


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

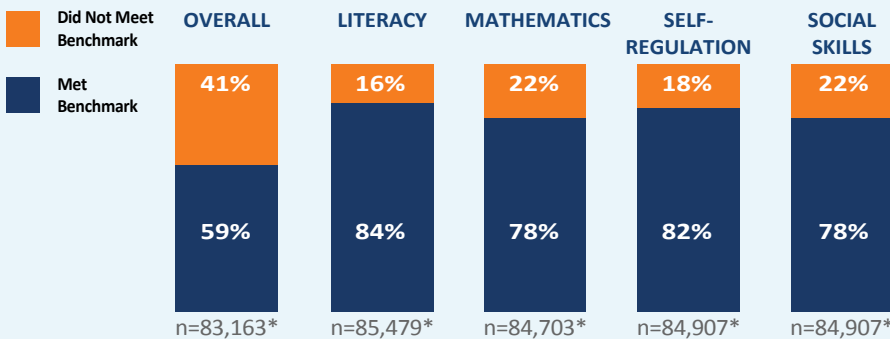
## SPRING 2023 VKRP SNAPSHOT - KINDERGARTEN DATA

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

### STATEWIDE KINDERGARTEN DATA - SPRING 2023

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 2022-2023 school year still needing to build skills in Literacy, Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and/or Social Skills.\*



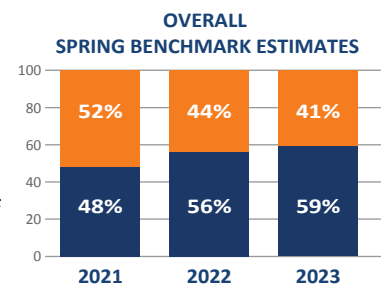
\*Students with complete data on each individual measure were included to obtain these estimates.

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

- 55% of Black or African American children, and 51% of Hispanic/Latino children of any race ended the school year below the overall benchmark.
- 53% of children from low-income backgrounds ended the school year below the overall benchmark.
- 58% of English language/multilingual learners (EL) ended the school year with scores below the overall benchmark.
- 66% of children identified as having a disability ended the school year below the overall benchmark.

### VKRP KINDERGARTEN TRENDS ACROSS TIME

- Overall readiness estimates from fall 2019 to fall 2022 have remained relatively stable with a slight decrease in the percentage of students meeting the overall benchmark from fall 2019 to fall 2020, followed by slight increases in fall 2021 and fall 2022.
- Overall benchmark estimates from spring 2021 to spring 2023 have increased. There was a large increase in students meeting the overall benchmark from spring 2021 during the height of the pandemic (48%) to spring 2022 (56%). There was a slight increase from spring 2022 to spring 2023 (59%) in students meeting the overall benchmark.



### KINDERGARTEN STUDENT GROWTH FROM FALL 2022 TO SPRING 2023

On average, students demonstrated strong gains in Mathematics and modest gains in Self-Regulation and Social Skills from fall 2022 to spring 2023<sup>1</sup>. Students who were English language/multilingual learners (EL) 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.




### KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH WELL-BEING

Teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about mental health and social-emotional well-being for about 14% of kindergarten students in fall 2022 and 13% in spring 2023.

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 3,800 three-year-old pre-kindergarten and over 25,000 four-year-old pre-kindergarten children were assessed in both the fall of 2022 and the spring of 2023 in all four domains of Literacy, Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and Social Skills.

For the 2022-2023 school year, VKRP piloted pre-kindergarten Skill Development Bands for Mathematics, Self-Regulation, and Social Skills (VLP provides pre-kindergarten Literacy bands) to help programs and educators interpret and use their VKRP pre-kindergarten data. Separate bands were established for three-year-olds and four-year-olds in the fall and spring to represent children’s skill development as compared to expectations at that particular point in time.

Skill Development Band	Interpretation
 <b>Beginning</b>	Children in this band: Are beginning to develop skills in a given early learning domain and may need extra support.
 <b>Growing</b>	Are building toward readiness. May require additional supports to stay on track to meet developmental goals.
 <b>Strong</b>	Have early foundational skills and may thrive from extra challenge.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENT GROWTH FROM FALL 2022 TO SPRING 2023

On average, children demonstrated strong gains in Mathematics and modest gains in Self-Regulation and Social Skills<sup>2</sup>. There was variation in three- and four-year-old children’s growth across all domains with some children making strong gains, while a small percentage of children lost ground from fall 2022 to spring 2023.



<sup>2</sup>Growth scores on the pre-kindergarten literacy screener 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

- In the fall of 2022, teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about 23% of three-year-old children enrolled in VKRP. Elevated teacher concern for three-year-old pre-kindergarten children decreased slightly to 20% in the spring of 2023.
- In the fall of 2022, teachers reported being moderately, very, or extremely concerned about 19% of four-year-old children enrolled in VKRP. Elevated teacher concern for four-year-old pre-kindergarten children decreased slightly to 16% in the spring of 2023.

 RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

VKRP results and resources are available to families, who are encouraged to contact their school division or program for more information about their children.

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.
- A mid-year assessment time point will be 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 Virginia Literacy Partnerships (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.