy) KITS

## Community Organizations

- Project for Pride in Living
- Change Inc and GAP school
- Community Resource Navigators

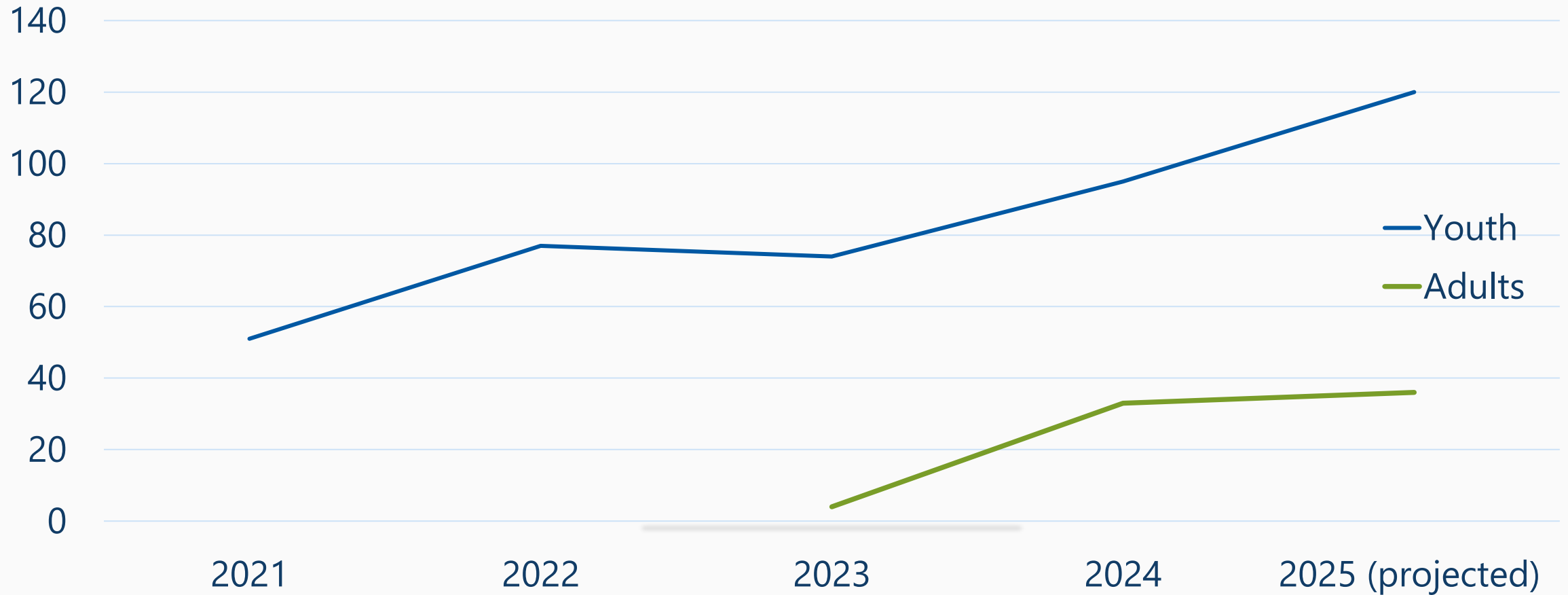


# DOCCR: Students served by partner programs





# DOCCR: Students served by learner age



# DOCCR: Addressing education disparities

We recognize the need to address educational disparities experienced by justice impacted residents.

To do so, DOCCR:

- Continues to grow partnerships with county departments, contracted service providers and community members to identify needs and provide innovative programming
- Embeds education and vocation goals into case planning with Community Corrections clients
- Ensures access to high-impact educational resources for the residents we serve



# Be at School: HCAO's statutory mandate

- MN law requires school attendance for children ages 7-17 (MN Stat. 120A.22)
- County attorneys have sole designated authority to provide truancy diversion
  - MN Stat. 260A.07 - "truancy mediation program for the purpose of resolving truancy problems without court action"
- Be at School is HCAO's programming under this designated authority



# Be at School: Scope, referral numbers

## 2024-2025 school year (as of April)

- **8,656 referrals**, representing **6,500 students**
- **2,142** referrals to Be at School community agency partners
- **22** referrals to Education Support Services
- **63** referrals to Connect for School Success

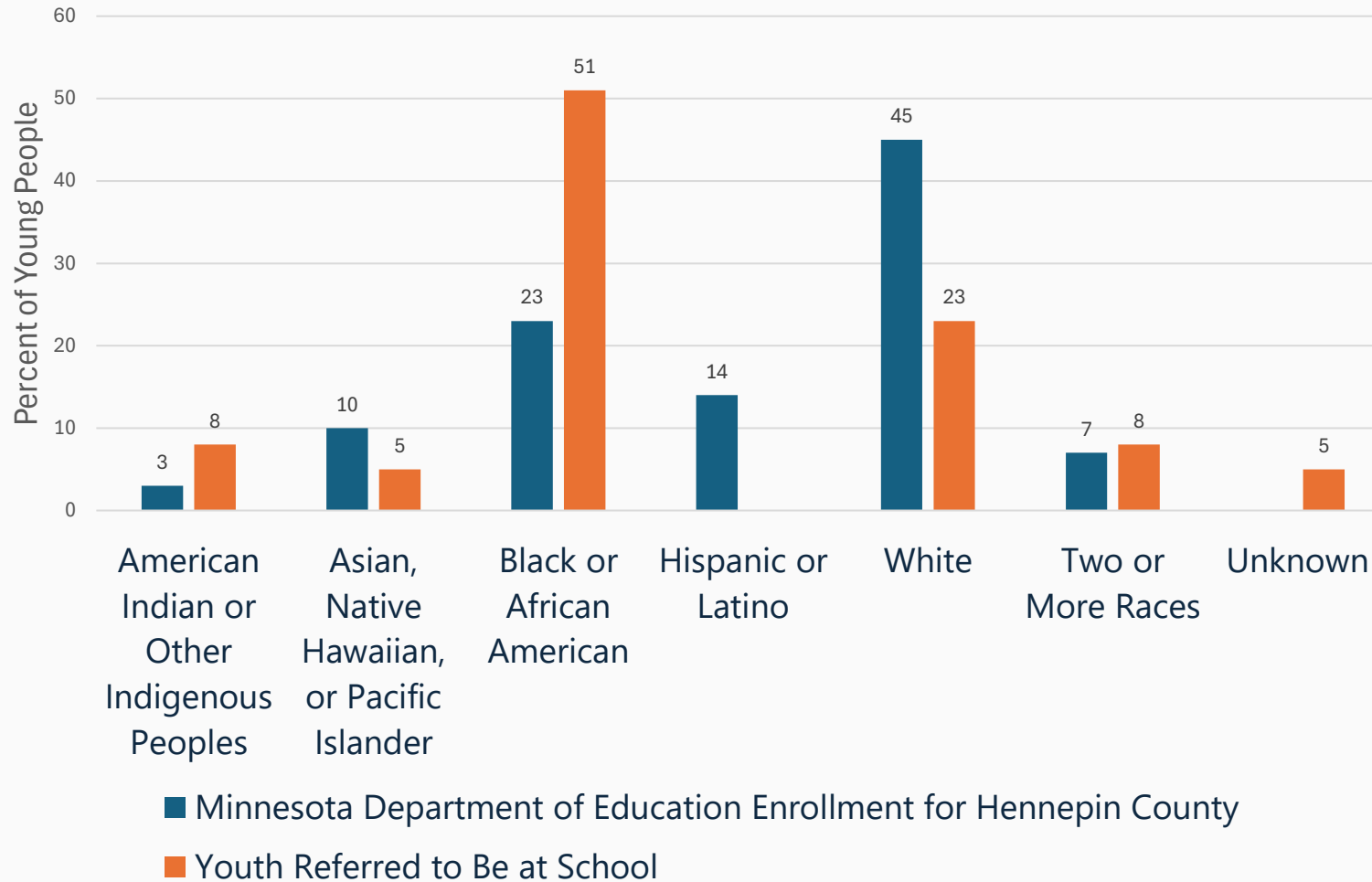
## 2023-2024 school year:

- **9,652 referrals**, representing **7,208 students**
- **3,643** referrals to Be at School community agency partners
- **51** referrals to Education Support Services
- **45** referrals to Connect for School Success





# Be at School: Race and ethnicity – 2023-2024



In Hennepin County,

**1** out of every **7** American Indian students...

**1** out of every **11** African American students...

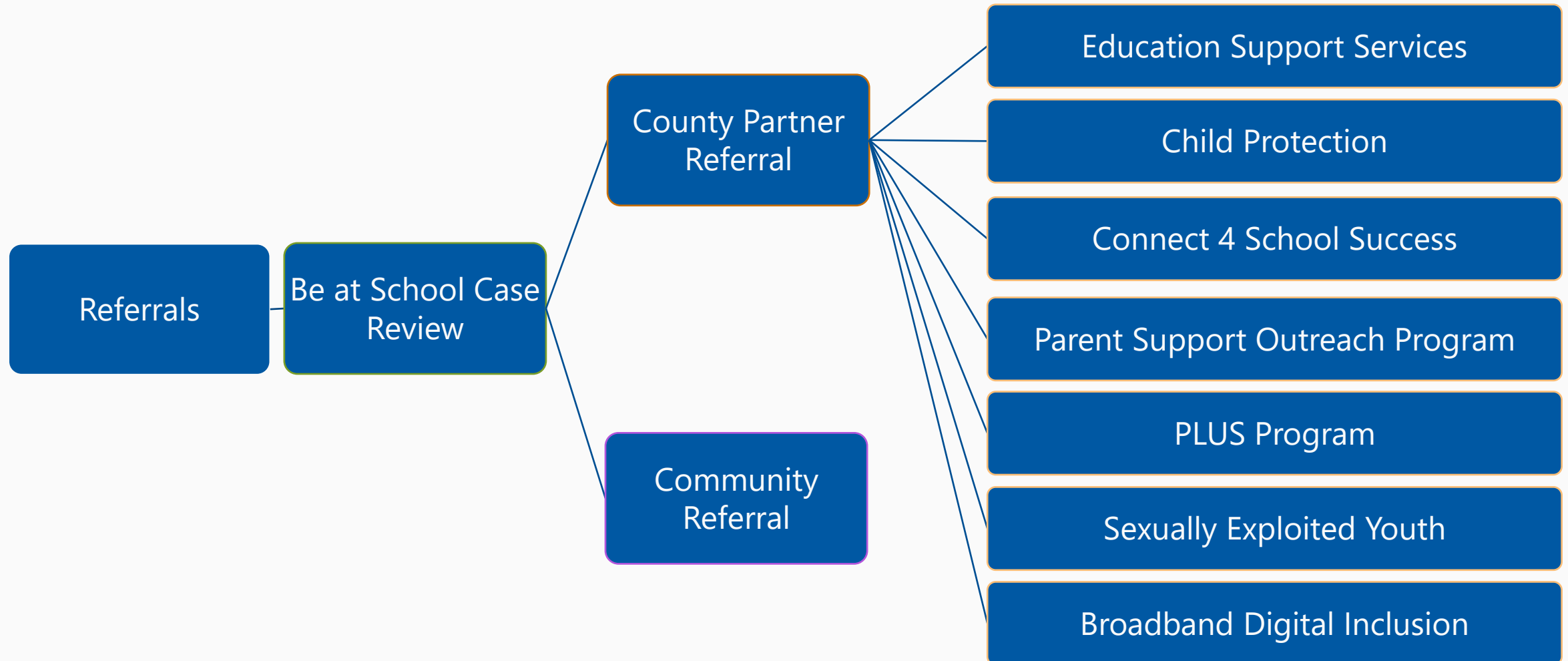
**1** out of every **47** White students...

**1** out of every **72** Asian students...

will be reported as a habitual truant.



# Be at School: Intervention process and partnerships



# Be at School: Child protection screen out referrals

- Child protection sends reports to Be at School that have been screened out but where attendance concerns were alleged in the report
- 105 cases have been assigned so far in the 24-25 school year
- Ability to do a “deeper dive” into cases referred to Be at School by child protection
- Current dedicated staffing in this role opens space for other families to work with contracted community agencies



# Be at School: Collaboration and leadership

Working with Minnesota State Senators and Representatives on four attendance related bills:

1) Enrollment reporting

- [HF 2067](#) (Keeler) -passed (133-0)
- [SF 942](#) (Kunesh)

2) Truancy or educational neglect age presumptions

- [SF 2882](#) (Cwodzinski)

3) Truancy support grants (attendance campaign)

- [HF 2043](#) (Greene)

4) Attendance database working group

- Prepared by Revisors Office/Green jacketed (Nadeau)



Be at School was an active participant with the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

County Attorney Moriarty hosted the student's Absenteeism Round Table in partnership with Representative Keeler, Representative Greene, Representative Bakeberg





# Hennepin County Library

## 41+ play & learn spaces

- Added family shelter sites
- Play training for shelter staff

## Early learning programs

- Storytime, Connect & Play
- 2400+ early learning programs across 39 library locations



# Hennepin County Library



## Let's Read

- Pilot year completed, 8 locations, 145 students, 1747 tutoring sessions

## Homework Help

- 8,400 tutoring sessions at 18 locations
- 97% BIPOC students
- 89% speak language other than English at home

## School visits

- 114 school visits reaching 11,467 students

## Gift books



# Hennepin County Library

“

When you have trauma, there's so many barriers and roadblocks in your brain. And you feel like you can't think on your own. He'll read but only to get it done, not to learn.

When he comes here, he is able to read to understand and that is encouraging. Having someone there is good safe energy and that person is here to help him. He is able to be taught in a way he is able to learn with that trust and can overcome that challenge of the roadblock.

If he's not learning the way they teach then they teach the way he learns, and that's what we get from this program.

”

-Let's Read caregiver



# Hennepin County Library

## Teen Tech Squads

- 174 STEAM workshops for 1,927 kids & 613 teens

## Youth employment

- 21 Teen Tech Squad interns
- 20 Teen Specialists at 19 locations

## Adult learning

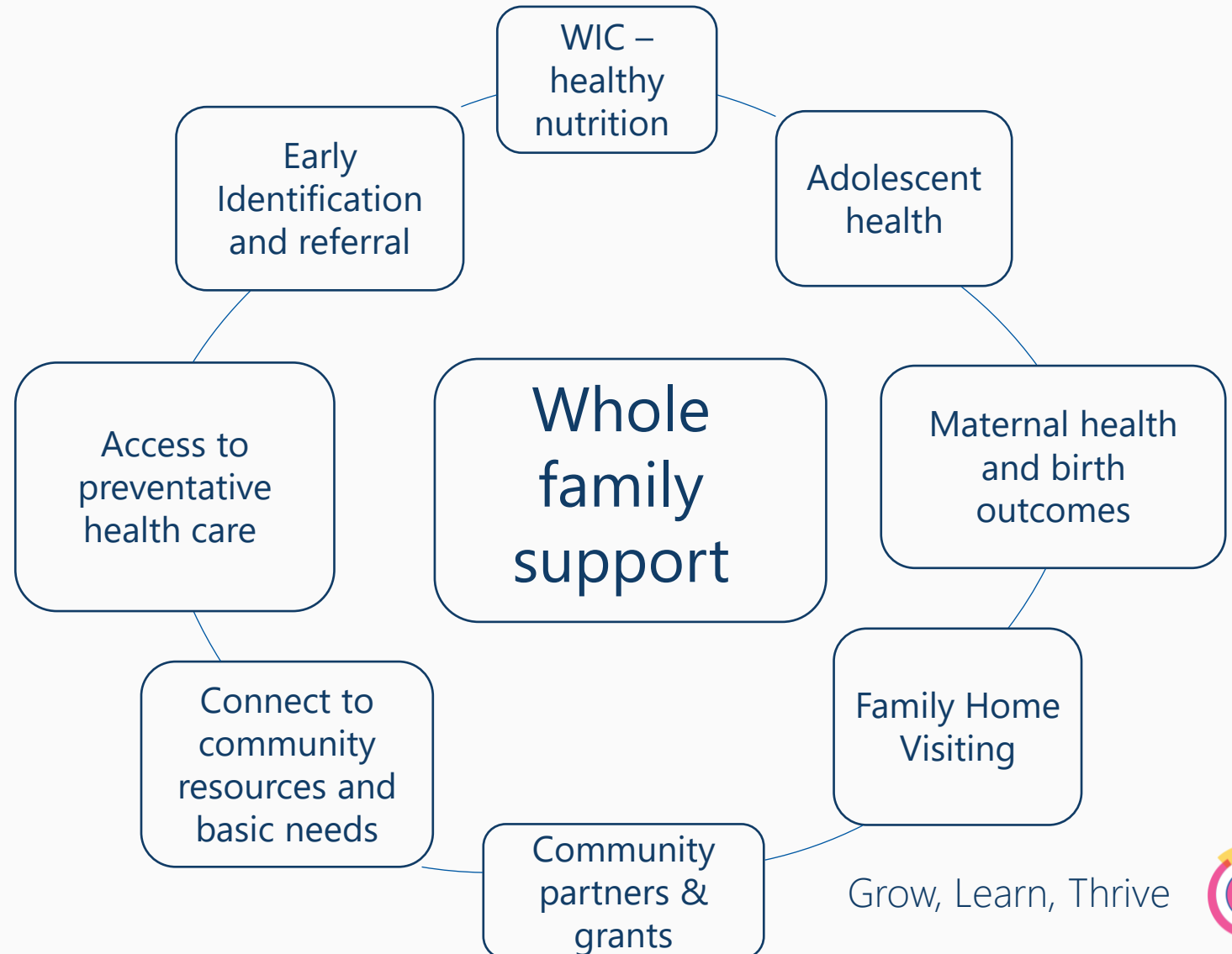




# Public Health: Family Health

## Preventative services

- Supporting the health of birthing people before and during pregnancy
- Supporting parent/child attachment and interaction
- Conducting screenings and referrals for early intervention
- Cultivating positive early experiences and a healthy start
- Increasing protective factors



# Family home visiting



A home-based service delivered prenatally through the early years of a child's life.

- Support for people who are pregnant or parenting young children
- A holistic, two-generation approach
- Relationship-based
- Evidence-based and evidence-informed
- Voluntary and free
- Links to community resources
- Preventative

# Reducing barriers and increasing supports

## ▶ Family home visiting

- 1,075 families served in 2024
- 36.2% African American (389 families)
- 1.02% Native American (*11 families*)

## ▶ What we know

- Work upstream to change families' trajectory
- Reduce child maltreatment
- Mitigate adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)



# Well-being

- The PLUS Program served 98 students in 8 different alternative schools in 2024, and 32 graduated from high school
- Teen Hope currently supports 231 young parents pursuing their High School diploma
- The Pathways School Re-Engagement program served 132 students, and 16 students received their GEDs in 2024





# Connect for School Success



- The Connect for School Success program served 386 students from 168 families served since 2022
- 66% of elementary students who completed the program had improved attendance, gaining an average of eight school days per school year





# Recognition of Success



# Recognition of Success



# Next steps

- Develop internal education hub
- Hold Recognition of Success Ceremony May 30
- Establish Education Leadership Council
- Implement education governance structure
- Identify strategic goals for Grow, Learn, Thrive





# Discussion and questions

