



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Presentation to:

***BCTF
Advocacy Works 2.0***

April 21, 2018



Surveys and Focus Groups

Stakeholder Group	Number of participants
Teachers	497
Principals and vice principals	296
SD staff dedicated to working with Indigenous students	64
Social workers (MCFD and DAA)	149
Foster parents	121
Youth in or from care (McCreary Centre Society)	FG: 107 Survey: 57
Total	1,291

Key Finding: Children and youth in care trail well behind other students

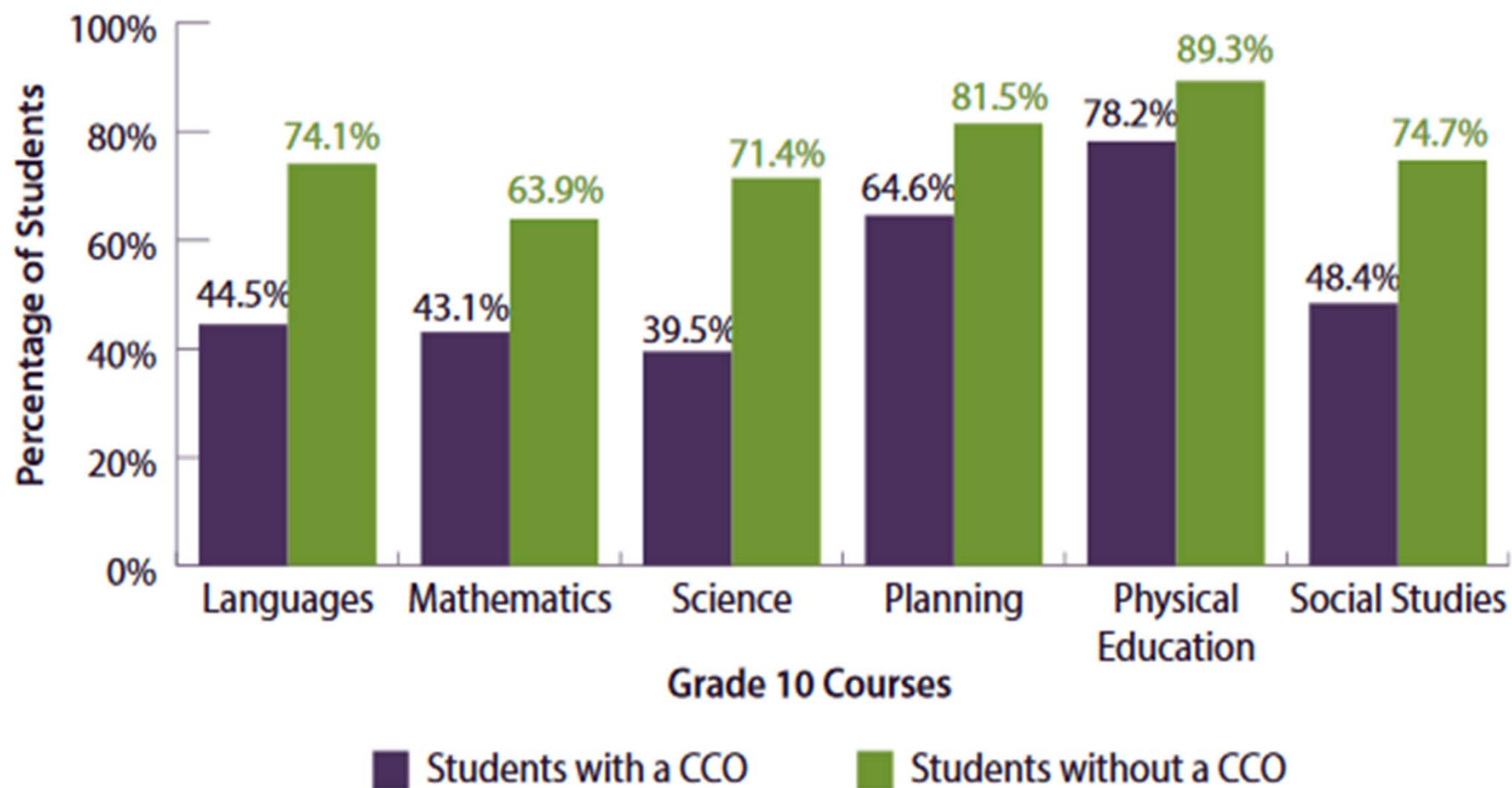
- 34% of Grade 7 students in continuing care met or exceeded expectations in numeracy

Versus

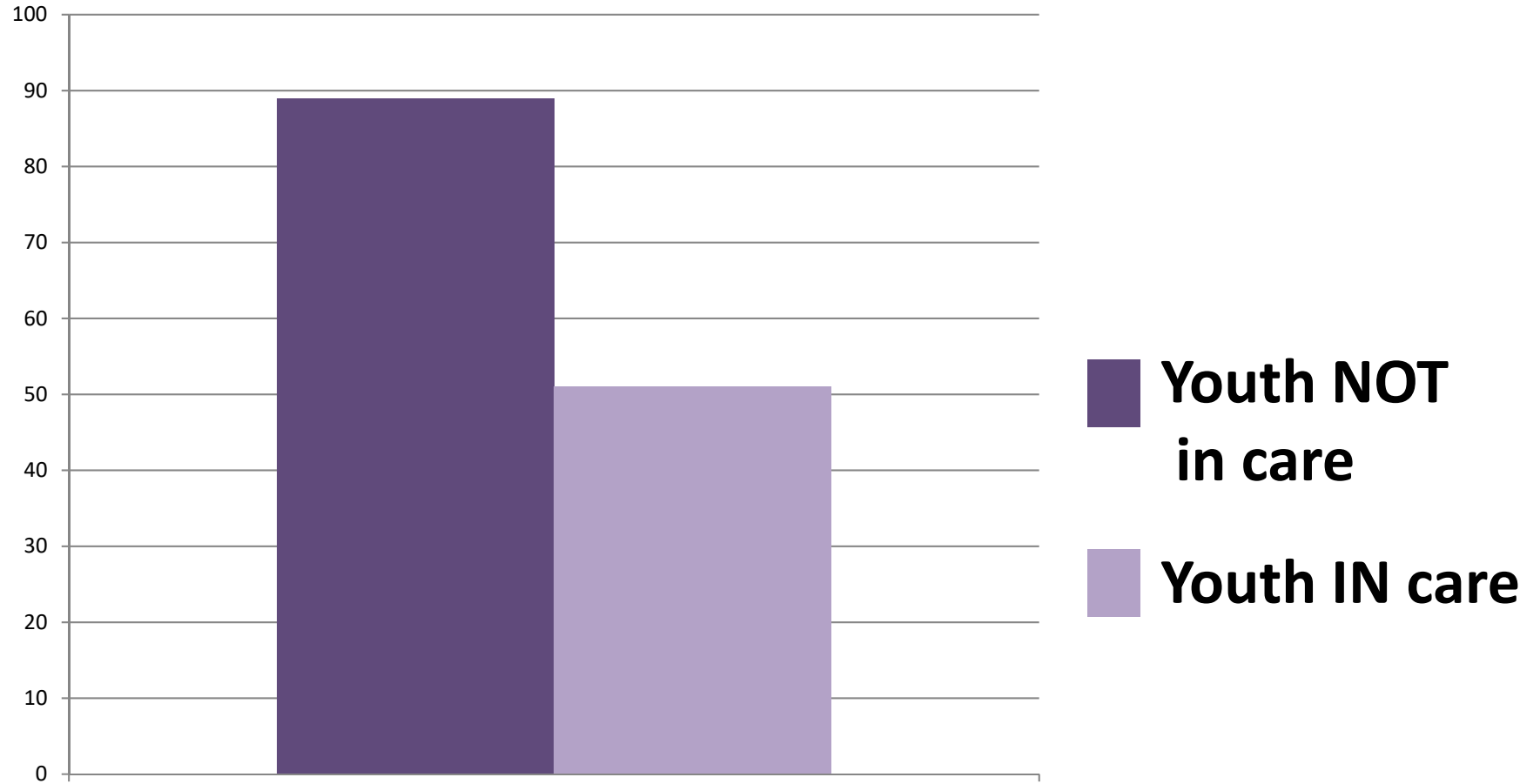
- 73% of all other Grade 7 students met or exceeded expectations in numeracy



Percentage of Students With and Without a CCO who Achieved C+ to A on Grade 10 Courses that they Took on-Time, 2014/15 School Year



High School Graduation Rates





Recommendations

Point person

- Ministry of Education, school districts and the Ministry of Children and Family Development should establish 'point people' in each district to:
 - Coordinate information-sharing and advocacy in support of improving education outcomes for children and youth in care.
- Other jurisdictions in Canada, the U.S. and the United Kingdom have formalized point person roles to support collaboration.



Recommendations cont.

- Ministry of Education provide funds to school districts to support the learning needs of children and youth in care.
- Ministry of Education strengthen accountability for the academic achievement of students in government care.
- Ministry of Education implement a 2015 Auditor General rec. for a strategy to close the gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.



Recommendations cont.

- MCFD assess the trauma-related needs of all children and youth as they come into care and ensure supports in place.
- MCFD ensure that caregivers are authorized to sign permission slips for school activities that require written permission.



Ministry of Education's Response

“The recommendations that are before government now with the release of this report, I support all six of them.”

- Minister of Education Rob Fleming, referring to recommendations in *Room for Improvement*.

- MCFD and the Ministry of Education will share an action plan with RCY before the summer.
- RCY will monitor the implementation of the recommendations and whether or not they lead to measureable improvements.



What can teachers do?

- Reach out to children and youth in care who change schools because of a home move.
- Organize peer supports to ease a school transition.
- Provide extra help to fill learning gaps.
- Watch for behaviour changes – a student may need help from a counsellor.
- Believe and communicate that children and youth in care can succeed at school.



Contact Us

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BC's Representative for Children and Youth
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