

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

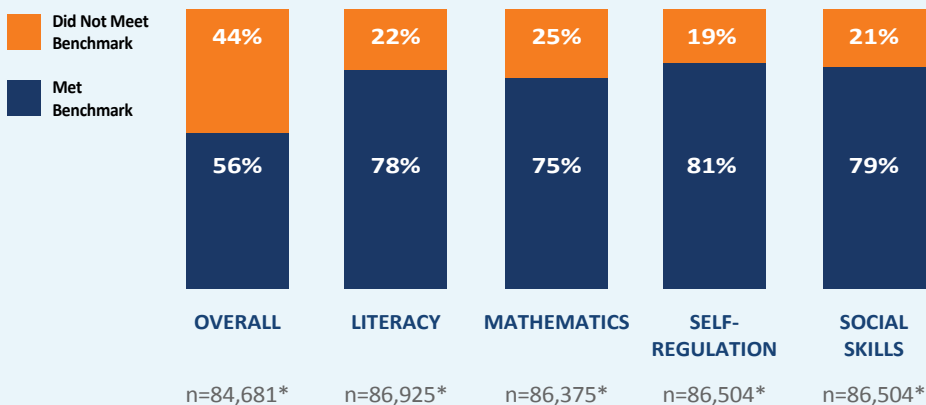
## SPRING 2022 VKRP SNAPSHOT - KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL DATA

VKRP gives school leaders, teachers, and families a more complete picture of children's learning across 4 areas: Literacy (through [Virginia Literacy Partnerships, VLP](#)), Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and Social Skills.

### STATEWIDE KINDERGARTEN DATA - SPRING 2022

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

**44%** of Virginia's kindergarteners ended the 2021-2022 school year still needing to build skills in Literacy, Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and/or Social Skills.\*



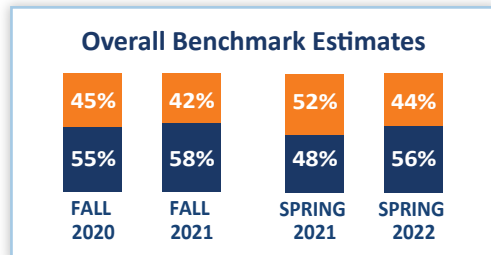
\*Students with complete data on each individual measure were included to obtain these estimates.

Comparison of VKRP Spring 2022 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.

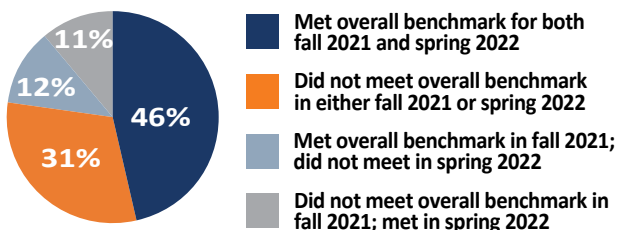
- 57% of Black children, and 57% of Hispanic children ended the school year below the overall benchmark.
- 57% of children from low-income backgrounds ended the school year below the overall benchmark.
- 62% of English Learners ended the school year below the overall benchmark.
- 69% of children identified as having a disability ended the school year below the overall benchmark.

### VKRP OVERALL BENCHMARK TRENDS

- In 2021-2022 a higher percentage of students were classified above the benchmark compared to last year's 2020-2021 estimates, possibly suggesting some COVID recovery and underscoring the importance of in-person instruction.
- In both the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, a higher percentage of kindergarten students met the fall overall benchmark as compared to the spring overall benchmark.



### Benchmark Status for 2021-2022



- Close to half (46%) of kindergarten students met the overall benchmark for both fall 2021 and spring 2022.
- 31% did not meet the overall benchmark in both fall 2021 and spring 2022.
- 12% met the overall benchmark in fall 2021 but did not meet it in spring 2022.
- 11% did not meet the overall benchmark in fall 2021 but did meet it in spring 2022.

## KINDERGARTEN STUDENT GROWTH FROM FALL 2021 TO SPRING 2022

This was the first year that VKRP kindergarten data examined progress and growth from fall to spring<sup>1</sup>. On average, students demonstrated strong gains in Mathematics and modest gains in Self-Regulation and Social Skills. There was variability in the amount of growth students made. Students who were English Learners and students with no preschool experience were more likely to have lower readiness skills at the beginning of the year and tended to make greater gains in kindergarten.



<sup>1</sup>The current literacy screener does not measure growth from fall to spring, but the revised literacy screener will measure growth over time.

## YOUNG CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

- Preschool and kindergarten teachers continued to report concerns for their students' mental health into year three of the pandemic.
- Kindergarten teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about the mental health of 13% of their students. This number was stable from fall 2021 to spring 2022 and up slightly compared to 11% in the 2020-2021 school year.
- When compared to students whose teachers did not report significant mental health concerns, students whose teachers reported being concerned were much more likely to:
  - not meet the overall readiness benchmark
  - be below benchmarks academically, in Literacy and Math
  - be below benchmarks in Self-Regulation and Social Skills
- Preschool teachers reported being significantly concerned for about 20% of four-year-old children in fall of 2021 and 17% of four-year-olds in the spring of 2022. Participating preschool programs tend to serve more vulnerable populations of children.

“*Teacher concern about a student's mental health is an important indicator that the student may need early, comprehensive, and intensive supports to be successful in school.*”

## SCALING OF PRESCHOOL VKRP

- Over 27,000 four-year-old pre-kindergarten students were assessed through VKRP. Program types included Head Start, VPI, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Title I, and Virginia Early Childhood Foundations (VECF) Mixed Delivery.
- Four-year-old children arrived to preschool demonstrating a variety of skill levels in Literacy Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and Social Skills. Children grew<sup>1</sup> in their skills from fall 2021 and spring 2022. Like in kindergarten, we saw strong growth in preschool for English Learners.
- We will expand VKRP to publicly funded three-year-old and mixed age (three and four-year-old) classrooms in the 2022-2023 school year.

<sup>1</sup>The current literacy screener does not measure growth from fall to spring, but the revised literacy screener will measure growth over time.



## 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, parents, and divisions identify students' strengths and needs and support student growth over time.
- The Virginia Literacy Act was passed with bipartisan support to ensure educators are trained in evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with scientifically based reading research to promote literacy rates among students in kindergarten through third grade. More information on the bill can be found in [Virginia's Legislative Information System under HB 319 Virginia Literacy Act](#).