

Community Services Early Childhood Programs

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Early Childhood Programs and Services

01

Ready to Grow, Ready to Learn (RTG-RTL)

Licensed childcare
six-weeks - five-year olds

02

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

Classes for caregivers and children
Infants - eight-year olds

03

Diamondhead Preschool (PreK)

Monday - Friday, morning or afternoon classes for
three-five year olds

04

Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK)

Monday - Friday morning, afternoon, and full day
options for four year olds

05

Kindergarten Jumpstart (KJS)

Summer program for District 191 incoming Kindergarteners,
five-week, full day program, Monday - Thursday

06

Ready! for Kindergarten

Parent classes to engage in targeted literacy, math, and
social and emotional skills through play

07

Early Childhood Screening

Health and developmental screening tool for children once
they turn three



Ready to Grow, Ready to Learn (RTG/RTL) Licensed Childcare

Ready to Grow

- Infants
- Toddlers

Ready to Learn

- Preschool ages 3-5

KinderSpark

- New 5 Year Old Program

<https://communityed.isd191.org/early-childhood/childcare>



Ready to Grow, Ready to Learn

Classroom Ratios

Infant Classroom

1:4

Toddler Classroom

1:7

Preschool Classrooms

1:10

Requirements & Info



[Staffing Requirements](#)



[Licensing Requirements](#)



[Parent Aware Requirements](#)



[Fee based program](#)

Ready to Grow, Ready to Learn - Data

Key Drivers of Enrollment

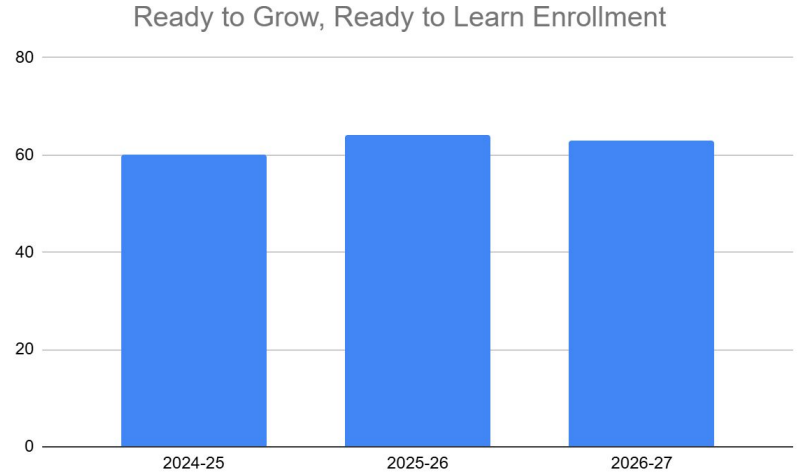
Community Service

Affordable Option

Alignment Opportunity

Three-Year Enrollment Trend

Number of Students Enrolled



Program Year

Early Childhood Screening

- Early look at a child's health and development beginning at three-years old

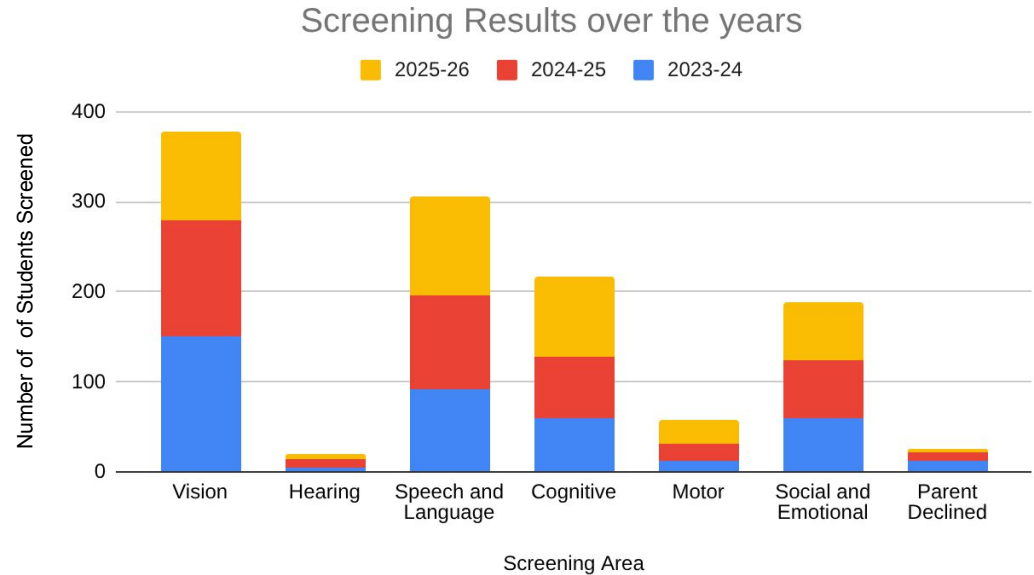
[Statute](#)

[Department of Youth and Family Service \(DCYF\) Guidance](#)



Early Childhood Screening - Data

- [Annual Report](#) submitted each year to the state
- Past three years
 - 2,264 children were screened
 - Average 755 screenings annually



Ready! for Kindergarten

- “Play with a purpose”
 - Program developed by the National Reading Foundation
- Offered free for District 191 families
- Three Session Program
 - Classes designed for each age group each session 0-1, 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, and 4-5
 - Classes are in person and virtual, Spanish classes offered
- Materials and Learning Targets at each session

Ready! for Kindergarten - Data

- During the 2025-26 school year, the program increased from 16 to 60 participants, representing a 275% increase from fall to spring
 - Added Spanish sessions
 - Additional marketing and communication plan
 - Community Engagement Team support (parent meetings)

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

It is a statewide program offered through local school districts for expectant parents and families with children from birth to kindergarten, our district expands its services to grade three.

[Statute](#)

[DCYF Guidance](#)

<https://communityed.isd191.org/>

Early Childhood Family Education



Staffing Models

Separating & Non-Separating

- Three Parent Educators
- Two Early Childhood Educators
- Three CE Associates



Parent Advisory Council

Dedicated advisory council structured to support early childhood education programming, community connection, and parent partnerships across the district.



Preschool Plus

- Two day a week program designed for children 33 months and older
- One day caregivers stay and learn together, one day is drop off



[Complete overhaul of our Early Childhood Catalogue](#)

Preschool Inclusion at DEC - Ages 3-5



Fee-Based Program

Flexible options available for participating families:

- **Sliding Fee Scale**
- **Scholarships**



Parent Aware

Program meets rigorous Parent Aware quality rating requirements to ensure high-quality early education and care.



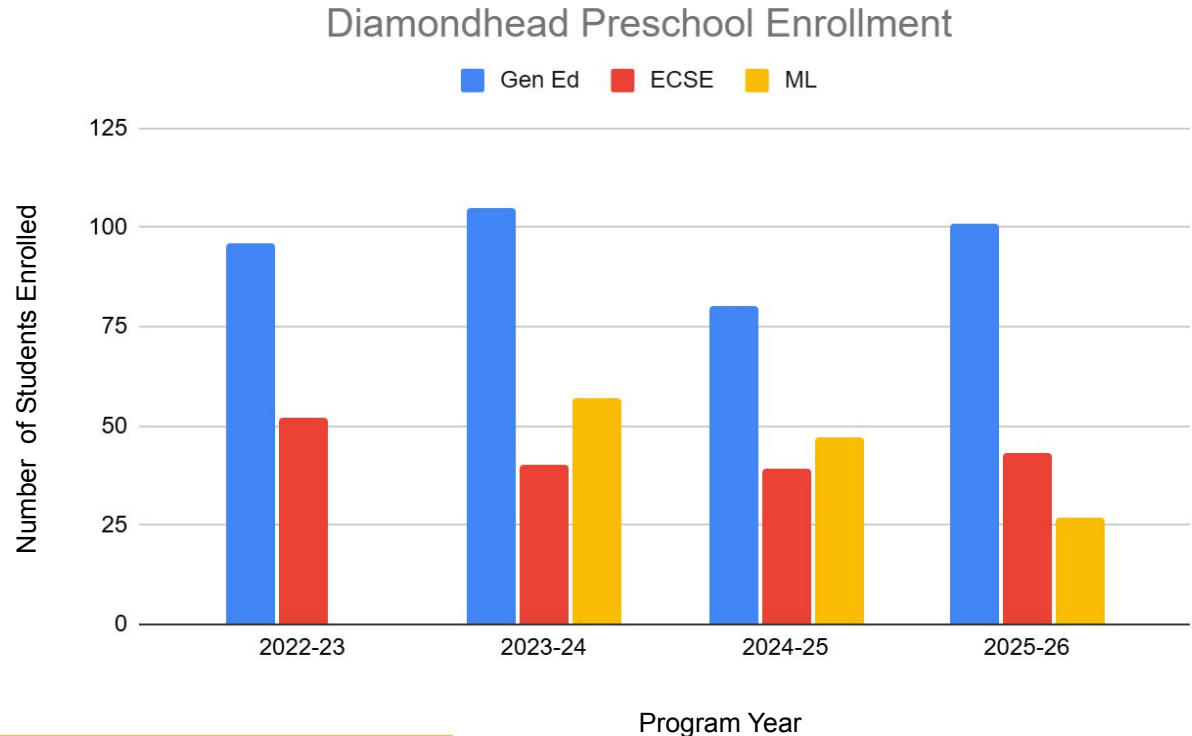
ECSE Partnership

Strong collaborative partnership with Early Childhood Special Education to foster inclusive, supportive classrooms.

Diamondhead Preschool - Data

- In 2025-26 school year - 79% of families were on partial or full scholarship

Gen Ed - General Education
ECSE - Early Childhood Special Education
ML - Multilingual



Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK)

- Publicly funded preschool program to help eligible 4-year-old children prepare for kindergarten through high-quality, play-based learning

[VPK Statute](#)

[DCYF Guidance](#)

Voluntary PreKindergarten

Classrooms & Locations

11 Classrooms | 9 Locations

- Three Full Day Classrooms at Diamondhead Education Center
- One at each Elementary School

Staffing Models

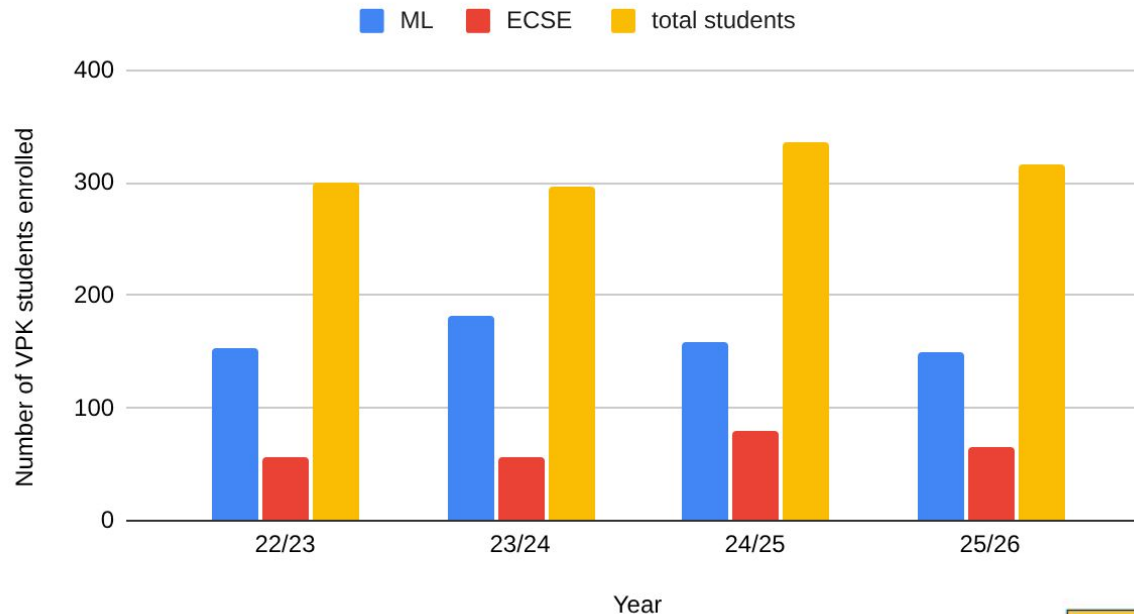
Ratio 1:10 (Max 20 students per classroom)

- One General Education Teacher
- One CE Associate
- One Early Childhood Special Education EA
- Push In Special Education Teacher (supports Kindergarten)

[Explore the Instructional Framework →](#)

Voluntary PreKindergarten - Demographics

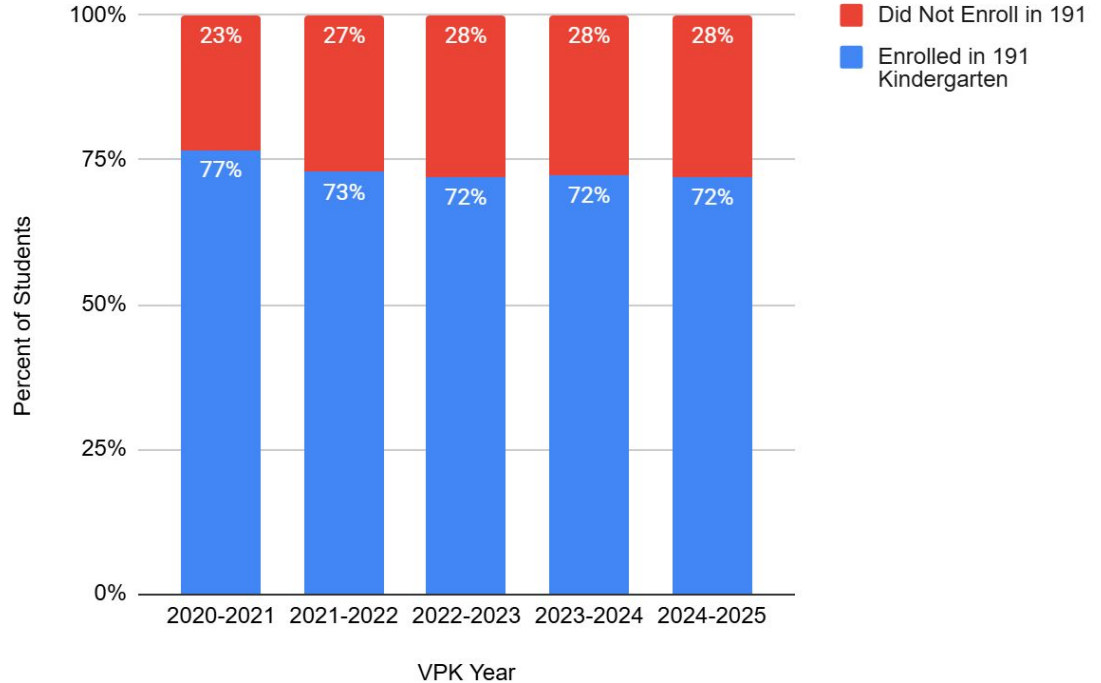
Voluntary PreKindergarten Enrollment Demographics
ML, ECSE and total students



VPK Enrollment Data

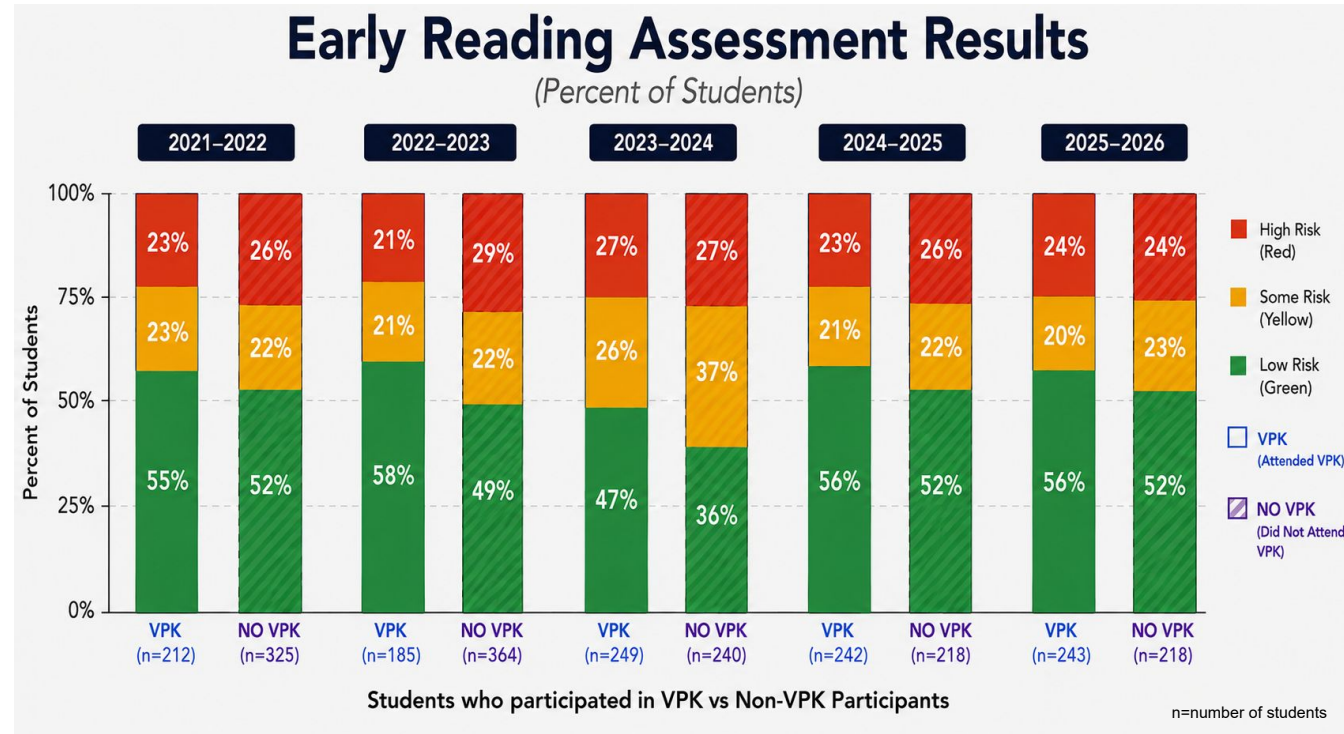
Over the past 5 years, an average of 73% of 191 VPK Students have enrolled in 191 Kindergarten.

Percentage of VPK Students Enrolling in District 191 Kindergarten



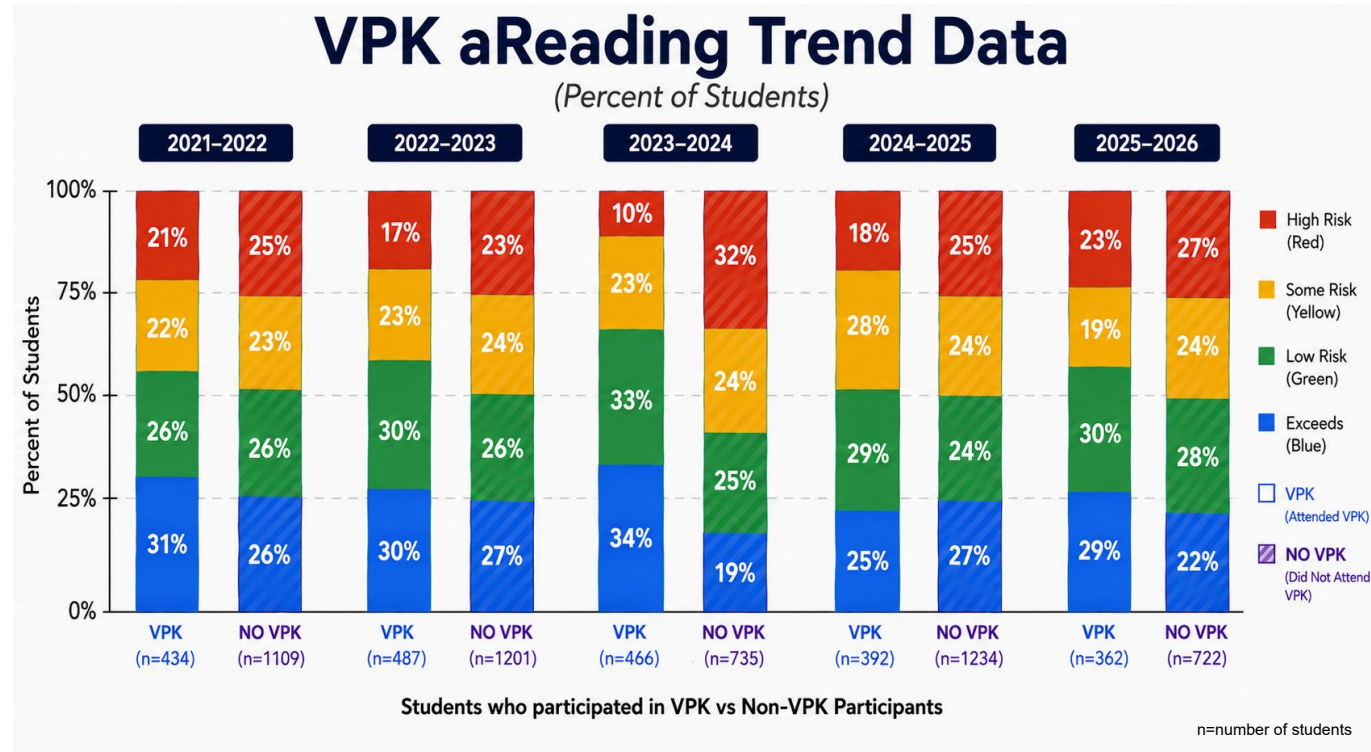
VPK Early Reading Trend Data

VPK participation is associated with stronger early reading outcomes, with VPK students consistently demonstrating higher performance on Kindergarten reading assessments.



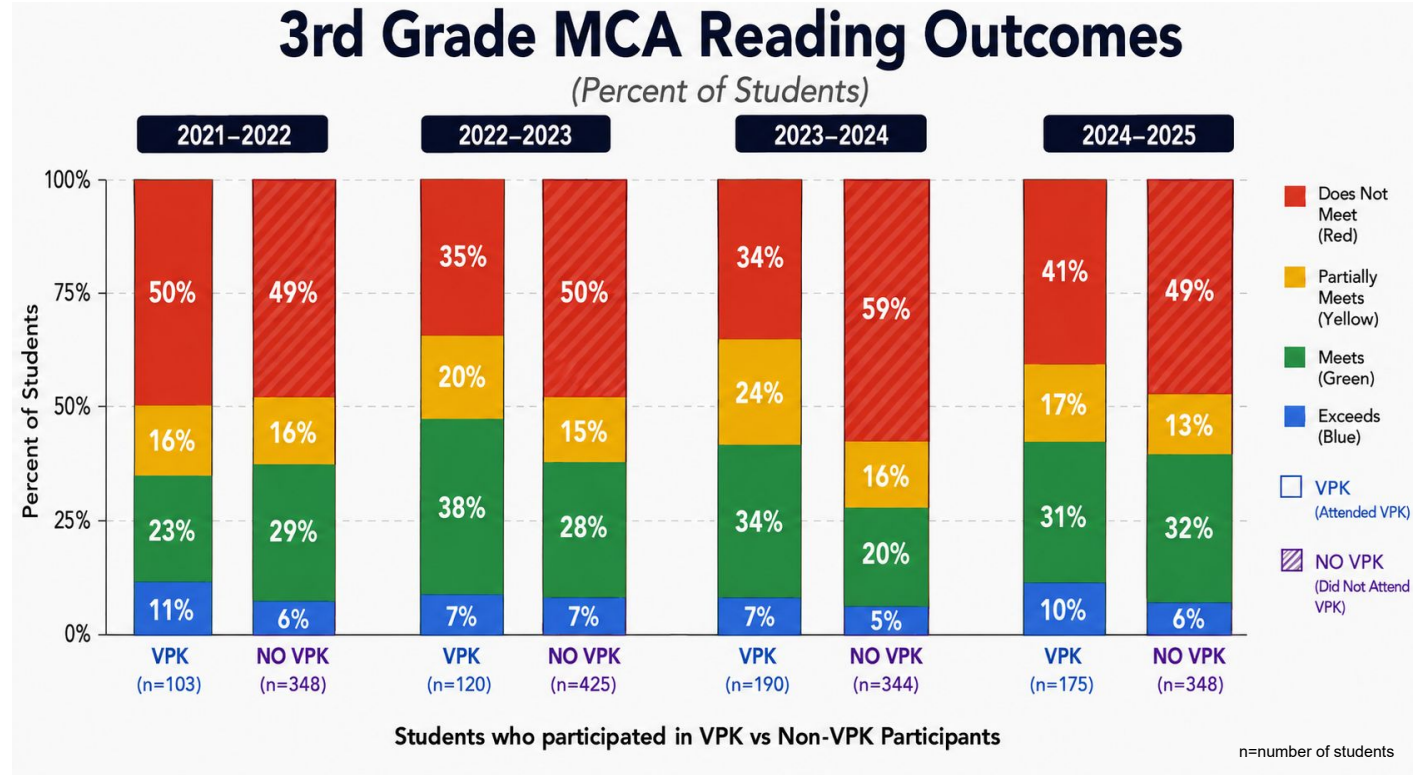
VPK aReading Trend Data

VPK were more likely to meet or exceed grade-level reading benchmarks, as demonstrated by aReading assessment data.



VPK MCA Trend Data

The trend of VPK students demonstrating stronger reading outcomes continues into the 3rd grade MCA Reading Assessment.



Kindergarten Jumpstart

Summer transitional program for incoming District 191 students.

The Experience

 Full Day Program

A comprehensive 24-day full day transition.

 Single Location

All students hosted together in one building.

 Field Trips

Enriching group trips included.

Key Features

- Play-Based: Hands-on developmental learning.
- Heggerty: Focused phonemic awareness curriculum.
- Specialists: Instruction from certified specialists.
- Busing: Full district transportation provided.
- Meals: Daily breakfast and lunch included.

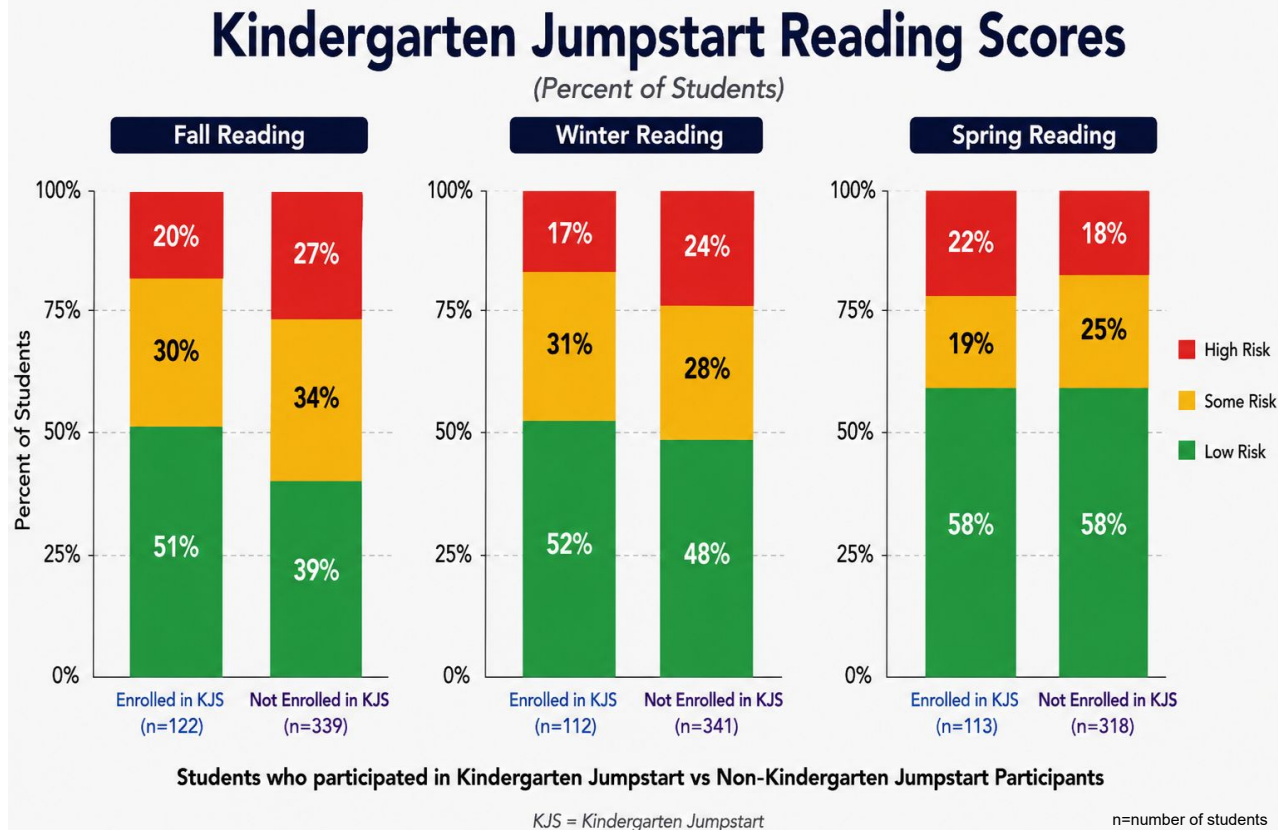
Enrollment & Impact

200 Students Registered

178 Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

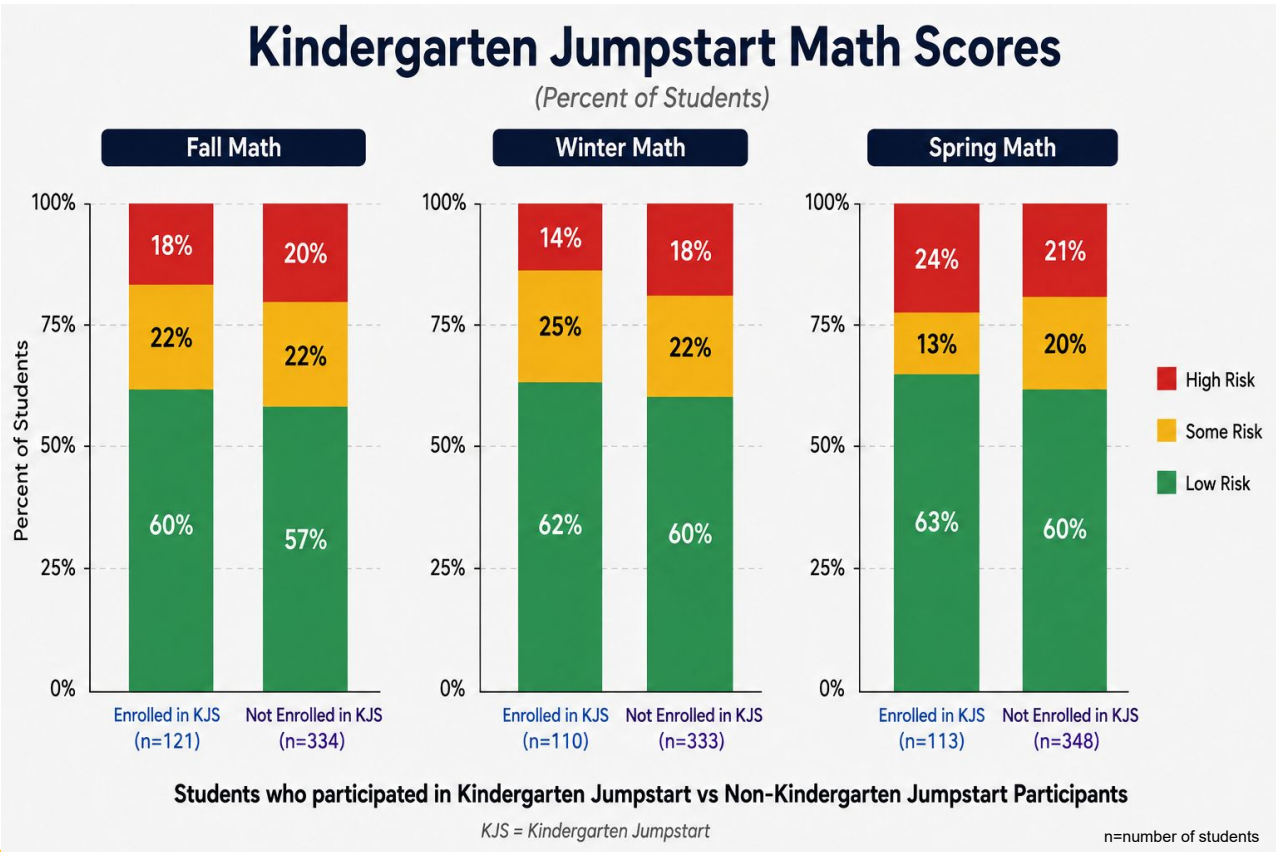
Kindergarten Jumpstart - Reading Assessment Data

Kindergarten Jumpstart students showed stronger early reading outcomes, particularly in the fall and winter assessments.



Kindergarten Jumpstart - Math Assessment Data

Kindergarten Jumpstart students consistently demonstrated stronger early math outcomes than students who did not attend.



VPK and Kindergarten Alignment

Community Ed Early Childhood
Instructional Alignment

Program Impact Reports

[Community Education Early Childhood Impact Reports](#)

Thank You