

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

Spring 2025 VKRP Snapshot - Kindergarten & Pre-Kindergarten Data

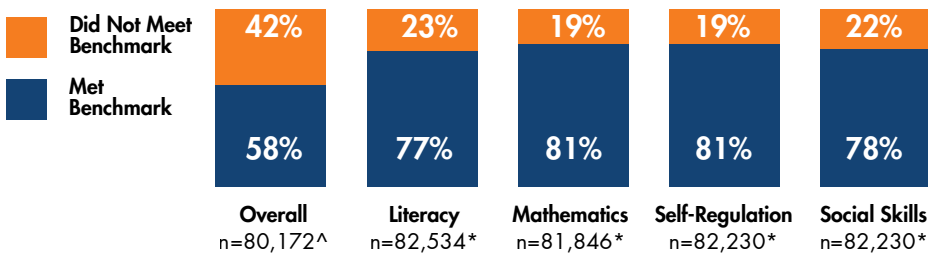
VKRP gives school and program leaders, teachers, and families a more complete picture of children's learning across four areas: Literacy (Virginia Language & Literacy Screening System; VALLSS) through the [Virginia Literacy Partnerships \(VLP\)](#), Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and Social Skills.

Statewide Kindergarten Data - Spring 2025

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

42% of Virginia's kindergarteners ended the 2024-2025 year still needing to build skills in Literacy, Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and/or Social Skills.^{^*}

This is the first year of statewide implementation of the VALLSS. VALLSS better reflects the foundational skills necessary for literacy development and is more sensitive to overall risk for developing reading difficulties than the previous state-supported literacy screener PALS-K. As such, there were higher rates of children classified as high-risk on VALLSS than below-benchmark at PALS-K at the end of kindergarten compared to previous years. The percentages of students falling above and below benchmark for Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and Social Skills were very similar to spring 2024.



[^] Students with complete data on all measures were included to obtain these estimates.

* All students who had data on each individual measure were included to obtain these estimates.

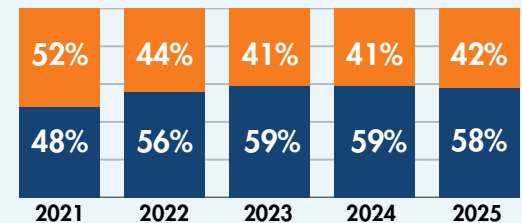
In spring 2025, kindergarten students whose score fell below the overall benchmark were more likely to identify as Black or Hispanic/Latino, be from low-income backgrounds, be English language/multilingual learners, or have a disability. These differential skill development patterns highlight the need for all children to have access to high-quality educational experiences.

- 55% of Black students and 53% of Hispanic/Latino students ended the school year with scores below the overall benchmark.
- 54% of students from low-income backgrounds ended the school year with scores below the overall benchmark.
- 59% of English language/multilingual learners ended the school year with scores below the overall benchmark.
- 68% of students identified as having a disability ended the school year with scores below the overall benchmark.

VKRP Spring Kindergarten Trends Across Time

The percentage of kindergarten students meeting the overall benchmark increased considerably from spring 2021 (48%) to spring 2022 (56%), followed by a slight increase in spring 2023 (59%). Since then, rates have remained stable. The spring 2021 to spring 2024 readiness estimates include literacy data from the PALS-K, and the spring 2025 readiness estimate includes literacy data from the VALLS: K.

Overall Spring Benchmark Estimates



Kindergarten Student Growth From Fall 2024 to Spring 2025

On average, kindergarten students demonstrated strong gains in Mathematics and modest gains in Self-Regulation and Social Skills from fall 2024 to spring 2025 on the VKRP measures.* However, there was variation in students' growth across all domains, so while most students showed growth, a small percentage of students lost ground in spring 2025 relative to their fall 2024 score.

* Student growth in literacy skills as measured through VALLSS is examined by UVA's VLP. Additional information on literacy growth can be found in [VLP data reports](#).

Kindergarten Students' Mental Health Well-Being

Teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about the mental health and social-emotional well-being of **13% of their students** in spring 2025.

Pre-Kindergarten Data

Over 7,700 3-year-old pre-kindergarten children and over 28,000 4-year-old pre-kindergarten children were assessed in the spring of 2025 in all four domains of Literacy, Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and Social Skills.

Understanding and Using Pre-Kindergarten VKRP Data

- Pre-kindergarten VKRP data provide information to educators and families to support and challenge all children using developmentally appropriate and engaging activities.
- VKRP uses Skill Development Bands to help programs and educators interpret and use their VKRP pre-kindergarten data for Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and Social Skills. (VLP provides pre-kindergarten Literacy bands.) Separate bands were established for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds to represent appropriate developmental expectations.



"I like to compare fall and spring data and see areas of growth as well as things to focus on."

– Pre-kindergarten Teacher

Pre-Kindergarten Student Growth from Fall 2024 to Spring 2025

On average, pre-kindergarten children demonstrated strong gains in Mathematics and modest gains in Self-Regulation and Social Skills.* There was variation in 3- and 4-year-old children's growth across all domains, with most children growing in their skills and a small percentage of children losing ground from fall 2024 to spring 2025.

* Growth scores on the pre-kindergarten literacy screener (VALLS: Pre-K) are still being finalized.

Pre-Kindergarten Children's Mental Health Well-Being

- Teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about **22% of 3-year old children enrolled in VKRP in spring 2025.**
- Teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about **18% of 4-year-old children enrolled in VKRP in spring 2025.**

Resources for Families

VKRP results are available to families, who are encouraged to contact their school division and/or program for more information about their child's scores. Additional resources for families are available on the VKRP ([VKRP Resources for Families](#)), VLP ([VLP Family Resource Center](#)), and ECE Resource Hub ([Take-Home Strategies](#)) websites.

What's Next

- VKRP will continue to conduct a 1-3 Assessment Pilot in teachers' classrooms across Grades 1-3. The goal of the 1-3 Assessment Pilot is to help teachers, families, and divisions identify students' strengths and the supports needed to foster skills growth during the early elementary grades.
- In fall 2025, the LinkB5, VLP, and VKRP teams will launch and support the initial statewide use of Virginia Connects for Kids (VAConnects). This system will integrate statewide early childhood data collection initiatives to leverage data and maximize the impact of the three initiatives.