



PRE4CLE

Testimony

Katie Kelly, Executive Director, PRE4CLE

Ohio Senate Health Committee

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PRE4CLE

When our smallest students shine, Cleveland thrives.

Summary of PRE4CLE

- Initiative to expand access to high-quality preschool to all 3- and 4-year-olds in Cleveland
- Launched in 2014
- Led by city, county, school district, early learning, and community partners
- Approximately \$25 million/year in local funding toward preschool in Cleveland

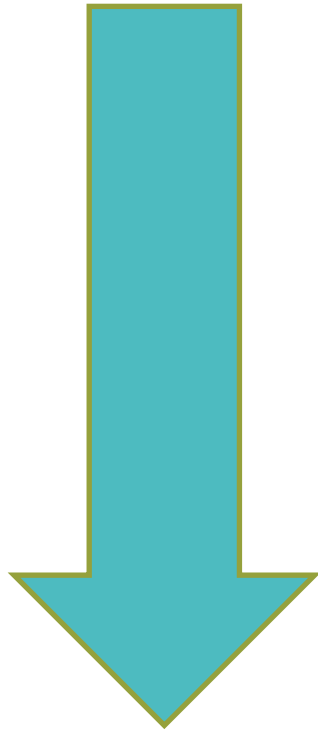


Urgent Challenges in Ohio's Child Care System

- **Staffing shortages** are severely reducing child care availability for working families.
- **Unprecedented behavioral health challenges** are overwhelming early learning classrooms.



Ohio's Child Care Workforce



- Overall, in Ohio, **62% of child care programs are reporting a staffing shortage** (NAEYC, 2022)
- Shortages are a result of **low wages** and a **lack of qualified applicants**.

Examples from regional surveys:

- **2,500 vacant child care positions in Northeast Ohio** (December 2022, Starting Point)
- **1,985 vacant child care positions in Central Ohio** (November 2022, Action for Children)
- **354 vacant child care positions in Southwest Ohio**, and 234 classrooms shuttered.



Child Care Wages in Ohio: Actual Wages in March 2022

Average Ohio Child Care Teacher: **\$11-\$13/Hour, few or no benefits**

Amazon starting wage: **\$16-18/hour, full benefits**

Target starting wage: **\$15/hour, health care, PTO, tuition reimbursement**

Car Wash Assistant: **\$15/hour, some benefits**



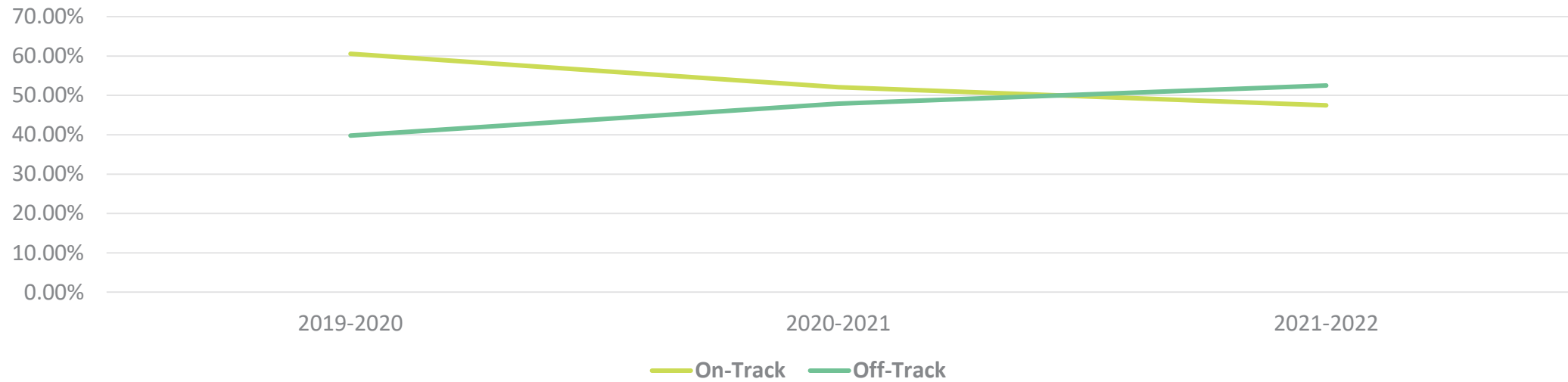
Budget Requests for HB 33

- Restore \$150 million in ARPA funding for child care scholarships for critical occupations
- Restore \$10 million for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation



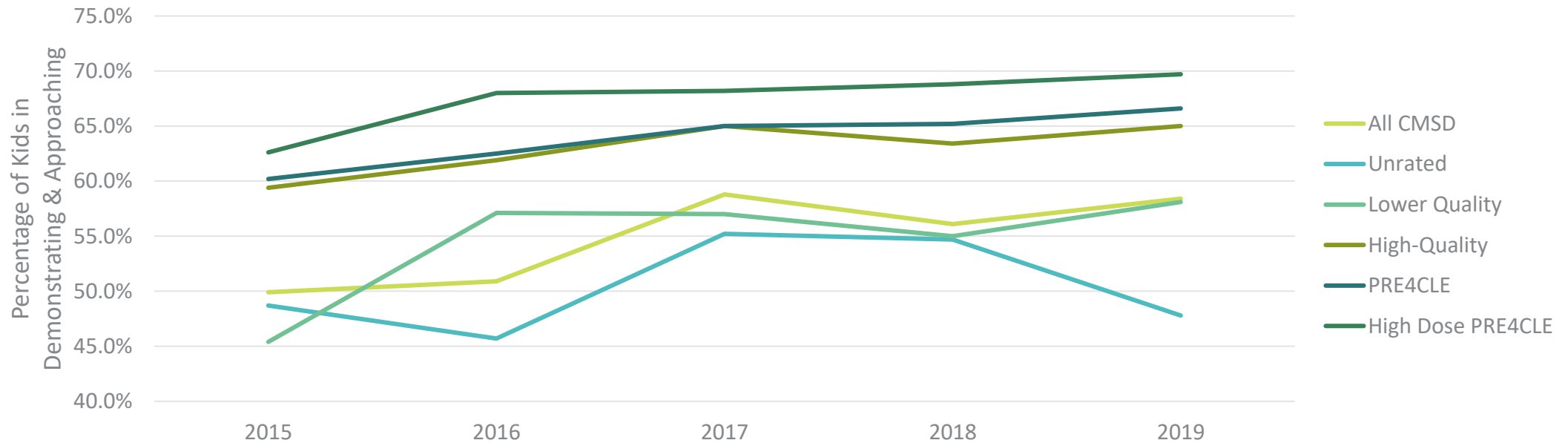
Building the Workforce of Tomorrow: Kindergarten Readiness

Percent of Kindergarteners On-Track for Literacy and Language



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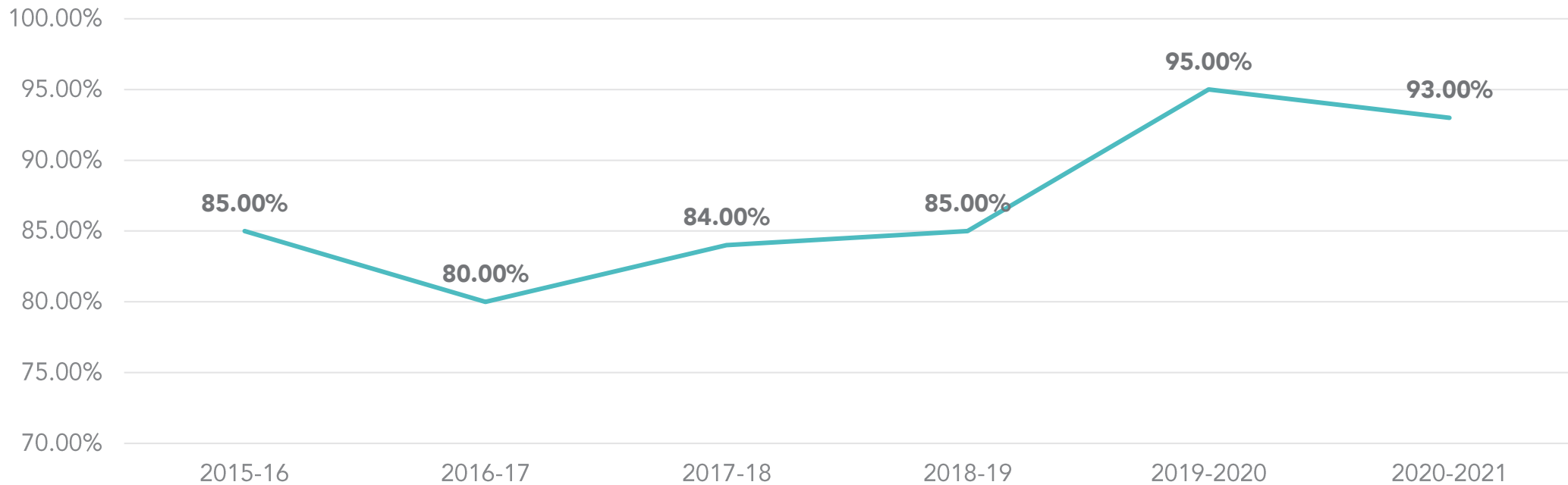
Percent of Kindergarteners in Approaching & Demonstrating Bands of KRA in Cleveland



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K-3 Literacy Improvement in Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Percent of Third Graders Passing the Third Grade Reading Guarantee



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Contact

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