Welcome to the SDA 1 RAC Meeting!

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Purpose

SPARK needs you, your time, and your voice.

The purpose of the Regional Advisory Council is to strategically aid and advise SPARK Learning Lab about our services, so we can better support those who support Hoosier children and families.

We know your time is precious and thank you for joining us tonight.

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These Hoosiers are worth it…

Meeting Overview

- Review Old Business

- New Business
    - RAC Member Transition
    - OECOSL Provider Recognition Program
    - Early Learning Marketplace
    - PTQ Insufficiencies Trends
    - I-SAT Revision Updates
    - Sustainability Discussion

- Public Comment*

- Agreements and Action Items

- RAC Updates from around Indiana

- Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Adjournment

Public comment will be heard after each agenda item

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Welcome & Introductions

Please leave in the chat:
- Name
- Organization
- Role
- If you are RAC member

Review Old Business

- At the beginning of each meeting, the Council reviews action items and recommendations from the previous meeting and discusses progress made

- View meeting minutes for each SDA on the SPARK website http://indianaspark.com/regional-advisory-councils/

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Old Business – Post Build Learn Grow

RAC members requested additional resources and tools from SPARK on how to document wages and salary changes for the Build Learn Grow grant.

This request has been submitted to our content development team.

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Old Business – PTQ

The Director of SPARK, Mike, will continue to connect with ECE leadership through the state and specifically the PTQ policy committee on extending the rating period and having a standard PTQ rating month.

This has been shared with our PTQ Manager and OECOSL.

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Old Business – PTQ

RAC requested SPARK and or OECOSL add a PTQ rating notification or an alert process within current software systems such as My SPARK Learning Lab or I-LEAD to help communicate with providers about their PTQ expiration date.

SPARK will do some discovery to determine whether this is possible with My SPARK Learning Lab. The suggestion has also been provided to OECOSL who is creating a new improved database.

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Old Business

Questions?

New Business

OECOSL Provider Recognition

Provider Recognition

➔ With nearly 150 nominations this round.

➔ Providers went through a review process by OECOSL with assistance from SPARK, and IN AEYC.

➔ Providers recognized will be receiving either $1000 or $500 in materials for their classrooms.

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SDA 1: Provider Recognition

CONGRATS…..

Olivia Olguín Sánchez
Patricia Rivera

"It takes a big heart to shape little minds."

Thank You RAC Members

- Binti Shah

- Gail Jamora

- Keana Baylis

- Shannon Weyer

- Sherry Searles

thank you

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Welcome New Members

- Jennie Joyce

- Valerie Castillo

- Tracy Campbell

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Early Learning Indiana Marketplace

Paths To Quality (PTQ) Insufficiency Trends

Paths to QUALITY Overview

- PTQ is Indiana's QRIS (quality rating and improvement system)

- PTQ is free and voluntary

- PTQ standards are consistent but tailored based on program- Licensed Homes, Licensed Centers, Registered Ministries and Preschools operating within a Public/Private School

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Paths to QUALITY Overview

Four Levels of PTQ

- **Level 1-** Health and Safety

- **Level 2-** Learning Environments

- **Level 3-** Planned Curriculum

- **Level 4-** Nationally Accredited (by one of the 7 approved accrediting bodies- NAEYC, NAFCC, NECPA, AdvancED –Cognia, ACSI, COA, NLSA)

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PTQ Insufficiencies Data
(Most Commonly Missed Standards)

- Foundations Certificate
- Art at Child's Eye Level
- Meeting the Education requirements
- Director is a member of a National Organization
- Training hours
- Writing/Art/Music Interest Areas
- Surveys (Staff/Families)
- Level 4- Accreditation Certificate

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PTQ Insufficiencies Data
What Has Been Done

Foundations Certificate-

1. Added a column to the Confirmation Checklist that is submitted when a rating request is made.
   i. Asking the program leader to put the date each staff member has taken the Foundations Training.
   ii. If any are blank, we will ask the program to add this information.
2. Added a direct link to the Foundations training to SPARK resources to help programs find the correct training.

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PTQ Insufficiencies Data
What Has Been Done

- Director is a member of a National Organization
  - A new resource is available on My SPARK Learning Lab around the different National Memberships that would meet this standard
- A new section has been added to the SPARK newsletter around Paths to QUALITY.
  - We will highlight different commonly missed standards and provide ideas, picture samples, and resources on how these might be met.
- Paths to QUALITY Learning Forum on October 12th 10-11 ET via Zoom

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PTQ Insufficiencies Data
What Is In the Works

- SPARK preparing one **on-demand training** around Paths to QUALITY for **teaching staff**.
  - Level 2 PTQ
  - Level 3 PTQ
  - On-demand resources will be available on My SPARK Learning Lab for quick reference
- Revising the former PTQ Workbook to include helpful hints, why standards are important, best practices, next steps, and what standards may look like in practice
- SPARK is working with programs to get pictures and videos of how the different standards could possibly be met
  - SPARK will add the "program examples" to all resources

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Discussion Question- PTQ

What type of "program examples" would be most helpful for programs?

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Discussion Question- PTQ

For the on demand video, what content would be most helpful for programs and those working directly with children regarding Level 2 requirements?

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Discussion Question- PTQ

For the on demand training, what would be most helpful for programs and those working directly with children regarding Level 3 requirements?

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Discussion Question- PTQ

What additional resources, tools, or support are needed to support the education around PTQ insufficiencies?

SPARK PTQ RESOURCES

SPARK Learning Lab is here to help you on every step of your PTQ Journey! SPARK offers many supports for Paths to QUALITY.

➔ Check out the [training calendar](#) for upcoming "Introduction to Paths to QUALITY" sessions

➔ [PTQ Resource](#)

➔ Access the PTQ Success Tools on [My SPARK Learning Lab](#)

➔ Call or message the [SPARK Help Desk](#) for assistance with all things PTQ

➔ Join an upcoming [PTQ Cohort](#)!

➔ Contact our Paths to QUALITY Support team at PTQ@indianaspark.com

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I- SAT UPDATES

I-SAT Project Overview

- I-SAT Revision Timeline & Process
  - Three phases that include adding new and combining Quality Items, heavy revision of previous items, and light revisions
  - Survey and Focus Group data informing the revisions
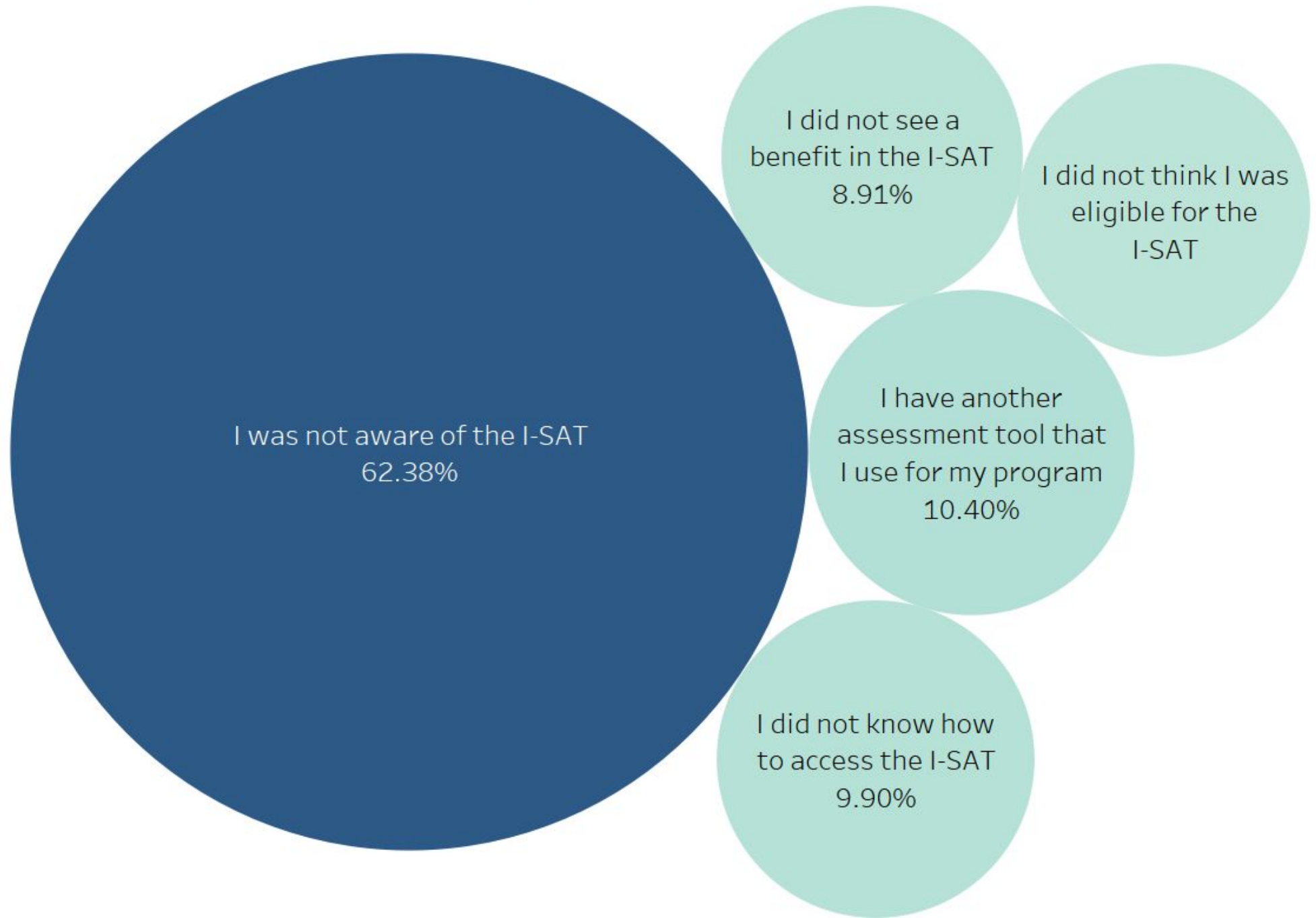 - Expected release January 2023

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Most Common Education and Care Program Types

Program Type	Percentage
Licensed/ unlicensed family child care home	47.98%
Licensed child care center	23.72%
Registered ministry	20.75%
School-based program	3.50%
Not an early care and education program	1.89%
Head Start program	1.62%
Other early care and education program	0.54%
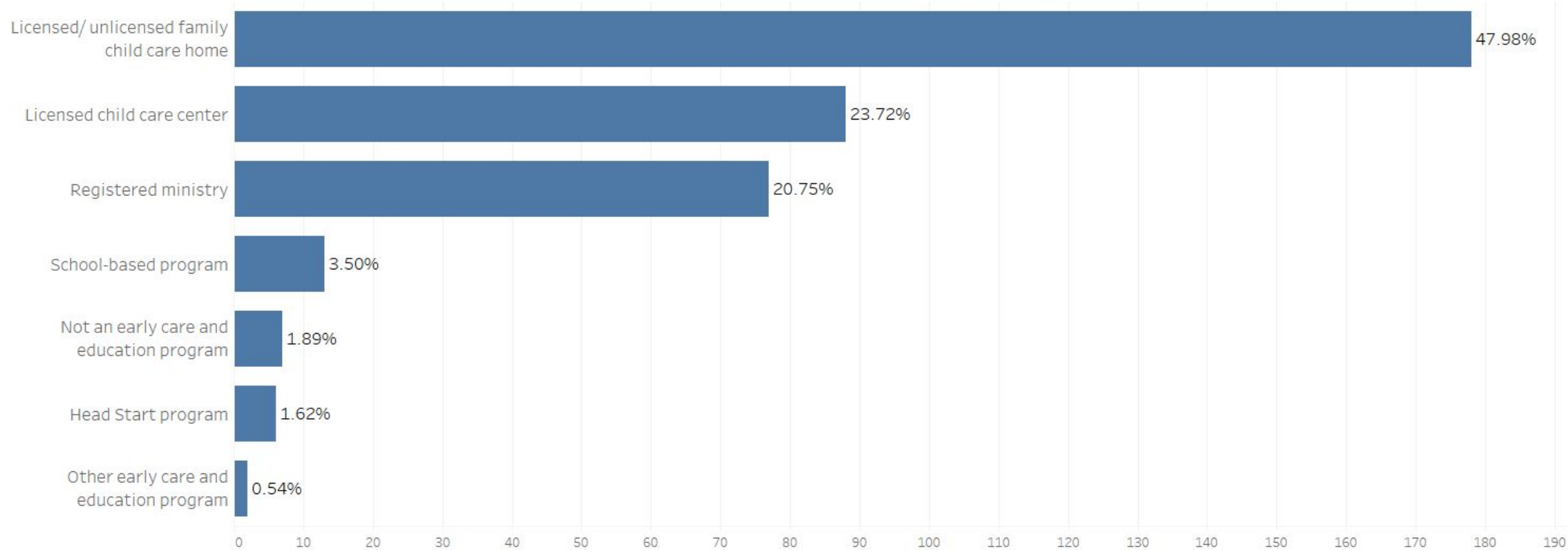
Good Representation Across All 5 SDAs

SDA	Percentage
1	24.03%
2	20.44%
3	22.10%
4	16.30%
5	15.75%
Statewide	1.38%
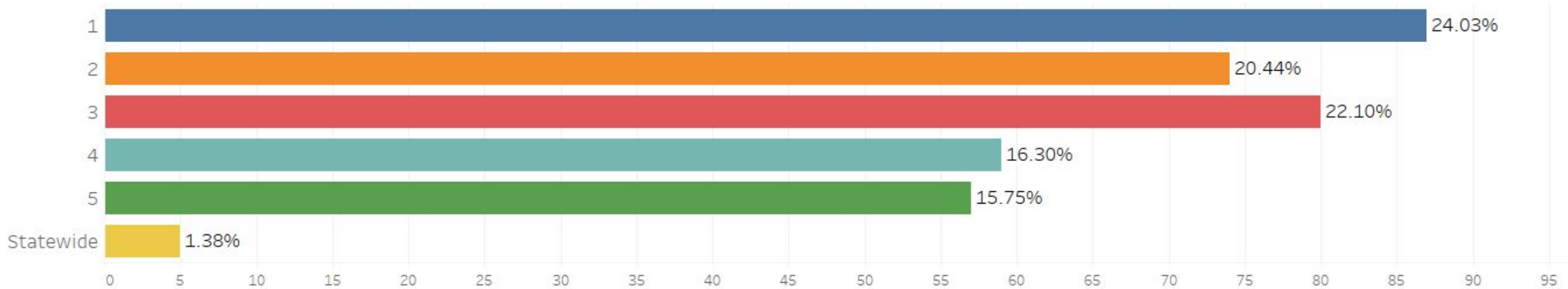
Main Reasons Why Some Have Not Completed the I-SAT

I did not see a benefit in the I-SAT
8.91%

I did not think I was eligible for the I-SAT

I was not aware of the I-SAT
62.38%

I have another assessment tool that I use for my program
10.40%

I did not know how to access the I-SAT
9.90%

Biggest challenges related to mental health/wellness support

- The main challenges are staffing and funding. Below are some testimonials from respondents:
  - BLG grant funding for this will only last one school year
  - I do not have the staff or the funding to support my staff in this MUCH need area
  - I don't have the funding or resources to provide support
  - I don't have the staff to provide support
  - I don't know what mental health support my staff need
  - Just making sure they know that there is mental health awareness if they need it for themselves or other family members
  - My teachers finding the time to self care.
  - Resources
  - Staff and funding
  - The mental health support we have is not what we need.
  - There is a stigma around mental health
  - When asked how they are doing, if they are ok, or if they would like to talk, I receive the response, "I'm fine, but thank you."
  - Where would I find staff to work for $15/hour or less without benefits?

Biggest challenges related to business support

- The main challenges are funding, hiring/retention, time, and tools/resources/support. Below are some testimonials from respondents:
  - Hiring good staff people that want to work and that you can trust with other people's children
  - Lack of available, quality staff means inability to provide services. Unable to provide services to families and training to staff due to daily staff shortages
  - I need to up tuition to pay teachers what they should get paid- But parents can't afford it.
  - I'll find out more when our cohort starts. But I really don't have time. I am subbing so much, sometimes I barely get the basics done
  - I don't have the tools or resources
  - I don't know who to go to for support

A New User Experience is Coming!

Follow the path and answer the questions so SPARK can provide you a more personalized I-SAT journey.

1. **Childcare Atmosphere** →
2. Paths to Quality Level
3. Program Status
4. Coaching
5. Business Status
6. Learning Method
7. Technology

Which best describes your childcare atmosphere?

Center-Based

Family Child Care Homes

Ministry or Faith-based

School-Based

A New User Experience is Coming!

Follow the path and answer the questions so SPARK can provide you a more personalized I-SAT journey.

1. Childcare Atmosphere
2. **Paths to Quality Level** →
3. Program Status
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5. Business Status
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7. Technology

Are you part of Paths to Quality?

| Yes | No |

What Level?

Level 4	★ ★ ★ ★
Level 3	★ ★ ★
Level 2	★ ★
Level 1	★

< BACK   NEXT >

Follow the path and answer the questions so SPARK can provide you a more personalized I-SAT journey.

1. Childcare Atmosphere
2. Paths to Quality Level
3. Program Status
4. **Coaching** →
5. Business Status
6. Learning Method
7. Technology

How would you best utilize your coach?

Growth and Development

Health & Safety

Assessment

Curriculum

Family Engagement

Leadership Development

Organizational Development

< BACK   NEXT >

Follow the path and answer the questions so SPARK can provide you a more personalized I-SAT journey.

1. Childcare Atmosphere
2. Paths to Quality Level
3. Program Status
4. Coaching
5. Business Status
6. **Learning Method** →
7. Technology

What is your preferred learning method?

Mobile

Desktop

Webinar

Download & Print

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A New User Experience is Coming!

A New User Experience is Coming!

My I-SAT Progress

Self-Assessment

Action Planning

Recommended Resources

Trainings

My Account

Logout

Learning Environment and Curriculum

8/22

Sections within this Unit

✓ **Welcoming Environment**   Review item

Beginning: Classrooms meet basic health and safety standards including having necessary space per child as required by licensing, no electrical cords/plugs accessible to children, free of clutter/trash, necessary evacuation/emergen cy signage is posted, etc.

Developing: Teachers ensure that the following occurs: -Each child and his/her family are warmly acknowledged upon arrival and departure. -The environment includes representation of each child and family. -A place for storage of each child's personal belongings and possessions labeled with the child's name and a picture. -The classroom is generally characterized by varying sounds and/or comfortable conversations from engaged children and involved adults.

Emerging: Plans and environmental accommodations for children with developmental needs are evident in classrooms. Learning environments create opportunities for children to have discussions with teachers or with each other.

Mastering: Teachers work as a team to design an environment that protects children's health and safety, helps reduce challenging and disruptive behavior, stimulates group and individual learning, and provides easy access to learning materials and experiences.

Excelling: Teachers work regularly with families to identify and implement new ways to represent the child and family's culture in the classroom.

✓ **Positive Relationships**   Review item

A New User Experience is Coming!

A New User Experience is Coming!

▶ Watch the How-to Video   📖 View the How-to Guide

My I-SAT Progress

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Recommended Resources

Child and Youth Growth and Development

Why Do They Do That?: Understanding School-Age Development   ♡ Read Article

CKC Standard   Quality Item
Child and Youth Growth and Development   Early Learning Foundations

Indiana Early Learning Foundations   ♡ Read Article

CKC Standard   Quality Item
Child and Youth Growth and Development   Early Learning Foundations

Discover the Introduction to the Indiana Early Learning FOUNDATIONS on Indiana Learning Paths   ♡ Read Article

CKC Standard   Quality Item
Child and Youth Growth and Development   Early Learning Foundations

Introductions to the NEW Indiana Early Learning FOUNDATIONS   ♡ Read Article

CKC Standard   Quality Item
Child and Youth Growth and Development   Early Learning Foundations

Discussion Question - I-SAT

What did you find interesting about the I-SAT revisions? Do you have any feedback regarding the information shared?

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Discussion Question - I-SAT

Is the I-SAT the right approach or entry point to access SPARK Services? Why or why not?

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Sustainability

Discussion Question

What are you most worried about when the funding ends?

INTENSIVE BUSINESS SUPPORT

Financial Health

Resources available in My SPARK Learning Lab

- Managing Your Cash Flow
- Paying Yourself: A Guide for Sole Proprietors
- Build a Monthly Budget in 4 Easy Steps
- How do I choose and begin offering employee benefits?
- What to look for in a business bank account
- How do I set rates for my child care business?
- How do I create a simple one-page business plan?

All can be accessed through Financial Health button on My SPARK Learning Lab home page!

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INTENSIVE BUSINESS SUPPORT

Business Cohorts

- Sign ups for next cohort currently open
- Topics will be ECE Business Practices
  - Sound Fiscal Practices
  - Grant Spending Strategies
  - Developing Wage Scales
  - Total Rewards - Health Care and Fringe Benefits
  - Staff Recruitment and Retention
- Interested programs may contact BusinessSupport@indianaspark.com to get more information

100% of participants from last cohort agreed they were confident they could take what they learned and put it into practice.
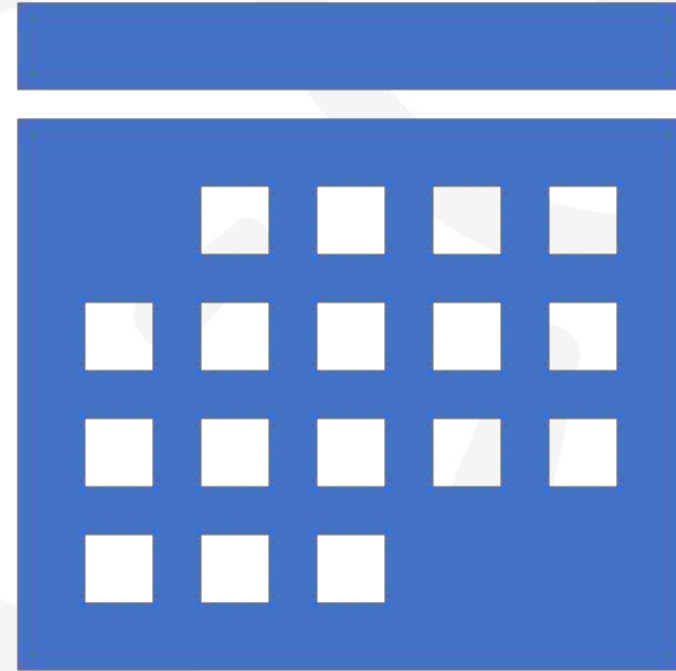
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INTENSIVE BUSINESS SUPPORT

RAC Information

RAC Information

RAC Meeting Dates

- October 19th, 2022
- February 15th, 2023
- May 17th, 2023
- September 20th, 2023

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Public Comment

- We want to hear from you!

- What questions/comments do you have for SPARK and the Council?

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Agreements

Based on what has been presented, RAC discussion, and public comment, what suggestions and perspectives need to be captured for SPARK Learning Lab or partners to consider?

- ○ RAC Member Transition
- ○ OECOSL Recognition Program
- ○ Early Learning Indiana Marketplace
- ○ PTQ Insufficiencies Trends
- ○ ISAT Revision Updates
- ○ Sustainability Discussion

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Stay Connected with SPARK

- Sign up for SPARK newsletter: http://indianaspark.com/

- SPARK Group Features

- Follow SPARK on social media!
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Instagram

- Email RAC@indianaspark.com with questions

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Let's Spark a Conversation!