



# Navigating 4K Enrollment Decisions

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# What did we do?

- **Research Question:**

- *How do parents make decisions about whether and where their child will go to 4K?*

- **Data collection January-August 2018**

- Surveyed 2017-18 kindergarten parents (556 returned)
- Interviewed 51 parents

- **Analysis**

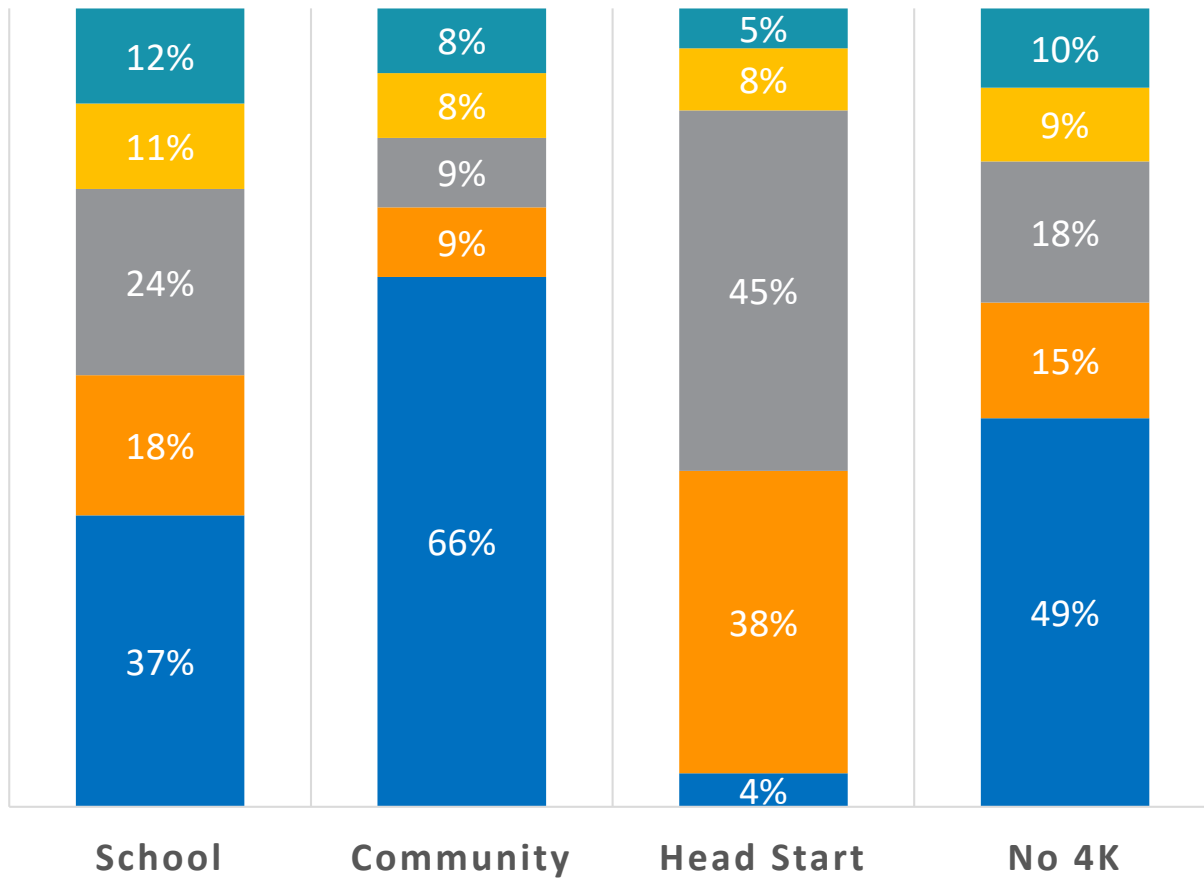
- Relation among family characteristics, 4K site selection & decision considerations
- Thematic analysis of interviews
- Put administrative, survey, & interview data in conversation with each other

# What did we learn?

## Social & economic sorting in 4K enrollment

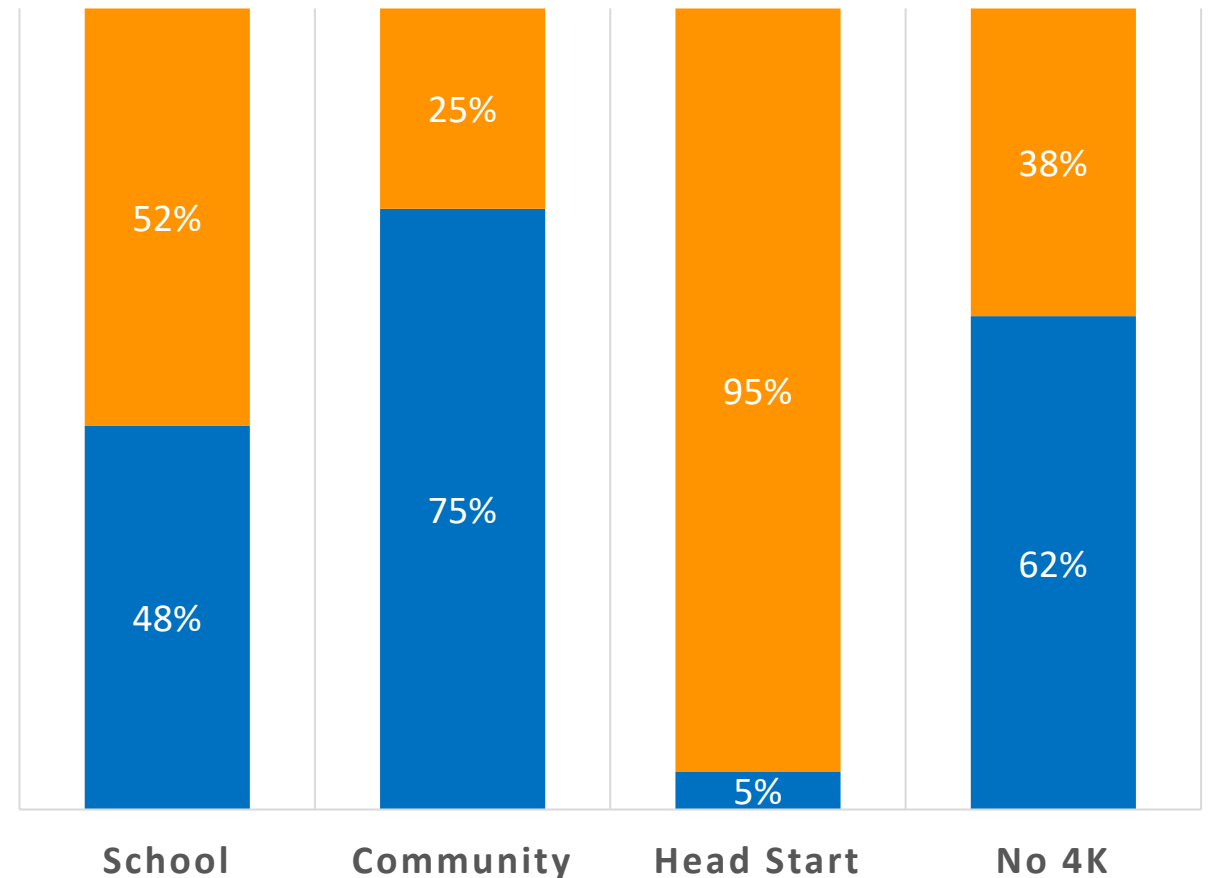
### Race/Ethnicity

■ White ■ Black ■ Hispanic ■ Asian ■ Multiracial



### Free/Reduced lunch eligibility

■ Non-Eligible ■ Eligible





# The cost of part-time 4K

It made more sense to pay for the private preK. It was actually less expensive than paying for . . . wraparound care and doing a public program.

- No 4K

Why half day? All that does is throw my whole daycare situation up in the air. I've got to either go pick him up and run him over to a daycare for half the time, which doesn't cost half the price. So, I decided to send him to the public school.

We just can't afford daycare for two children.

-School 4K



# What does it mean for early learning?

- To produce equity, 4K must include a) quality and b) access
- Rather than choices, parents make decisions about 4K that are accommodations to their complex lives.
- Developing quality 4K programs is a first step. MMSD should consider how the 4K program design supports or constrains access.
- WI 4K design doesn't match the demands of working families. That impacts access, a critical requirement of equity.
- Let's think about full-day 4K.