

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

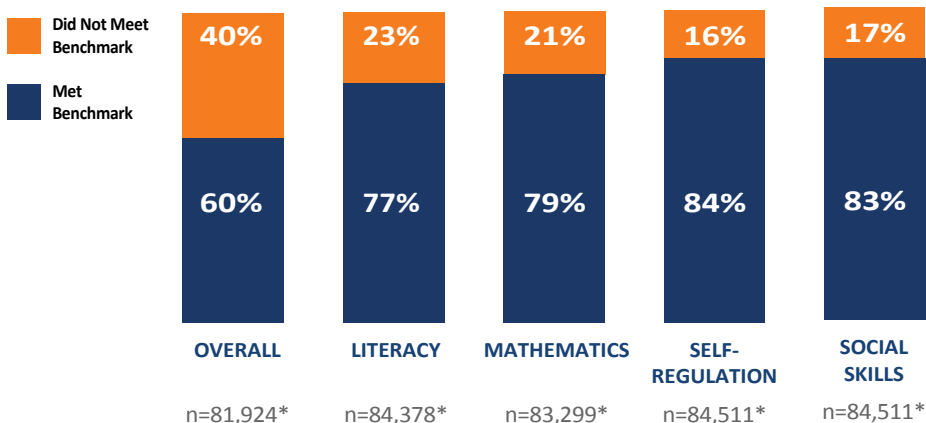
FALL 2022 VKRP SNAPSHOT - KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL DATA

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 - FALL 2022

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 2022-2023 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 Fall 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.

- **49%** of Black students, and **56%** of Hispanic students started the school year below the overall benchmark.
- **53%** of students from low-income backgrounds started the school year below the overall benchmark.
- **66%** of English Learners started the school year below the overall benchmark.
- **64%** of students identified as having a disability started the school year below the overall benchmark.

VKRP FALL BENCHMARK TRENDS

- Approximately **1 in every 4 students** were below the benchmark in early **Literacy** foundational skills (23%).
- Approximately **1 in every 5 students** were below the benchmark in **Mathematics** skills (21%).
- Teachers reported that **most children entered kindergarten displaying solid foundational Self-Regulation and Social Skills**, with 16% and 17% falling below the benchmark, respectively.

YOUNG CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Preschool and kindergarten teachers continue to report concerns for their students' mental health.

- Kindergarten teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about the mental health of **14%** of their students.
- Preschool teachers reported being significantly concerned for about **23%** of three-year-old children and **19%** of four-year-old children in fall of 2022. Participating preschool programs tend to serve more vulnerable populations of children.

Both preschool and kindergarten teachers continue to report concerns for their students' mental health.

PRESCHOOL MATTERS FOR READINESS

Students from low-income families who attend public preschool are more likely to be categorized as ready for kindergarten, compared to their peers who do not attend preschool. **53%** of preschool attenders are categorized as ready, compared to **35%** of non-attenders categorized as ready.

SCALING OF PRESCHOOL VKRP

- VKRP expanded to publicly funded three-year-old and mixed age (three- and four-year-old) classrooms this fall.
- Over 26,000 four-year-old and over 4,000 three-year-old pre-kindergarten children were assessed through VKRP. Children were enrolled in various program types, including Head Start, VPI, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Title I, Virginia Early Childhood Foundations (VECF) Mixed Delivery, and private child-care programs and family day homes that received public funds.

“I’m using all of the [information] given from the reports to tailor my lesson plans and to send additional resources home...”
- Preschool Teacher

UNDERSTANDING AND USING PRESCHOOL VKRP DATA

- Preschool is the first formal learning experience for some children, while others have attended prior years of early learning and care. We expect preschool children to start the school year with great variation in their skills.
- The VLP Language & Literacy Screener and the VKRP mathematics, self-regulation, and social skills assessment tools measure children’s skills along a developmental continuum.
- Pre-k reports now include information about score ranges, or “skill development bands”, within which children’s skills fall on each measure. The skill development bands are being piloted to help educators interpret children’s scores. Skill development bands do not serve as benchmarks.
- Children, regardless of the band their score falls within, need developmentally appropriate instruction and periodic assessment so they can keep growing toward readiness.

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.

NEXT STEPS FOR SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Family reports will be enhanced to include:

- More individualized reporting about each child’s strengths and areas to support
- Children’s growth in spring reports

Enhanced **family resources** will include:

- More activities and strategies for families
- More resources for educators to support communication with families

“I think VKRP does a great job making it easy and clear for [families] and teachers to focus on areas...[by giving] ideas of how to build skills.”
- Teacher

WHAT’S NEXT

- As required by Virginia’s 2023-2024 Biennial Budget, the VKRP team, in collaboration with VDOE, is conducting a mathematics, self-regulation, social skills, and mental health [assessment pilot for grades 1-3](#).
- 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.
 - Research has led to improved ways to teach reading, and Virginia is aligning its statewide screener with this research. A new and improved screener is being developed, including a parallel screener in Spanish. The new screener is currently being piloted across the state.
 - As planning for full implementation by 2024 begins, the VDOE will continue to partner with school divisions, educators, and families on this multi-year effort.
 - More information on the bill can be found on the [VDOE Virginia Literacy Act webpage](#).