



**Effective and Efficient
School District
Governance Task Force
September 16, 2024**





JCPS EARLY CHILDHOOD

MISSION

The JCPS Early Childhood Program shapes the future by empowering children and families.

VISION

To cultivate classrooms of excellence, empower families, prepare students for kindergarten, and improve our community.



STATE-FUNDED PRESCHOOL: WHO QUALIFIES?

CHILDREN WHO ARE 4

On or before August 1 and considered “at-risk” based on family income at or below 160% of the Federal Poverty Line

CHILDREN WHO ARE 4

On or before August 1, currently in foster care or considered homeless by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

CHILDREN WHO ARE 3 OR 4

Meet eligibility requirements as a child with a disability

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM OPERATIONS

STATE PROGRAM OPERATIONS

704 KAR 3:410 Section 6

- **Sessions:** 5 half days a week or 4 half days a week with 5th day for services to families
- **Hours of Operation:** Minimum of 2 ½ hours.
- **Nutrition:** Breakfast and/or lunch required.
- **Group size ratio:** 1 adult per 10 children (max group size: 20 children).
- **Home visits:** Two required visits per child per year.

JCPS PROGRAM OPERATIONS

Student Instructional Day: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Focus:** Literacy, Language, Math, Social Skills
- **Group Activities:** Large & small group time, selected center time, 20 minutes gross motor time
- **Nutrition:** Lunch provided

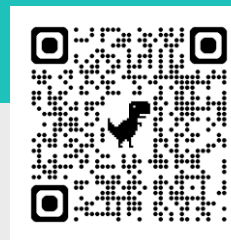
Family Engagement Days

Free before/after instructional day care

(breakfast & snacks included)

Activities: Art, Science, STEM, Theme Kits, Gross Motor time, Read-Aloud, group learning

ENSURING KINDERGARTEN READINESS



- **Pre-K On My Way (Scholastic)**
 - Aligned with **Science of Reading**
 - Teachers receive **extensive professional development** (initial + 6 ongoing sessions)
 - **Scholastic Coaches** support teachers with 6 coaching cycles
- **Second Steps (Social Skills Curriculum)**
 - Focuses on emotional regulation and social skills for kindergarten readiness
- **Camp Ready 4K**
 - **Comprehensive program** designed for children aged 4-6 entering kindergarten
 - Hosted at five sites, celebrating the 10th summer of Camp Ready 4K.
- **Waterford**
 - **Supplemental learning resource:** 15 minutes a day during enrichment
 - Teaches key kindergarten readiness skills on student iPads
- **Data analyzed:**
 - Brigrance in the Fall - Analyze Data from current Kindergarten Students
 - Kindergarten Readiness Assessment in the Fall, Winter, and Spring
 - Child Outcome Summary - Required by the State
- **Collaborative Fridays**
 - The calendar has two Friday's a month reserved for Admission and Release Committee (ARC), Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings, home visits, and educational planning



ENHANCEMENTS FOR KINDERGARTEN READINESS

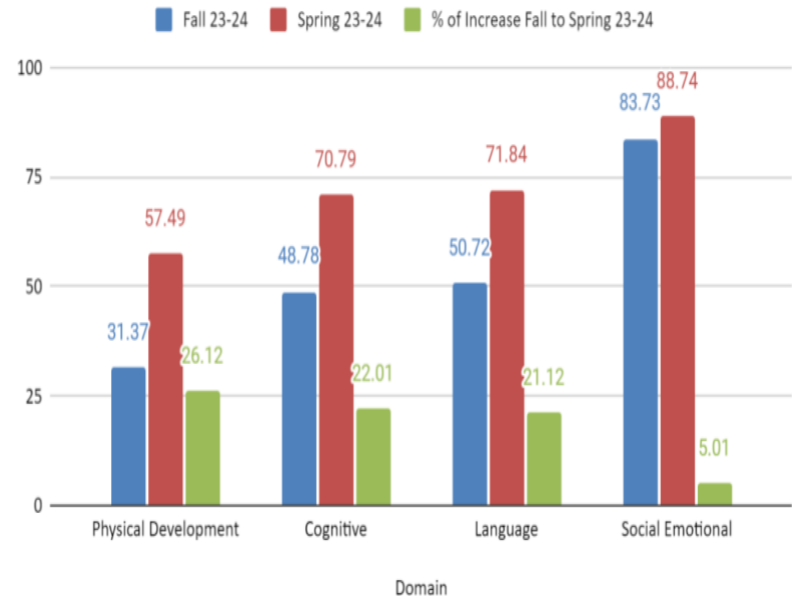
- **Pyramid Model & Conscious Discipline**
 - Behavioral frameworks focused on social-emotional learning
- **Behavior Support (6 BCBA Specialists)**
 - Provide social skills, behavior support, and interventions in classrooms
- **Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) Associate of Re-Engagement and Transition Supports**
 - Assists students in overcoming barriers during transitions to Early Childhood and from Early Childhood to elementary school
- **Bilingual Associate Instructors (BAIs)**
 - Instructional support for multilingual learners and family communication
- **Staff Professional Development**
 - **Additional three day targeted professional learning opportunities for all early childhood staff**
 - **Early Childhood New Teacher Cohort**
- **Hands-On Learning & Engaging Environments**
 - Classrooms include **STEM, gross motor, and social skill development**
 - **Family Engagement Events** (4 per year) and **Kindergarten Readiness Camp**

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM IMPACT

- **Fall to Spring Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Data Results:**

- Overall physical development increased by 26%
 - Writing first name increased by 30%
- Cognitive concepts increased by 22%
 - Letter naming increased by 23%
- Language increased by 21%
- Social emotional increased by 5%

Fall 23-24, Spring 23-24 and % of Increase Fall to Spring 23-24

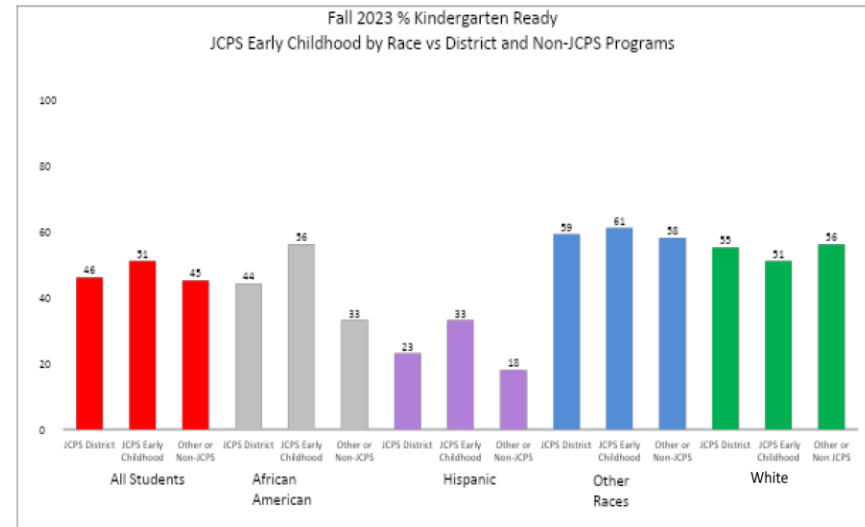


BRIGANCE KINDERGARTEN READINESS RESULTS: FALL 2023

- **JCPS Early Childhood students** scored **51%** on kindergarten readiness, compared to **46%** for the overall district when students enter kindergarten.
- **All** JCPS Early Childhood students demonstrated a stronger readiness compared to their peers, whether or not they attended preschool within the broader community.



How did JCPS Early Childhood students perform?
BRIGANCE Results in Fall 2023



EXPANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD FACILITIES

Opening: Scheduled for the 2026-2027 school year

Classrooms: 23 classrooms, serving up to 460 students

Location: Off Breckenridge Lane, behind Watterson Elementary

Cost: \$19.92 million

Size: 49,300 square feet

Facilities: Inclusive playgrounds, purpose-designed learning environments



CHALLENGES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- **Teacher Certification:** Early Childhood teachers are required to hold an **IECE (Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education)** certification.
- **Instructional Assistants (IAs):** Required to have either:
 - A **Passing Score** on the **Kentucky Para-educator Assessment**
 - OR **48 college hours.**
- **Vacancies:**
 - Teacher: 24
 - IA: 154



ADDRESSING SOLUTIONS TO STAFFING CHALLENGES

University Partnerships:

- University of Louisville
- Campbellsville University
- Simmons College of Kentucky

Collaborating with these institutions to:

- **Pipeline Development:** Create pathways for students pursuing education degrees to work within JCPS Early Childhood programs.
- **Professional Development:** Offer targeted professional development to meet certification requirements.
- **Internship Opportunities:** Provide hands-on experience through student teaching and internship placements, increasing recruitment opportunities.



QUESTIONS?

