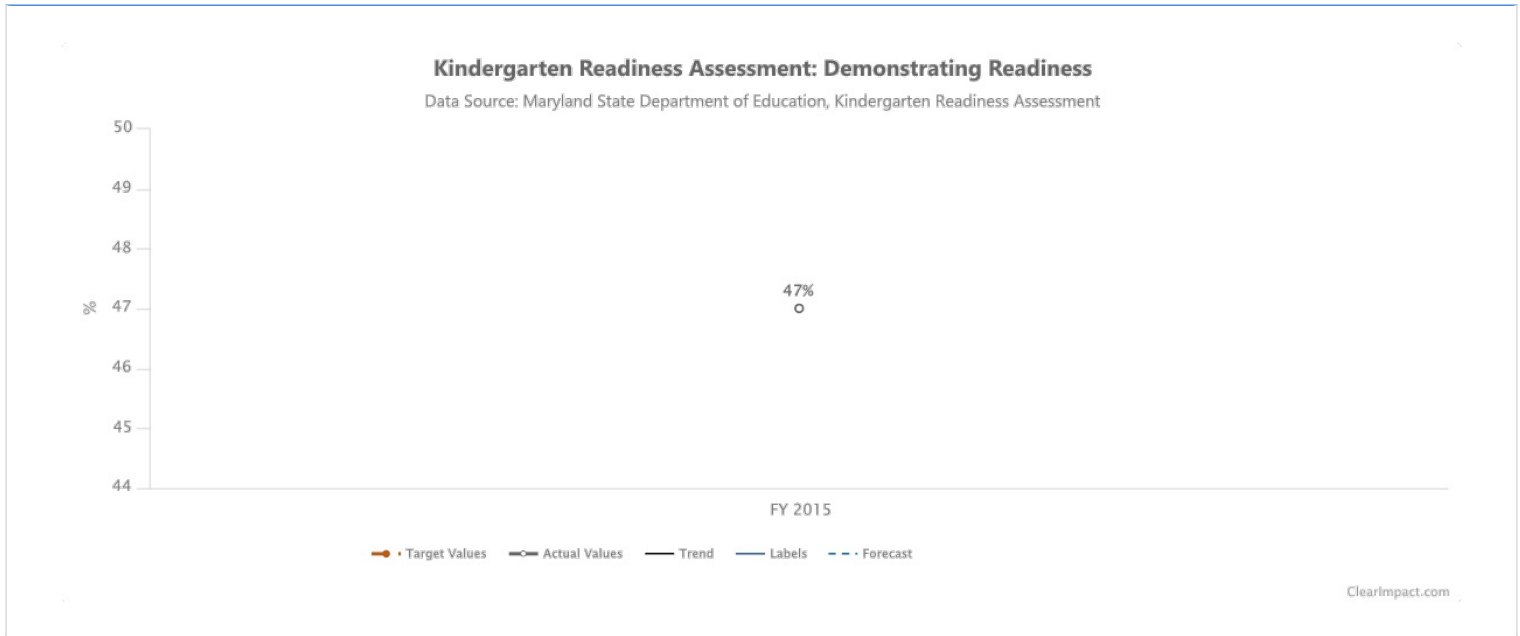


R Children Enter School Ready to Learn (Statewide)

I Kindergarten Readiness Assessment: Demonstrating Readiness



Story Behind the Curve

The comprehensive Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) was administered for the first time this school year. This assessment, which builds on and advances the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR), is part of the new Ready for Kindergarten: Maryland's Early Childhood Comprehensive Assessment System (R4K). R4K aligns with Maryland's more rigorous PreK-12 College and Career-Ready Standards and established higher benchmarks for our children. As such, it was expected that the domain and composite scores would be significantly lower than previous MMSR scores. As early childhood curricula are revised to reflect the new, more rigorous standards, KRA performance should improve accordingly.

What Works

In addition to providing each LEA with student-level data and assessment results by student subgroups, the Maryland State Department of Education has been working with each county to establish a plan to address achievement gaps, further examine the role of prior experiences, and determine what needs to be done to increase the number of children entering kindergarten prepared

to learn. The Department has done this by meeting with local Early Childhood Advisory Councils, participating in booster sessions through the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and providing access to student-level data based on individual requests.

Local Highlight

Because the KRA is new, school systems, teachers, and other stakeholders are examining their data to look more closely at gaps based on student subgroup populations. More information will become available in the coming years regarding successful interventions, but at this time, MSDE is working with stakeholders to develop strategic plans to move forward.

Data Discussion

This indicator measures students who received "Demonstrating Readiness" on their composite , or overall, Kindergarten Readiness Assessment score. Students who "Demonstrate Readiness" display foundational skills and behaviors that prepare them for the curriculum based on the Maryland College and Career-Ready kindergarten standards.