



Dorchester County
Public Schools
Every Child A Success!

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Diana L. Mitchell., Ed.D., Superintendent

DATE: April 24, 2018

Dorchester County Kindergarteners Show Gains

Dorchester County children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2017 showed the largest percentage-point increase in school readiness over the previous year of any Maryland jurisdiction, according to data made public by the Maryland State Department of Education. Results from Maryland's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) released recently showed that 44% of the county's kindergarteners demonstrated readiness, up from 28% in 2016. The Maryland state average is 45%.

Incoming kindergarteners were assessed for readiness in four areas, all of which showed increases in Dorchester County. Readiness in physical well-being and motor development was 65%, up from 44% last year. Sixty-four percent demonstrated readiness in social foundations, opposed to last year's 48%. Language and Literacy readiness is now 38%, increasing from 27% in 2016. Mathematics readiness showed the smallest growth, 26% versus 22% last year.

However, the data also indicates important gaps in readiness. While 66% of white children demonstrated kindergarten readiness, the figure was significantly smaller for minority children: 33% for Asian children, 29% for Hispanic/Latino children, and 28% for African Americans. Poverty was also an important factor, with 59% of children from mid- and high-income households showing readiness versus 32% of children from low-income households.

Dr. Diana Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools for Dorchester County, said, "Children are not responsible for their own poverty. Education is a marathon event and if each child is going to have an equal chance at success it's necessary that they begin the race at a fair starting line. We will continue to collaborate with families to ensure all children have the best opportunity for academic success from the very beginning."



DCPS Coordinator of Early Childhood Education Donna Greenleaf
with pre-kindergarteners at Maple Elementary School.