



The Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) builds a more comprehensive understanding of school readiness and success.

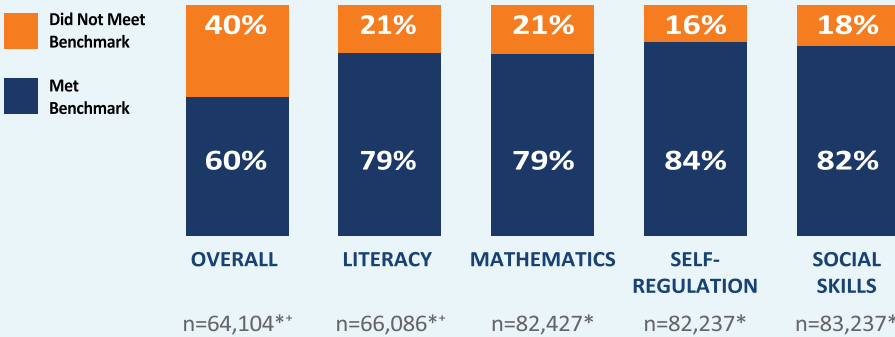
FALL 2023 VKRP SNAPSHOT - KINDERGARTEN & PRE-KINDERGARTEN DATA

VKRP gives school and program leaders, teachers, and families a more complete picture of children's learning across four areas: Literacy (through [Virginia Literacy Partnerships, VLP](#)), Mathematics, Self-regulation, and Social Skills.

STATEWIDE KINDERGARTEN DATA - FALL 2023

The fall overall benchmark is based on the expected skill levels of a kindergarten student **at the beginning** of the academic year.

40% of Virginia's kindergarteners began the 2023-2024 school year still needing to build skills in Literacy, Mathematics, Self-regulation, and/or Social Skills.**



*Students with complete data on each individual measure were included to obtain these estimates.

†These data represent 115 divisions who used the PALS-K measure in fall 2023. They do not include the 17 school divisions who piloted the Virginia Language and Literacy Screener: Kindergarten.

Comparison of VKRP fall 2023 kindergarten data across demographic subgroups shows that historically marginalized students were more likely to be categorized as below the overall benchmark. These patterns illustrate continued disparities in educational opportunities and experiences.

- **47%** of Black children, and **55%** of Hispanic children started the school year below the overall benchmark.
- **51%** of children from low-income backgrounds started the school year below the overall benchmark.
- **66%** of English Learners started the school year below the overall benchmark.
- **62%** of children identified as having a disability started the school year below the overall benchmark.

KINDERGARTEN BENCHMARK TRENDS

- Approximately **1 in every 5 students** was below the benchmark in foundational early Literacy and Mathematics skills (21%).
- Teachers reported that **most children entered kindergarten displaying solid foundational Self-regulation and Social Skills**, with 16% and 18% falling below the benchmark, respectively.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH WELL-BEING

Teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about mental health and social-emotional well-being for about **13% of kindergarten students** in fall 2023.

READINESS DATA FROM VIRGINIA LANGUAGE AND LITERACY SCREENER: KINDERGARTEN (VALLS:K) PILOT DIVISIONS

Seventeen school divisions participated in the pilot of [VALLS:K-3](#) in fall 2023. Compared to divisions who did not participate in the pilot, the pilot divisions' kindergarten data are similar.

- 40% of students' scores fell below the overall benchmark.
- 23% of students' scores fell below the Literacy benchmark.
- 18% of students' scores fell below the Mathematics benchmark.
- 15% of students' scores fell below the Self-regulation benchmark.
- 17% of students' scores fell below the Social Skills benchmark.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN DATA

Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, VKRP was administered to publicly funded three- and four-year-old children in Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) and Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) Mixed Delivery classrooms. Over 3,300 three-year-old pre-kindergarten and over 23,800 four-year-old pre-kindergarten children were assessed in the fall of 2023 in all four domains of Literacy, Mathematics, Self-regulation, and Social Skills.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN MATTERS FOR READINESS

Children from low-income families who attend public pre-kindergarten are more likely to be categorized as ready for kindergarten, compared to their peers who do not attend pre-kindergarten. **55% of pre-kindergarten attenders are categorized as ready, compared to 36% of non-attenders categorized as ready.**

UNDERSTANDING AND USING PRE-KINDERGARTEN VKRP DATA

- Pre-kindergarten reports include information about score ranges, or Skill Development Bands, within which children's skills fall on each measure. Separate bands were established for three-year-olds and four-year-olds to represent expectations as compared to that developmental period.
- Children, regardless of the band their score falls within, need developmentally appropriate instruction and periodic assessment so they can keep growing toward readiness.

“*The Skill Development Bands helped me see where I need to plan additional instruction and how to prepare my children for kindergarten.*”

- Teacher

PRE-KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WELL-BEING

- In the fall of 2023, teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about **23% of three-year-old children** enrolled in VKRP. Teachers also reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about **19% of four-year-old children** enrolled in VKRP.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

VKRP results are available to families, who are encouraged to contact their school division for more information about their children. Additional resources for families are available on the VKRP ([VKRP Resources for Families](#)) and VLP ([VLP Family Resource Center](#)) websites.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Additional funding was appropriated to develop and pilot an upward expansion of the VKRP assessments into first through third grade. The goal of this pilot is to help teachers, families, and divisions identify students' strengths and needs and to support student growth over time.
- A mid-year assessment time point for Mathematics, Self-regulation, Social Skills, and Mental Health Well-being is being piloted in three- and four-year-old pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms during the 2023-2024 school year.
- The VKRP team is collaborating with the VLP and the LinkB5 teams to develop a coordinated integrated data system, Virginia Connects for Kids (VAConnects). This system will integrate statewide early childhood data collection initiatives to leverage data in order to maximize the impact of the three initiatives.