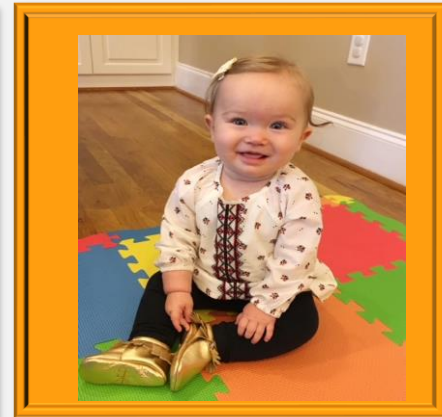


South Carolina First Steps

Local Partnership
Executive Directors
Meeting
Saluda Shoals Park
September 25, 2018



 **FIRST
STEPS**
Getting children ready for school.
SOUTH CAROLINA

Today's Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Preschool Development Grant – Birth to Five
3. Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Results – Education Oversight Committee Report
4. Table Discussion- Community Conversations: KRA
5. “Conversation Guide” and Report Out
6. 5. 10 Minute Tips: *“Using Effective Meeting Strategies to Engage and Energize Your Board”*

---LUNCH---

7. Table discussions organized by 4K Regional Coordinators’ assigned counties
8. Report Out: Action Steps
9. Review of Committee’s and Sign Up Opportunity
10. Next Steps and Final Reflections

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Competition

PDG B-5 2018 Grant Competition

PDG B-5 Competition

The Departments of Health and Human Services and Education (collectively, the Departments) are holding a competition for:

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Initiative, CFDA Number 93.434



Purposes of the PDG B-5 Initiative

- **Develop, update, or implement a strategic plan** that facilitates collaboration and coordination among existing programs of early childhood care and education in a mixed delivery system across the State;
- More efficiently use existing Federal, State, local, and non-governmental resources to **align and strengthen the delivery of existing programs;**

Purposes of the PDG B-5 Initiative

(continued)

- **Encourage partnerships** among the wide range of ECE programs and service partners that make up the B-5 Early Childhood State System;
- **Expand parental choice and knowledge** about existing programs; and
- Enhance school readiness for children from low-income and disadvantaged families, including during children's **transition into elementary school** by **sharing best practices** between and among ECE providers.

Five Required Activities

- *Activity One:* Conduct or update a thorough statewide birth through five needs assessment of the availability and quality of existing programs/services in the State.
- *Activity Two:* Develop or update a strategic plan, based on needs assessment results, that recommends collaboration, coordination, and quality improvement activities among existing programs.
- *Activity Three:* Maximize parental choice and knowledge; promote and increase involvement by parents and family members in the development and transition of their children.

Five Required Activities

(continued)

- *Activity Four:* Share best practices among early childhood care and education program providers in the State to increase collaboration and efficiency of services, including to improve transitions from such programs to elementary school.
- *Activity Five:* **After activities one and two are completed,** improve the overall quality of early childhood care and education programs in the State.
- Additional emphasis on data (integrating systems) and evaluation.

Note: Work on Activities Three and Four can begin at the start of the grant period.

Award Information

- Award Floor = \$500,000
- Award Ceiling = \$15,000,000*
- Match Requirement = minimum of 30%
- Project Period = 12 months*
- *Specific to funding for Activity Five, States must seek funding appropriate to the anticipated grant time remaining after the statewide birth through five needs assessment and related strategic plan that meet the descriptions and requirements in this FOA have been completed, submitted, and approved by the Departments.
- *States awarded initial grant funding will be eligible to apply for renewal funding for years 2-4.

Initial vs. Renewal

Initial Grant = Improving the Existing System

- Needs assessment
- Strategic planning
- Making the existing system easier to navigate for families
- Addressing gaps related to transitioning from one part of the system to another, and particularly to elementary school
- No creation or expansion of services to children

Renewal Grant = Implementing the State B-5 Strategic Plan

Roles for Local Partnerships

Pitches

Activity Teams

Implementation

Other?

September 25, 2018



2017-18 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Presented by:

Bunnie Lempeis Ward, SC Education Oversight
Committee and

Dr. Fred Greer, University of South Carolina

Dr. Christine DiStefano, University of South
Carolina

Agenda

- Background
- Description of KRA
- KRA Results
- Findings
- Recommendations and Next Steps
- Discussion

Background

- Readiness Assessment Legislation
- Context for Young Student Learning
- Continuum of Student Learning
- Federal and State Accountability

Readiness Assessment Legislation

- Read to Succeed Act (Act 284) Section 59-155-150(A) in 2013-14
 - Every student enters PreK and 5K beginning in FY 2014-15 to be administered a readiness assessment with initial focus on language & literacy
 - Beginning in FY 2016-17, assessment must also assess mathematical thinking, physical well-being and social-emotional development.
 - Status Check: Not all 4K assessments include additional domains

Readiness Assessment Legislation

- First Steps Reauthorization (Act 152)
Section 59-152-33(A)(2) in 2017-18
 - First Steps Board shall use the results to assist county partnerships to support local initiatives to improve readiness for all students

Context for Young Student Learning

“Too often government officials design programs for children as if they lived their lives in silos, as if each stage of a child’s life were independent of the other, unconnected to what came before or what lies ahead.” -James Heckman

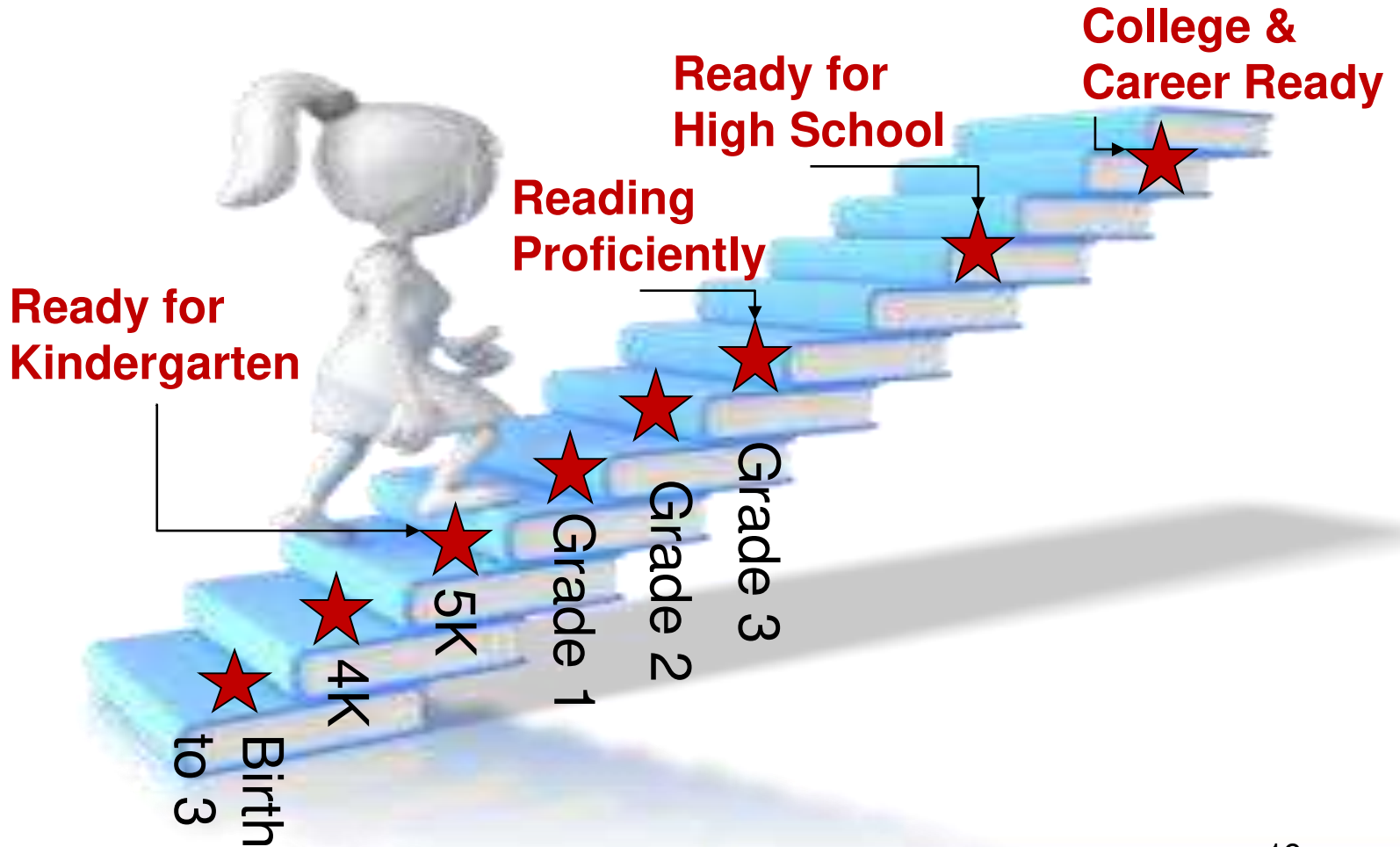
Source: Education Commission of the States, September 2018
Transitions and Alignment From Preschool to Kindergarten

Context for Young Student Learning



Source: BUILD Initiative. Accessed at www.buildinitiative.org.

Continuum of Student Learning



Federal and State Accountability

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS INDICATOR

IMPACTS ALL SCHOOLS

What is Reported as Part of the Indicator but NOT factored into the Rating	For Elem Schools: 1. Number and percentage of students entering Kindergarten ready to learn 2. Percentage of 2nd graders on track for 3rd grade success in Reading and Math For High Schools: 1. The percentage of students passing Civics Test

Description of KRA

Goal of the KRA:

- Provide information on children's preparedness for kindergarten

Assessment:

- Given within first 45 days of kindergarten school year
- Census
- Items are multiple choice and performance assessment
 - 60 items
- Administered by trained raters to each child
 - Time: approx. 40 minutes per child

KRA Subscales

Subscales assessed:

Language and Literacy: reading, writing, speaking, and listening

Mathematics: counting, comparison, and sorting

Physical Well-Being & Motor Development: dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance

Social Foundations: demonstration skills necessary to the functioning within the kindergarten classroom

Scoring the KRA

Subscale and Total scores

Demonstrating Readiness: Student *demonstrates* foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him or her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

Approaching Readiness: Student *demonstrates some* foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him or her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

Emerging Readiness: Student *demonstrates limited* foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him or her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessments

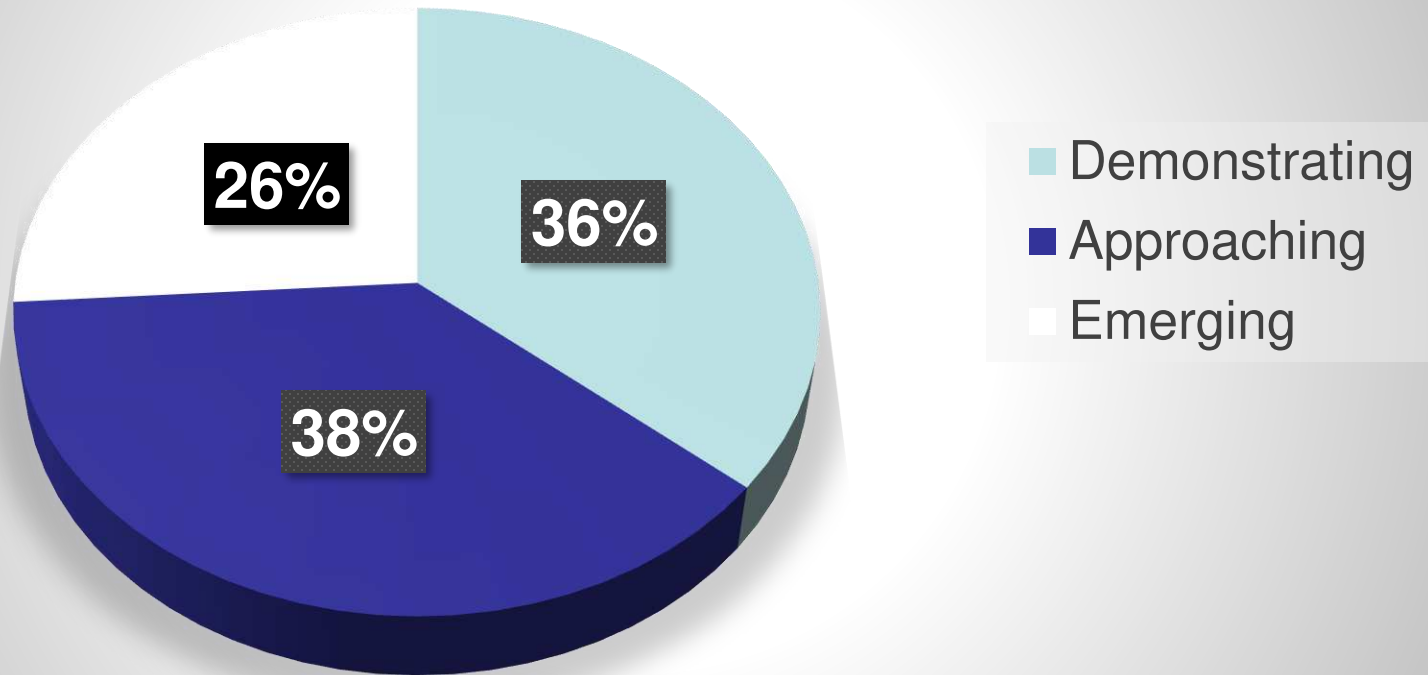
- Nationwide, 37 states require Kindergarten Readiness Tests
 - What is used varies by states:
 - Teaching Strategies GOLD
 - Specific domains (e.g., literacy only)
 - State specific tests
 - KRA used in 5 states
 - Statewide: SC, OH & MD (as well as optional for TN, MI)

KRA Test Results in SC

- First administration BOY 2017-18 school year:
- KRA administered to 54,863 kindergartners across South Carolina.
- Statewide:
 - Approx. 36% of the children were at the KRA Demonstrating Readiness level.
 - 31% of kindergarteners reached Demonstrating Readiness in mathematics (lowest percent at the Demonstrating Readiness)
 - 48% of students at the Demonstrating Readiness level in the Physical Development and Well-Being (highest scoring domain)

KRA Findings

KRA Readiness Scores - Statewide

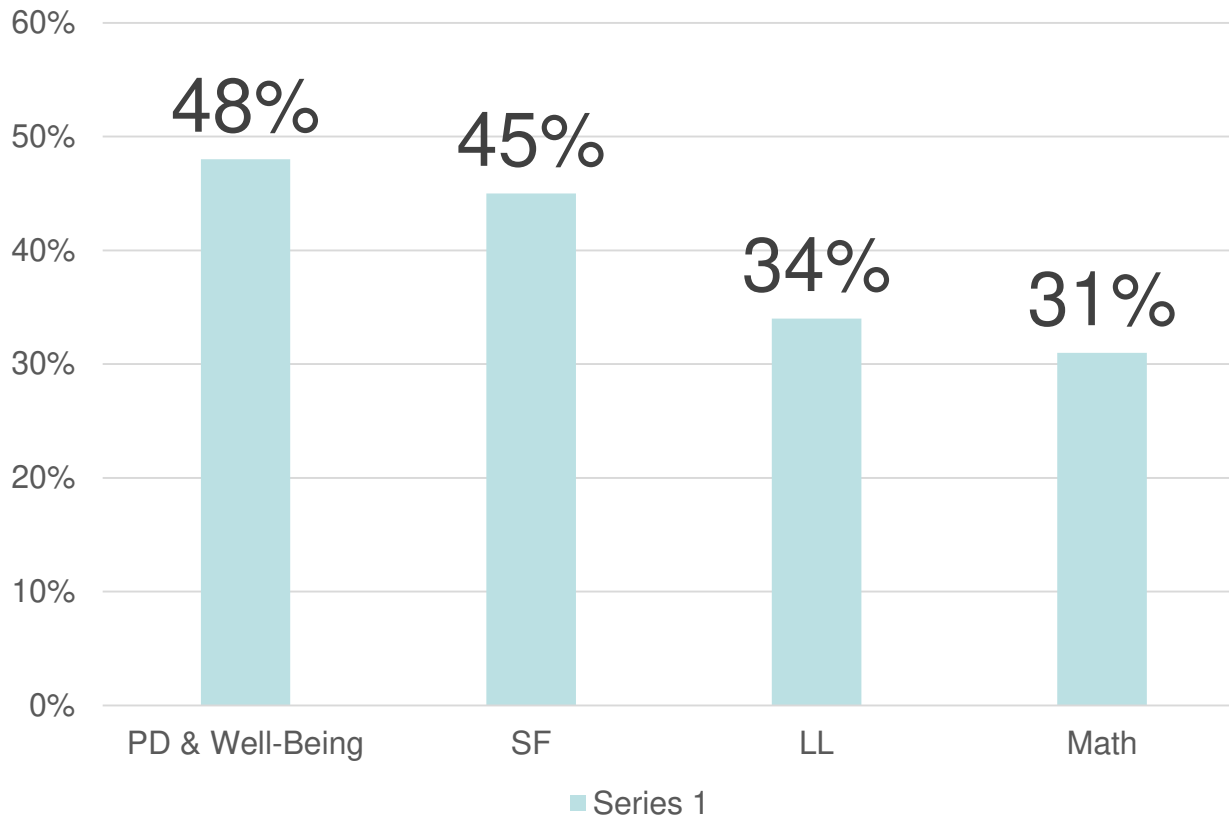


September 25, 2018



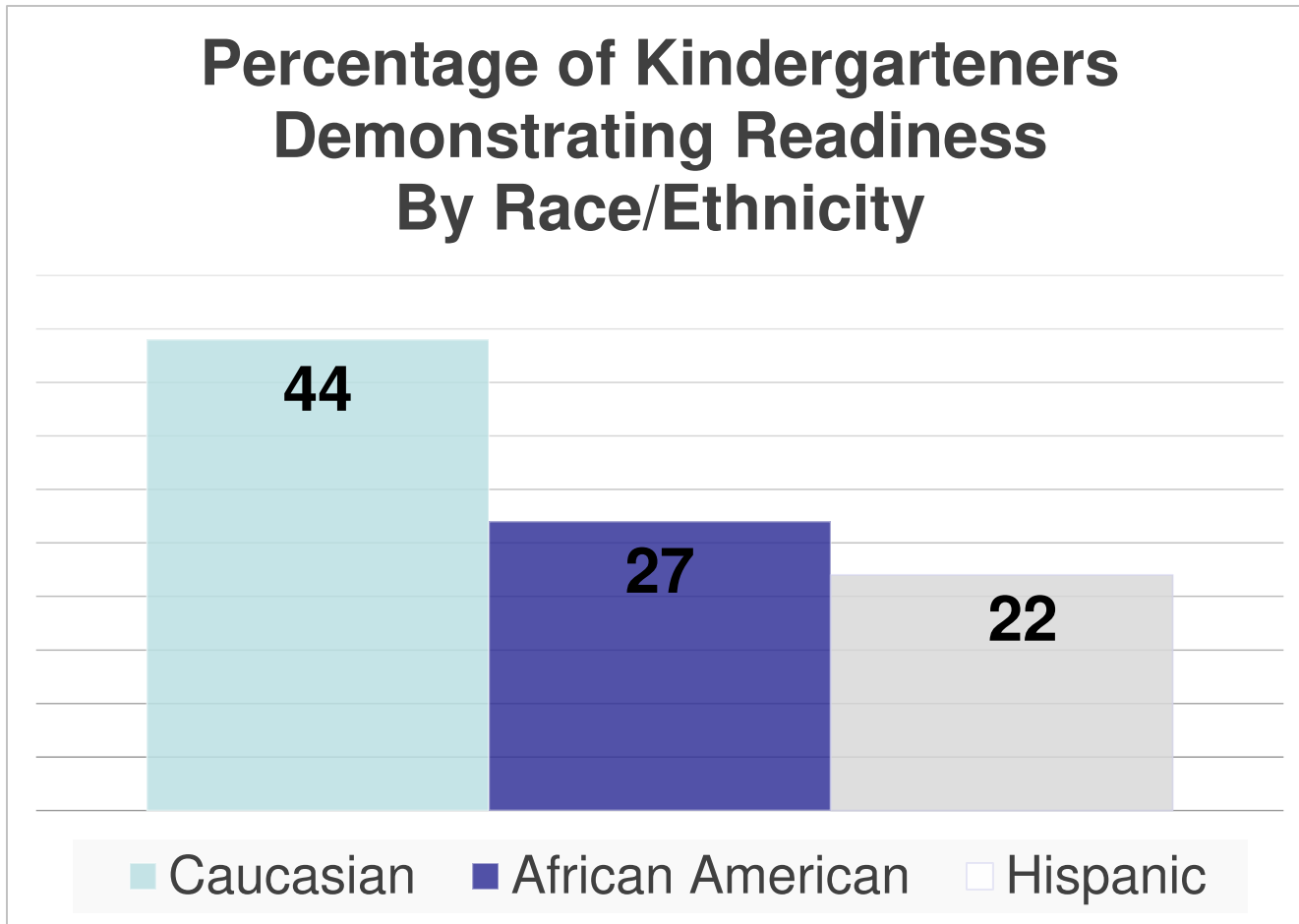
KRA Findings

Percentage of Kindergarteners Demonstrating Readiness by Domain



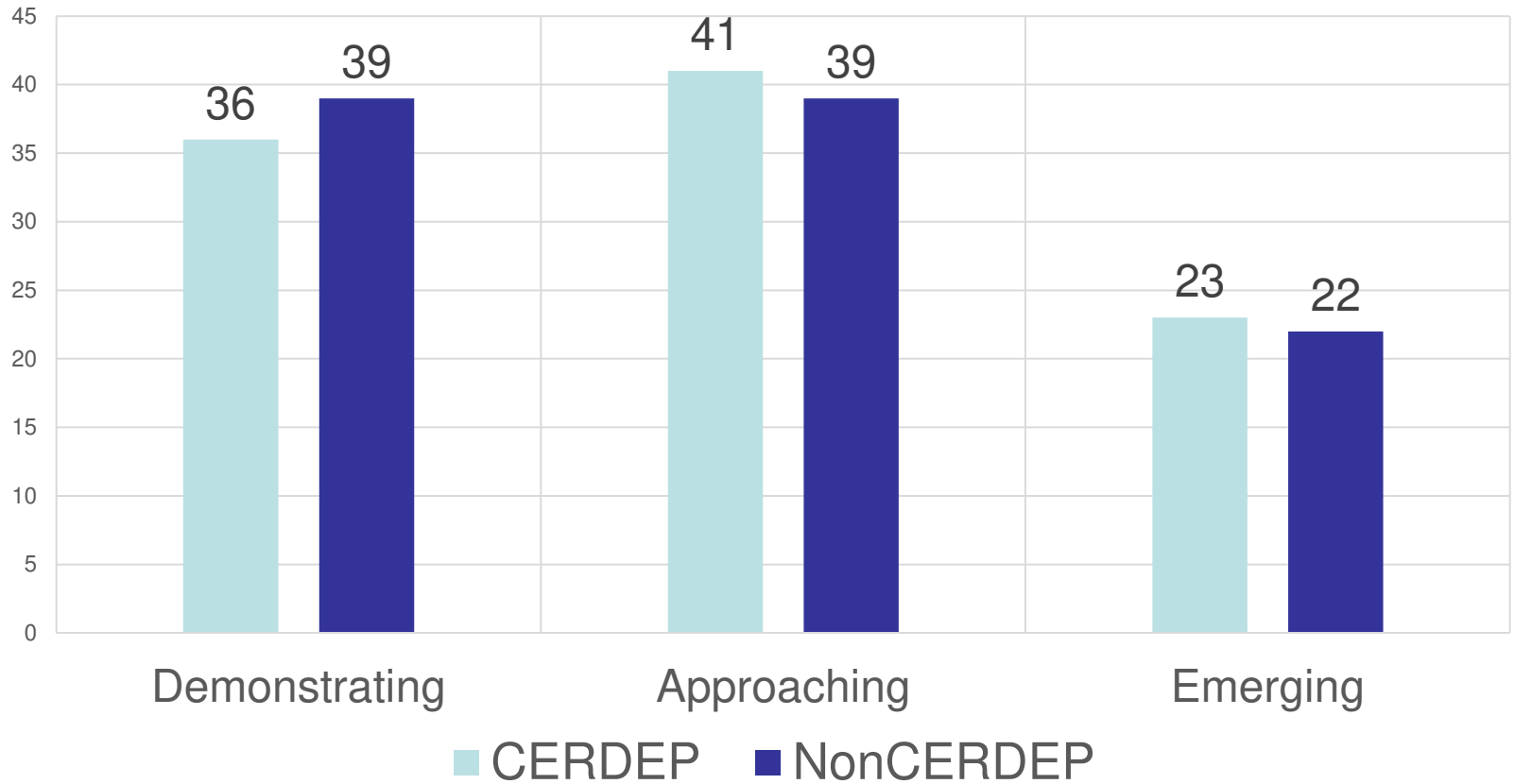
KRA Findings

Percentage of Kindergarteners Demonstrating Readiness By Race/Ethnicity



KRA Findings

KRA Findings, by CERDEP Participation



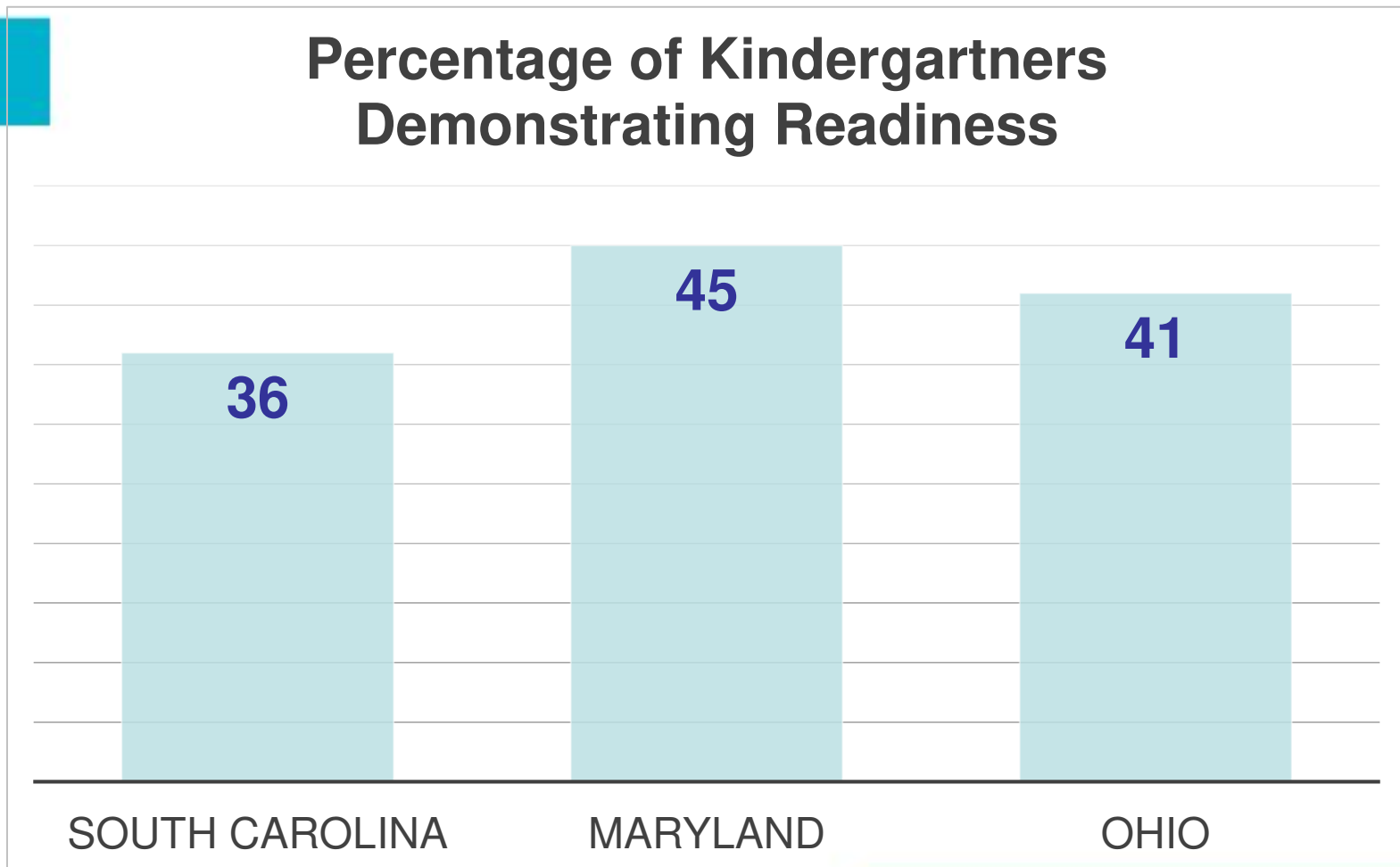
KRA Findings

District comparisons

- 33 districts met or surpassed the overall state average for Demonstrating Readiness
- 13 districts met or surpassed the state average on every KRA domain:
 - Anderson 4, Charleston, Clarendon 1, Dillon 3, Dorchester 2, Fairfield, Georgetown, Greenwood 52, McCormick, Richland 2, SC Public Charter School District, York 2 and York 4.

KRA Results: SC vs. MD/OH

Statewide KRA comparisons



Using KRA Results: MD/OH

How are states using results?

At the PK level:

- Create policy
- Funding priorities
- Program Improvements

At Kindergarten level:

- Shape classroom instruction
- Direct Individual student learning

Using KRA Results: SC

How should SC use results?

- First Steps to develop a **long-range initiative** for increasing school readiness (59-152-32)
- **Results** of screenings and developmental intervention must be **provided in writing to parent or guardian** (59-152-33)
- **District reading plan must incorporate activities for children** whose oral language and emerging literacy skills are below national standards (59-152-33)
- **State Board of Education must adopt a system for reporting** population-level results with baseline data for measuring overall **student change over time** (59-152-33)
- **First Steps must provide professional development** supporting readiness assessment for teachers and parents supported with First Steps Funds (59-152-33) and
- **Local First Steps Partnership Boards must improve readiness** of young children for school (59-152-60, 59-152,70 and 59-152-100)

KRA Recommendations/Next Steps

- If SC improved annual percentage of children entering kindergarten ready to learn by **3% annually** (or 1,650 children per year) **all children would enter kindergarten ready by 2037.**

Year	Readiness Percentage	# Children
2017	36%	19,800
2022	51%	28,050
2027	66%	36,300
2032	81%	44,550
2037	96%	52,800

KRA Recommendations/Next Steps

- **Backing Up:**
 - How will we as a State, move young children forward?
 - What percentage of our kindergartners should be ready to learn and by when?
 - What is the comprehensive long-range initiative for increasing school readiness in SC? How does the initiative address the needs of the whole child?
 - How will you, as a leader in your county, help children take the next step?
- **Looking Forward:** Roughly 30-40% of students graduate high school college and career ready

Ten Minute Tips and Other Resources



*“Using Effective Meeting Strategies to Engage
and Energize Your Board”*

- <http://scfirststeps.com/governance/>

FIRST STEPS 4K – LOCAL FIRST
STEPS PARTNERHIPS: BUILDING
COLLABORATION

Survey Results: Local Partnerships Collaboration with 4K

Q1. We keep a list of the 4K providers, with contact information, at our office and refer families that call to inquire about child care if they have an eligible 4 year old child.

Yes, we regularly do this 47.06%

We have the information but rarely receive inquiries 47.06%

No, we do not do this 5.88%

Q2. We have a working relationship with many of the child care centers in our county and have talked with them about becoming a 4K provider.

Yes, we regularly do this

We have the information but rarely receive inquiries

No, we do not do this

Q3. We promote the First Steps 4K program in our community, providing enrollment information at locations and events where families with eligible children could be reached.

Yes, we regularly do this

We have the information but rarely receive inquiries

No, we do not do this

Q4. We provide child care training and/or technical assistance and coaching to centers that also participate in the First Steps 4K program.

Yes, we regularly do this

Center staff occasionally attend our training

No, we do not do this

4K County Partnership Flyer



Free Four-Year-Old Kindergarten!

2018-2019 School Year, Aiken County

In order to qualify for the program, the Child must:

- Be 4 years old ON or BEFORE September 1, 2018
- Be eligible for Medicaid or the free/reduced-price lunch program.
- Live in one of the 64 qualifying school districts.

Current Participating Centers in Aiken County:

Centers may choose an option

Of 180 days or 220 days at 6.5 hours or 8 hours each day.

- A Bless Lesson Learned
- Betty's Creative Corner
- Betty's Creative Corner 929
- Busy Bees Childcare and Preschool
- Family Affair Childcare, Aiken
- Family Affair Childcare, North Augusta
- Great Creations CDC

- Learning on Main
- Our Lady of Peace Catholic School
- Sunshine House 05
- Sunshine House 57
- Sunshine House 59
- True Foundations
- Tiny Treasures Childcare

Centers may be located in any district despite their eligibility.

EDs can be helpful by checking with centers in their counties to see if 4K slots are filled. Your connections are vital!

Please visit SCfirststeps.org/4k/ for more information or call (803)734-0758.

4K Update: 2018 – 2019 School Year **as of August 12, 2018**

- 213 centers approved
- 29 new centers adding 484 new slots
- 234 4K classrooms
- 3750 total 4K slots
- 1429 students currently enrolled with 100 applications in process

Getting Better Acquainted

Suzanne McGougan - Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lee, York

Carla Brown - Anderson, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda

Sharon Bruton - Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

Anna Henrickson – Aiken, Richland

Meada Fogle - Aiken, Barnwell, Bamberg, Orangeburg

Shayla Pettigrew - Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro

Lorie Caldwell - Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper

Cassandra Legette - Richland, Sumter

Joy Mazur- Lexington, Newberry, Richland

NOTE: Richland, Lexington, Aiken have more than one Regional Coordinator – begin with one and rotate as needed.

Committee Sign-up

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS PROGRAM AND GRANTS COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI) FULL WORKING GROUP

EDI – HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

EDI – GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

EDI – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EDI - PROGRAMS



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

**2018 SC Summit on Early Childhood
&
South Carolina Parenting Conference**

Changing the Readiness Narrative: It's All About Relationships!

DECEMBER 6 - 7, 2018

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

**REGISTRATION BEGINS
EARLY OCTOBER!**





SAVE THE DATE
2018 Summit on Early Childhood
Changing the Readiness Narrative:
It's All About Relationships!



Junlei Li, Ph.D.

Dr. Li holds the Saul Zaentz Senior Lectureship in Early Childhood Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education. He is the former director of the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media in Pittsburgh, PA.



Laura Jana, M.D.

Nationally recognized Pediatrician, educator, author, and health communicator, Dr. Jana finds connections across disciplines and crystallizes big ideas into far-reaching, real-world applications.

December 7, 2018
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
Registration details coming soon
#allaboutrelationships

Announcements

SCAEYC Annual Conference

- October 5-6
- Midlands Technical College, Airport Campus
- http://www.scaeyc.org/conference/conference_2018/2018-SCAEYC-Conference-Flyer.pdf



SC Thrive – 8th Annual Training Conference

- October 1 -2 , Columbia Marriott
- <https://scthrive.org/annualtraining/>