



Childhood Literacy



Why is this initiative important?

Learning to read is a critical component of future academic and life success. It is said that one has to learn to read so that they can read to learn. Once children have mastered literacy, learning in all areas is considerably easier. The longer children struggle with reading and comprehension, the further behind their peers they fall, increasing the risk of dropping out of school and a life of continued struggle.



What are we doing in this initiative?

Birth to Four Years - The Weld Trust will invest in parents, caregivers, and early childhood programs across Weld County to ensure children enter Kindergarten meeting developmental milestones. Through high-quality early learning, family literacy support, and expanded childcare access, Weld Trust will help children thrive in safe, nurturing environments and build strong foundations that make them more likely to read proficiently by third grade and succeed in school and life.

FIVE TO EIGHT YEARS AND BEYOND (K-12) - The Weld Trust will invest in programs that help children ages 5-8 develop strong literacy skills and reach grade-level reading by third grade. By supporting schools, families, tutoring, and enrichment programs, we invest in and support targeted interventions, boost parental engagement, and help all children thrive academically and in life.



What are the priorities in this initiative?

High-Quality Early Childhood Education *(Building strong early learning foundations)*

- Expand access to high-quality early learning, curriculum, and literacy materials
- Improve kindergarten readiness and early literacy outcomes
- Strengthen instructional quality and adoption of evidence-based practices

Parental Support *(Equipping families to support early literacy development)*

- Increase access to literacy resources, education, and developmental screenings
- Strengthen families' ability to support reading and learning at home
- Increase engagement of parents and caregivers in early learning

Capacity & Access *(Expanding availability of quality childcare and programs)*

- Increase the availability of affordable, high-quality childcare and early learning spaces
- Strengthen the early childhood workforce through training and development
- Expand access to programs that support literacy and school readiness



What are Big Bets?

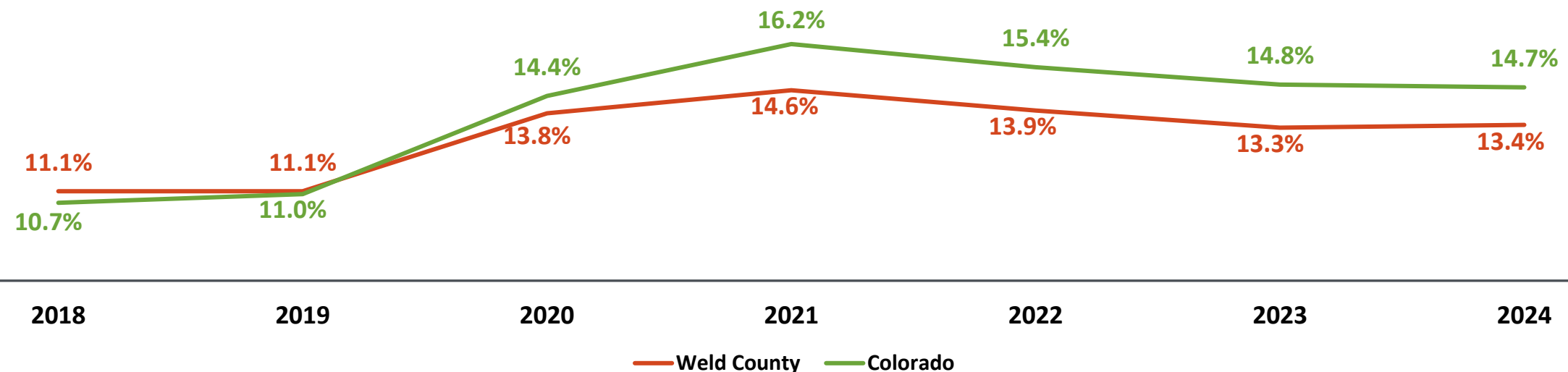
- **Big Bets are clear, measurable county-level outcomes** that define the long-term impact The Weld Trust is working toward within each Key Funding Initiative.
- **They help focus our funding and partnerships** on the strategies and activities most likely to move these outcomes over time.
- **Big Bets work hand-in-hand with our logic models**—grants should align with the strategies in the logic model, the Big Bet outcome, or ideally both.
- This requires grantees to collect data and track outcomes related to their own work, while contributing to progress toward the Big Bets.
- **They create a consistent way to track progress**, using annual data to understand movement toward each long-term outcome.
- **Big Bets track long-term, population-level progress that reflects system-wide change over time.** Understanding what is working requires examining the more immediate outcomes achieved by individual programs and grantees.

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What are our Big Bets for this initiative?

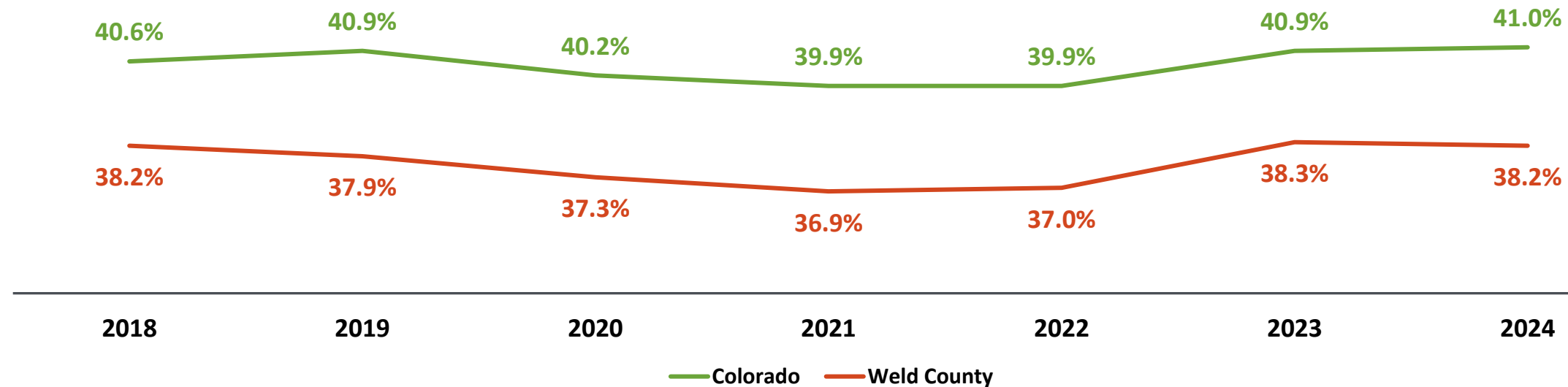
- **Childhood Literacy Big Bet #1:** By 2028, Weld County's three-year average kindergarten SRD rate will be at least 2.0 percentage points lower than the Colorado three-year average SRD rate. (find historical data for this Big Bet below)
- **How we'll measure it:** Colorado's READ Act data from the Colorado Department of Education. Districts use approved screeners (like Acadience or DIBELS 8) to flag Significant Reading Deficiencies (SRDs), and we show a simple three-year average, so trends are steady and easy to compare with the state.





What are our Big Bets for this initiative?

- **Childhood Literacy Big Bet #2:** By 2030, the three-year average percentage of Weld County third-grade students meeting or exceeding expectations on the ELA CMAS test will align with the state average. (find historical data for this Big Bet below)
- **How we'll measure it:** Using the Colorado Department of Education CMAS ELA results, we'll track the three-year average share of 3rd graders who meet or exceed expectations in Weld vs. Colorado.



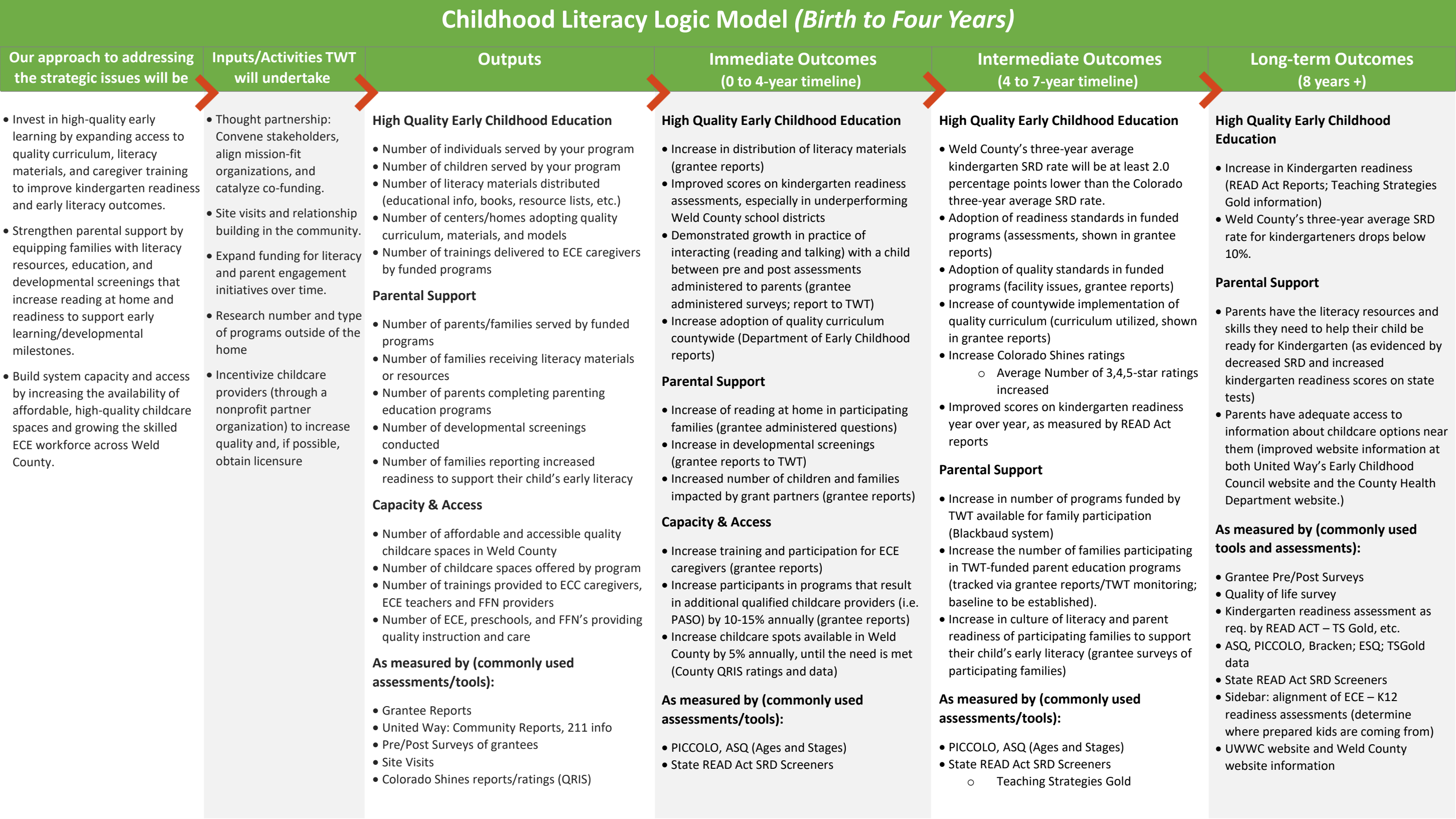


How our Logic Model supports our Big Bets

- A logic model shows how program activities lead to measurable change, from immediate outputs to long-term outcomes.
- It outlines the pathway from **what programs do** → **who they reach** → **what changes as a result**.
- Our logic model identifies the **short- and intermediate-term outcomes** that contribute to our Big Bets. (For more information about how to write your outcomes, please refer to the [TWT Outputs and Outcomes Guide](#))
- It helps you determine **where your program fits and which outcomes you can realistically influence and measure**.



Note: Individual programs contribute to parts of the pathway—not the entire system. Applicants should focus on the outcomes that are most closely aligned with their program, rather than trying to address the full model.



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Childhood Literacy Logic Model *(Five to Eight Years and Beyond (K-12))*

