



**SC EDUCATION  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

*Reporting facts. Measuring change. Promoting progress.*

# Findings of the Fall 2021 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)

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# Background

Section 59-152-33 of the South Carolina Code of Laws requires the adoption and administration of a school readiness assessment by the State Board of Education. The results may not be used to deny a student admission or progress to kindergarten or first grade but instead should demonstrate progress toward improving school readiness.

In 2014, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) was selected as the readiness assessment for use by the state of South Carolina, and it has been used since. Proviso 1A.58 of the 2019-20 General Appropriation Act directs the South Carolina Department of Education to expend up to \$2.0 million in Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds to administer the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) to “each child entering kindergarten in the public schools. The assessment of kindergarten students must be administered at a minimum of once during the first forty-five days of the school year with the results collected by the department.”



## Recommendations

### **Recommendation 1. Maintain the educational outcomes data dashboard**

In 2021 Education Oversight Committee (EOC) staff piloted an Educational Outcomes Data Dashboard to illustrate early childhood outcomes across educational settings for 4-year-olds, thus satisfying legislatively required reporting requirements in an innovative, user-friendly way. Much of the information was later released in aggregate form and described Kindergarten readiness for Fall 2021. This briefing paper supplements the dashboard, but the interactive nature of data dashboards offers more detail and has the potential to link data from early childhood through post-secondary outcomes. Staff recommends maintaining the data dashboard piloted by the EOC.

### **Recommendation 2. Include Head Start performance data**

Currently, Head Start data cannot be identified and linked to KRA performance level. This omission leaves a gap, and the incomplete information about 4K setting limits the data-driven programmatic decisions that can be made. It is the recommendation of EOC staff that data from Head Start be connected within the data systems so that a complete understanding of 4K experience and KRA performance can be investigated.

### **Recommendation 3. Conduct Assessment Study**

While the KRA is used to determine Kindergarten Readiness at this time, it is unknown how closely related the KRA is to the Kindergarten standards, and how predictive this instrument is of success in 3rd grade reading as measured by the SC READY. EOC staff recommends that a study on assessment validity and alignment be conducted.

# Kindergarten Readiness in Fall of 2021

Figure 1: Readiness Level in Fall of 2021

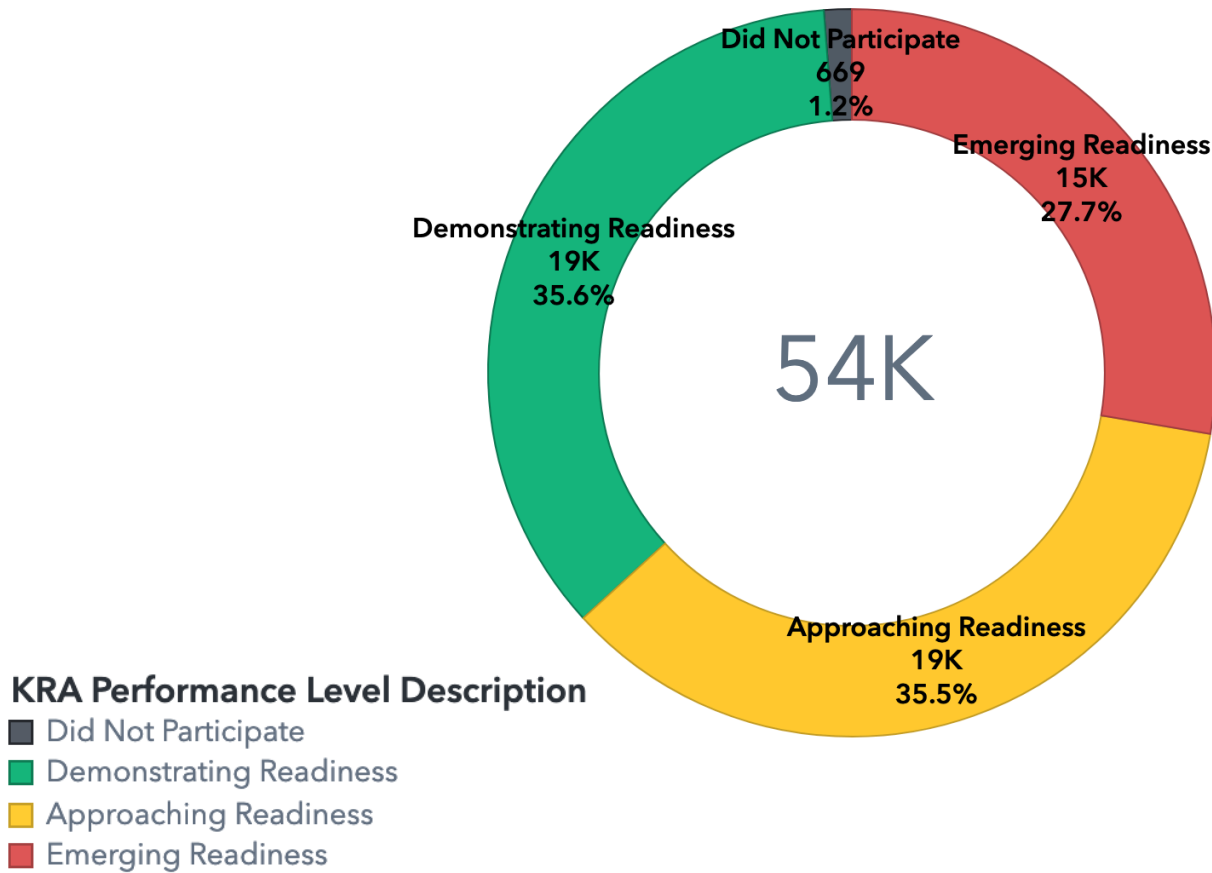
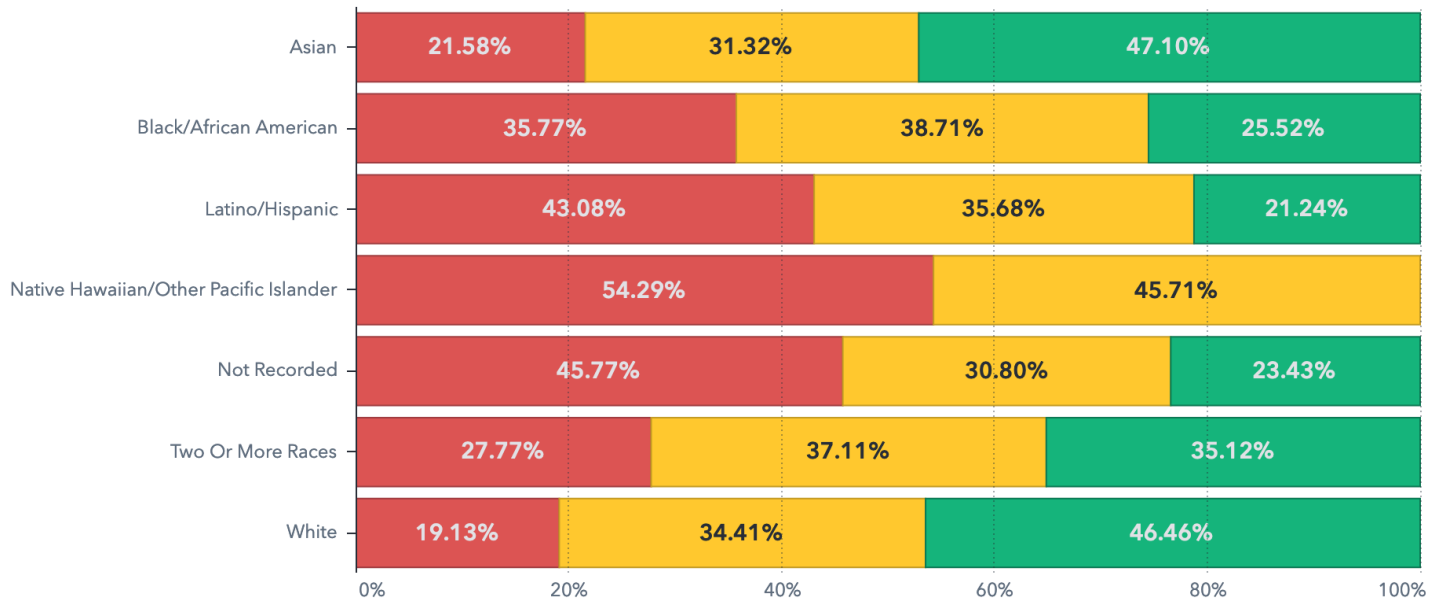
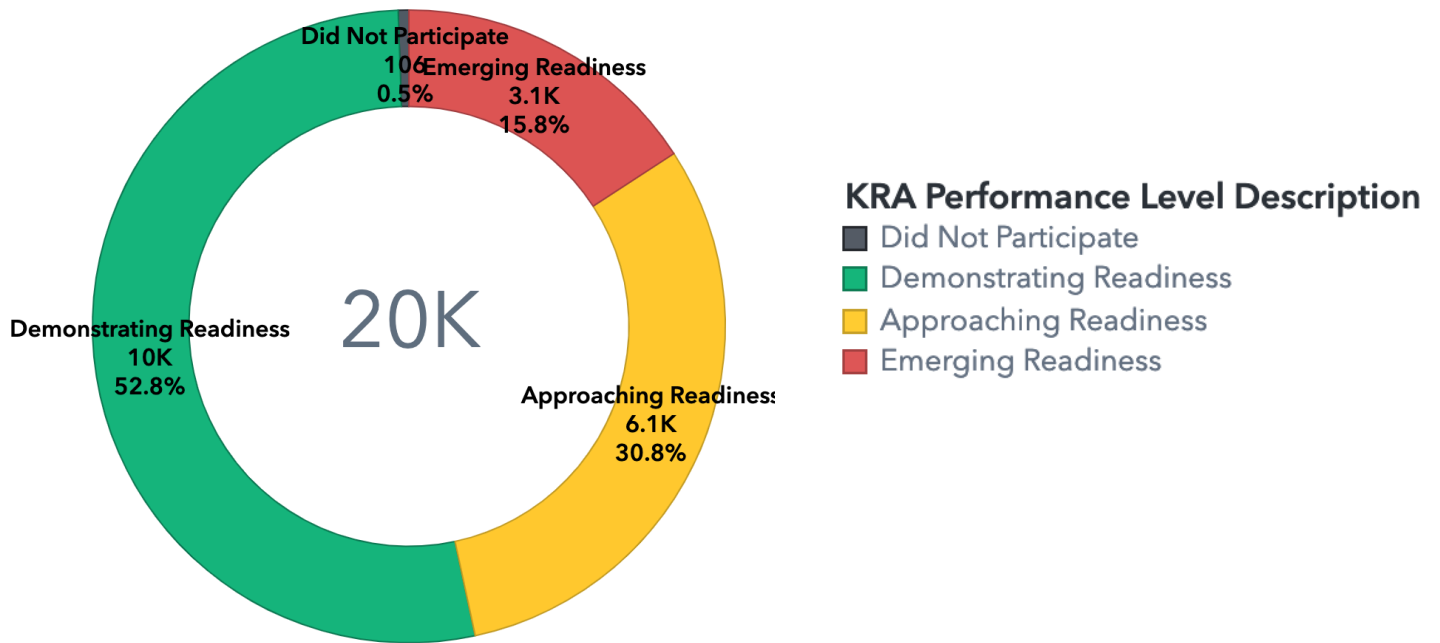


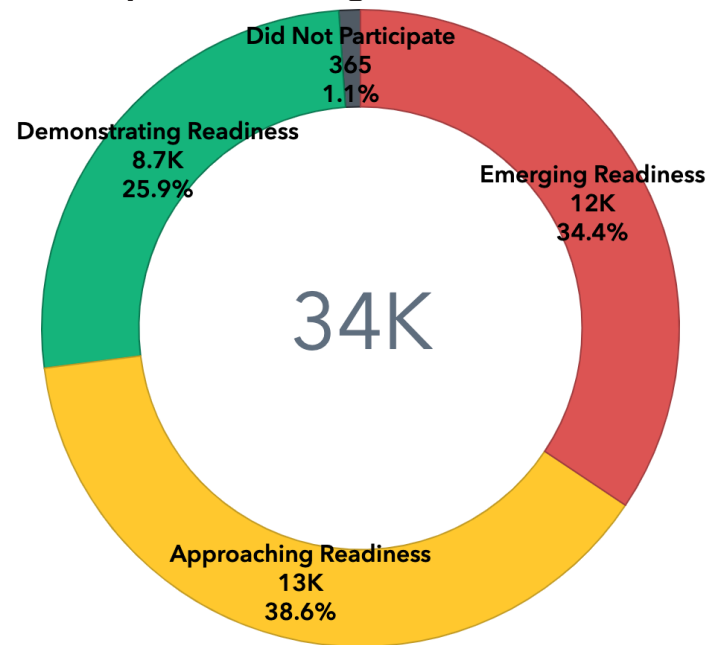
Figure 2: KRA Performance by Race in Fall of 2021



**Figure 3: Pupils not in Poverty Demonstrating Readiness in Fall 2021**



**Figure 4: Pupils in Poverty Demonstrating Readiness in Fall 2021**



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**Figure 5: KRA Performance for Pupils in Poverty by Prior 4K Experience, Fall 2021**

|                                     | Emerging Readiness  | Approaching Readiness | Demonstrating Readiness |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
|                                     | Percent of Students | Percent of Students   | Percent of Students     |
| <b>CERDEP</b>                       | 26%                 | 41%                   | 33%                     |
| CERDEP 4K                           | 25%                 | 41%                   | 34%                     |
| First Steps 4K                      | 29%                 | 43%                   | 28%                     |
| <b>Non-CERDEP</b>                   | 37%                 | 38%                   | 24%                     |
| Public 4K (Non-CERDEP)              | 30%                 | 38%                   | 32%                     |
| Informal (Relative or Non-Relative) | 28%                 | 49%                   | 23%                     |
| Other Formal 4K Experience          | 40%                 | 40%                   | 20%                     |
| Unknown                             | 41%                 | 38%                   | 21%                     |