

# Annual Report on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)

Fall 2018 Administration



What do the results of the KRA tell us?

Is full-day 4K making a difference in  
children's readiness ?



**SC EDUCATION  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

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# Are SC students prepared for kindergarten?

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) is designed to provide information on children's preparedness for kindergarten. In 2018, South Carolina schools began a second statewide administration of the assessment, which provides the only "snapshot" of kindergarten readiness in the state currently. Other states, like Maryland and Ohio, also administer the KRA, to kindergarten students.

The KRA is administered by a teacher during the first 45 days of schools, a requirement of the law. It includes questions that students answer, as well as questions where children are observed in their classrooms while doing activities or interacting with other children. It is designed to give reports for an individual child, as well as cohorts of children.



After the assessment is complete, each student receives a score of overall readiness in one of the following categories:

## Demonstrating Readiness:

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

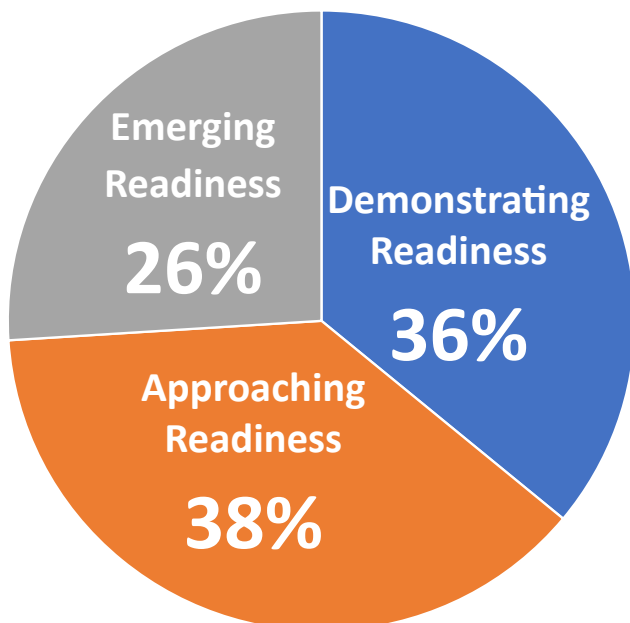
## Approaching Readiness:

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.

Fall 2017 Overall Results  
54,927 Kindergartners



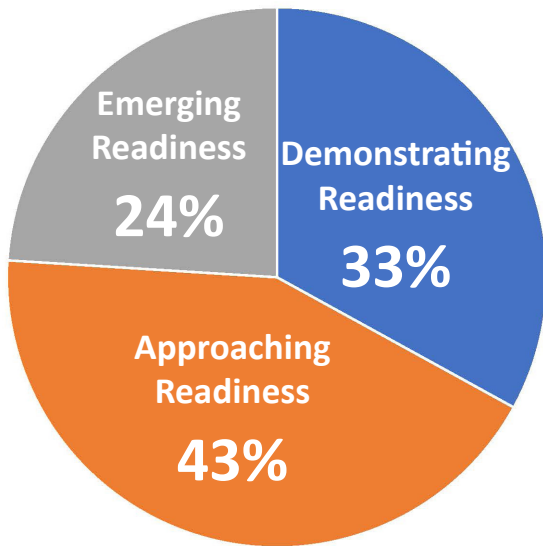
# Areas assessed with KRA

The KRA measures four different areas of development: Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Social Foundations, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Each of these areas contributes to a child's readiness to engage in kindergarten-level instruction. The following are results from 2018:



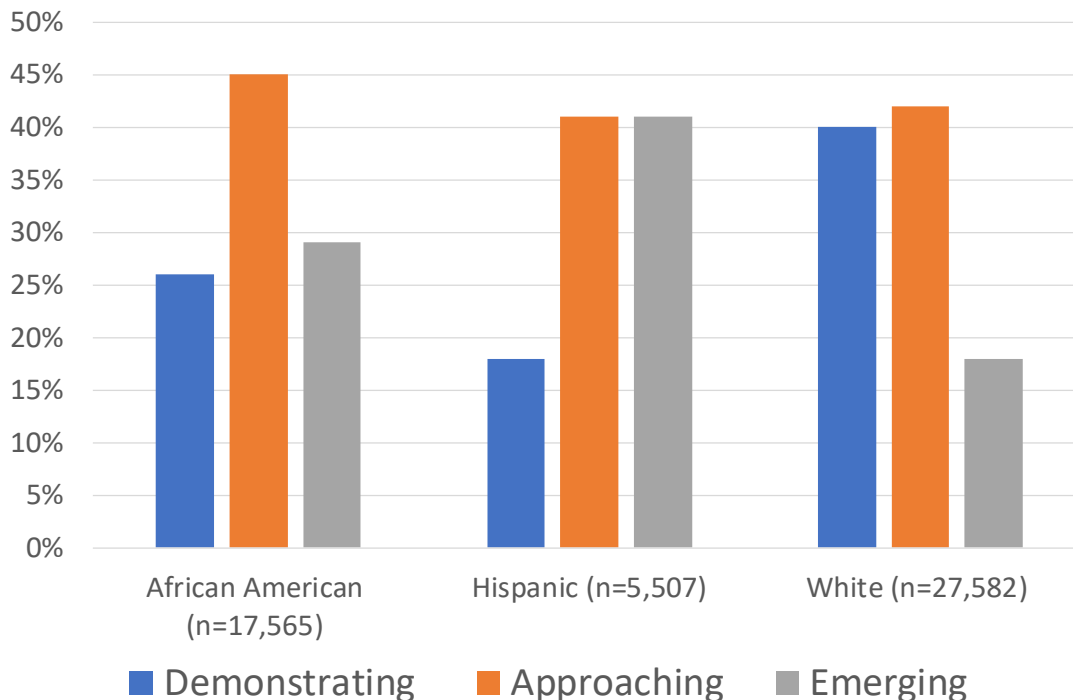
## Language and Literacy

The Language and Literacy domain measures skills such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening. KRA items in the domain include selected response and performance task questions. Both of these types of items involve the child responding to assessment stimuli (e.g., pointing to a picture or naming letters.)



The percentage of kindergarten students *Demonstrating Readiness* in this domain slipped one percentage point from 2018 to 2017.

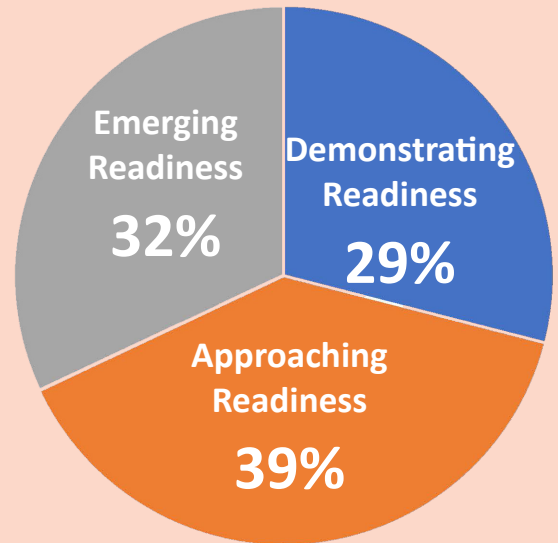
## Language and Literacy Performance Levels by Ethnicity, Statewide KRA 2018 Results



$$1+2=3$$

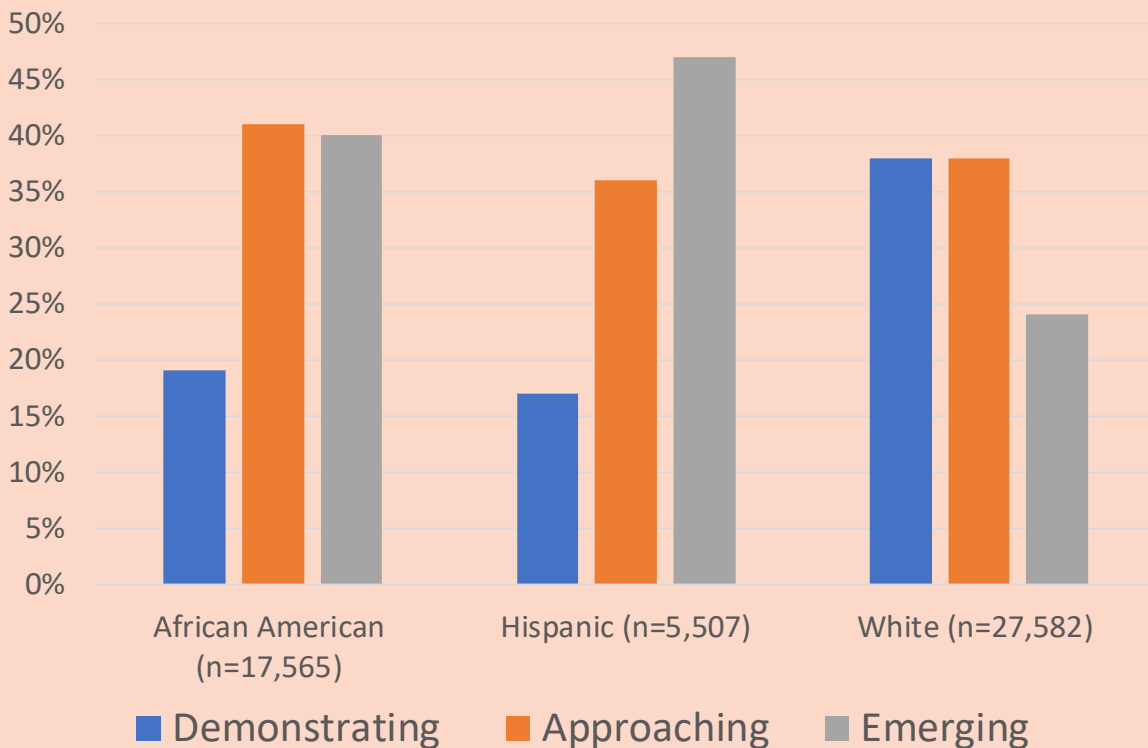
## Mathematics

The Mathematics domain measures skills such as sorting, classifying, counting, and completing groups of objects. KRA items in the domain include selected response and performance task questions. Both of these types of items involve the child responding to assessment stimuli.



The percentage of kindergarten students *Demonstrating Readiness* in this domain slipped two percentage points from 2018 to 2017.

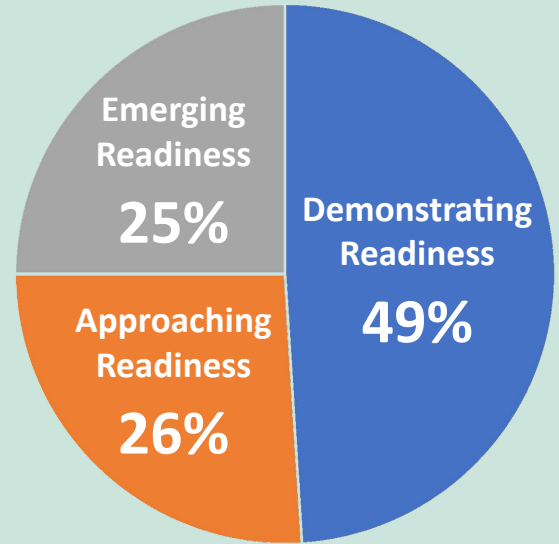
### Mathematics Performance Levels by Ethnicity, Statewide KRA 2018 Results





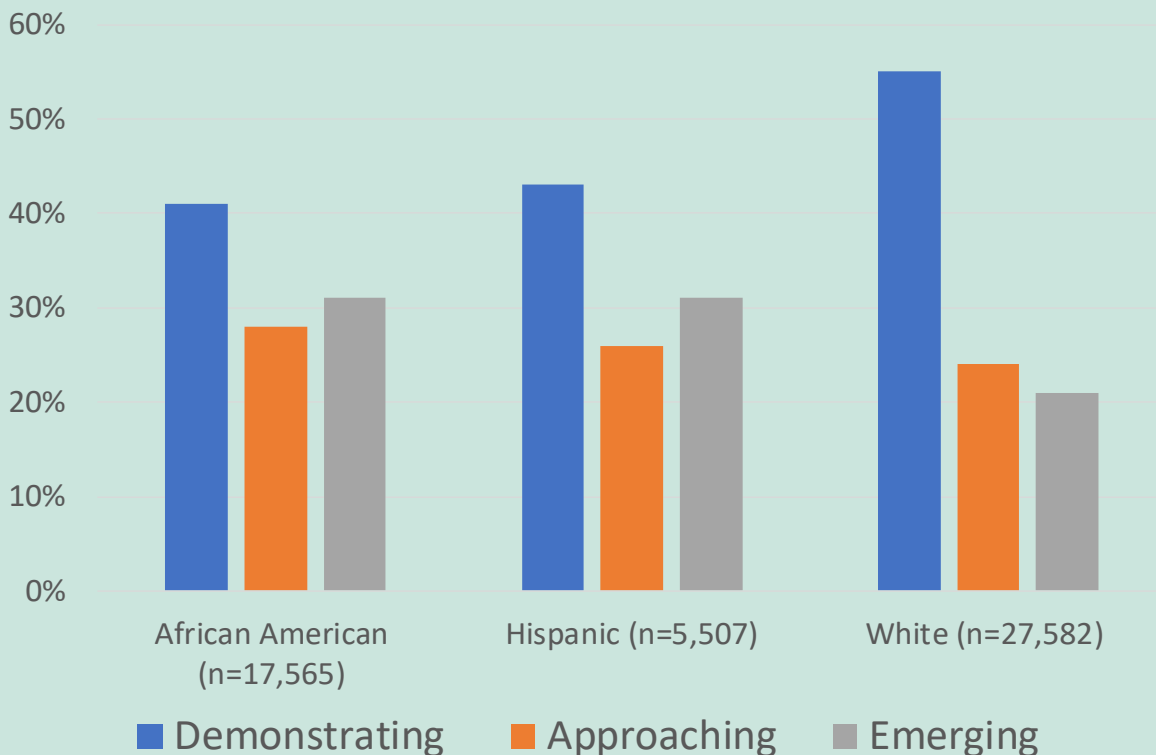
## Social Foundations

The Social Foundations domain measures how a student demonstrates following rules, asking for help, task persistence, and other skills necessary to the functioning within the kindergarten classroom. KRA items in the domain include are rated solely with an observational rubric, where a teacher rates a child on various tasks.



The percentage of kindergarten students *Demonstrating Readiness* in this domain increased four percentage points from 2018 to 2017. The percentage of students scoring in the *Emerging* category decreased by three percentage points.

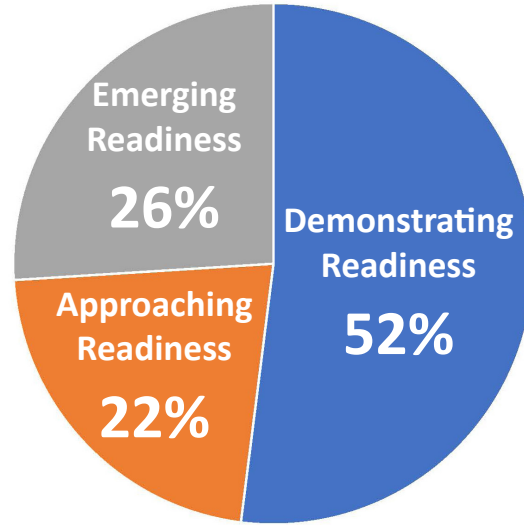
Social Foundations  
Performance Levels by Ethnicity, Statewide KRA 2018 Results





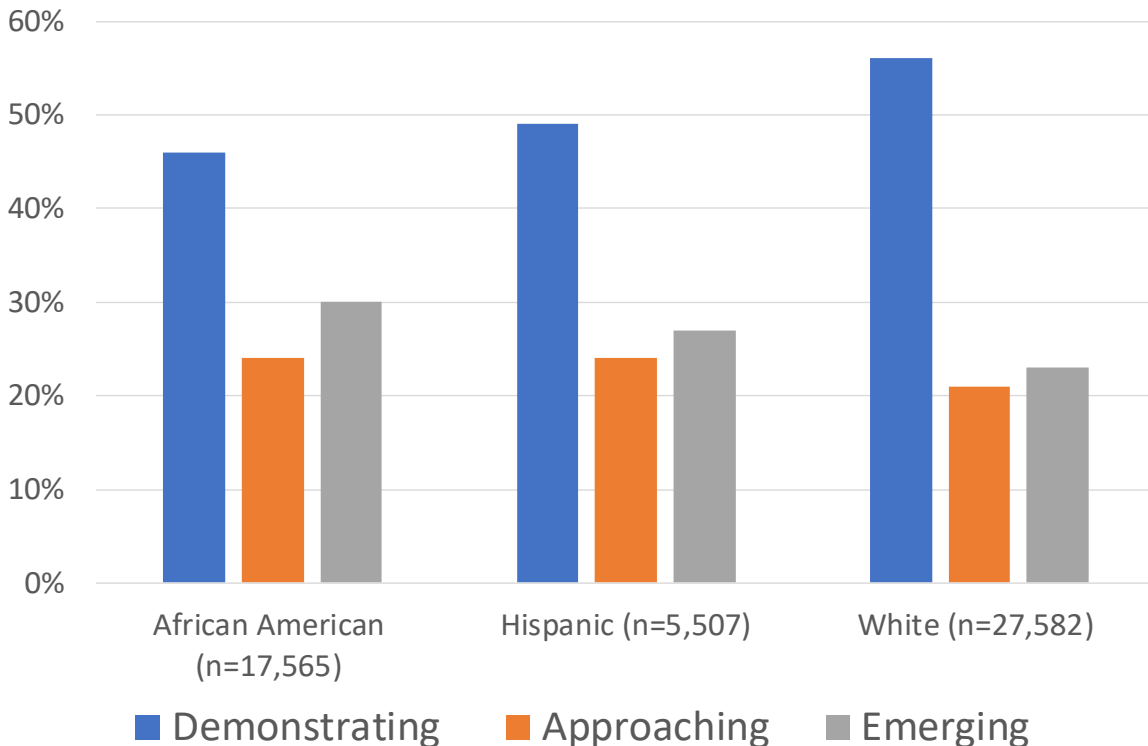
## Physical Well-Being & Motor Development

The Physical Well-Being and Motor Development domain measures how a student demonstrates abilities such as dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance. KRA items in the domain include are rated solely with an observational rubric, where a teacher rates a child on various tasks.



The percentage of kindergarten students *Demonstrating Readiness* in this domain increased four percentage points from 2018 to 2017. The percentage of students scoring in the *Emerging* category decreased by two percentage points.

### Physical Well-Being & Motor Development Performance Levels by Ethnicity, Statewide KRA 2018 Results



# Is full-day 4K making a difference in children's readiness?

The General Assembly funds full-day, four-year-old kindergarten (4K). Children who are in poverty and who reside in school districts with the highest poverty rates in our state are eligible to attend a 4K program in a public school or participating private child care center at no cost. In school year 2019-20, the program will serve children living in 62 of the 79 traditional school districts.

The fall 2018 KRA results were analyzed, and the results document the impact that the full-day 4K program is making for these children:

- Children who were enrolled in a full-day 4K program in public schools performed at similar levels to all other students in the state. Approximately 35% of these children were ready for kindergarten as compared to 37% of all other children entering kindergarten.
- Furthermore, children who were enrolled in the state-funded, full-day 4K program outperformed other children in poverty who had not participated in the state-funded full-day 4K program. The difference in children's Language and Literacy readiness is significant.

## Demonstrating Readiness on KRA

	Overall Readiness	Language & Literacy	Mathematics	Social Foundations	Physical Development and Well-Being
<b>Children who Participated in State-funded, Full-day 4K (9,103)*</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>51%</b>
Children in Poverty who <b>Did Not</b> Participate in State-funded, Full-day 4K (27,716)	27%	24%	21%	41%	45%

\*Includes children only served in public schools in 4K.

