

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

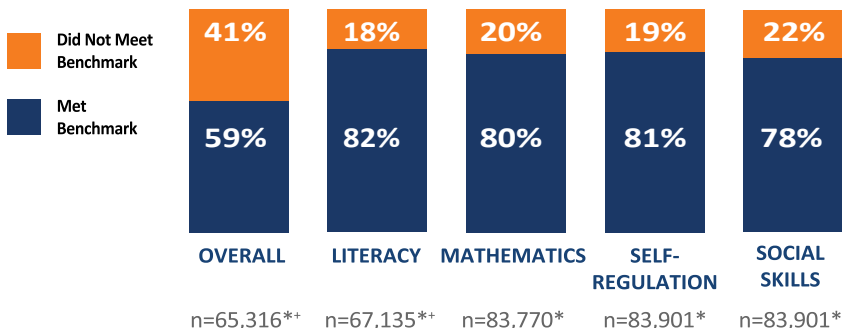
SPRING 2024 VKRP SNAPSHOT - KINDERGARTEN & PRE-KINDERGARTEN DATA

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 - SPRING 2024

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

41% of Virginia’s kindergarteners ended 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.

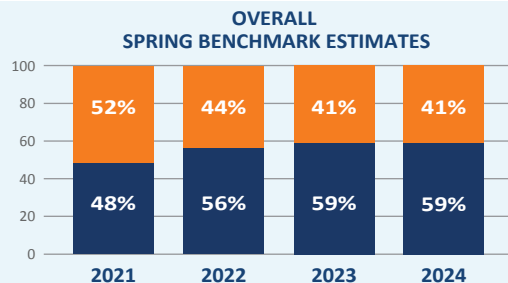
**These data represent 114 divisions who used the PALS-K measure during the 2023-2024 school year. They do not include the 17 school divisions who piloted the Virginia Language & Literacy Screener: Kindergarten (VALLS: Kindergarten).

Comparison of VKRP spring 2024 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.

- 53% of Black students and 51% of Hispanic/Latino students ended the school year with scores below the overall benchmark.
- 52% of students from low-income backgrounds ended the school year with scores below the overall benchmark.
- 54% of English language/multilingual learners (EL) ended the school year with scores below the overall benchmark.
- 65% of students identified as having a disability started the school year with scores below the overall benchmark.

VKRP SPRING KINDERGARTEN TRENDS ACROSS TIME

Overall benchmark readiness estimates from spring 2021 to spring 2024 show a large increase in students whose scores met the overall benchmark from spring 2021 during the height of the pandemic (48%) to spring 2022 (56%). There was a slight increase in students whose scores met the overall benchmark from spring 2022 to spring 2023 (59%), and this percentage remained stable in spring 2024 (59%).



KINDERGARTEN STUDENT GROWTH FROM FALL 2023 TO SPRING 2024

On average, kindergarten students demonstrated strong gains in Mathematics and modest gains in Self-Regulation and Social Skills from fall 2023 to spring 2024 in the VKRP measures¹. Students who were English language/multilingual learners (EL) and students with no preschool experience were more likely to have lower readiness scores at the beginning of the year and tended to make greater gains in kindergarten.



¹The current literacy screener (PALS-K) does not measure growth from fall to spring, but the revised literacy screener (VALLS: Kindergarten) measures growth over time.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS’ MENTAL HEALTH WELL-BEING

Teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about the mental health and social-emotional well-being of **15% of their students** in the spring of 2024.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN DATA

Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, VKRP was administered to publicly-funded 3- and 4-year-old children in Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) and Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) Mixed Delivery classrooms. Over 9,000 3-year-old pre-kindergarten children and over 30,000 4-year-old pre-kindergarten children were assessed in the spring of 2024 in all four domains of Literacy, Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and Social Skills.

UNDERSTANDING AND USING PRE-KINDERGARTEN VKRP DATA

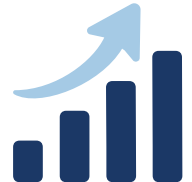
- Pre-kindergarten VKRP data provide information to educators and families to support and challenge all children using developmentally appropriate and engaging activities and instruction.
- VKRP uses Skill Development Bands to help programs and educators interpret and use their VKRP pre-kindergarten 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.

“The VKRP data has helped me to better understand and support the children in learning and preparing for success.”

- Pre-kindergarten Teacher

PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENT GROWTH FROM FALL 2023 TO SPRING 2024

On average, pre-kindergarten children demonstrated strong gains in Mathematics and modest gains in Self-Regulation and Social Skills². There was variation in 3- and 4-year-old children’s growth across all domains with some children making small gains, while a small percentage of children lost ground from fall 2023 to spring 2024.



²Growth scores on the pre-kindergarten literacy screener (VALLS: Pre-K) are still being finalized. Currently, pre-kindergarten literacy scores represent children’s outcomes at each distinct time period (i.e., fall and spring).

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 the spring of 2024.**
- Teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about **17% of 4-year-old children enrolled in VKRP in the spring of 2024.**

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 Resources Center](#)), and ECE Resource Hub ([Take-Home Strategies](#)) websites.

WHAT’S NEXT

- A pilot of an upward expansion of the VKRP assessments into first through third grade is continuing. The goal of the 1-3 Assessment Pilot is to help teachers, families, and divisions identify students’ strengths and the supports needed to foster growth during the early elementary grades.
- Optional mid-year assessments will be available to all divisions and programs for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten, beginning in winter 2025. The inclusion of a VKRP mid-year timepoint will allow teachers to better monitor students’ progress over the year and to make instructional decisions to best meet students’ individual needs to promote student skill growth through the spring.
- The VKRP team is collaborating with the VLP and LinkB5 teams to develop an integrated data system, 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.

