

Young children’s social and emotional skills contribute to their ability to learn as they enter kindergarten, setting the foundation for long-term academic and economic success. However, many young children—particularly those with limited access to resources—may not have the opportunities or experiences to develop key school readiness skills. Since 2005, First 5 San Joaquin has invested in kindergarten bridge programs to support children in transitioning successfully to school and building a foundation for academic success.

## Kindergarten Bridge Programs At-A-Glance

- Focused on developing children’s school readiness skills and increasing parent engagement
- Held on the campus of an elementary school for three hours per day for five days
- Gave priority to children with little to no prior preschool experience
- Offered activities aligned with Common Core

## Kindergarten Bridge Programs by Agency



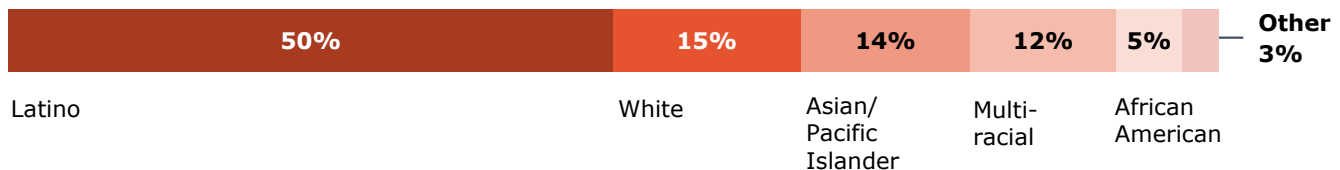
In 2016 and 2017, kindergarten bridge programs were offered at 35 elementary school sites in San Joaquin County.



Agency	# sites 2016	# sites 2017
Manteca Unified School District	11	12
San Joaquin County Office of Education	7	8
Lodi Unified School District	8	7
Stockton Unified School District	8	7
Tracy Unified School District	1	1

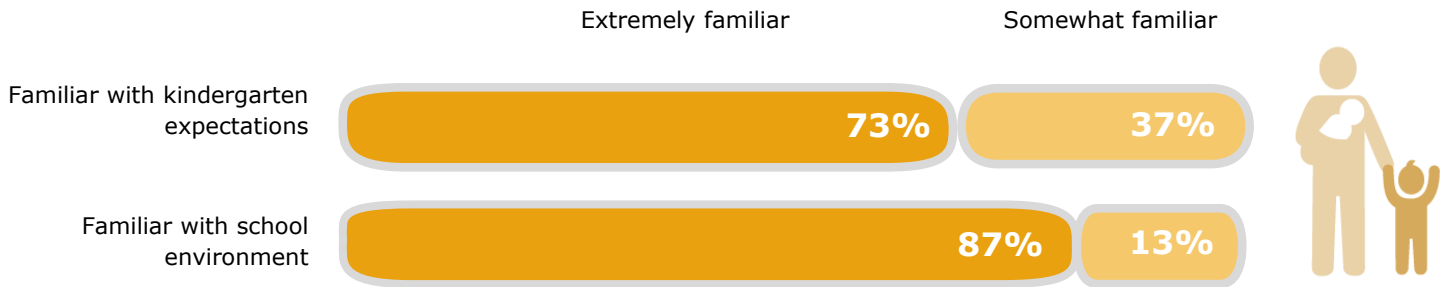
## Children Served Were Ethnically Diverse

**1,656** children participated in kindergarten bridge programs  
(2016: **940**, 2017: **716**)



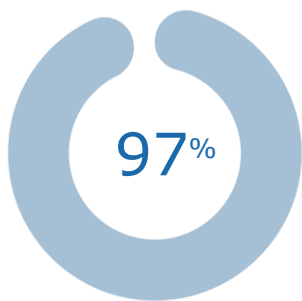
## Bridge Programs Helped Prepare Children for School

Teachers reported that children were familiar with kindergarten expectations and the school environment (n=109-111)



## Parents Engaged in Kindergarten Preparation

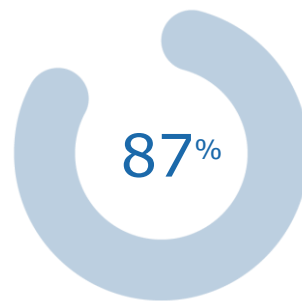
Bridge programs engaged parents in kindergarten preparation (n=1,288-1,446)



Received adequate information



Participated in at least one parent engagement activity



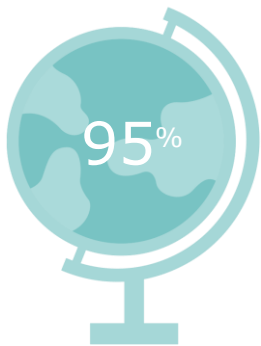
Received information about bridge goals or kindergarten expectations

**“The bridge program helped me prepare and introduce my child to the school and for her to have the initial feel without having the shock of a new environment and new routine.”**

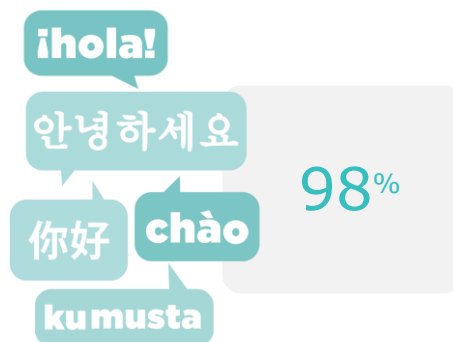
-Bridge program parent

## Bridge Programs Offered an Accessible Environment

Bridge programs were respectful of parents' language and culture (n=574-582)



The bridge program was respectful of my culture



Teachers communicated with me in a language I feel comfortable with



For more information contact: First 5 San Joaquin at (209) 953-5437 or visit [sjckids.org](http://sjckids.org)