

# High-Quality PreK Curriculum for Young Learners: Evidence from the Boston Public Schools



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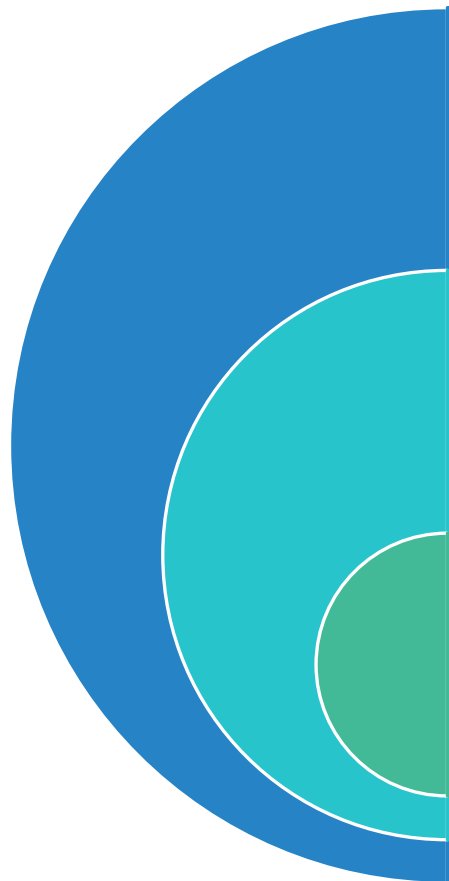
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# Tenets of Boston Pre-K

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High-quality curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Domain-specific curricula</li><li>• Rich content &amp; foundational skills</li></ul>
High-quality teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pay parity with K-12</li><li>• Consistent PD and coaching</li></ul>
New: High-quality K-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instructional alignment mapped onto PreK</li><li>• Investments in K-2 workforce</li></ul>

# Boston Prekindergarten History

2005

UPK start;  
Department  
of Early  
Childhood  
established

## ***Structural quality investments***

- Teachers paid on the same scale as K-12 teachers
- Teachers subject to same educational requirements as K-12 teachers  
(including masters degree within 5 years)
- Not means-tested; open to any child in the city, regardless of family income
- 1:11 teacher-student ratio

# Boston Prekindergarten History

*“Boston preschools falling far short of goals...  
hobbled by mediocre instruction” –  
Boston Globe, 2007*

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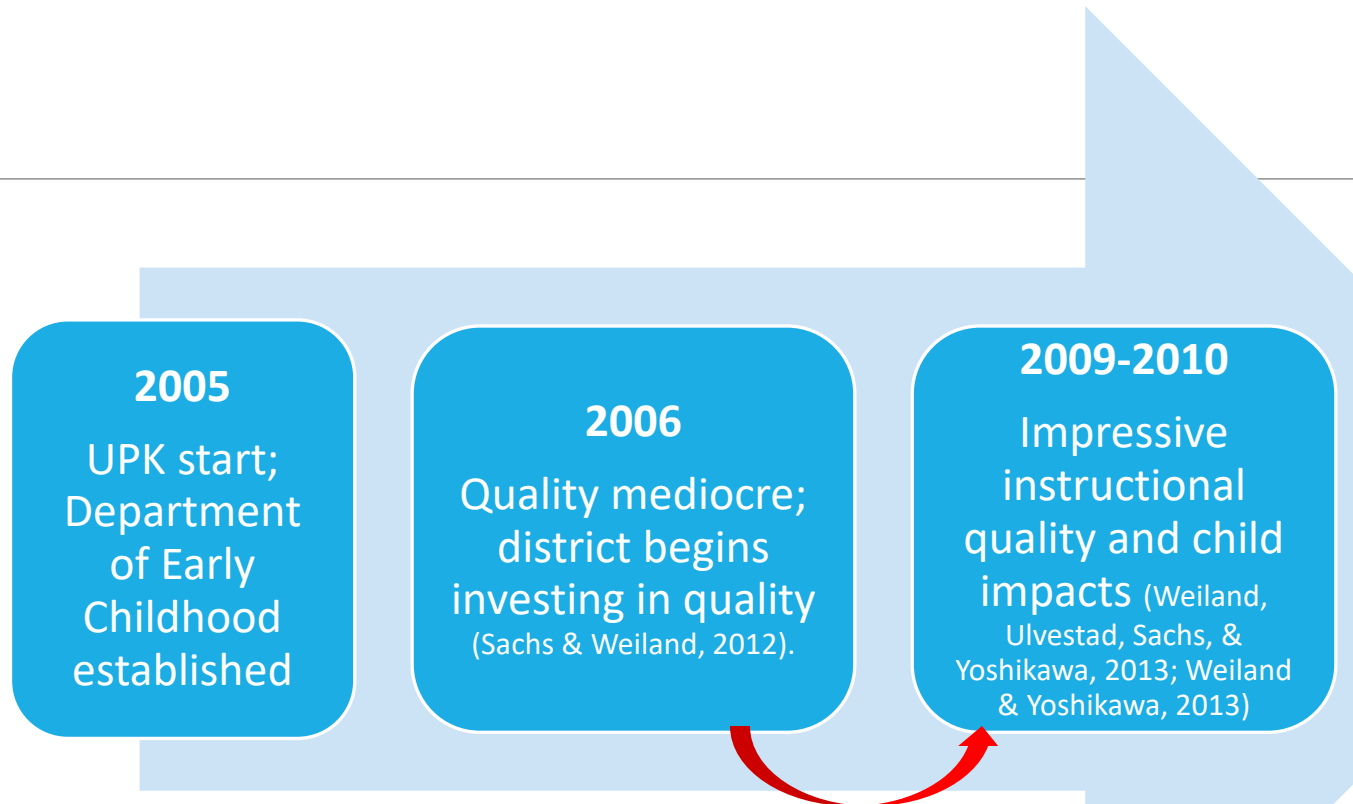
**2006**

Quality mediocre;  
district begins  
investing in quality  
(Sachs & Weiland,  
2012).

## ***Process quality investments***

- Proven language, literacy, and mathematics curricula
- Paired with training on the curriculum (6 days math; 7 days language and literacy) and weekly to bi-weekly in-classroom coaching by an expert coach
- Classroom quality observed and evaluated by outside researchers bi-annually. Data are non-punitive. Fed back to teachers to improve their practice and used for district-wide planning.

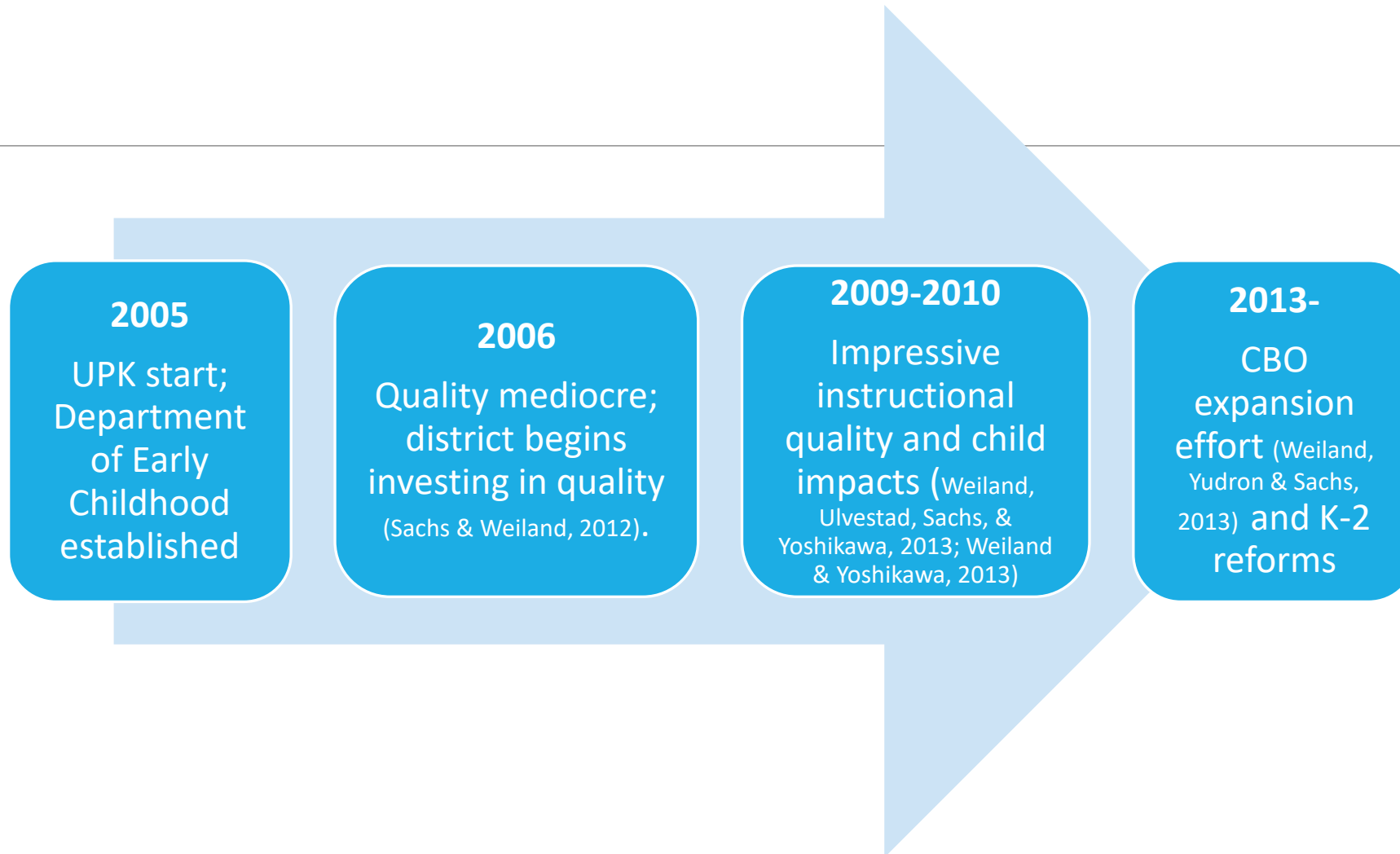
# Boston Prekindergarten History



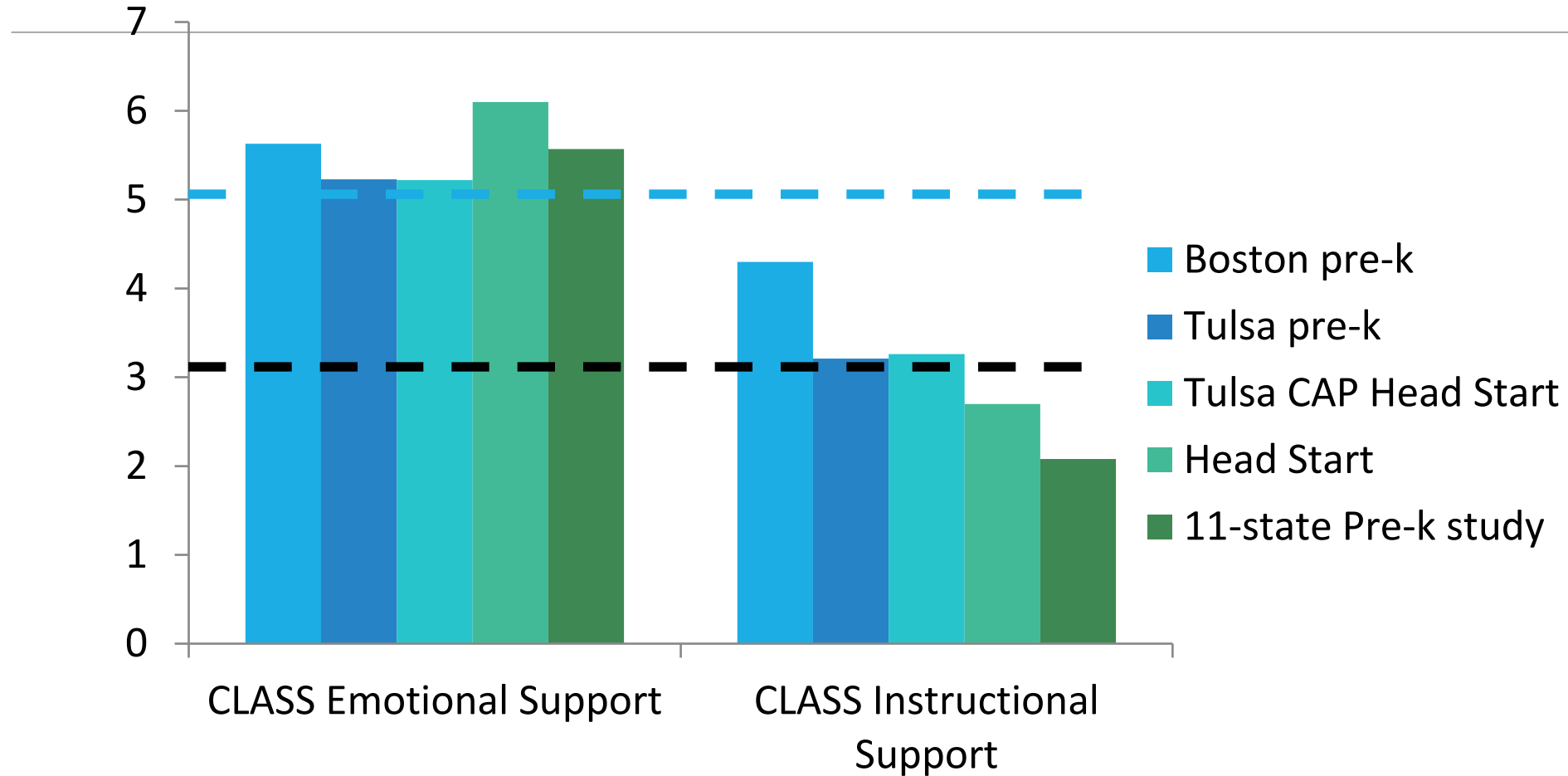
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# Boston Prekindergarten History

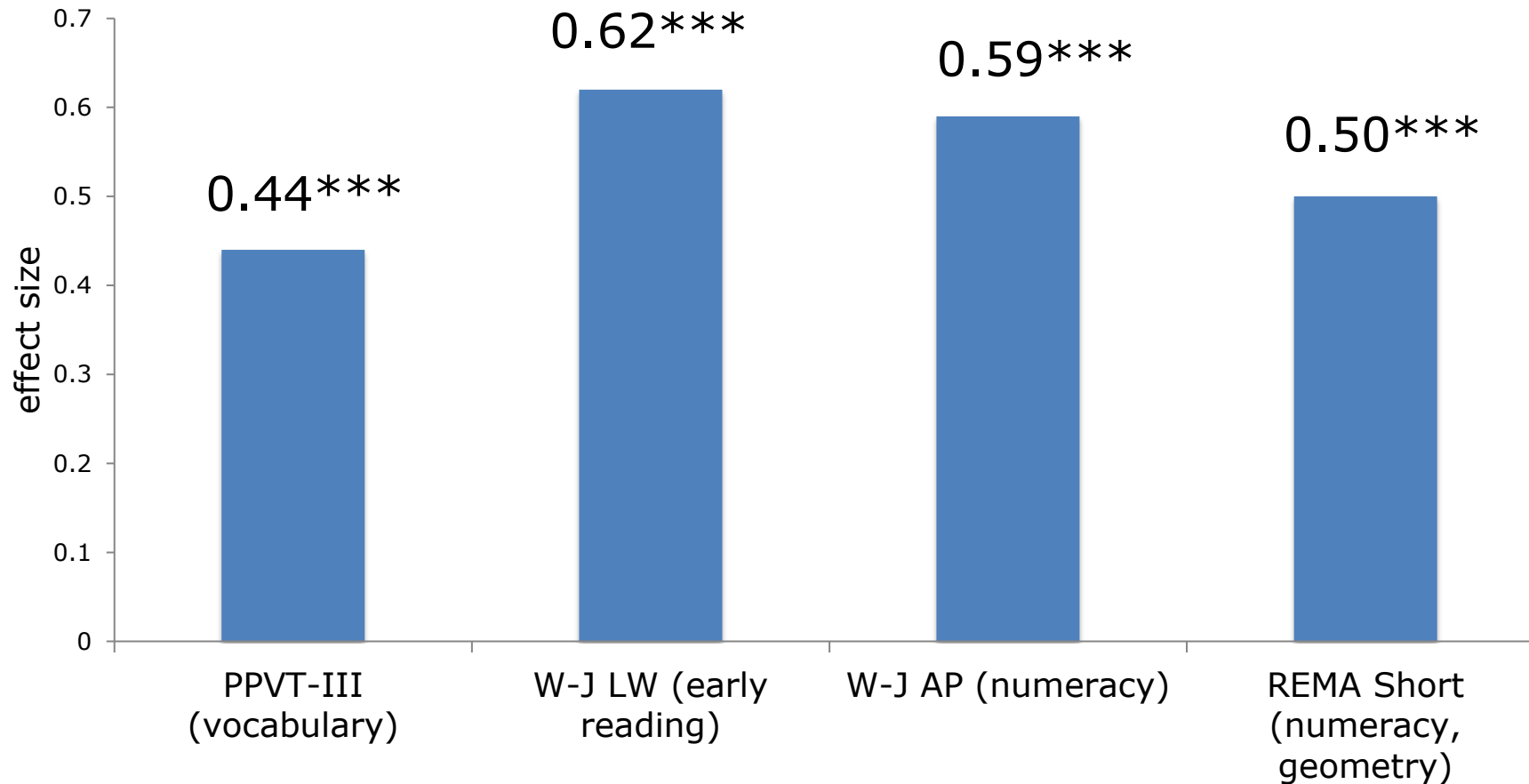


# Boston Pre-K Quality Findings



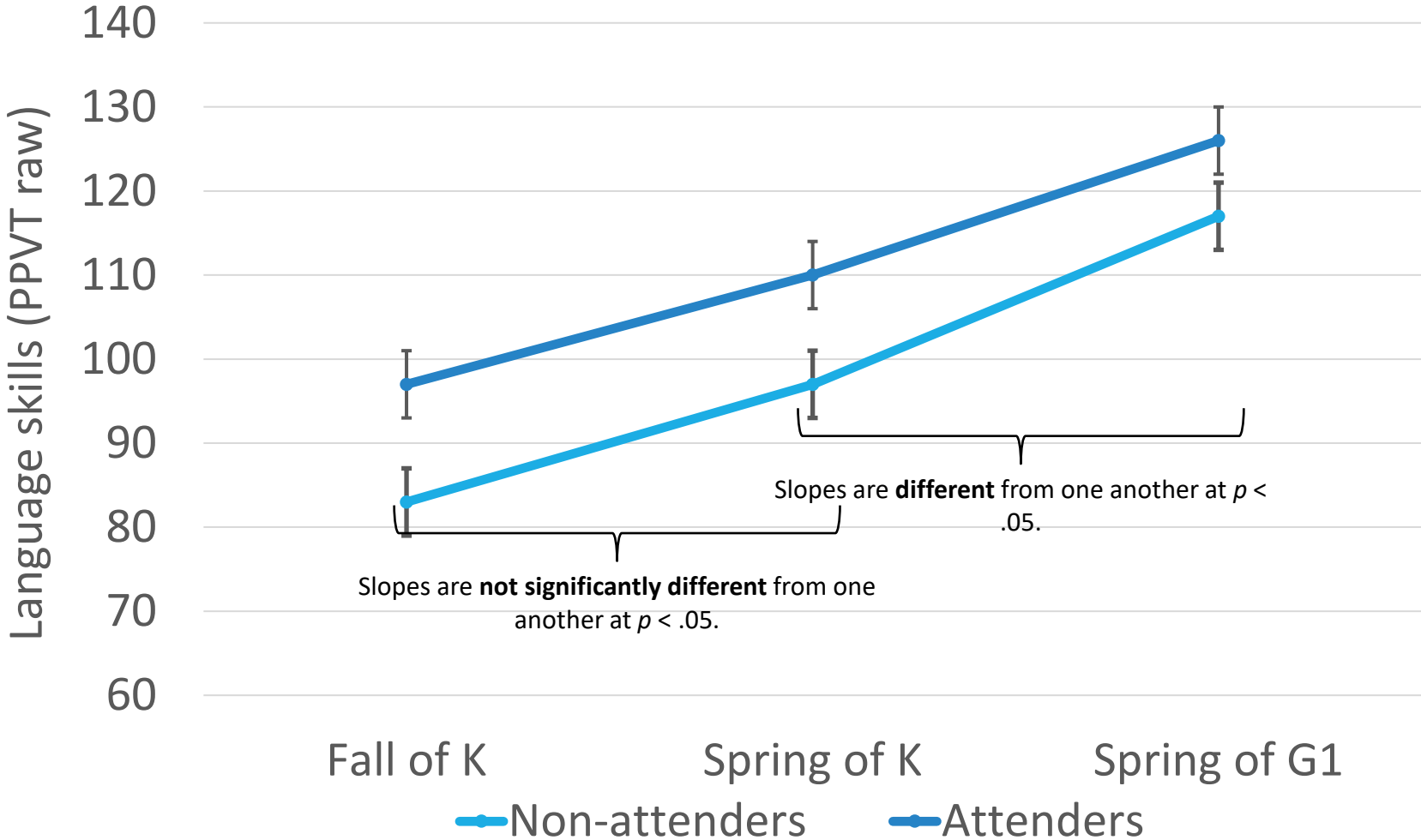
# Some of the largest impacts on child language and math of any large-scale prekindergarten program to date

(Weiland & Yoshikawa, 2013, *Child Development*)

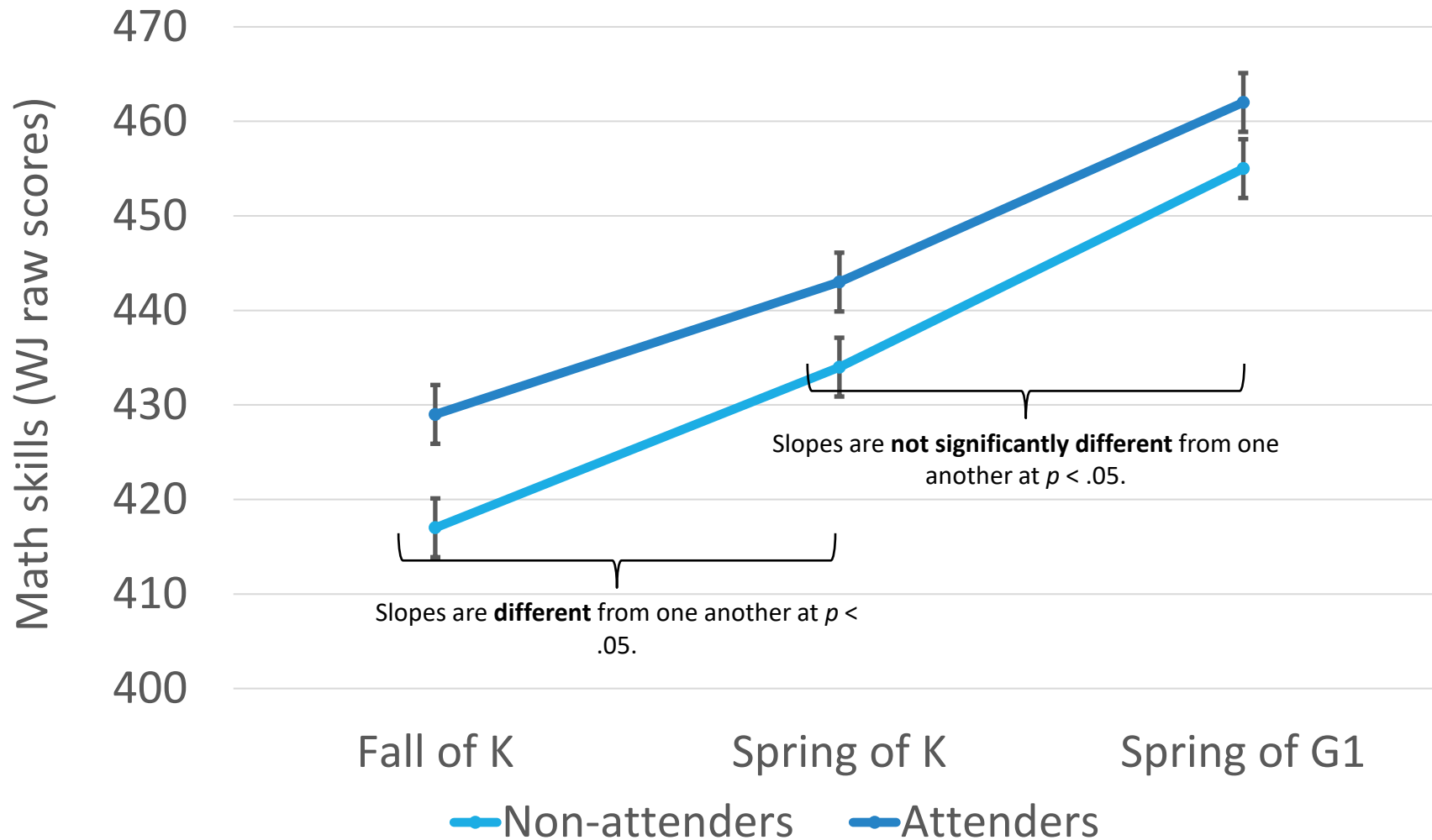




# Benefits into first grade: Language skills (PPVT)



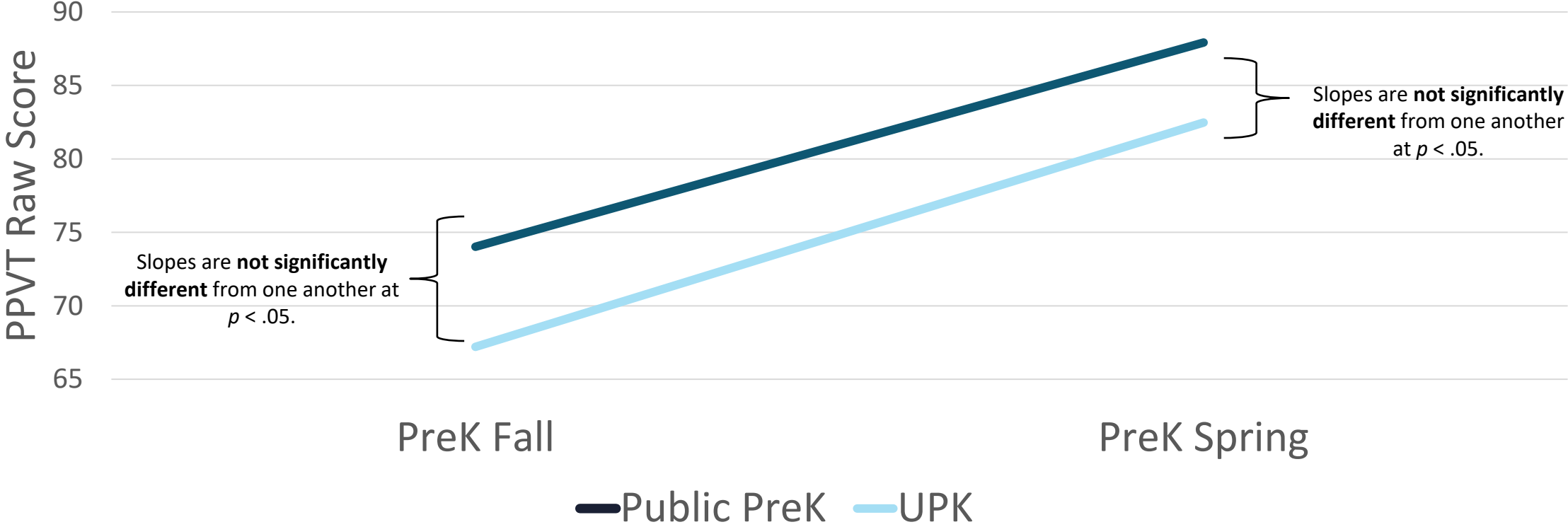
# Benefits into first grade: Math skills (WJAP raw scores)



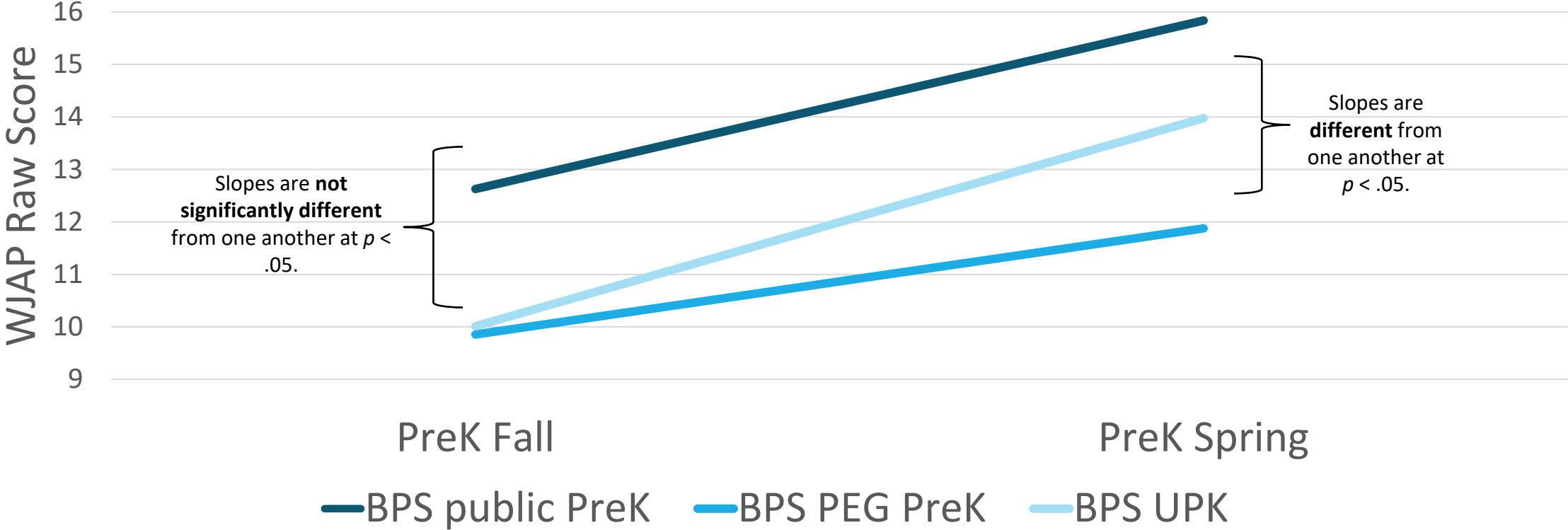
# BPS policies and standards are largely consistent across settings, with a few exceptions

Policy	Public PreK	PEG CBO	UPK CBO
Full-day instruction	X	X	X
Evidence-based curricula	X	X	X
Lead teacher has a BA	X	X	X
Lead teacher has or obtains a masters degree within 5 years	X		
Student assessment	X		
Quality monitoring	X	X	X
Pay parity for starting salary	X		X
Benefits parity w/ K-12	X		

# Curricula/PD support consistent gains in children's language skills across setting



# Curricula/PD support consistent gains in children's math skills across setting



# Conclusions & next steps for scaling high-quality PreK

