



# INEQUITIES IN KINDERGARTEN READINESS

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United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg



We used PALS-K data to identify inequities in *Kindergarten Readiness* in our region. Here's what we found:



In our service area

**1 in 6 students**

begins kindergarten under-prepared.

## WHAT IS PALS-K?

PALS-K stands for Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening for Kindergarten. Fall PALS-K benchmarks help schools identify kindergarten students who may be at risk of falling behind and need additional instruction.

Black students make up **32%** of total students but account for **35%** of failing students.



White students make up **44%** of total students but account for **28%** of failing students.



Hispanic students make up **13%** of total students but account for **30%** of failing students.



We also found that **1 in 4 low-income students** failed PALS-K...



...compared to only about **1 in 8 students** who are **not** low-income.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Donate today at: [yourunitedway.org/donate](http://yourunitedway.org/donate). Your donation helps us make equitable *Kindergarten Readiness* a reality for our region.



United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

# OUR WORK IN EDUCATION EQUITY: *KINDERGARTEN READINESS*

As a part of United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg's 2020-22 funding cycle, **eight** programs at **eight** partner agencies supporting *Kindergarten Readiness* are receiving a total of **\$915,000** in community investments.

## UNITED WAY OF GREATER RICHMOND & PETERSBURG KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN CAMP



Research has shown that children who attend high-quality preschool are better prepared to be successful in school and in life. A successful transition to kindergarten is crucial for students as it sets the foundation for their entire educational journey, so students who come under-prepared begin school already at a strong disadvantage. Unfortunately, many families in our region experience financial barriers to high-quality early childhood education.

United Way's Kindergarten Countdown Camp (KCC) aims to help close this preparedness gap by providing a free summer learning program for rising kindergarten students with limited to no preschool experience. KCC is taught by a licensed teacher who works with students on skills to equip them with the social, emotional and academic skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and in life, like cutting in a straight line; recognizing shapes, letters and numbers; as well as listening to directions.

## FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN PRESCHOOL CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



The Preschool Child Development Program at FRIENDS Association for Children utilizes a whole-family approach that engages parents/grandparents in learning beyond the classroom. By extending lessons into the home, parents are able to reinforce the child's growth and development. Many continue their own education by participating in skill-building classes each month that cover topics ranging from parenting skills to health & nutrition to financial management. In addition to serving multiple generations in this way, FRIENDS is also helping to address generational poverty that has become a major issue in the community.