

# THE EFFECTS OF OKLAHOMA'S UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM ON SCHOOL READINESS

William T. Gormley, Jr.

Center for Research on Children in the U.S.  
(CROCUS)  
Georgetown University

June 18, 2007

# OKLAHOMA

# Oklahoma!

MUSIC BY

**RICHARD RODGERS**

LYRICS BY

**OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**

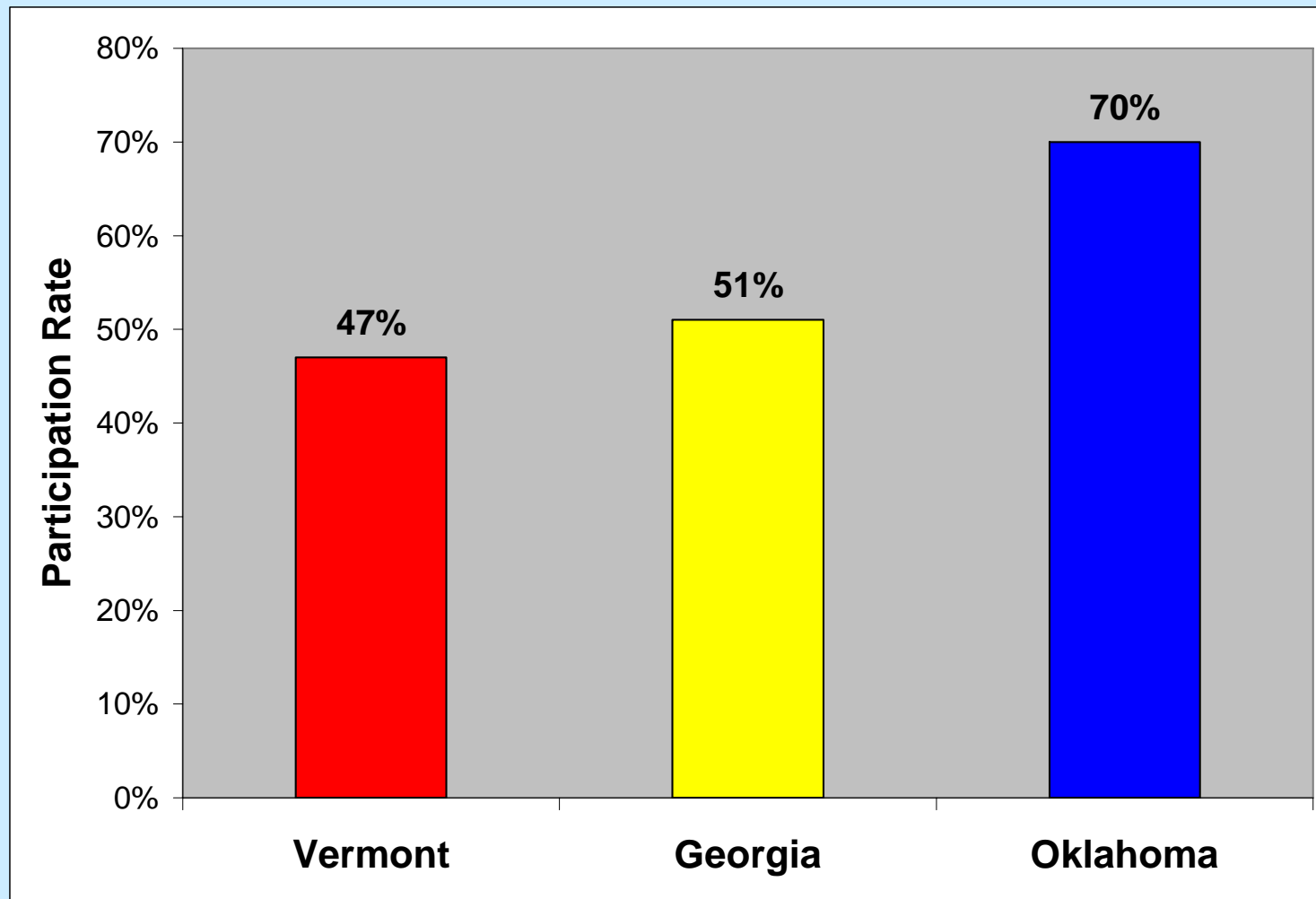
Published Separately from the Score:

OKLAHOMA  
MANY A NEW DAY  
SURREY WITH THE FRINGE ON TOP  
OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNIN'  
PEOPLE WILL SAY WE'RE IN LOVE  
OUT OF MY DREAMS  
I CAN'T SAY NO  
KANSAS CITY  
PORE JU'D  
ALL ER NOTHIN'  
THE FARMER AND THE COWMAN  
SELECTION

PRICE  
95¢



# Participation Rates, Pre-K Programs



Source: NIEER, 2006

# Oklahoma Pre-K Program at a Glance

- Available to all four-year-olds, irrespective of income
- Became universal, fall 1998
- Funded by state general revenues
- All funding flows through public schools
- All lead teachers must have a B.A. degree and must be early-childhood-certified
- All lead teachers are paid at public school wages
- Maximum child/staff ratio: 10/1
- Maximum group size: 20
- Collaborations with Head Start programs and day care centers possible

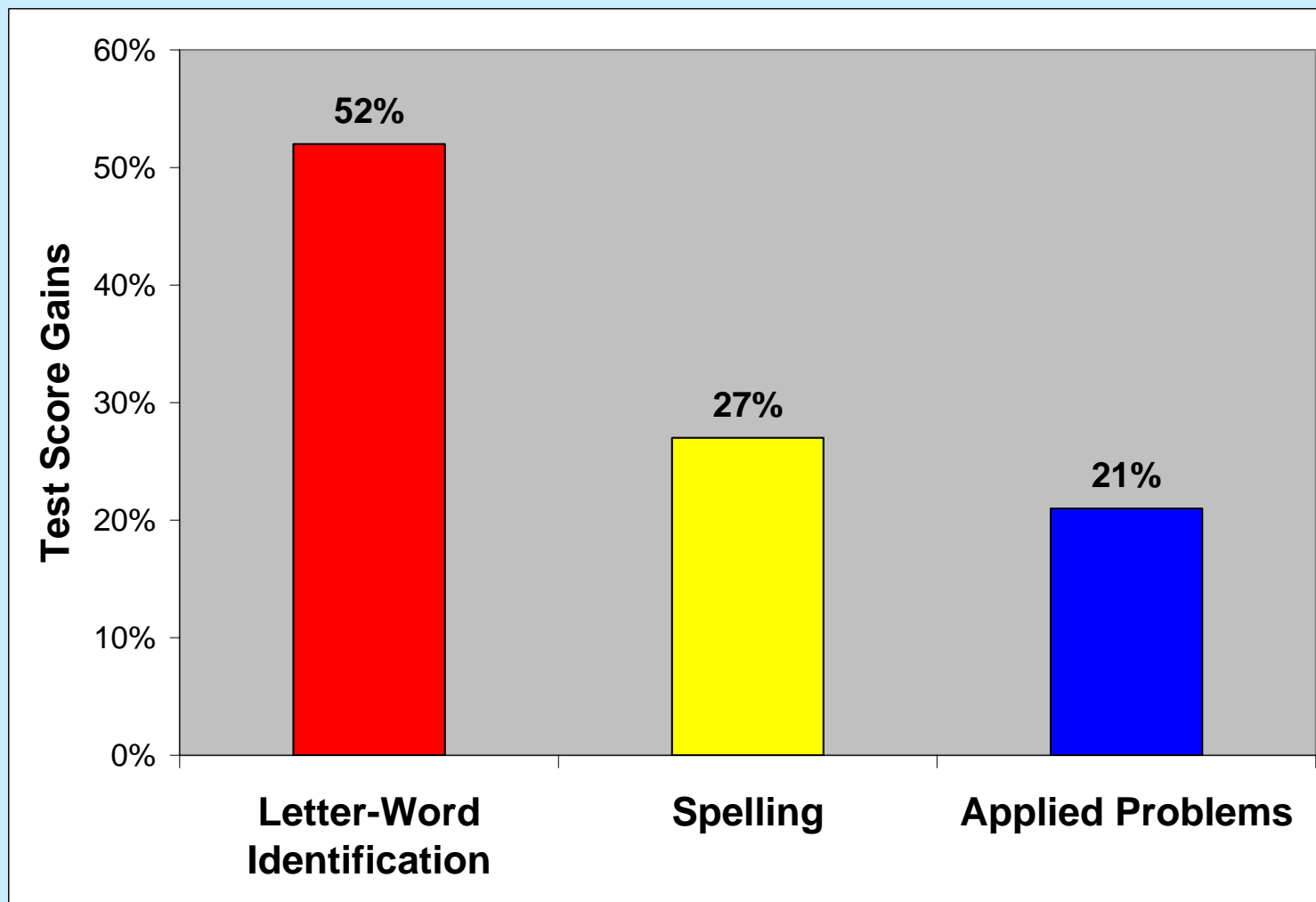
# Tulsa Public Schools at a Glance

- Tulsa Public Schools is the largest school district in Oklahoma, with 42,281 students in 2005-06
- The student body of Tulsa Public Schools is diverse: 37 percent white; 35 percent black; 17 percent Hispanic; 10 percent Native American; 1 percent Asian
- Students tested August 2003
- Classrooms visited Spring 2006, students tested August 2006, also assessed October 2006

# Key Questions (2003 Data)

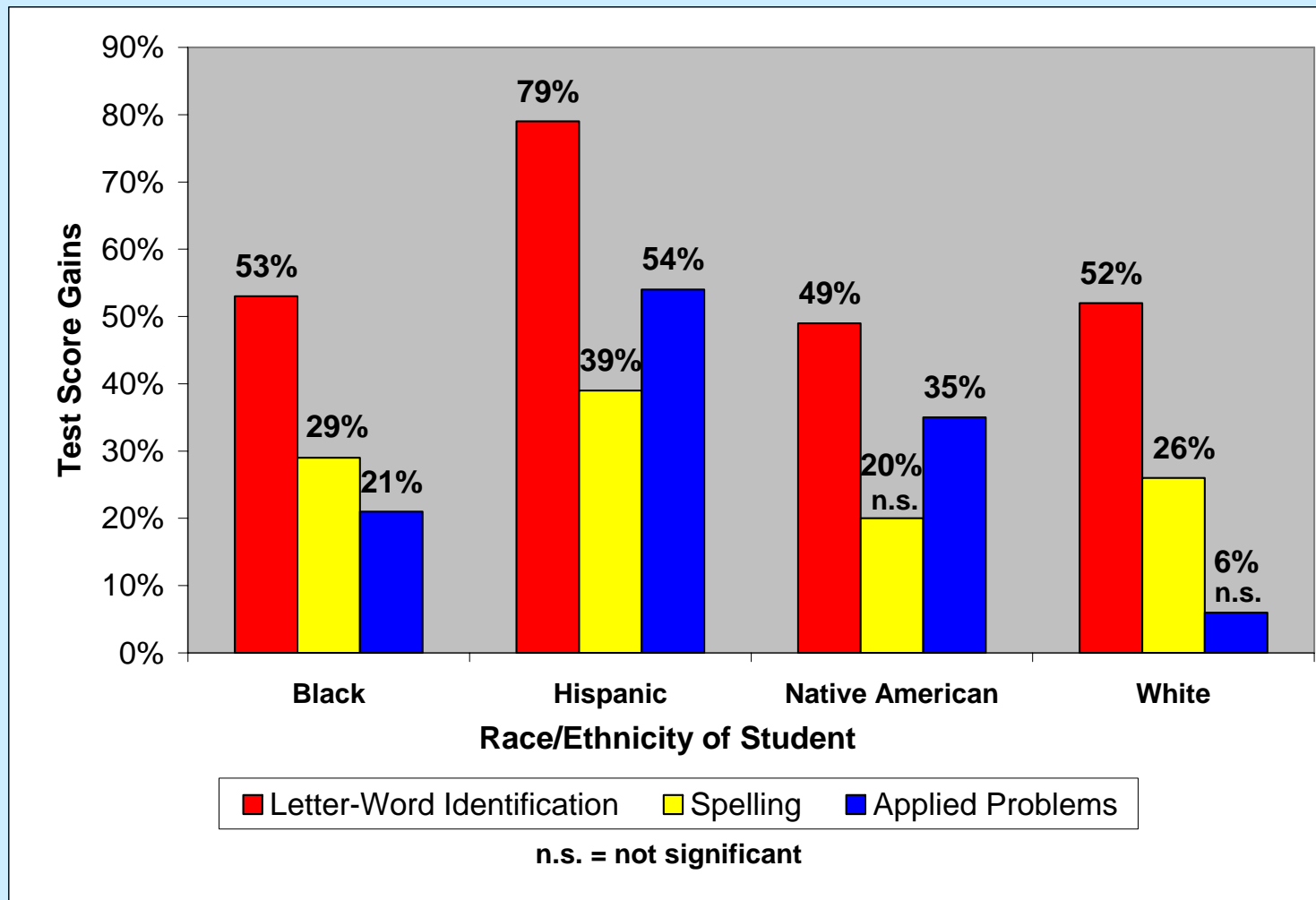
- How effective is the Tulsa pre-K program in promoting school readiness?
- Do effects vary by race, ethnicity, or socio-economic status?
- Have Tulsa pre-K participants improved with respect to national norms?

# Overall Effects of Tulsa Pre-K Program



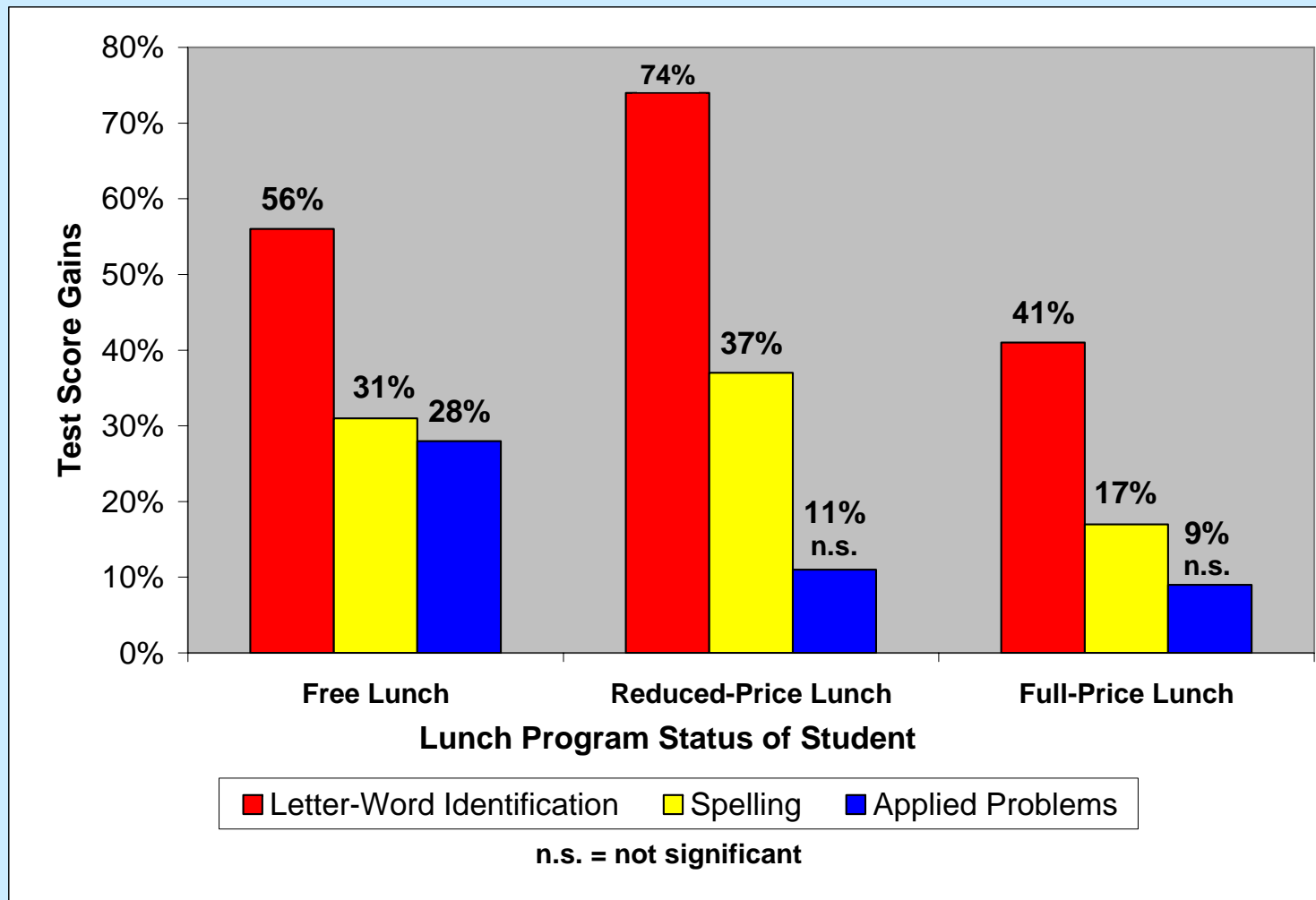
Tulsa pre-K students experience statistically significant gains on all three tests.

# Effects of Tulsa Pre-K Program by Race/Ethnicity of Student



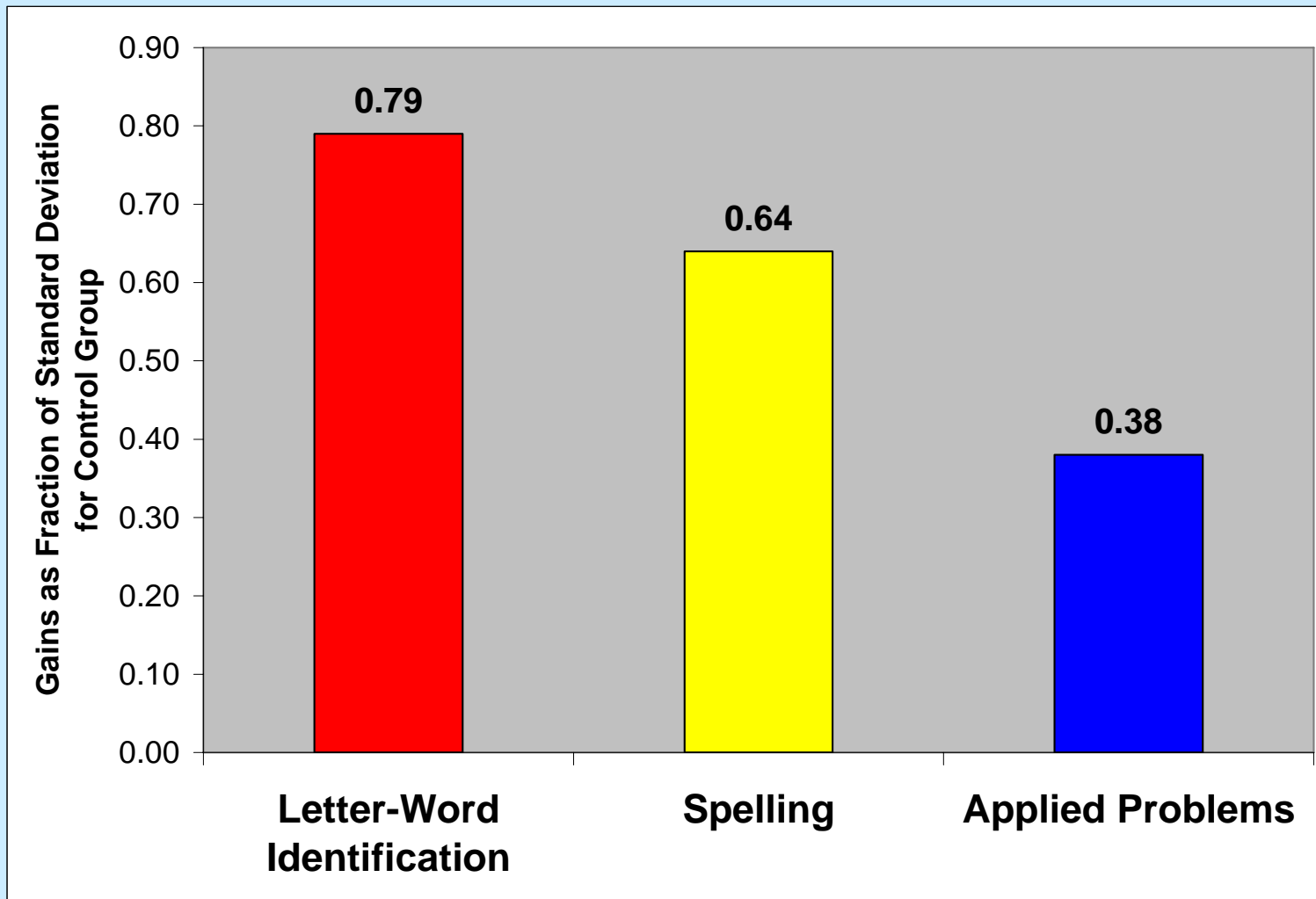
Students of diverse races and ethnicities benefit from the Tulsa pre-K program.

# Effects of Tulsa Pre-K Program by Free Lunch Program Status of Student



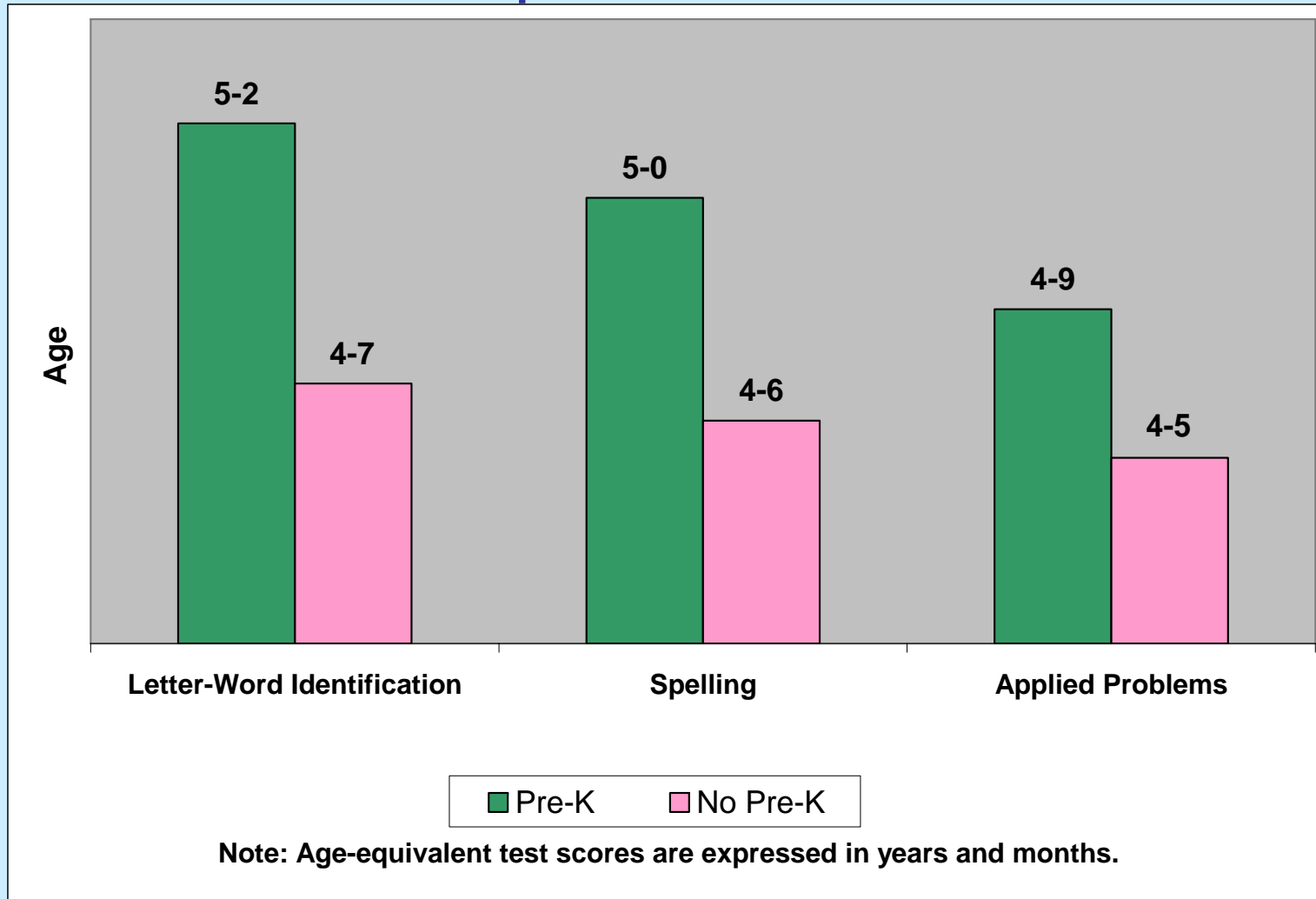
Students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds benefit from Tulsa pre-K.

# Test Score Gains Attributable to Tulsa Pre-K Program



Effect sizes for all three tests are substantial.

# Age-Equivalent Test Scores for Children Exposed to Tulsa Pre-K

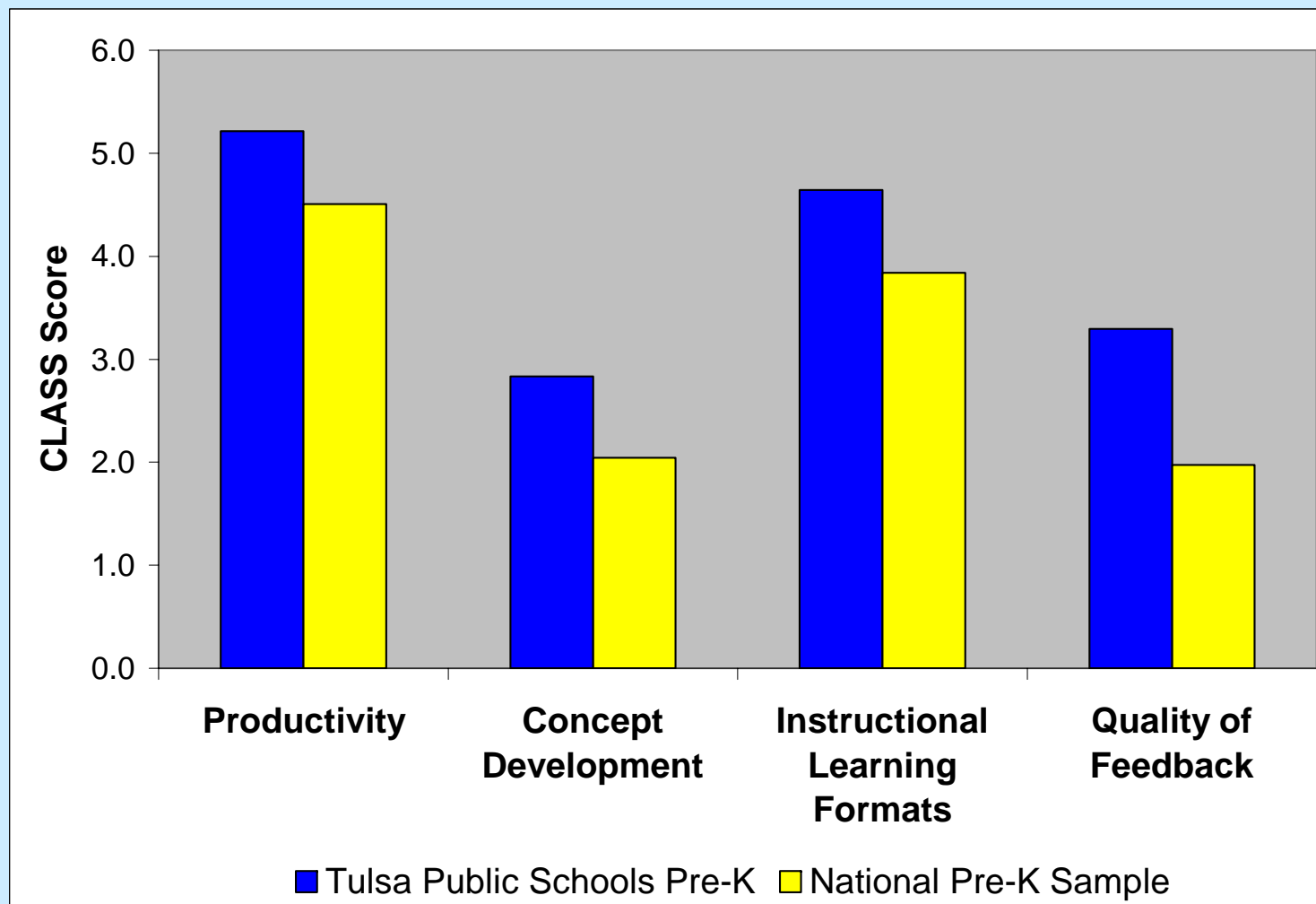


Students in Tulsa pre-K advance several months beyond other students.

## Key Questions (2006 Data)

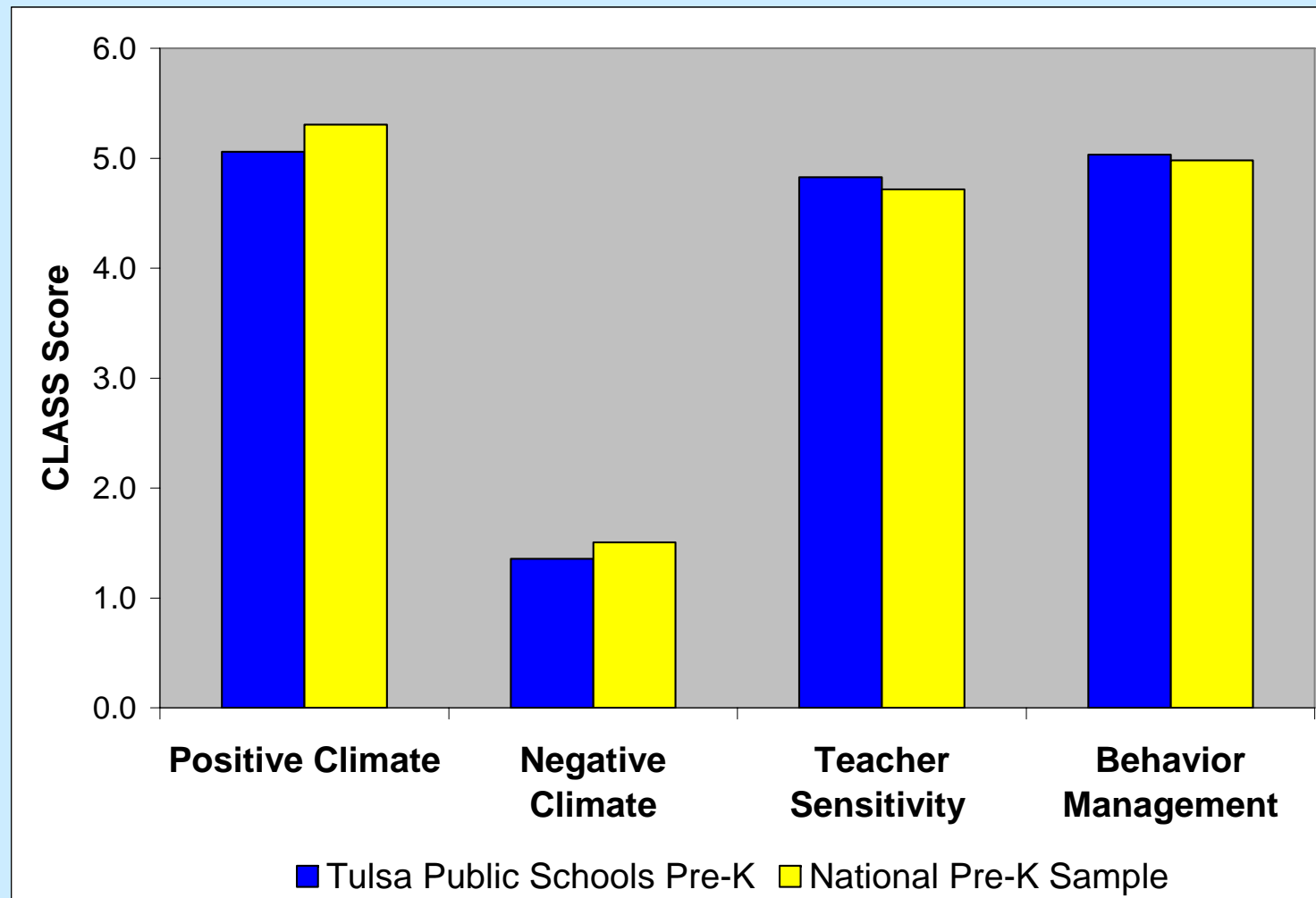
- How does quality of Tulsa pre-K classrooms compare to that of other school-based pre-K programs?
- How do time allocation decisions of Tulsa pre-K teachers compare to those of other school-based pre-K teachers?

# CLASS Scores, Instructional Support



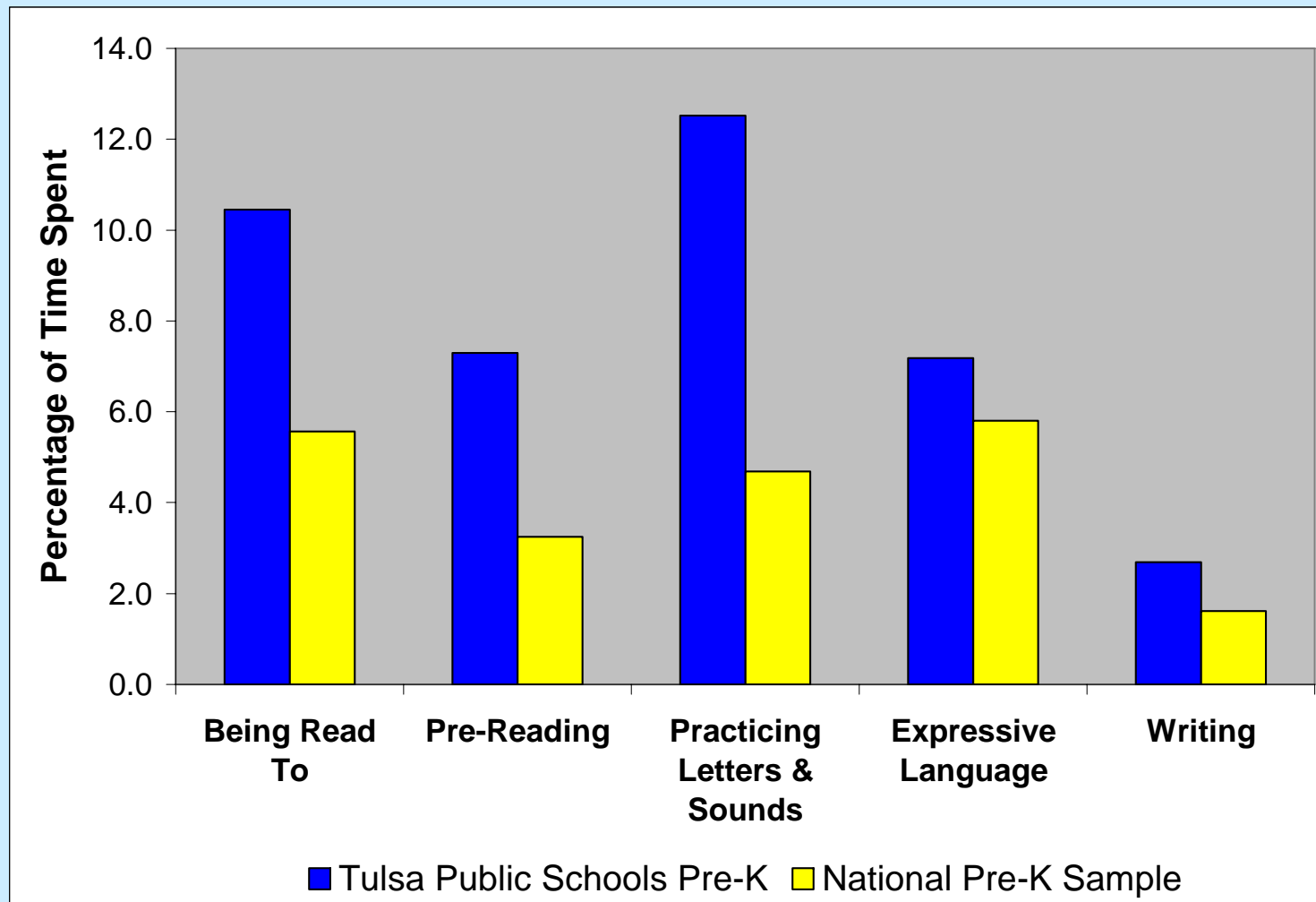
The Tulsa pre-K program provides higher levels of instructional support than other school-based programs.

# CLASS Scores, Emotional Support



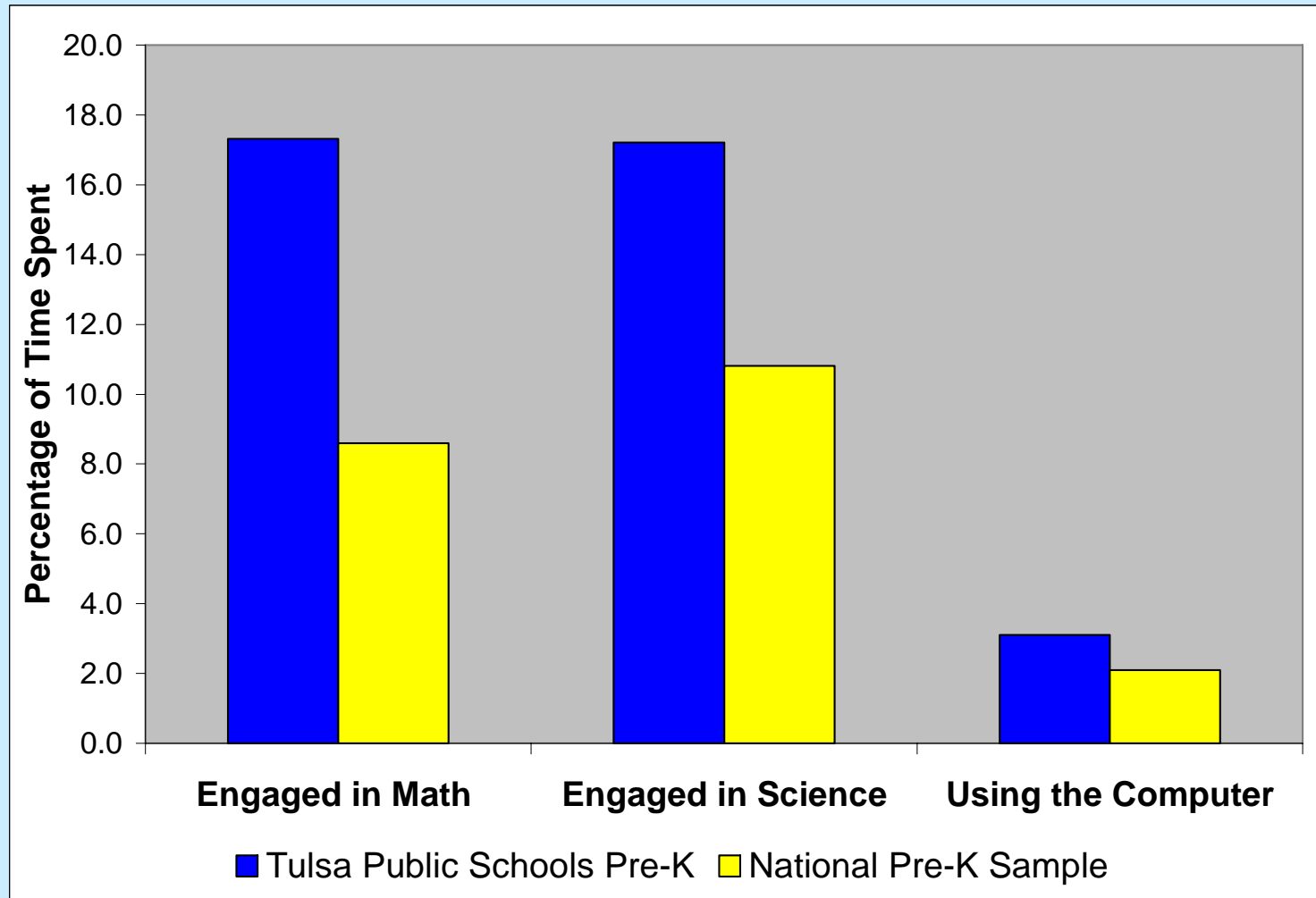
The Tulsa pre-K program provides levels of emotional support comparable to those provided by other school-based programs.

# Classroom Time Allocation, Language & Literacy



The Tulsa pre-K program devotes much more time to pre-reading and pre-writing skills than other school-based programs.

# Classroom Time Allocation, Math & Science



The Tulsa pre-K program devotes much more time to math and science than other school-based programs.

# UPK in Tulsa: Why does it work?

- Well-educated teachers
  - Well-paid teachers
  - Public schools auspices
- Strong educational leadership
- Strong support from business community

# Essence of Oklahoma Model

- Universality
  - Quality
  - Consistency
- Emphasis on Academic Instruction

# Can the Oklahoma Model be replicated?

- Depends on quantity and quality of early childhood education programs in the state's higher education system
- Depends on attractiveness of early childhood education jobs, in comparison to other jobs
- Depends on strong service delivery organizations, including public schools

# OKLAHOMA

# Oklahoma!

MUSIC BY

**RICHARD RODGERS**

LYRICS BY

**OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**

Published Separately from the Score:

OKLAHOMA  
MANY A NEW DAY  
SURREY WITH THE FRINGE ON TOP  
OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNIN'  
PEOPLE WILL SAY WE'RE IN LOVE  
OUT OF MY DREAMS  
I CAN'T SAY NO  
KANSAS CITY  
PORE JUDD  
ALL ER NOTHIN'  
THE FARMER AND THE COWMAN  
SELECTION

PRICE  
95¢

