



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
EARLY EDUCATION RESEARCH

# **New Jersey and High Quality Pre-K: Building on Past Success to Move Forward**



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# Why Invest in Quality Pre-K?

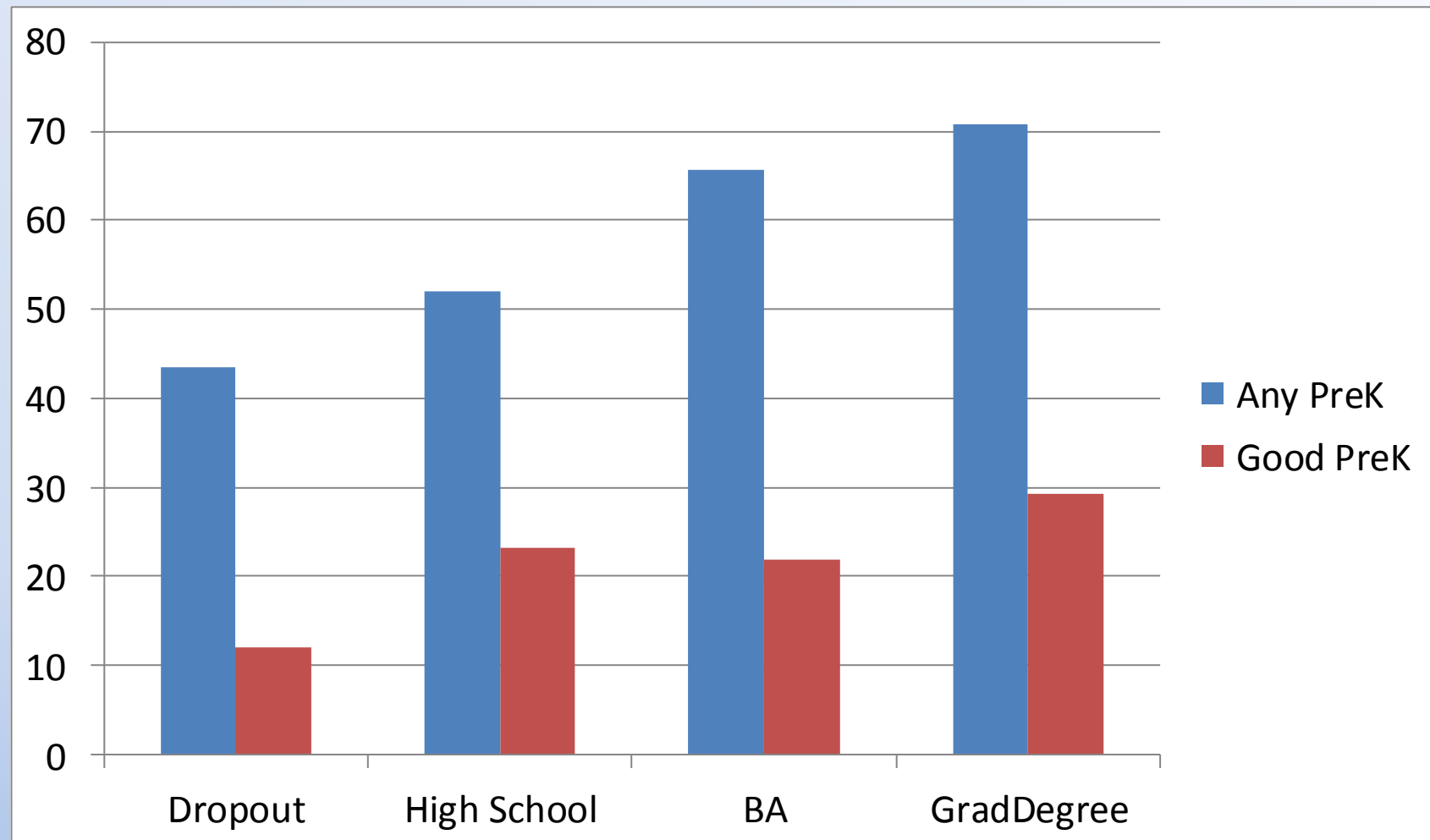
## **Educational, Social and Economic Success**

- Better academic and social skills
- Reduced needs for special education and grade repetition
- Increased educational attainment
- Less problem behavior, delinquency, and crime
- Better adult life outcomes: employment, earnings, & health

## **Decreased Government Spending**

- Lower school costs
- Lower social services costs
- Lower crime costs
- Lower health care costs

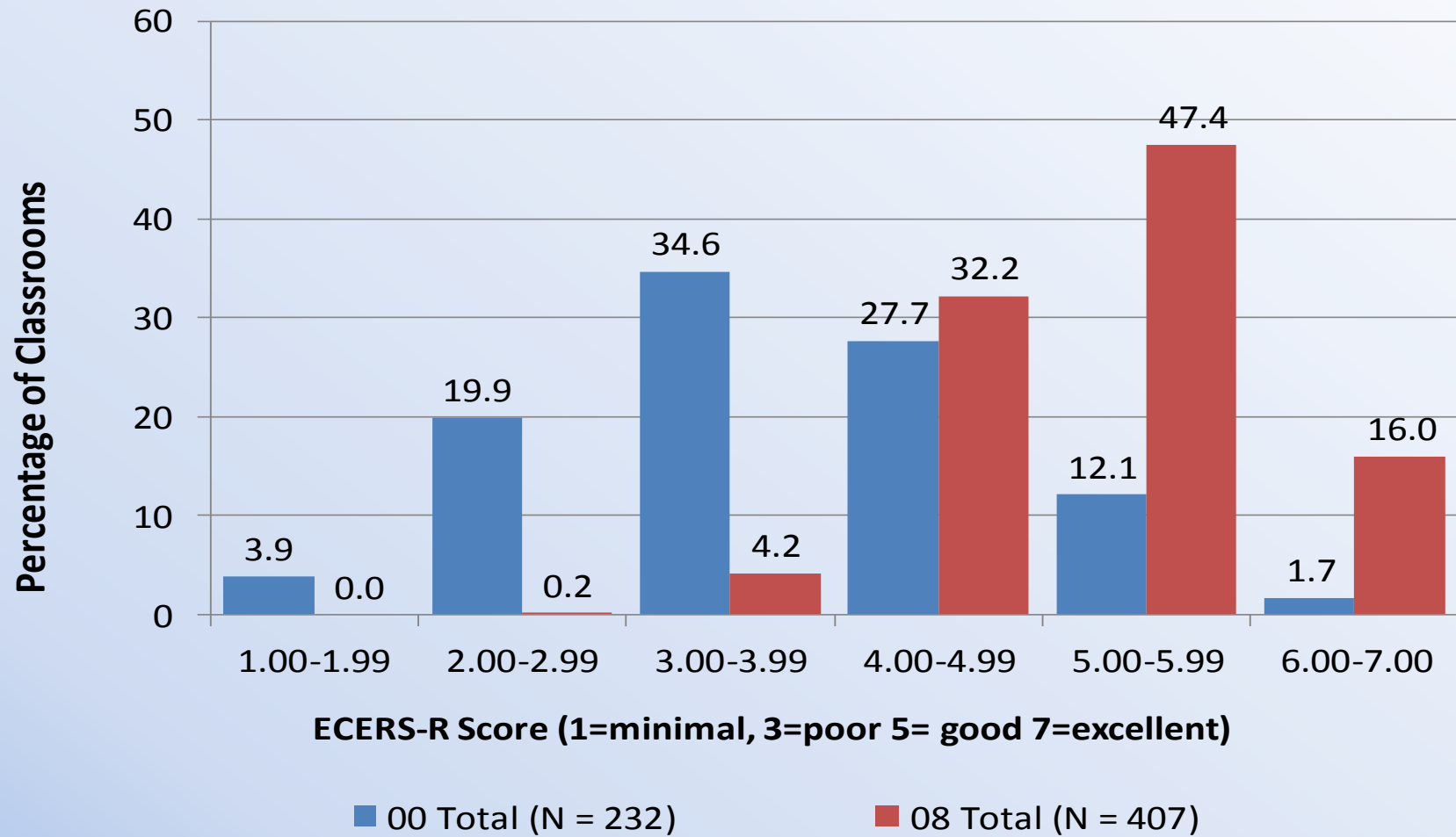
# Unfortunately for even well-off families quality pre-K is hard to find and expensive



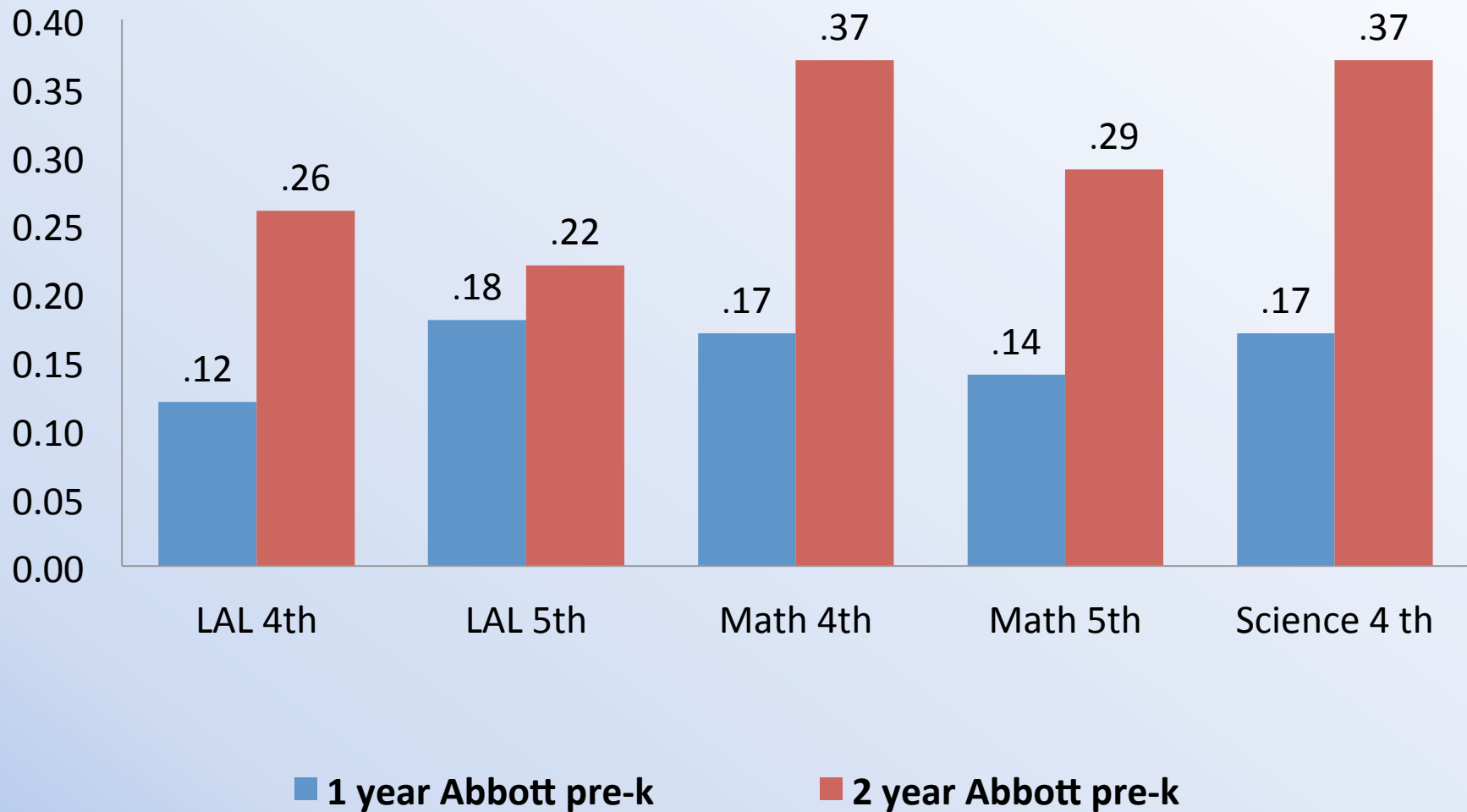
## **NJ has a world-class pre-K program, but access is limited to 31 school districts**

- Court ordered “Abbott” pre-K for 31 high needs districts with 25% of state’s children
- High standards for learning and teaching
- Good teachers and small classes
- 6 hour educational day
- District administered public-private (60%) system
- Continuous improvement system ensures quality
- Research demonstrates program is effective

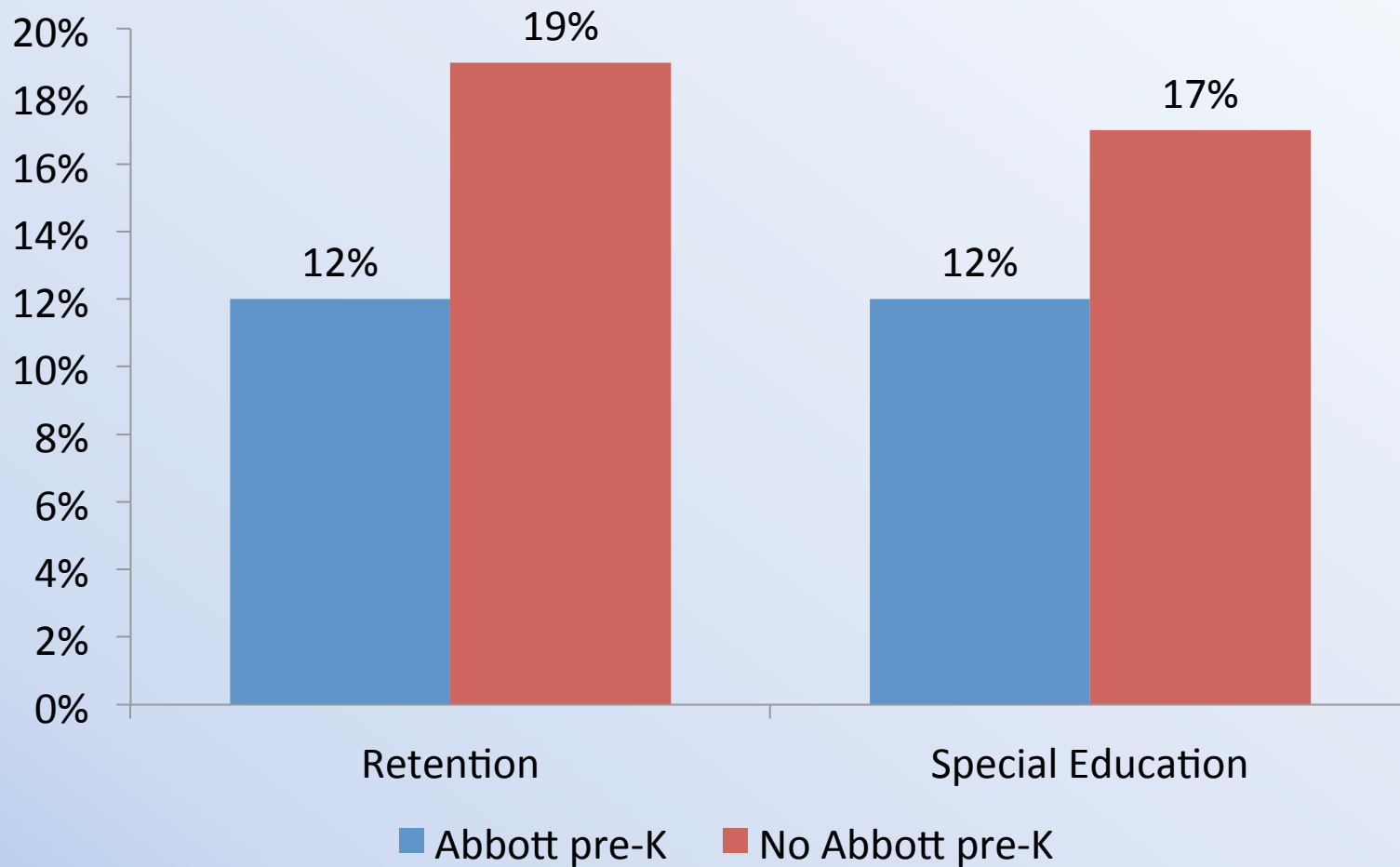
# NJ's Abbott Pre-K Dramatically Raised Quality



## Test Scores Improved Substantially (achievement in grades 4 and 5)

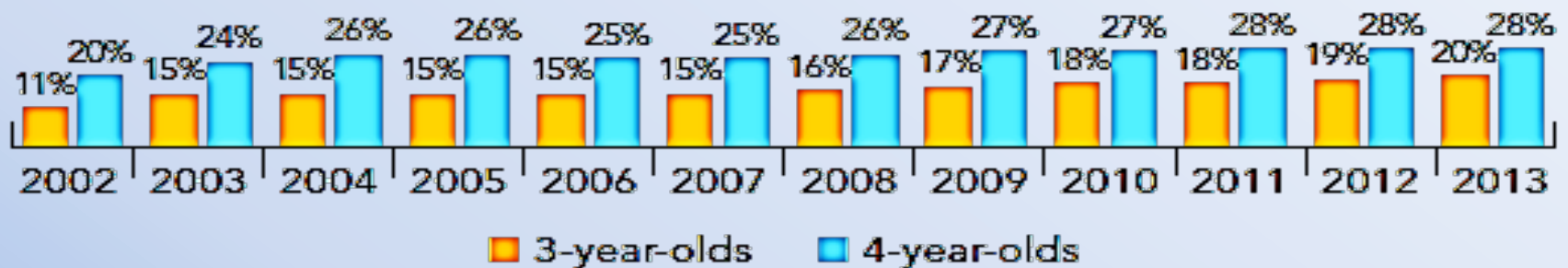


## Less Need for Grade Repetition & Special Education (grade 5) which saves money in K-12



# New Jersey Needs to Expand Access to Quality Pre-K: Limited Progress in Last 5 Years

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED





# Moving Forward



1. High Quality (HQ) Pre-K prepares children for success in school and life
2. New Jersey has a highly successful, **proven** Pre-K model, access is limited to 31 school districts
3. State legislation to offer the model to more children and families was passed in 2008, but never funded
4. The state just received a 4-year federal grant to increase access to its HQ Pre-K, this helps get us started
5. NJ should build on the federal grant to enable 1000's more NJ children to benefit for HQ Pre-K
6. NJ could save nearly \$600 million per year in K-12 alone by providing HQ Pre-k to all children under 200% FPL