

Kindergarten Readiness

Fall 2019 marks the first data collection period for statewide implementation of the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP). VKRP is redefining the discussions surrounding and data available on “Kindergarten Readiness” to better reflect research in early childhood success.

In prior years, children have been assessed on early literacy via Fall administration of the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS). Students who achieve proficiency on PALS were thus considered “Ready for Kindergarten.” In addition to PALS, VKRP incorporates two additional assessments: The Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS) and the Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS). Teachers administer PALS, EMAS, and CBRS in the Fall and Spring, and students are scored in the domains of Literacy, Math, Social Skills, and Self-Regulation.

To be considered “Ready for Kindergarten” via VKRP, a student must meet or exceed benchmarks in all four domains.

Statewide rollout of VKRP represents major changes to both the availability of population-level data related to social-emotional learning and the ways in which we evaluate early childhood education and opportunities. Consider the results showing how 88.0% of all Kindergarten students in Virginia Beach City Public Schools met Fall 2019 PALS proficiency benchmarks. In prior years, our knowledge of Kindergarten Readiness would have stopped here. However, the newly adopted VKRP measurements in Math, Social Skills, and Self-Regulation, suggests just **53.8%** of students are considered to have arrived “Ready for Kindergarten” across all four domains.

Percent of Children Meeting or Exceeding VKRP Benchmark by Domain (Fall 2019)

	Chesapeake	Isle of Wight	Norfolk	Portsmouth	Suffolk	Virginia Beach	State of Virginia
Literacy	89.6%	87.2%	83.3%	81.4%	85.6%	88.0%	82.0%
Math	83.1%	87.4%	72.3%	79.7%	78.0%	78.7%	78.5%
Social Skills	78.8%	80.8%	72.2%	76.5%	81.0%	72.3%	77.5%
Self-Regulation	74.1%	81.9%	77.0%	76.3%	81.3%	74.1%	80.0%
Overall	58.6%	63.2%	50.5%	53.3%	60.0%	53.8%	56.2%

Percent of Children Classified as Economically-Disadvantaged Meeting or Exceeding VKRP Benchmark by Domain (Fall 2019)

	Chesapeake	Isle of Wight	Norfolk	Portsmouth	Suffolk	Virginia Beach	State of Virginia
Literacy	87.7%	77.9%	82.6%	86.0%	82.3%	82.5%	73.5%
Math	75.4%	74.0%	70.0%	80.3%	72.8%	69.7%	67.2%
Social Skills	75.7%	74.2%	70.6%	73.7%	77.0%	68.6%	73.7%
Self-Regulation	68.5%	72.6%	75.7%	75.3%	78.0%	69.4%	74.5%
Overall	50.6%	45.9%	48.3%	52.8%	51.8%	45.6%	44.5%

Access & Availability of Early Childhood Programs

Percent of At-Risk¹ Children Served in Publicly-Funded² Programs (Fall 2019)

	Chesapeake	Isle of Wight	Norfolk	Portsmouth	Suffolk	Virginia Beach	State of Virginia
>1 Years Old	2.6%	3.4%	1.7%	2.8%	6.9%	1.7%	2.8%
1 Year Old	8.4%	4.3%	7.0%	9.0%	11.2%	5.1%	6.7%
2 Years Old	9.7%	9.4%	7.5%	7.7%	13.5%	7.3%	9.3%
3 Years Old	21.6%	16.4%	36.1%	30.1%	19.9%	18.5%	26.0%
4 Years Old	52.0%	67.6%	89.9%	78.6%	86.3%	51.2%	69.9%

Number of At-Risk Children Served in Publicly-Funded Programs (Fall 2019)

	Chesapeake	Isle of Wight	Norfolk	Portsmouth	Suffolk	Virginia Beach	State of Virginia
>1 Years Old	32	<10	37	25	45	45	1323
1 Year Old	109	<10	150	86	78	135	3255
2 Years Old	134	15	164	72	96	188	4584
3 Years Old	309	25	705	288	147	492	12859
4 Years Old	738	119	1733	729	591	1343	34242

¹ "At-Risk" is defined as children who are economically disadvantaged and/or qualify for special education services. The total number of "at-risk" children in a given age band is estimated using locality-specific data.

² Publicly-funded early childhood programs include Head Start/Early Head Start, Child Care Subsidy Program, VPI, VPI+, Title I-funded Pre-Kindergarten, Early Childhood Special Education, and locally-funded Pre-Kindergarten.