



EST. 1895

**REDWOOD CITY**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



**EMPOWERED  
LEARNERS**



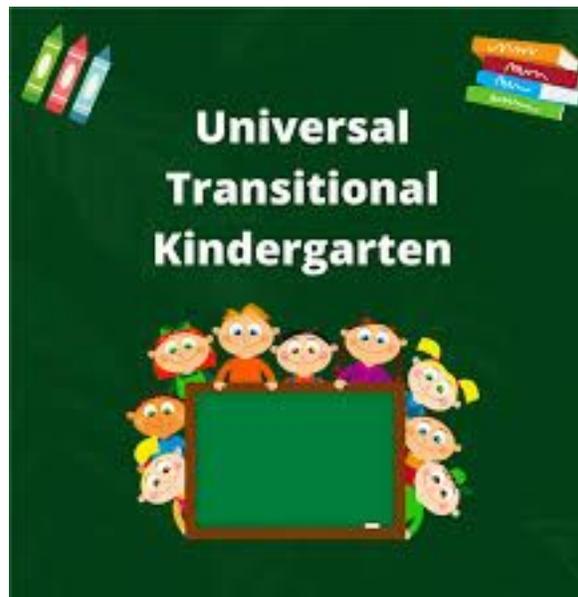
**KNOWLEDGE  
CONSTRUCTORS**



**EFFECTIVE  
COLLABORATORS**



**CREATIVE  
COMMUNICATORS**



# **RCSD** **Transitional Kindergarten**

**Board Presentation**  
**December 10, 2025**

# TK on the Rise in RCSD:

## Charting Our Program's Growth and Success



A School Board Report on Our Transitional Kindergarten Program:  
Growth, Cohesion, and Success

# Hello! I'm...

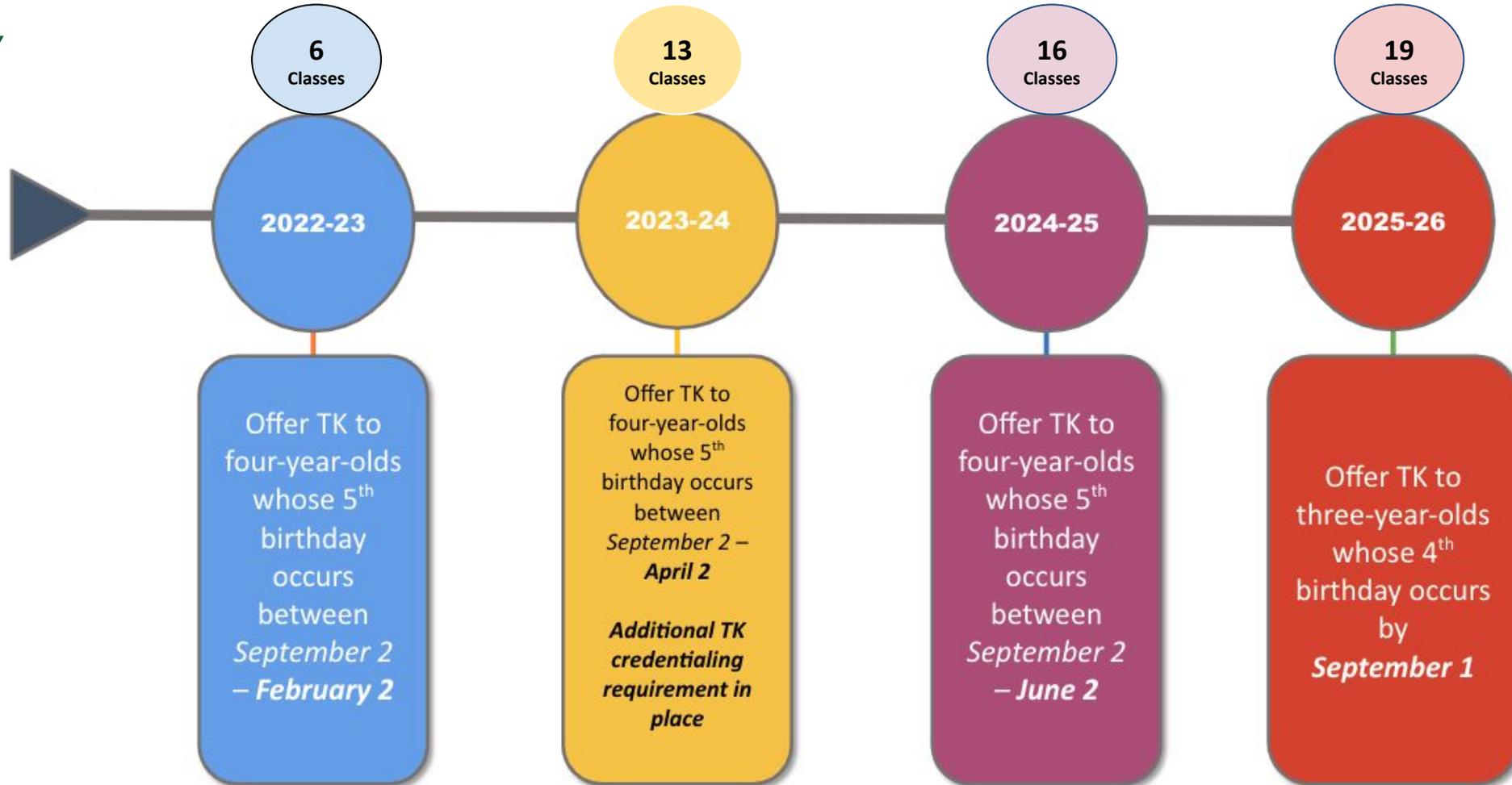


## **Ann Tepoorten Berljafa**

- RCSD TK Program Facilitator under the direction of Assistant Superintendent, Anna Herrera
- TOSA - Staff Development Team Member
- Instructional Coach



# How we have evolved and grown over the past few years.



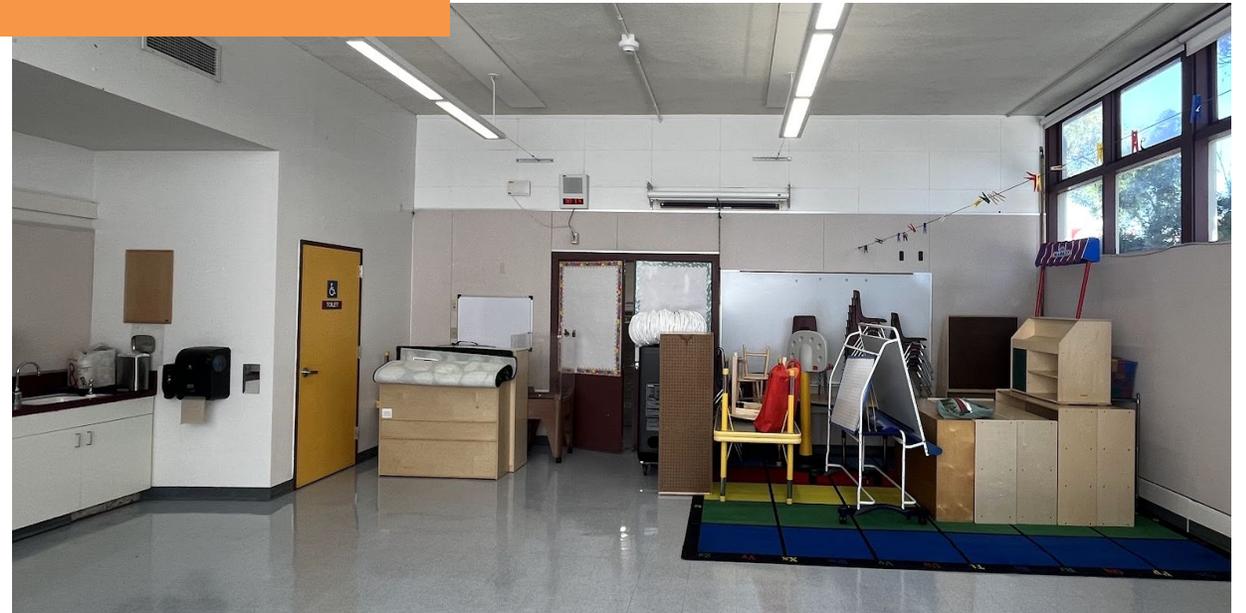
**This August over 10% of our students were 3 years old on the first day of TK!**



# Preparing Our Rooms for Four Year Olds!



We go from this...



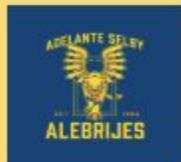
To this...in only a few days!





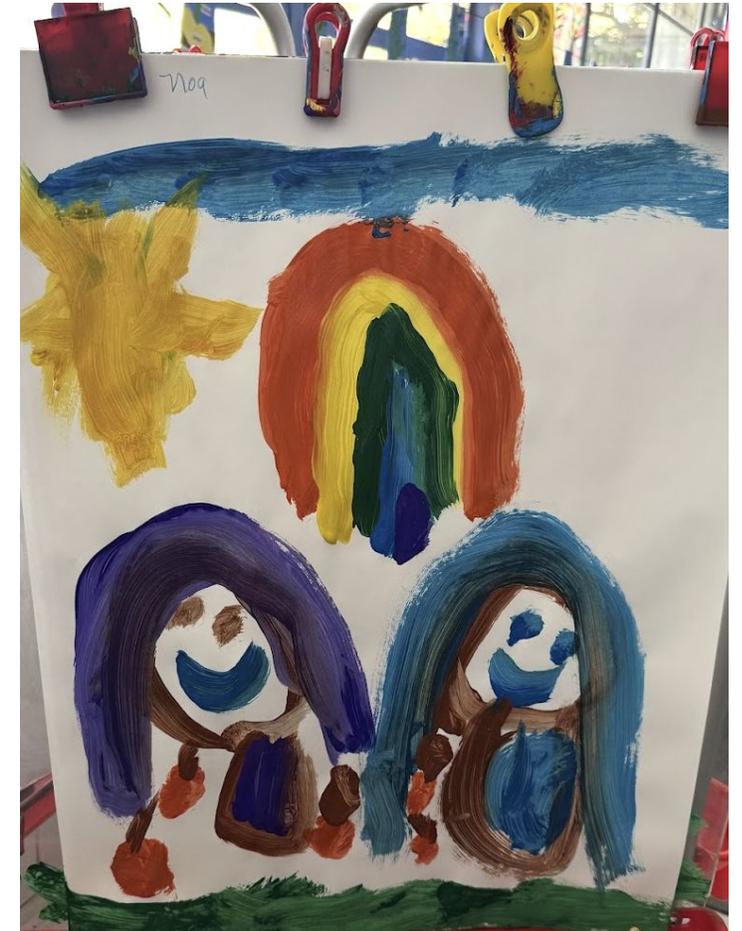
School	General Education Classrooms	Specialized Learning Centers
Adelante	3 (Spanish Immersion)	
Clifford	2	
Henry Ford	2	1
Hoover	1 (Spanish Bilingual)	
Orion	5 (2 English, 3 MI)	
Roosevelt	1	1
Roy Cloud	2	
Taft	1 (Spanish Bilingual)	

**Our TK program currently serves approximately 360 four and five year old students, from a variety of demographics, in our 19 TK Classrooms across the district!**



## Overarching Goals of Our RCSD TK Program

- ❏ Ignite joy, imagination, and a lifelong passion for learning.
- ❏ Cultivate learning through purposeful, play-based experiences.
- ❏ Build strong oral language and communication skills.
- ❏ Establish foundational classroom routines and collaborative peer skills.
- ❏ Foster social-emotional growth, self-regulation, and self-advocacy.





# The TK Student Experience

Our program is designed to build foundational academic and social-emotional skills in a joyful, play-based environment.

## About Our Program

Since the inception of Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) in 2022 the Redwood City School District has carefully followed the [CDE Transitional Kindergarten Implementation Guide](#) which emphasizes the importance of:

- Delivering a **Play Based** Program
- Utilizing a **Standards-Based** Curriculum
- Creating **Developmentally Appropriate Learning Environments**
- Staffing Classrooms with **Highly Qualified Teachers**



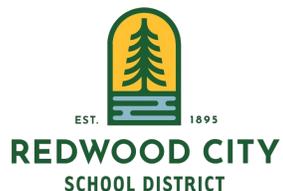
# Our Play Based Program



## Our Program Features a Standards Based, Balanced Curriculum



We understand the importance of implementing a balanced program. With input and guidance from [TK California](#) we have designed curricula to meet the diverse needs of our students.



# Evolving with the New State Standards

We are adapting to the [PTKLF](#).

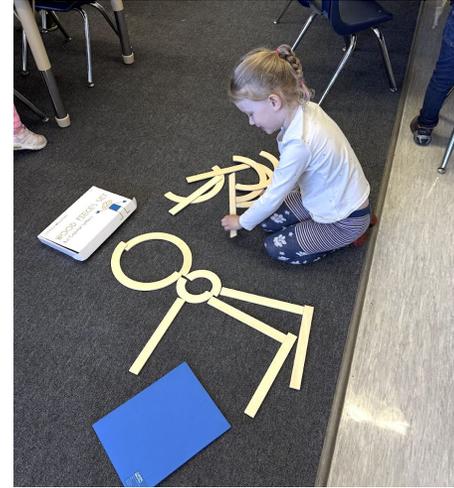
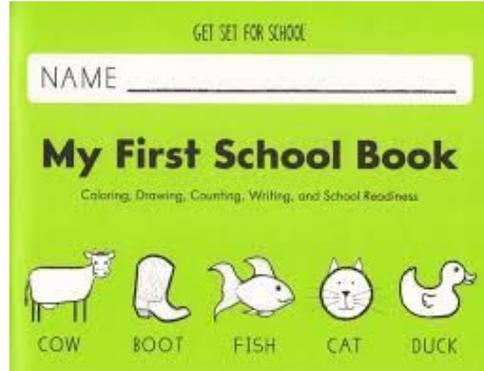
For the past two years, we have been updating our curriculum to meet the state's new Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations (PTKLF). Our team previously blended the Preschool Learning Foundations with Kindergarten standards, and we are now fully integrating the dedicated PTKLF standards across all our instructional materials.

California Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten  
**Learning Foundations**  
At-a-Glance



**UPK** Universal PreKindergarten 

For Three-to-Five-and-a-Half-Year-Old Children in Center-Based, Home-Based, and TK Settings



# Handwriting and Letter Formation Learning Without Tears (LWT).





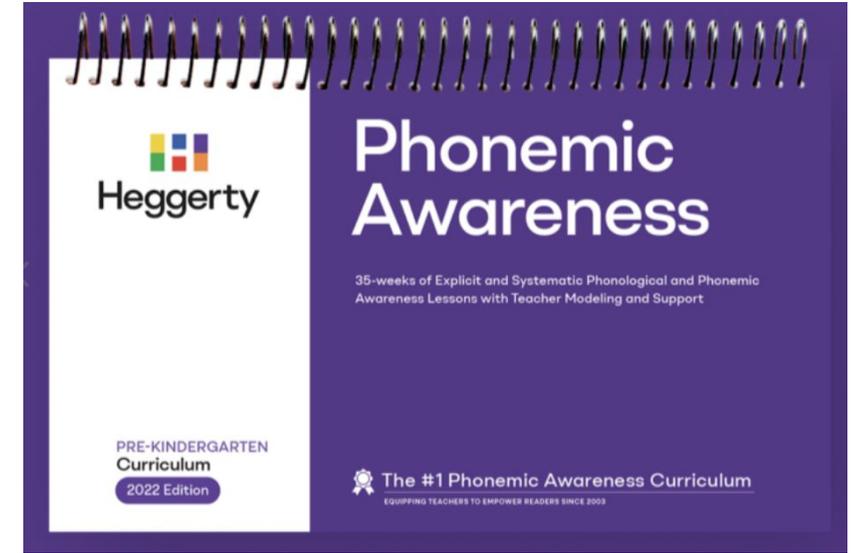
# Literacy Instruction: SEEDS of Learning - Language Arts/SEL

SEEDS helps children develop the “Big 5” early literacy skills that are most predictive of kindergarten readiness and later school success, including:

- Oral Language, Conversation and Comprehension
- Phonological Memory and Awareness
- Book and Print Concepts
- Alphabetic Knowledge
- Vocabulary and Meaning

RCSD Transitional Kindergarten Curriculum - Rev 1.0 5/19/2025





[Programs](#) [Resources](#) [Professional Development](#) [Support](#)

Home > Phonemic Awareness

## Phonemic Awareness

Language

**English**

Español

Edition

**Current**

Past

2021  
**Early Pre-Kindergarten**

2022  
**Pre-Kindergarten**

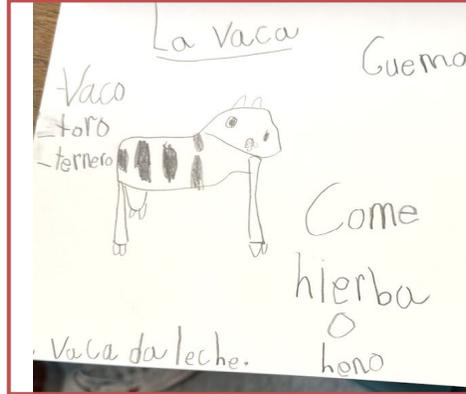
2022  
**Kindergarten**

2022  
**Primary**

2021  
**Primary Extension**

2025  
**Bridge the Gap**





## Science and Social Studies Integrated Units

<p>TK Integrated Units Year Plan</p>	 <p>TK &amp; Me</p>	 <p>Fall Harvest</p>	 <p>Down on the Farm!</p>
 <p>Gingerbread</p>	 <p>Oviparous Animals</p>	 <p>Transportation</p>	 <p>Wild Mammals</p>

Our RCSD teachers have designed 5-6 week integrated units in science and social studies, which ensure that all our young students learn TK Standards in a fun and engaging way.



# Math

RCSD adapts the San Francisco Unified School District's [TK Math Portal](#) curriculum to suit the needs of our young learners.

## Overview of the TK Content

Representing and comparing numbers using sets of objects, numerals, and visual groups of dots.

- Knowing number names and the count sequence
- Counting one object at a time to tell the total number of objects
- Understanding that numbers can be taken apart (subtraction) or decomposed and put together (addition or composition) in different ways



Shapes, classification and patterns

- Identifying, describing and construction shapes
- Matching different kinds of shapes. For example, understanding that there are different kinds of triangles





## Additional Integrated Learning

- **Library** – Most TK classes go to the library every week and will be able to check out a library book.
- **Garden**- Some RCSD elementary schools have a garden where students are able to learn about plants and environmental science.
- **Maker Space** - The majority of our sites have a Makery or STEAM room that TK students can visit. If not, STEAM activities will be incorporated into everyday activities.
- **Outdoor activities** incorporated to support their physical and locomotor development.

# Consistency & Creativity

## A Unified Framework

All 19 TK classrooms follow the same general schedule, core curriculum, and integrated units. This ensures an equitable and consistent experience for all students, no matter which school they attend.

## Room for Artistry

Within this strong framework, teachers are encouraged to add their own personality and pedagogical additions, allowing their professional expertise and creativity to shine.

## TK “Must Do’s”



# Developmentally Appropriate Environment



Large Group Area



Small Group Area



Dramatic Play



Blocks/Building Area



Library/Quiet Space



Science/Math Exploration

# Our Highly Qualified Teachers



TK teachers are a special group. This work requires immense patience, a genuine love for four and five-year-olds, and the stamina to manage the dynamic social, emotional, and academic needs that arise daily in a TK classroom.

## State Requirements

- At least 24 units in Early Childhood Education (ECE) or childhood development or both
- Professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children comparable to the 24 units in ECE
- Child Development Teacher Permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing

# Innovative Staffing Solutions

-  **Board-Approved Flexibility:** Your approval of the resolution to allow 12 ECE units plus experience expanded our pool, attracting passionate, qualified candidates.
-  **EETD Grant Pipeline:** The Early Education Training and Development (EETD) grant has provided crucial financial support for interns, creating a dedicated pipeline of trained teachers.
-  **Long-Term Commitment:** These grant-supported teachers have agreed to stay in our district's TK program for a minimum of three years, ensuring program stability.

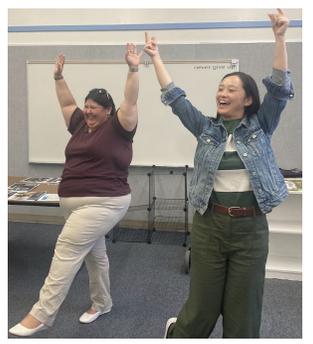


# Meet our TK team!

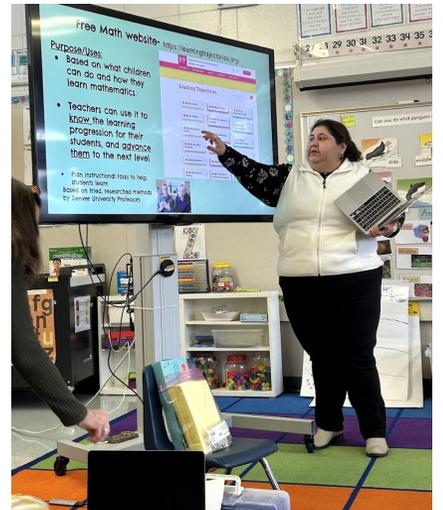


Together we are...

 <p><b>EMPOWERED LEARNERS</b></p>	 <p><b>KNOWLEDGE CONSTRUCTORS</b></p>	 <p><b>EFFECTIVE COLLABORATORS</b></p>	 <p><b>CREATIVE COMMUNICATORS</b></p>
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Within our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), our teachers actively collaborate, engage in continuous learning, and participate in play-based professional development.



# The Heart of Our Program: The PLC



## Meets Regularly

Our cohesive Professional Learning Community fosters consistent collaboration across all 19 TK sites.



## Analyzes Data

We use developmentally appropriate assessment data to have meaningful conversations that directly drive and improve instruction.



## Shares Best Practices

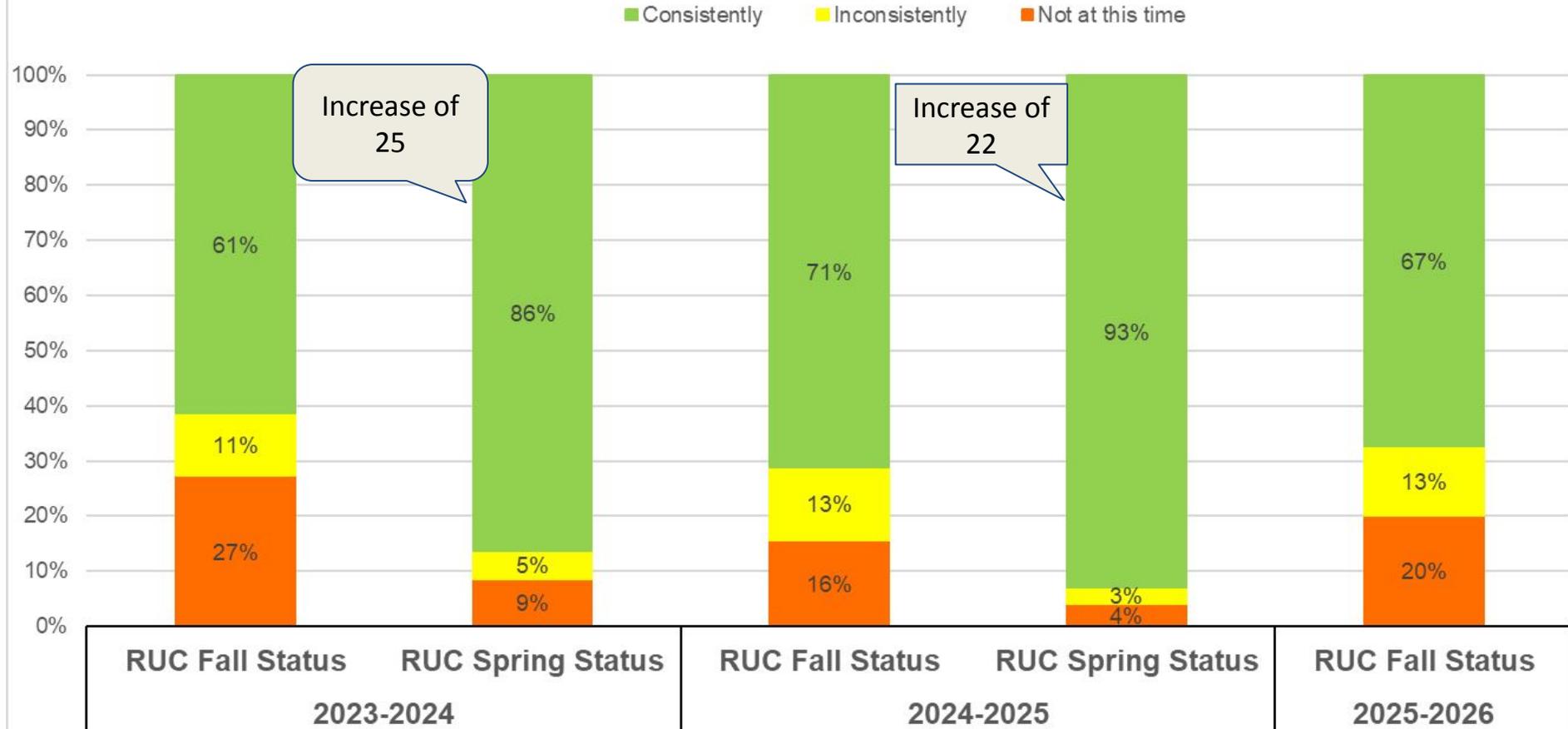
Our teachers cultivate a culture of shared expertise, ensuring all students benefit from our collective knowledge.

We believe...

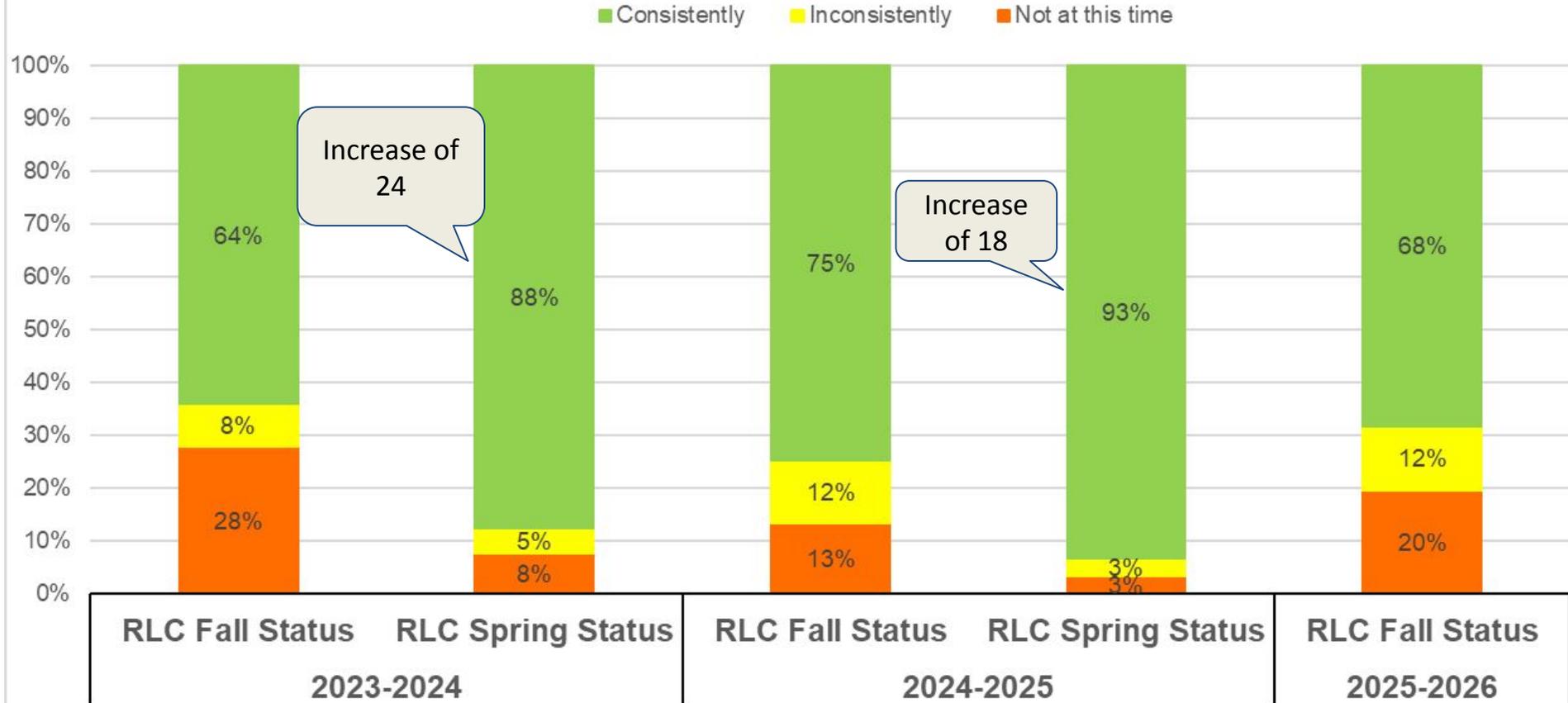
**DATA IS A  
FLASHLIGHT  
NOT A  
HAMMER.**



## TK ELA Assessment Print Concepts Level: Recognize Upper Case Letters

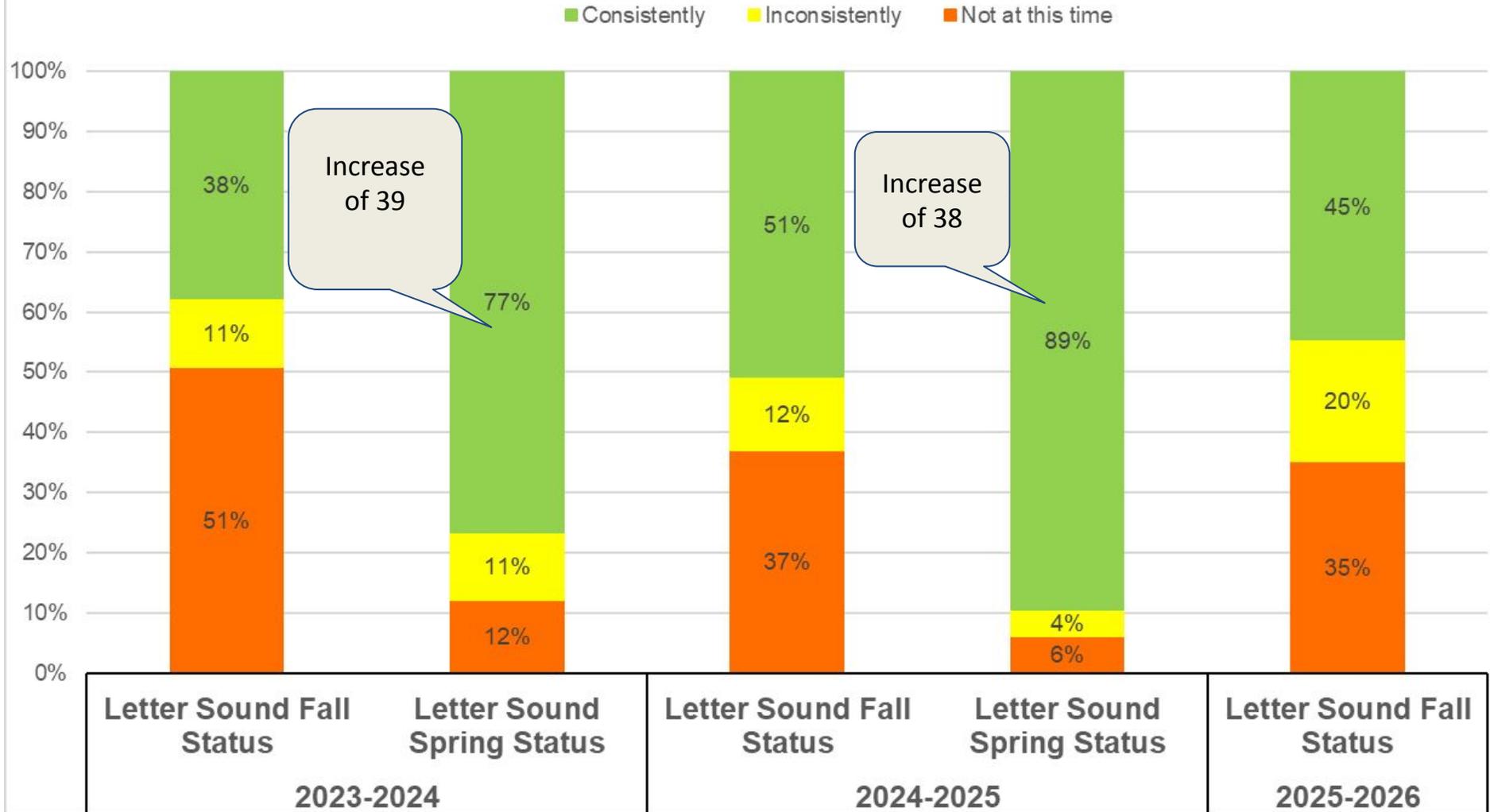


## TK ELA Assessment Print Concepts Level: Recognize Lower Case Letters

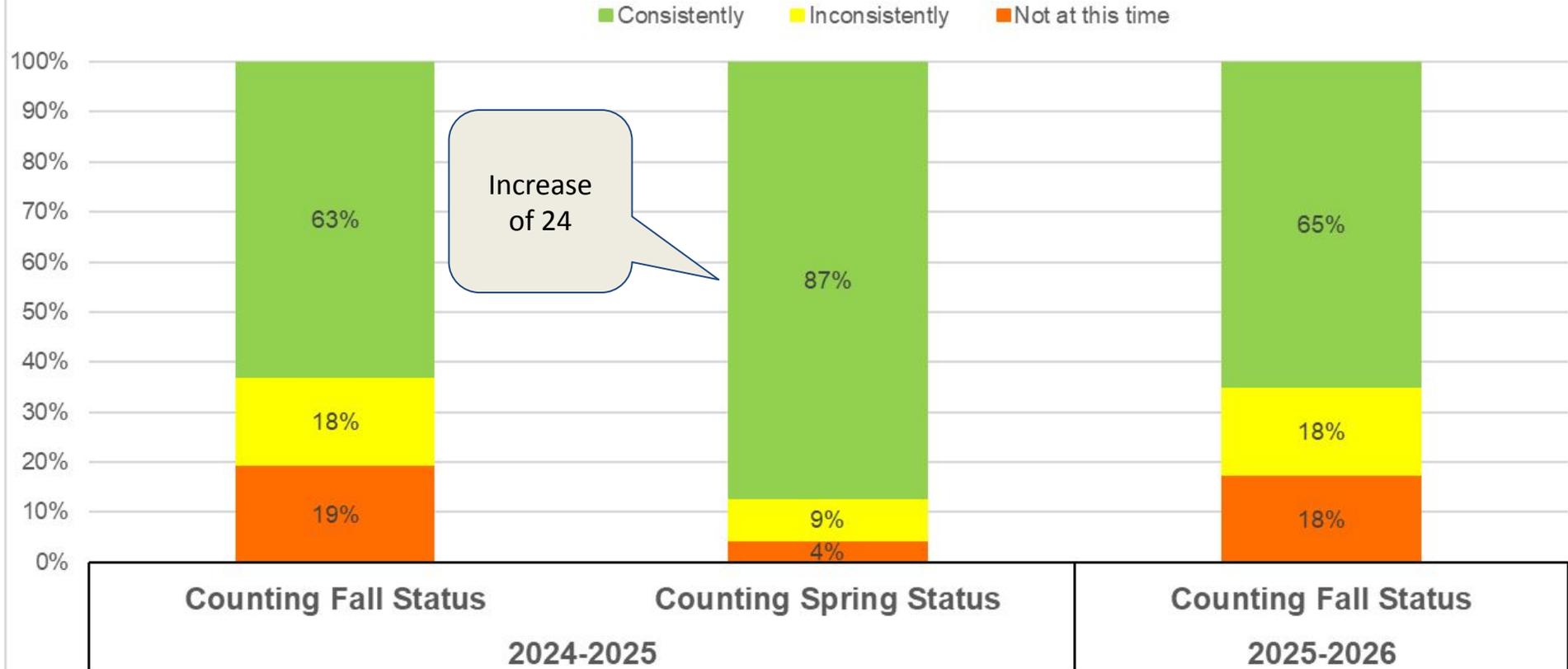


## TK ELA Aesessments

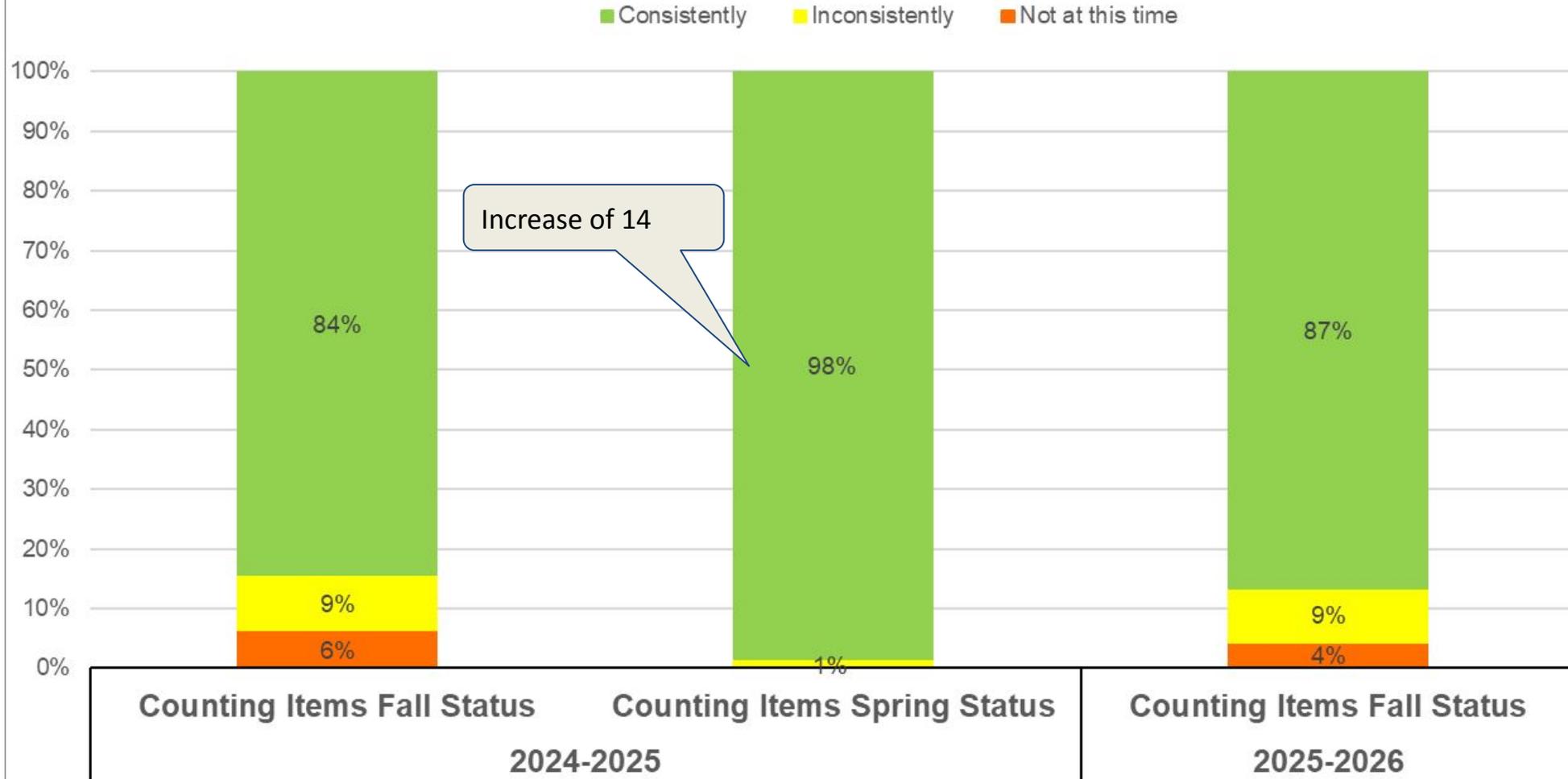
### Alphabetic Level: Consonant, Short Vowels, Long Lowels



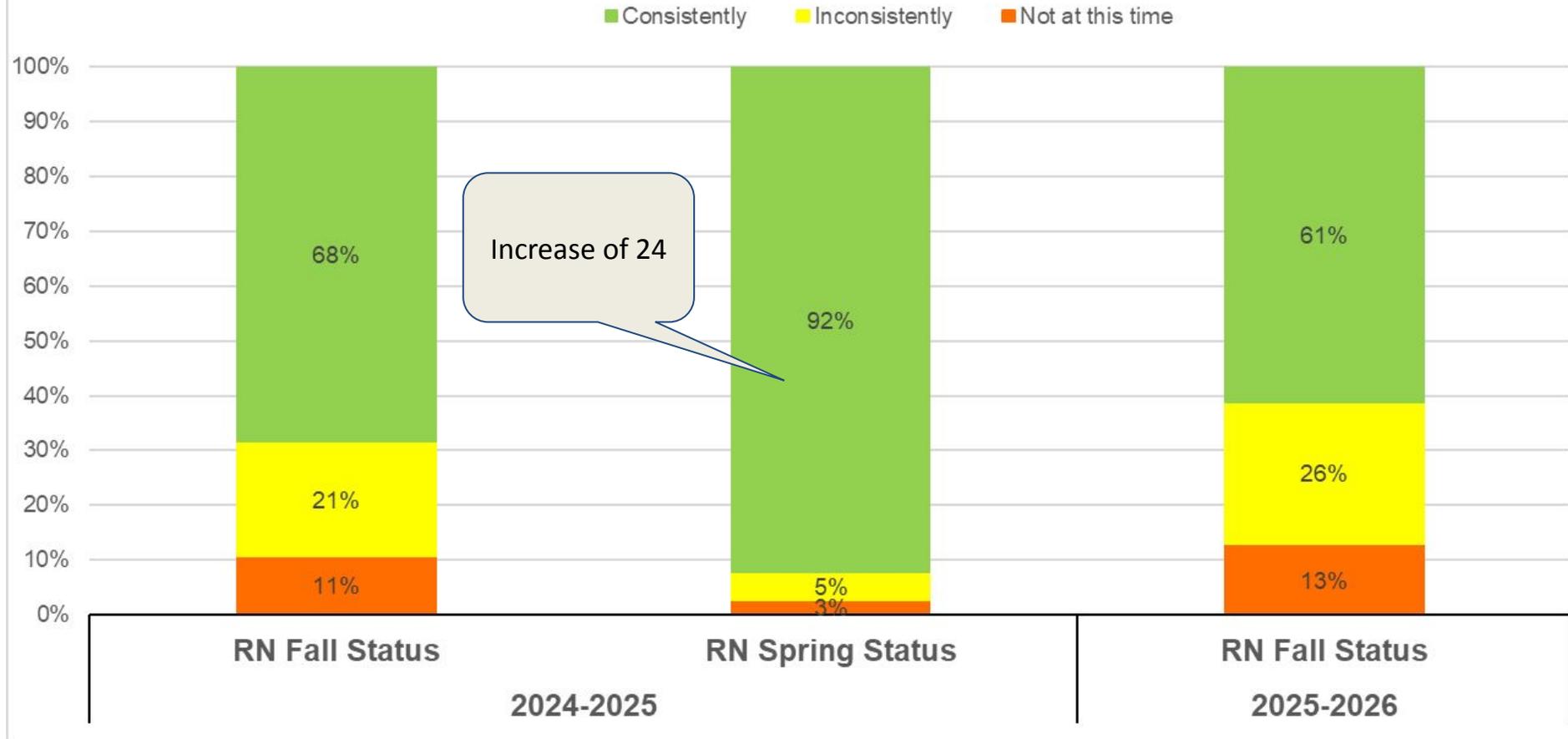
### TK Math Assessment Counts Rate 1-30



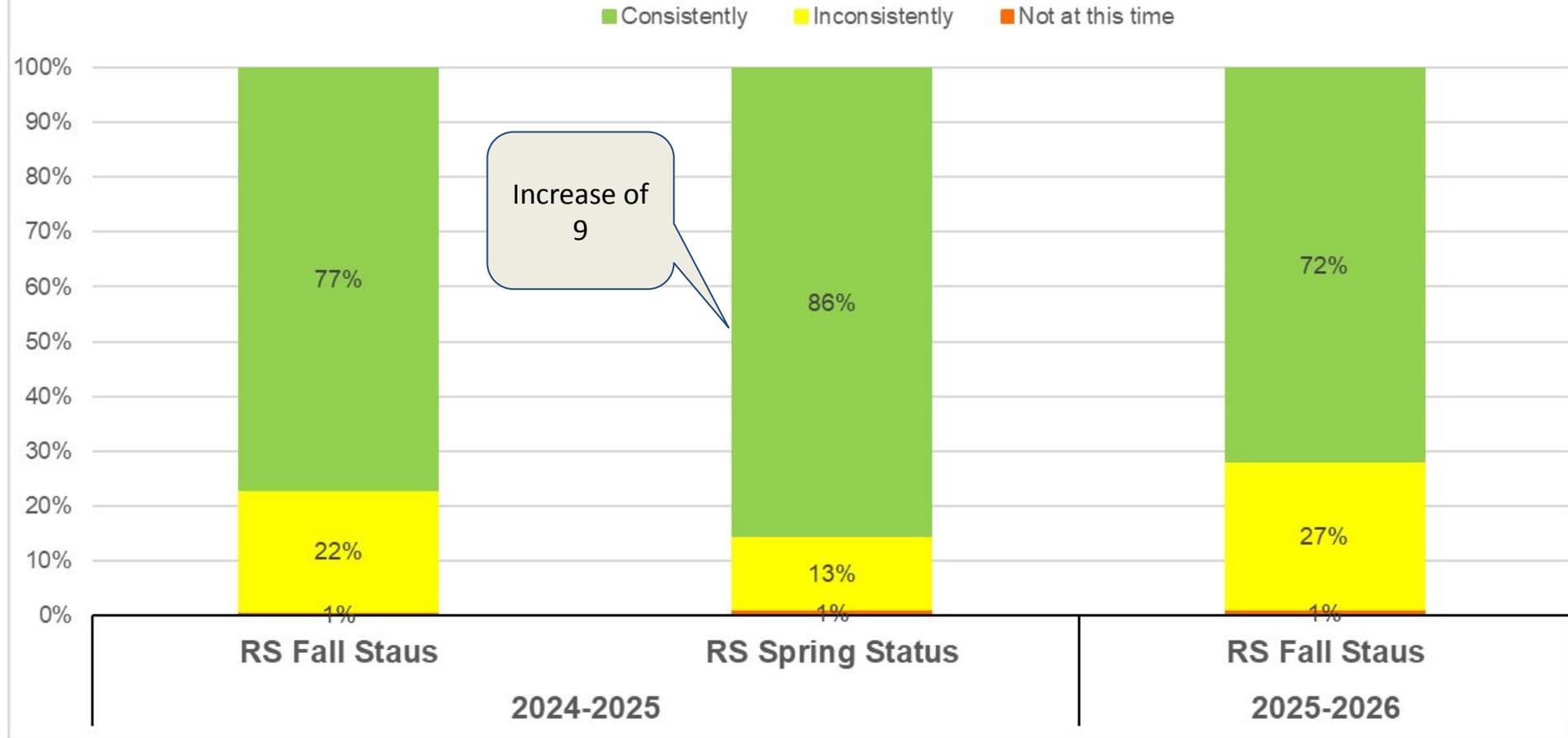
## TK Math Assessment Counts Items 1:1 Correspondance 1 to 10



## TK Math Assessment Recognize Numbers 1-10



### TK Math Assessment Recognize Shapes



# TK Challenges

## Staffing

- Strict TK credentialing (+ 24 ECE units)
  - difficult to find qualified teachers to meet our growing demand
- Instructional Aides: Providing PD for toileting training (extra pay for toileting)
- Keeping within 1:10 ratio for breaks for staff
- Filling absences for aides

## Social Emotional

- Younger students adapting to a full day
- Dysregulation/behavior
- Students not independent
- Anxious students

## Logistical Hurdles

- Setting up 4-5 brand new classrooms every single year with appropriate furniture, materials, and space.
- Finding and setting up classrooms appropriate for four year olds
- Ordering materials
- Funding Sources

## Special Education

- We have two dedicated SLC classrooms
- Higher % mainstreamed students
- Higher % speech IEP students that lead to other services
- Higher % of general education students being identified



# Ongoing TK Needs



## Training

- Best practices for teaching neurodivergent students
- Training of new TK teachers in currently used programs
- Training for Instructional Assistants: Toileting, etc.

## Facilities

- Bathrooms in each classroom
- Age appropriate sink levels, potable water inside classroom
- Playgrounds that suit the needs of younger children



## Funding

- Roving TK Instructional Assistant and subs
- Curriculum (LWT, Heggerty, Math)
- TK upkeep (new rest mats, materials, etc.)





On behalf of the RCSD TK program, I would like to thank...

- Our District Leadership for their foresight
- Our RCSD Facilities for literally “building and delivering” our TK program
- Our RCSD Human Resources Team for their dedication to building a strong TK team
- Our TK Teachers for their dedication, professionalism and perseverance



Questions?

