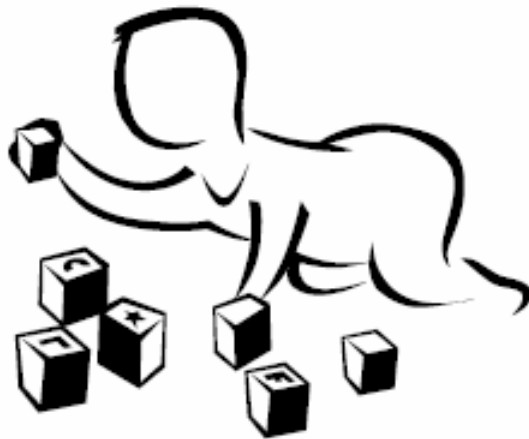


***Children's Early Learning and Care Hubs in
North Bay's Central Area.***



***A Report for the Nipissing District Children's Service
Planning Table.***

*Submitted to the Coordination Working Group by the Data
Working Group, Nov. 2008.*

**A Summary
Presentation of
the report:**

***Children's Early
Learning and
Care Hubs in
North Bay's
Central Area***

Jan. 26, 2009

Today's Presentation



- Purpose
- Methodology
- Best Start
- Level of Geography
- Hub Locations
- Hub Service & Program Implications
- Recommendations
- EDI and "School Readiness to Learn"



Purpose

- This report is intended to supplement the *Hub Development Plan*.
- It presents a quantitative analysis of the neighborhoods that children ages 0-6 yrs. are living in, **in North Bay's central area.**
- The report is framed within Ontario's early learning and care strategy, *Best Start*.



Methodology: *Childrens Population Ages 0-6 yrs. was mapped*

- In 2001, there were approximately 6,140 children ages 0 – 6 living in Nipissing District.
- This children's population was mapped into 158 neighborhoods (101 were located in North Bay).
- North Bay's central area has approximately 72 neighborhoods and a children's population (ages 0-6 yrs.) of 2,770 (45%).



Methodology: A Socioeconomic Index was created and also mapped

- *Number of lone-parent families*
- *Aboriginal population*
- *Unemployment rate*
- *Participation rate*
- *Low education levels*
- *Level of government transfer payments*
- *Incidence of low income (LICO)*
- *Number of households spending 30% > of their gross income on rent.*



Methodology: EDI results were analyzed by area

- EDI is a population-based measure of the “school readiness to learn” of SK children.
- Valuable planning tool for communities as it indicates how children are doing, and how effective the community programs and services are.
- The Nipissing EDI results from four school boards were combined and rolled-up into ten (10) postal code areas, based on where the SK children live.



Best Start Goal

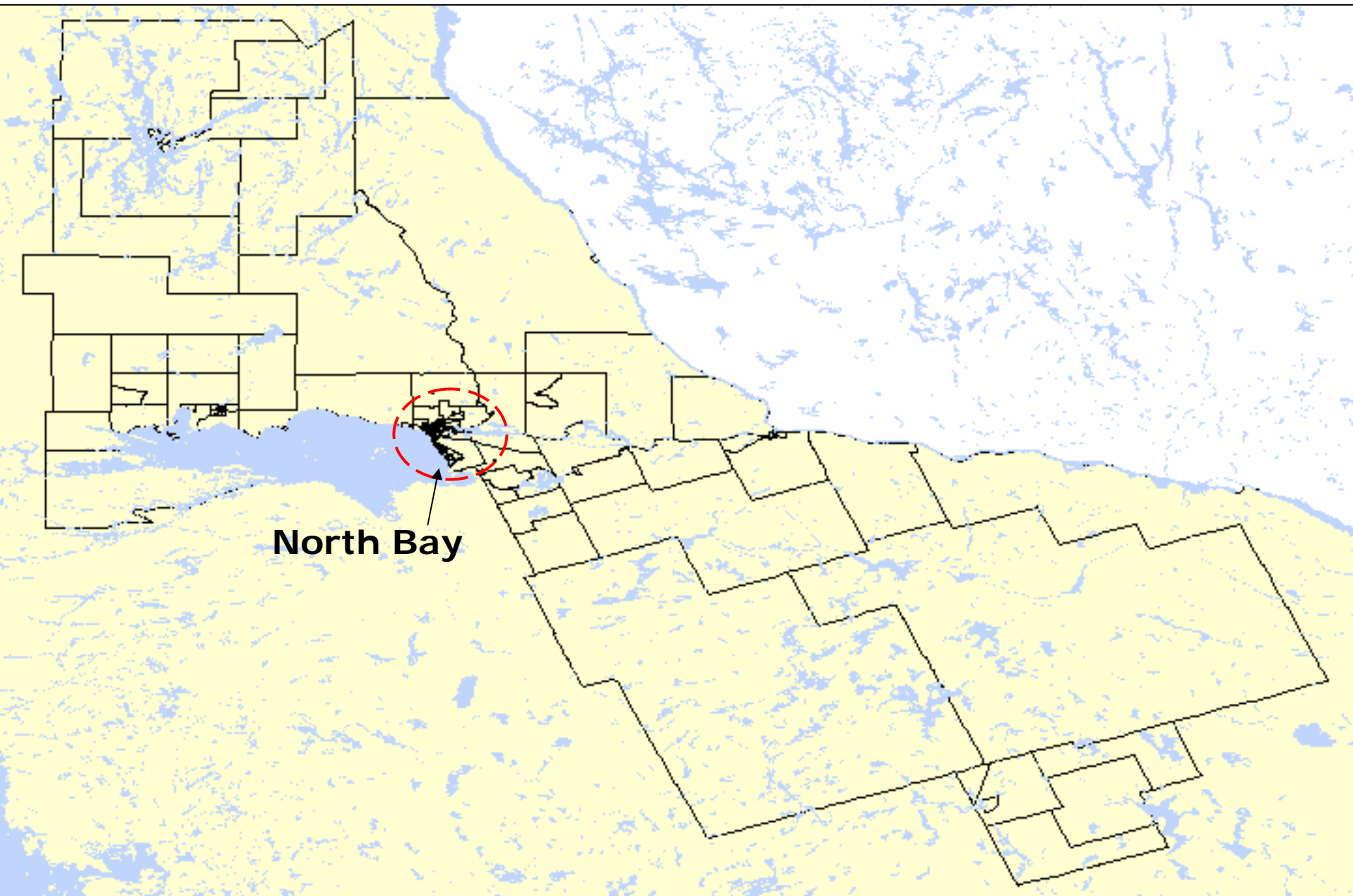
- Best Start is the provincial plan for improving *early learning and childcare* in Ontario.
- **One of the main goals of Best Start is for “children in Ontario to be ready and eager to learn and excel by the time they start grade 1”.**
- Central to this goal is **the expansion of quality and affordable childcare along with a continuum of services, offered in a convenient and easily accessible location for parents.**



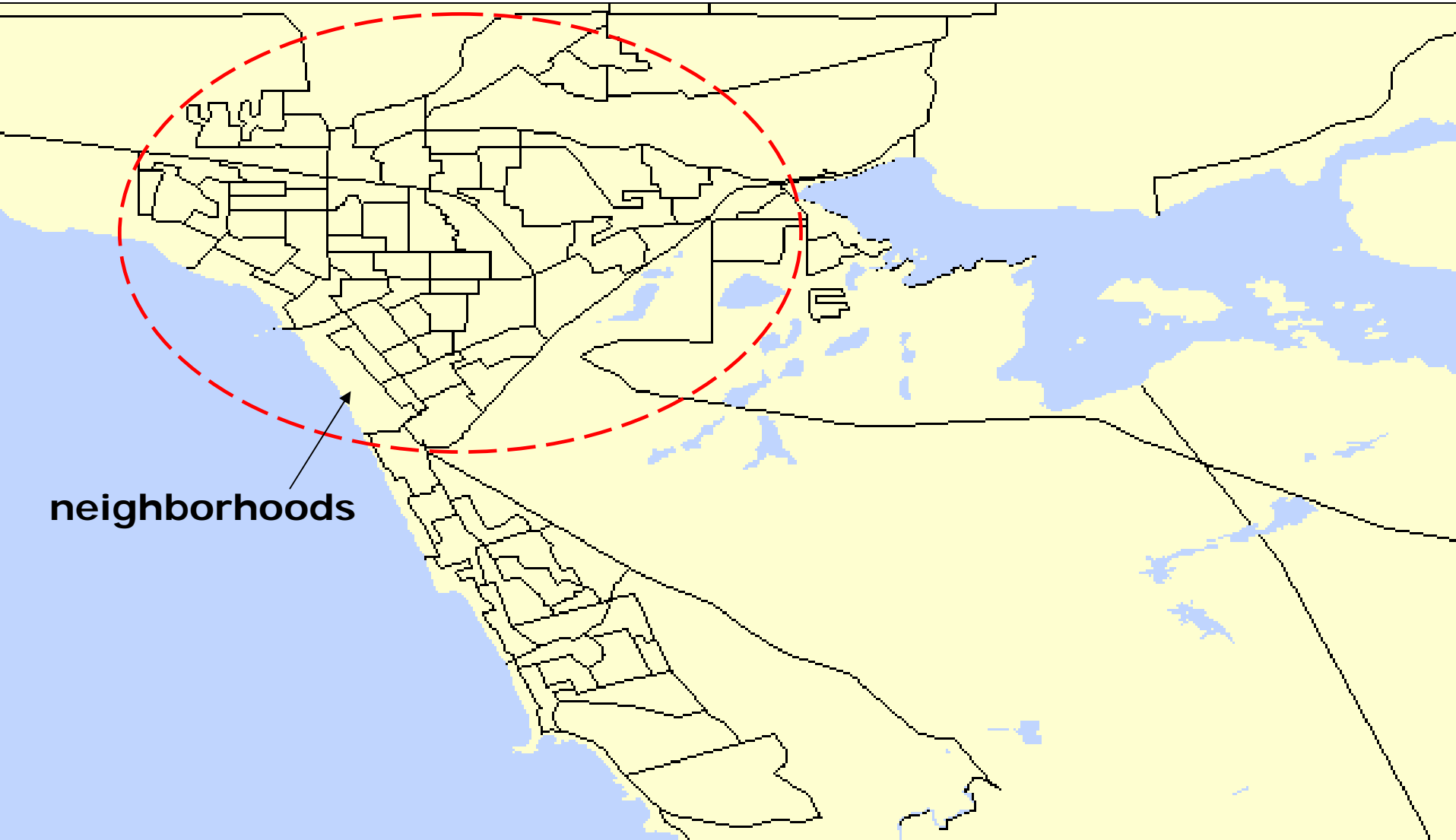
Best Start, Key Strategies

- **Creating new *early learning and care hubs*** that will provide integrated services and supports for families with young children.
- Ideally, these hubs will offer an **integrated, seamless point of access** to services and supports, centrally located in communities.
- **Creating an integrated *early learning and care program*** that combines preschool, Junior Kindergarten (JK) and SK with high quality childcare during non-school hours.

Level of Geography: *North Bay* in Nipissing District

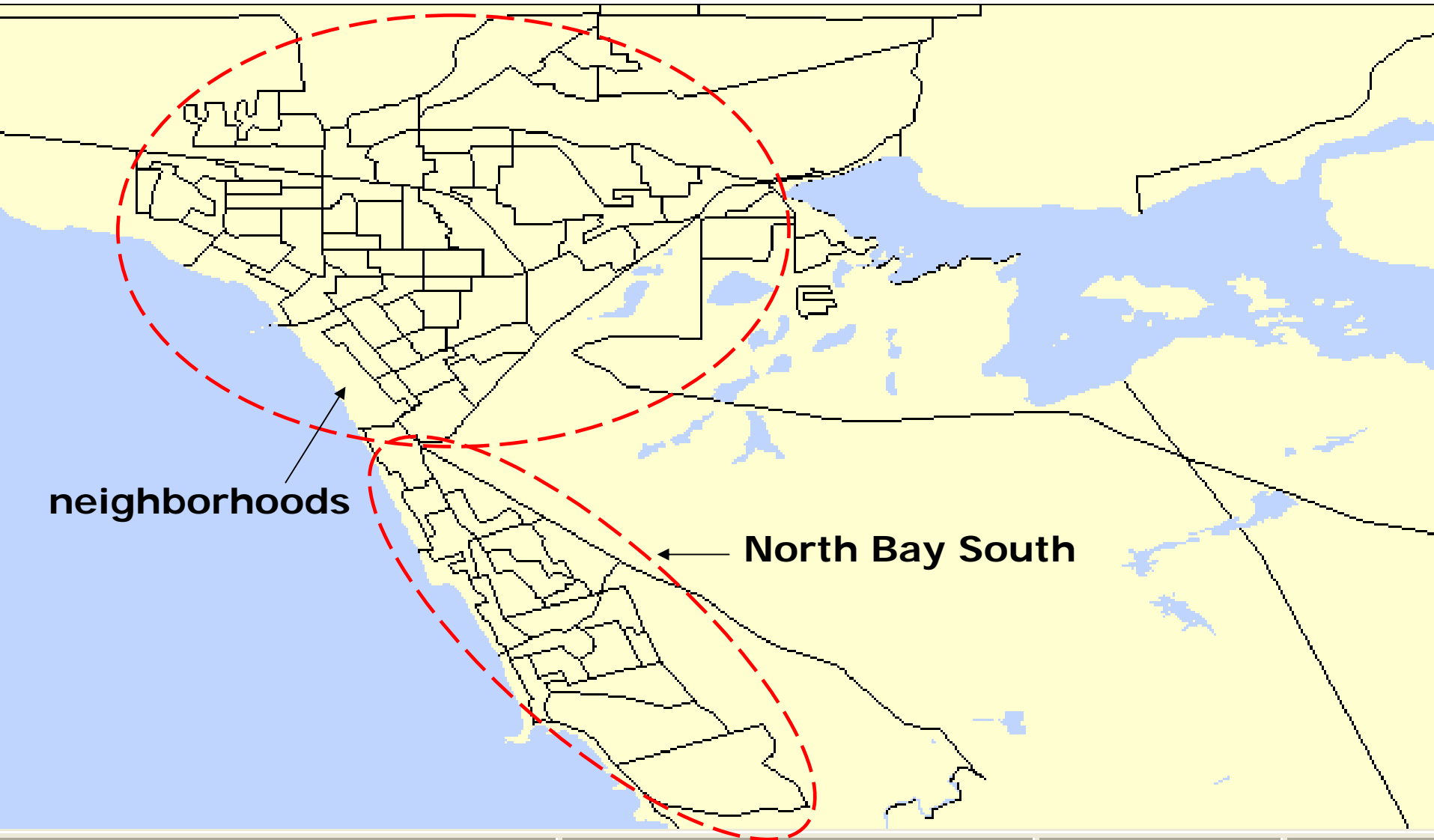


North Bay's Central Area:



neighborhoods

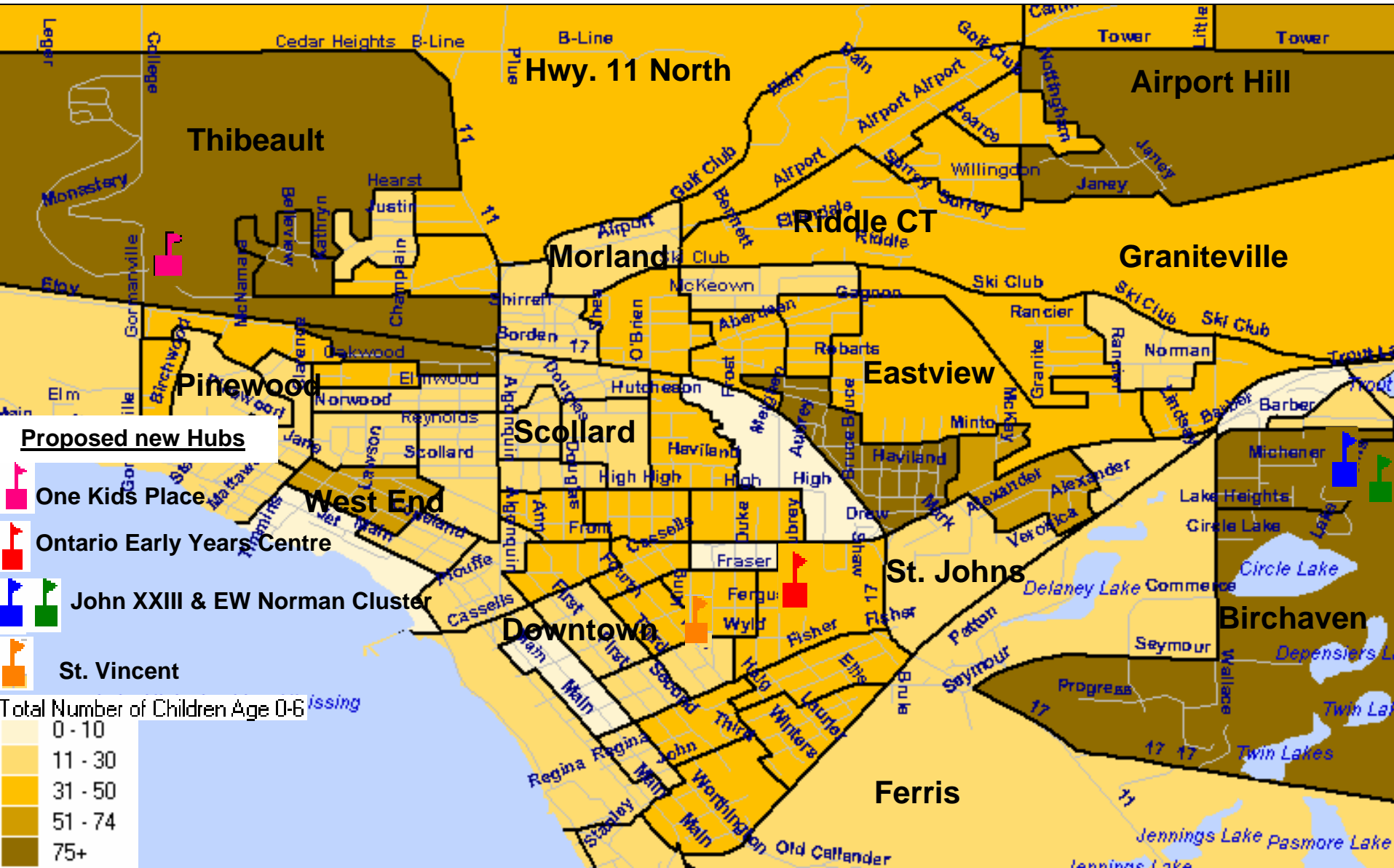
North Bay's Central Area:



neighborhoods

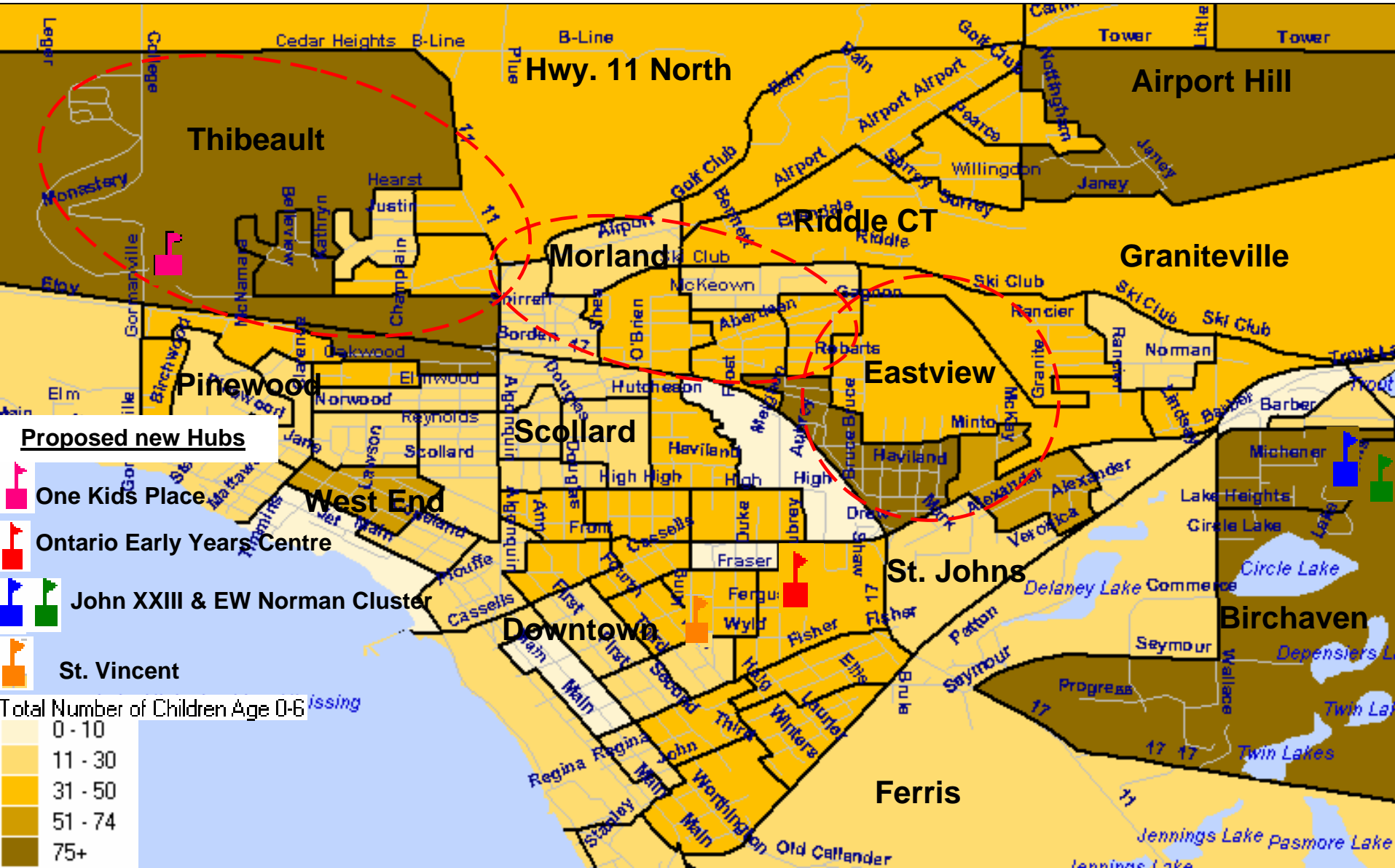
North Bay South

HUB LOCATIONS



2) Integrated Programs and Childcare During Non-school hrs.

- OKP, specialty hub; OEYC, integrated programs but what about childcare?
- John XXIII & EW Norman Cluster integrated but not central.
- St Vincent, integrated with central location – Francophone hub.



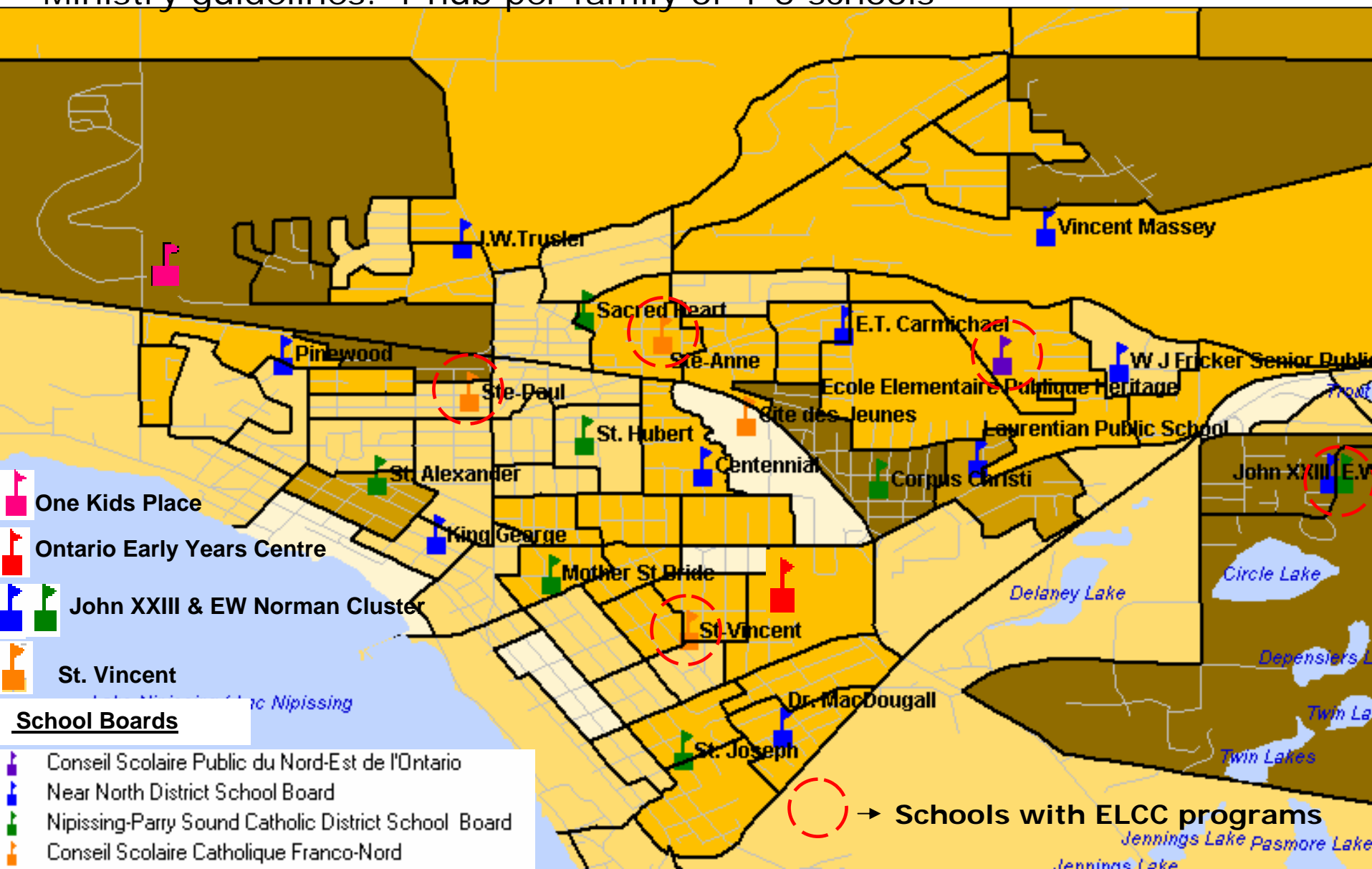


Key Finding:

- Based on the data, and the above factors of *accessibility* and *program & childcare integration*, it is evident that more hubs will be required in the North Bay central area in order to effectively service the children's population and implement key Best Start strategies.

Additional Hubs for Consideration

- Stick with Best start theme: *School's first policy!*
- 22 elementary schools in area
- Ministry guidelines: 1 hub per family of 4-5 schools





Recommendations

- 1) Investigate the possibility of opening hubs that would service the **Thibeault, Morland and Eastview neighborhoods as well as those neighborhoods to the North (Graniteville, Airport Hill and Riddle Ct.)**.
- 2) Investigate the possibility of opening another hub that would complement the St. Vincent hub in the Downtown area – **this additional hub would service the neighborhoods in the Scollard, Pinewood and West End areas.**



Recommendations

- 3) If there are resource restraints, Review and evaluate all the proposed hubs and their locations within North Bays central area with respect to the spatial data presented (specifically neighborhood children population density in association with school locations) and the effectiveness in implementing the Best Start strategies.**



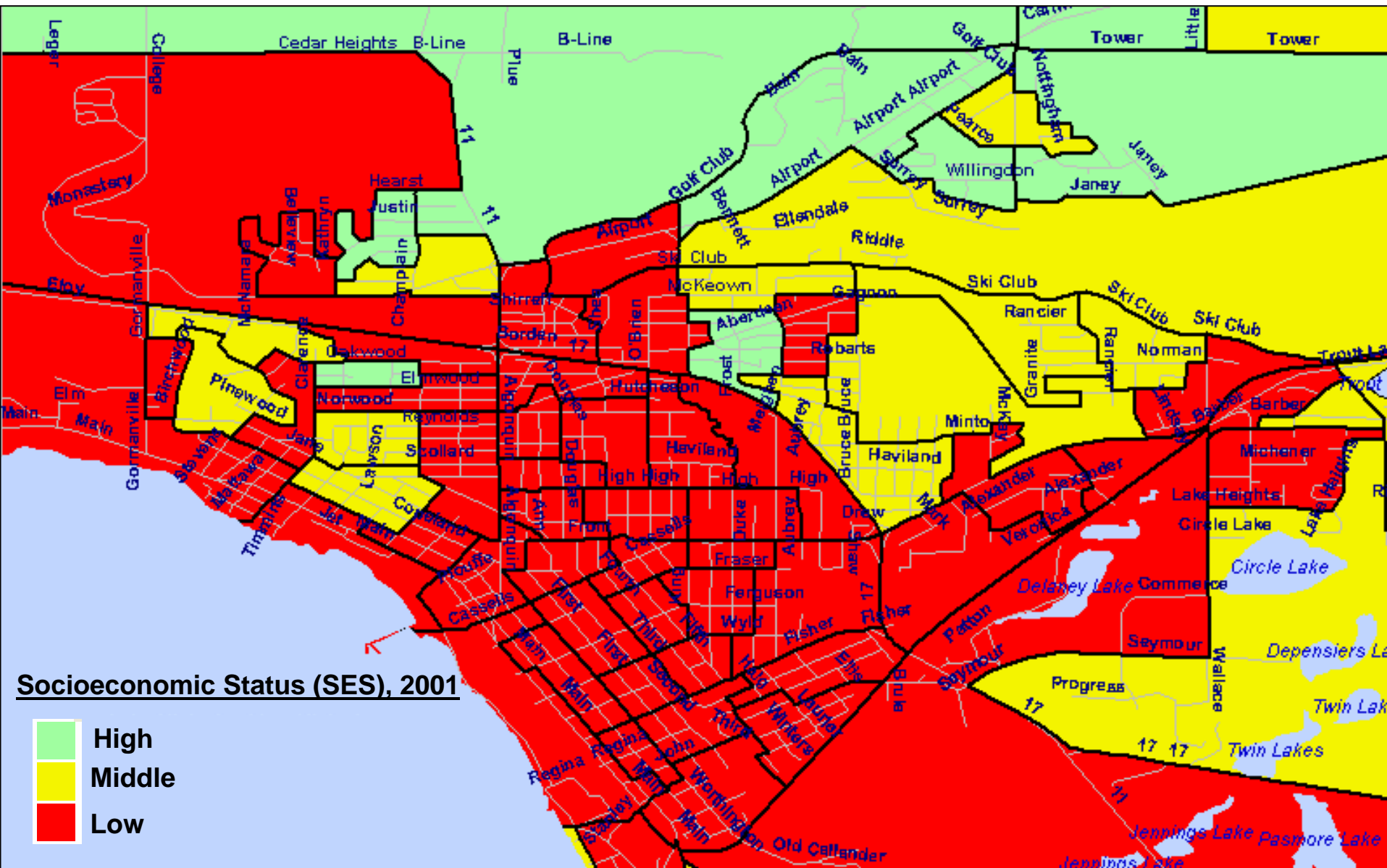
Recommendation

- 4) That the *Community Services Inventory* maintained by the Nipissing Ontario Early Years Centre, be mapped and analyzed in association with the other GIS information and data.

2) The Needs of Children and their Families: SES

- Strong association between SES and children's developmental outcomes
- Performance in school is strongly related to SES
- Neighborhood & family SES can impact Best Start goal

- 49 of the 72 neighborhoods (68%) have low SES
- Approx. 1,760 children (0-6) live in these neighborhoods
- Approx. 780 of these children (44%) are JK & SK





SES has implications for the types of programs & services to offer at the hubs through an *implied need*:

- Expanded access to programs, beyond that which currently exists
- Quality childcare during non-school and non-traditional work hours (week-ends, evenings, shifts, etc.)
- Combination of parent-focused programs (education and support) and children-focused programs




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- Combination of parent-focused programs (education and support) and children-focused programs
- Recreation programs and physical activity (see also, EDI results)
- Preschool programs (including literacy skills & speech)
- Programs covering nutrition and diet
- Programs promoting social and emotional development (see also, EDI results)



Expanded access to hub programs & services...**universal or targeted?**



Expanded access to hub programs & services...**universal or targeted?**

- **BOTH!**
- **The socioeconomic gradient shows that there are children in all SES environments who are not doing well relative to other children in similar SES environments.**
- **But vulnerable children from families and neighborhoods with low SES stand to benefit the most from quality, accessible, early learning and childcare programs.**
- ❖ **Hubs will need to offer services and programs to all children and their families in all neighborhoods, but also perform specific outreach (targeting) to families in need, in the low SES neighborhoods.**



Outreach & Targeting (aka marketing!)

- We have seen that expanded outreach will be necessary if the hubs are to be successful.
- Previous research in Nipissing District has indicated a communications gap between the ELCC industry and families /households.
- If this gap persists – or the current level of ELCC awareness & promotion remains the same - it is highly likely that the hubs will not be fully utilized.
- More mass marketing needed in District.
- Public information sessions, town-hall meetings, etc. at the neighborhood level.

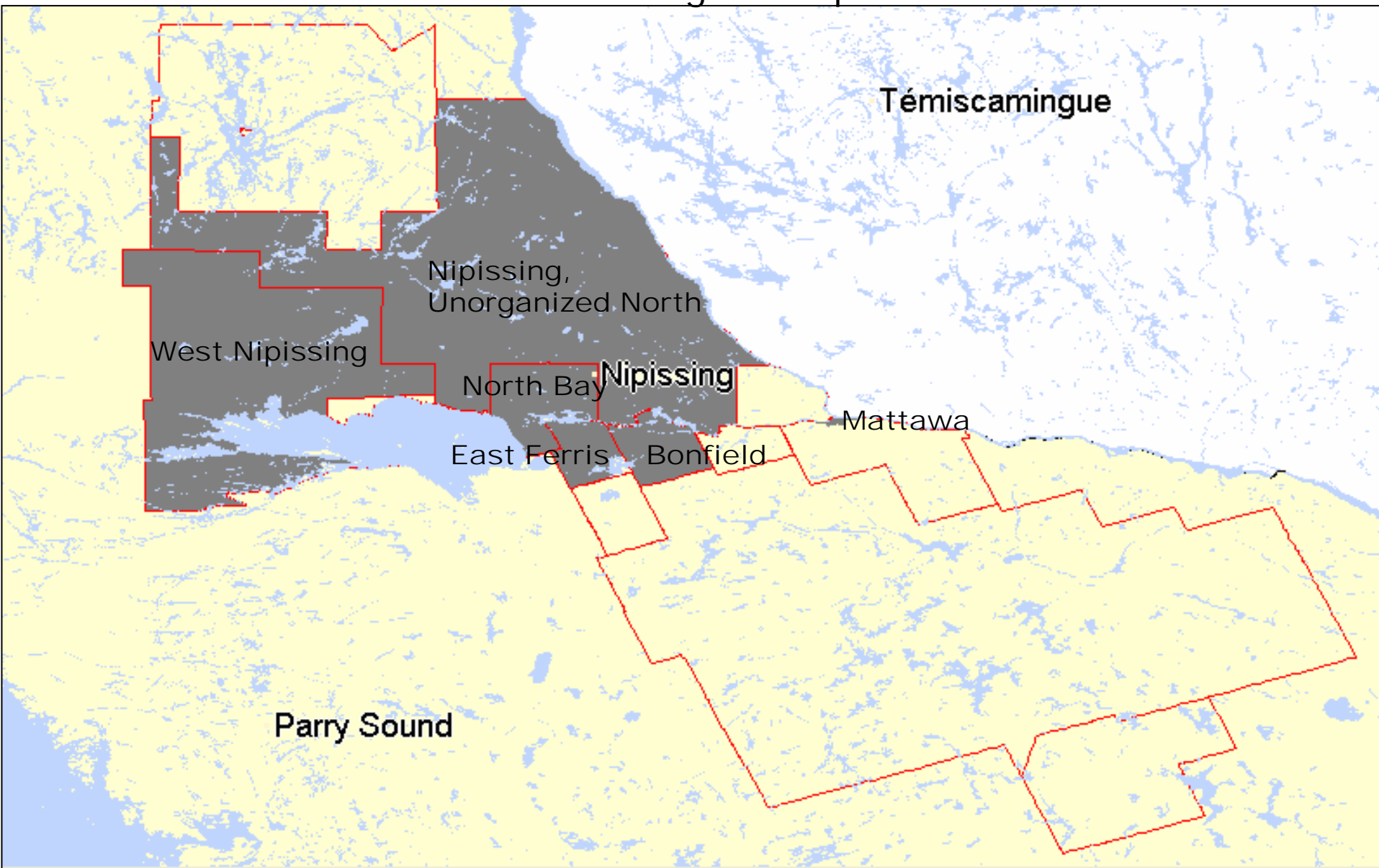


EDI “School Readiness to Learn” for SK Children in North Bay

- **Another main consideration for the design of hub services and programs is the local EDI results.**
- As a key indicator of the “school readiness to learn” EDI is a valuable indicator for determining, to what extent, the Best Start goal of having “children ready to learn” is being achieved.
- Thus EDI can play an integral role in Best Start planning and evaluation.
- When used in association with other indicators such as SES, the scope of analysis is expanded to enhance community planning.

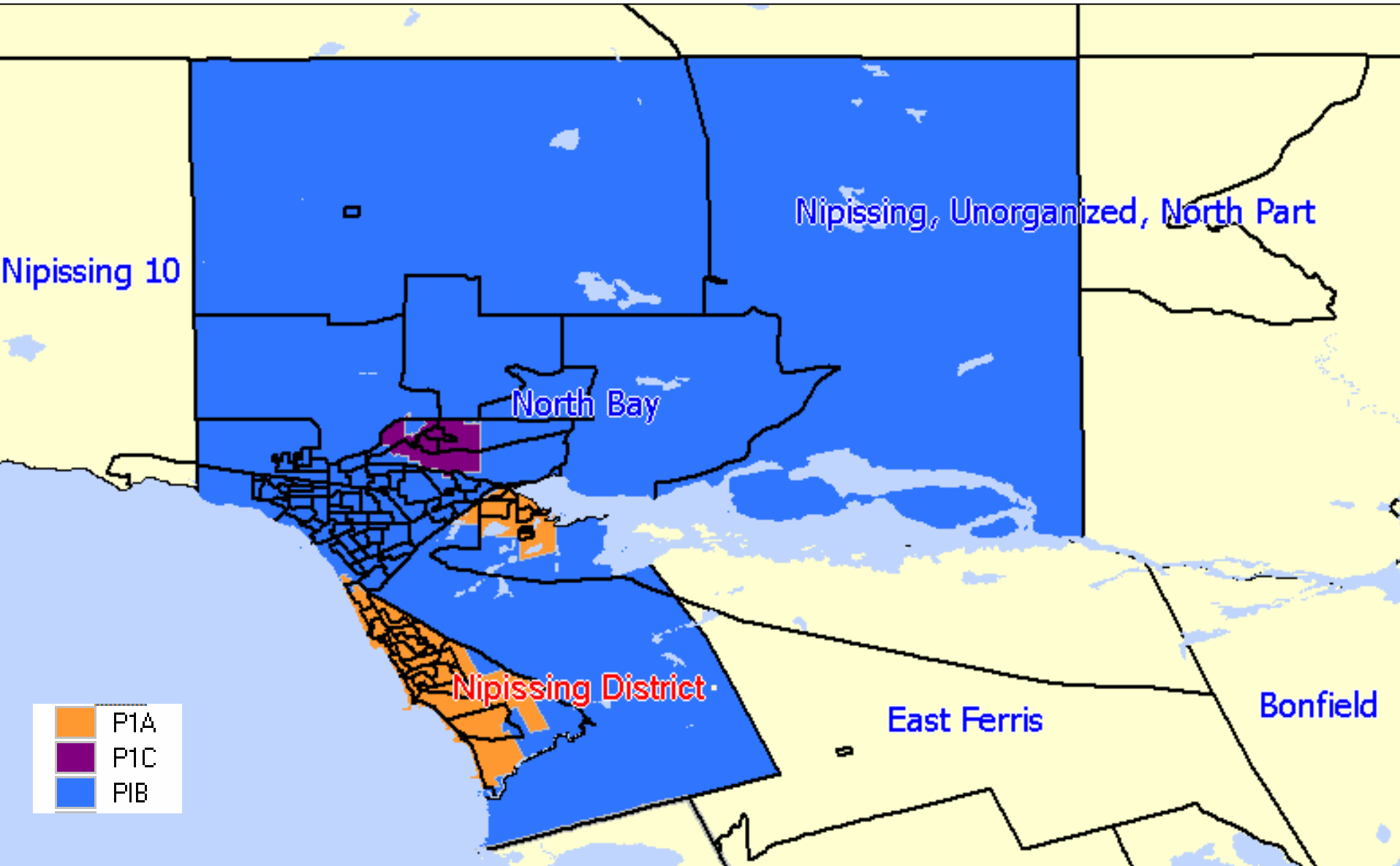
EDI Results for Nipissing District

- Results from the 2005 /2006 school year
- Approx. 860 SK children participated in the EDI
- These SK children live in the following municipalities /areas:



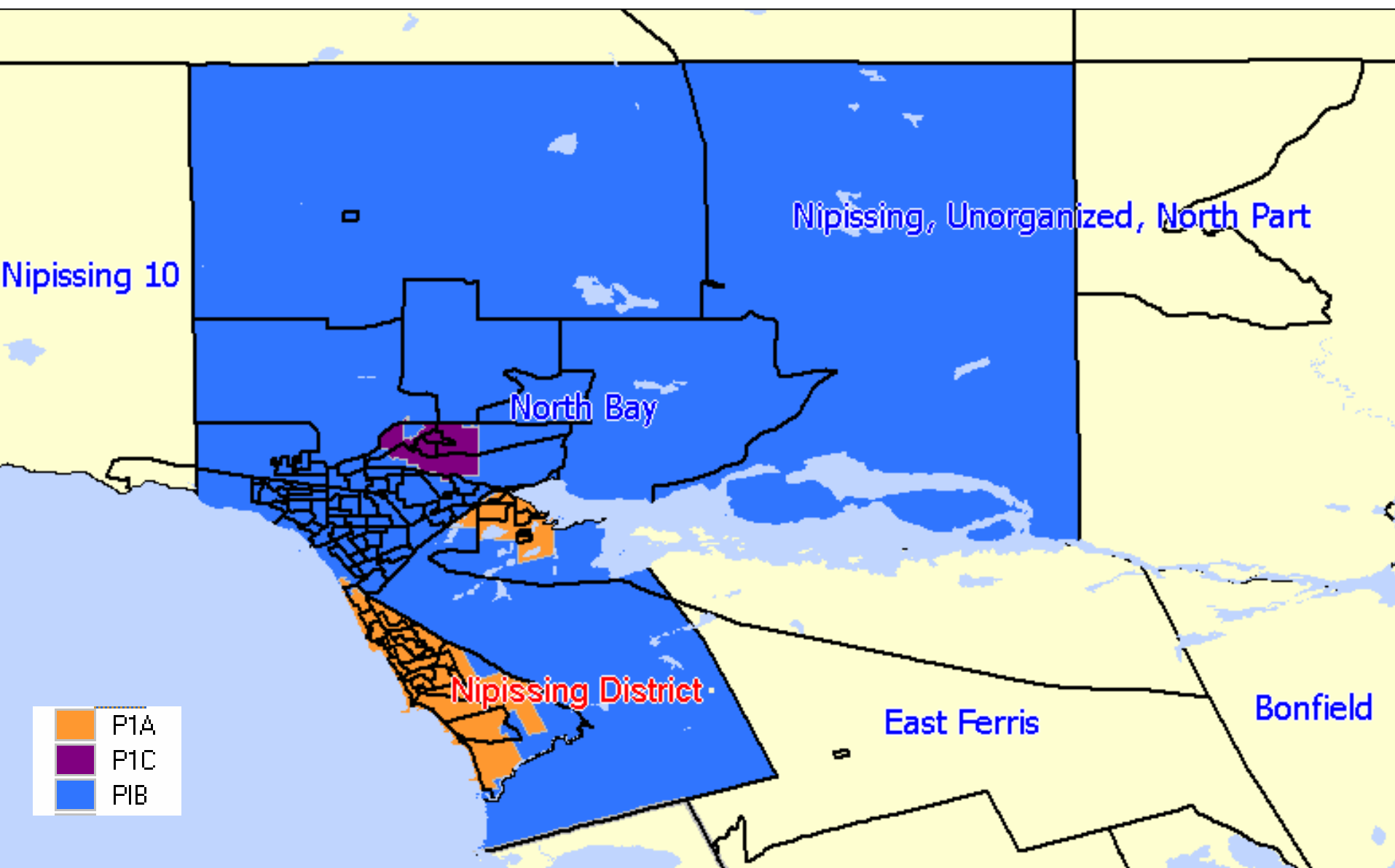
EDI Results for North Bay

- The EDI results are not at the same level of neighborhood geography
- Results for North Bay's Central Area were rolled up into three (3), larger, postal areas:



EDI Results for North Bay

- P1B area covers most of *North Bay Central Area*
- P1C area covers mostly *Airport Hill*
- P1A area covers mostly *Birchaven and North Bay South*

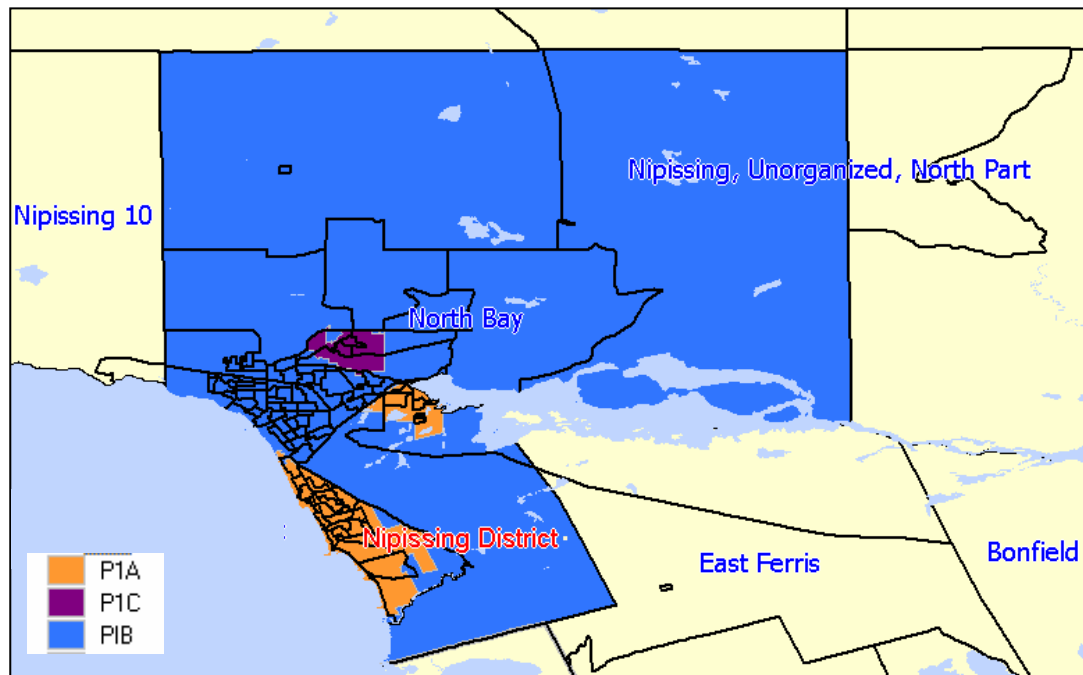


EDI “School Readiness to Learn” for SK Children in North Bay

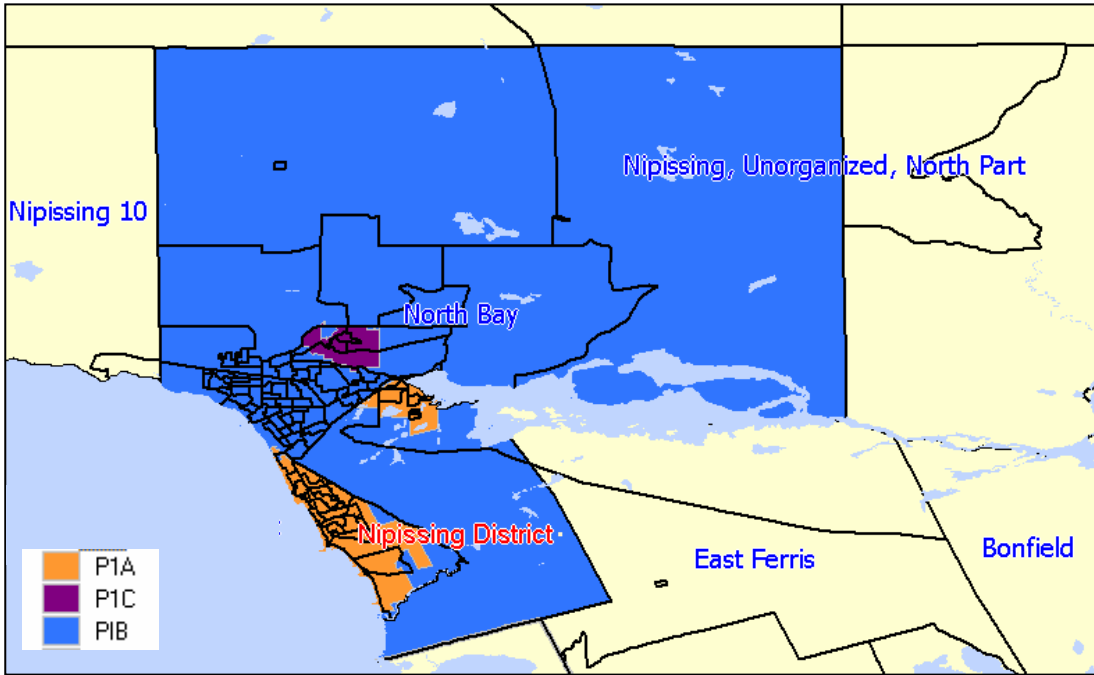
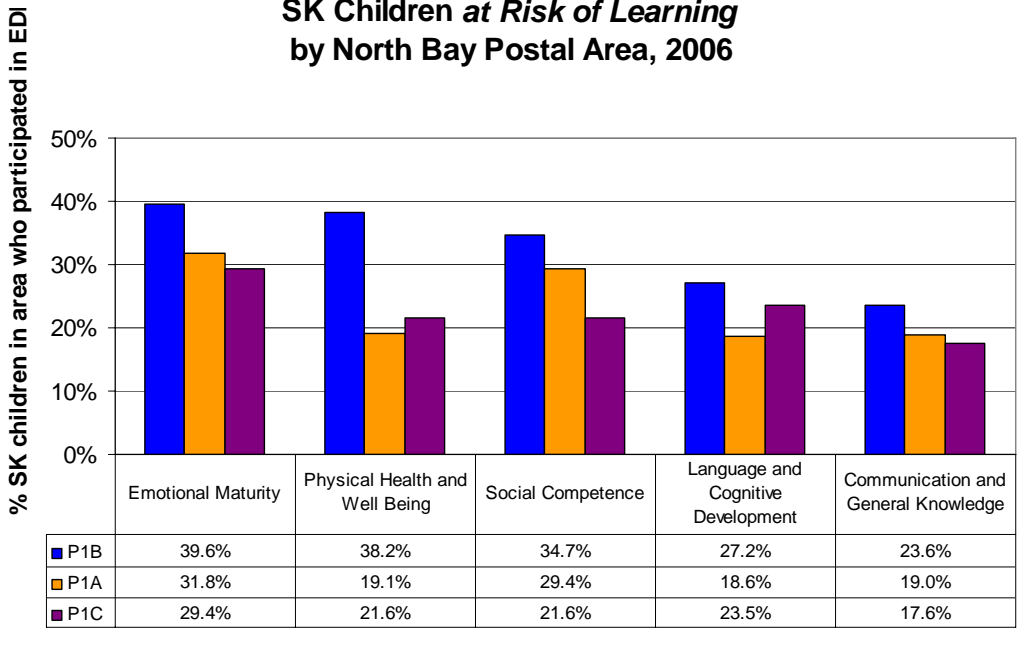
- ❖ **The EDI *readiness to learn scale* for SK children is based on the *Offord Centre for Child Studies* standard rating scale which is based on the following:**
 - ***At risk of learning (or “not on track”)***: the percentage of children in the given area who scored below Ontario’s 25th percentile cut-off.
 - ***Ready to learn (or “on track”)***: the percentage of children in the given area who scored between Ontario’s 25th – 75th percentile cut-offs.
 - ***Very ready to learn (or “on track”)***: the percentage of children in the given area who scored above Ontario’s 75th percentile cut-off.

Key Finding

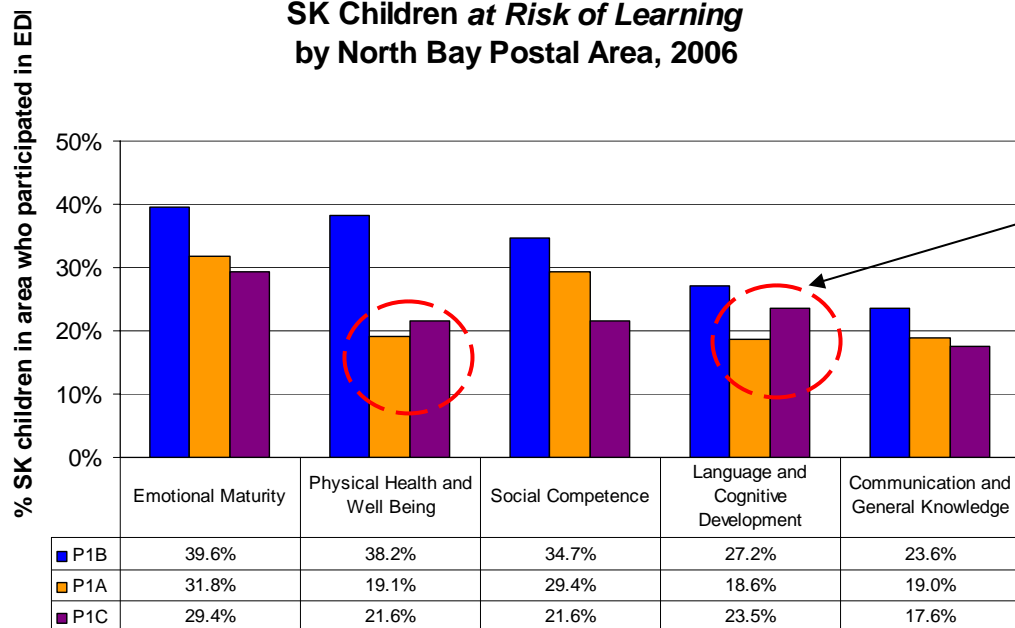
- ❑ The neighborhoods in the P1B area have the highest percentage of *children at risk of learning*. Proportionately, most of these neighborhoods have a **low SES**.
- ❑ The neighborhoods in the P1A area (part of Birchaven and North Bay South) have the next highest percentage of *children at risk of learning*. Proportionately, most of these neighborhoods have a **low - middle SES**.
- ❑ The neighborhoods in the P1C area (Airport Hill) have the lowest percentage of *children at risk of learning* and these neighborhoods have a **middle – high SES**.



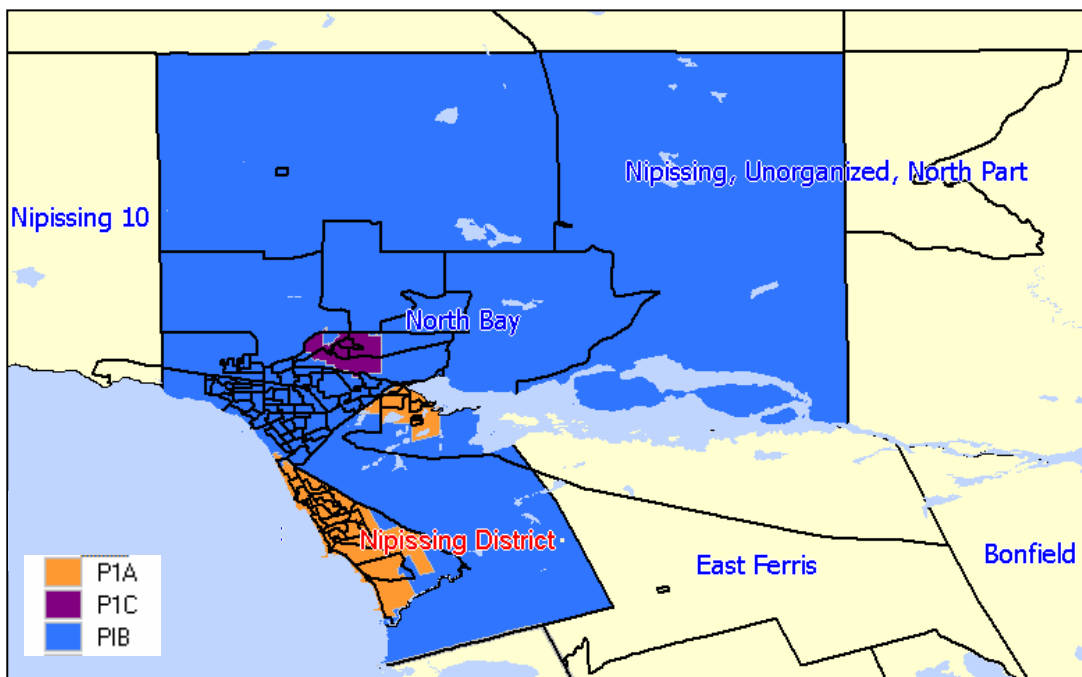
SK Children at Risk of Learning by North Bay Postal Area, 2006



SK Children at Risk of Learning by North Bay Postal Area, 2006



Off Diagonal relationships

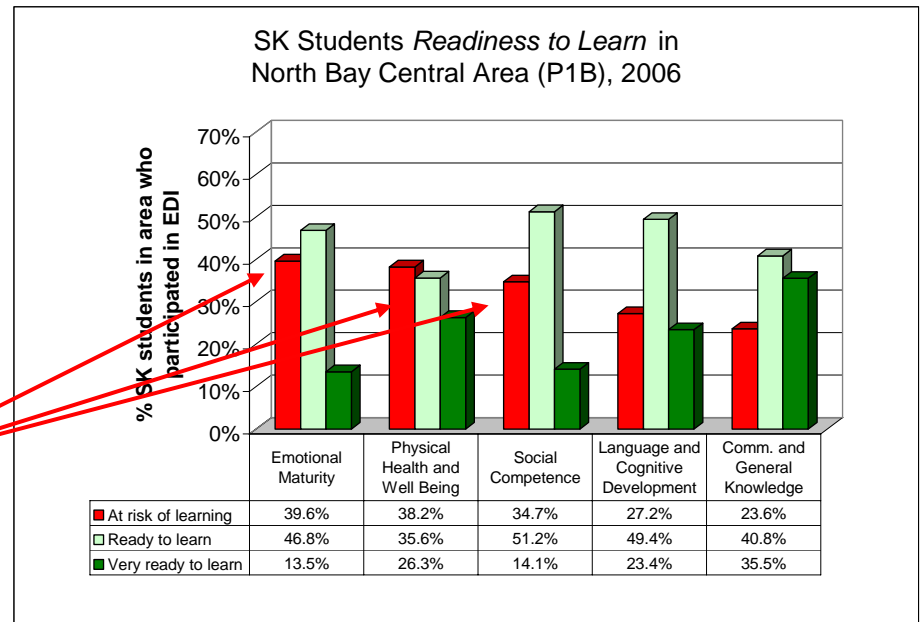




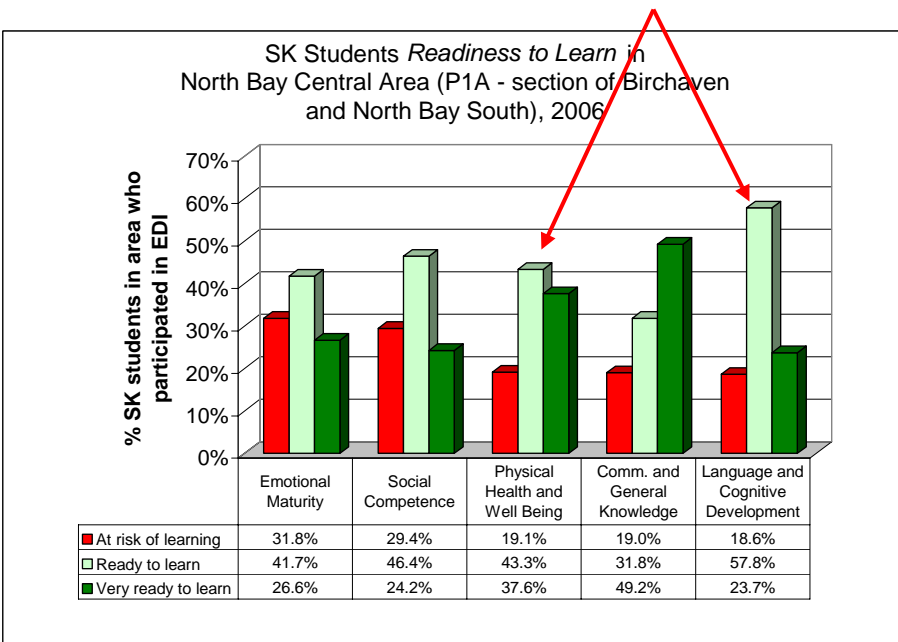
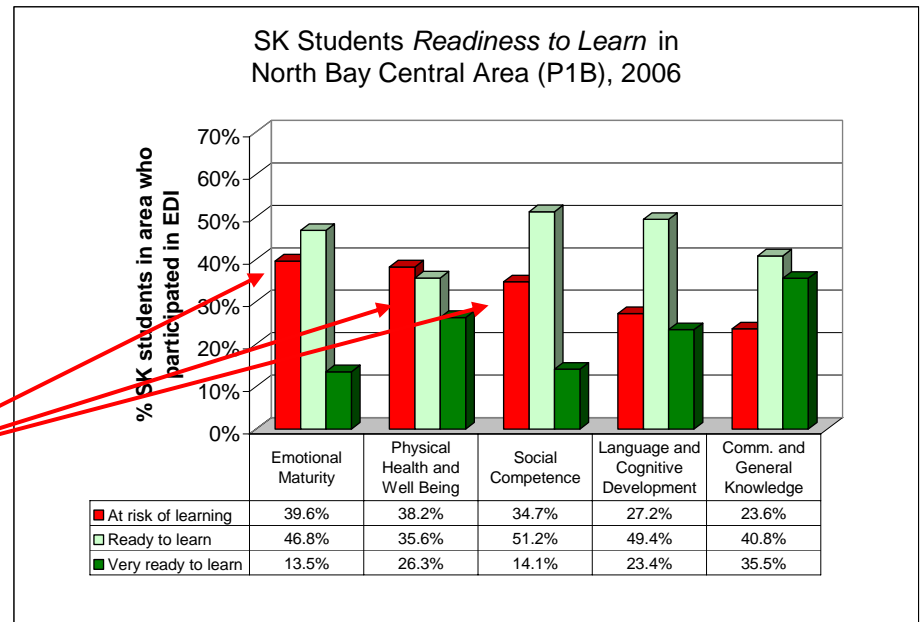
Service & Program Implications for Hubs

- ❖ **Services and programs can be designed around those sub-domain activities**, for which there are relatively large numbers of children at risk of learning.
- ❖ For example, improving outcomes in the developmental area of *emotional maturity* will require programs that emphasize *helping behaviour while reducing anxiety, aggression and hyperactivity*.
- ❖ Similarly, *physical health & well being* programs should address the issue of *school preparedness* while emphasizing *physical independence and gross & fine motor skills*.

The individual EDI results by area also have specific service & program implications for hubs in those areas:

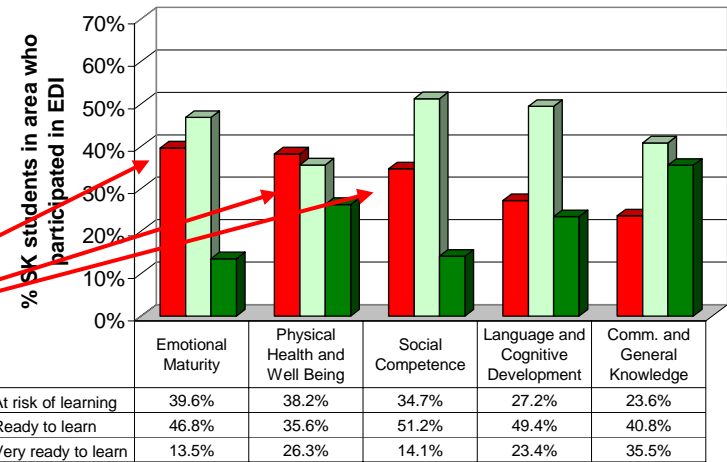


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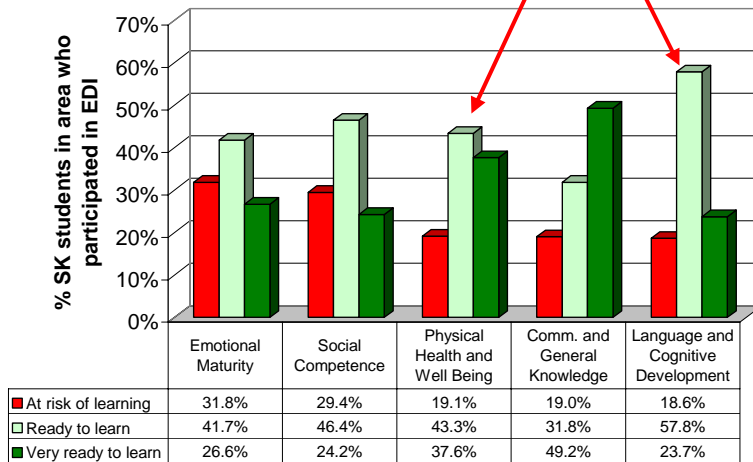


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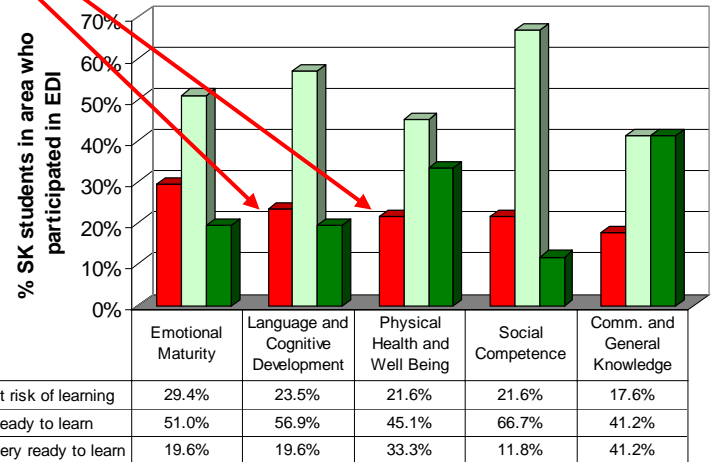
SK Students *Readiness to Learn* in North Bay Central Area (P1B), 2006



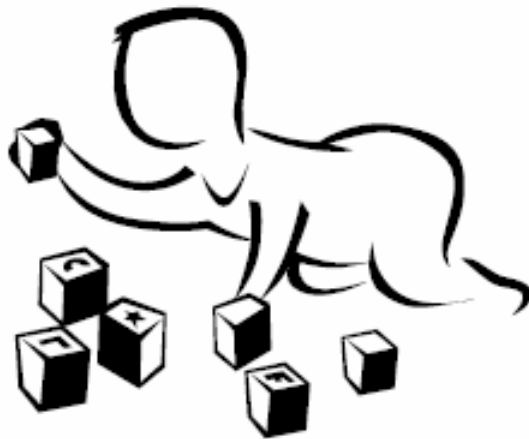
SK Students *Readiness to Learn* in North Bay Central Area (P1A - section of Birchaven and North Bay South), 2006



SK Students *Readiness to Learn* in North Bay Central Area (P1C - Airport Hill), 2006



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Thank You!