



California's School Readiness Gap and the Promise of Pre-K: RAND's California Preschool Study and Other Pre-K Research

RAND's California Preschool Study

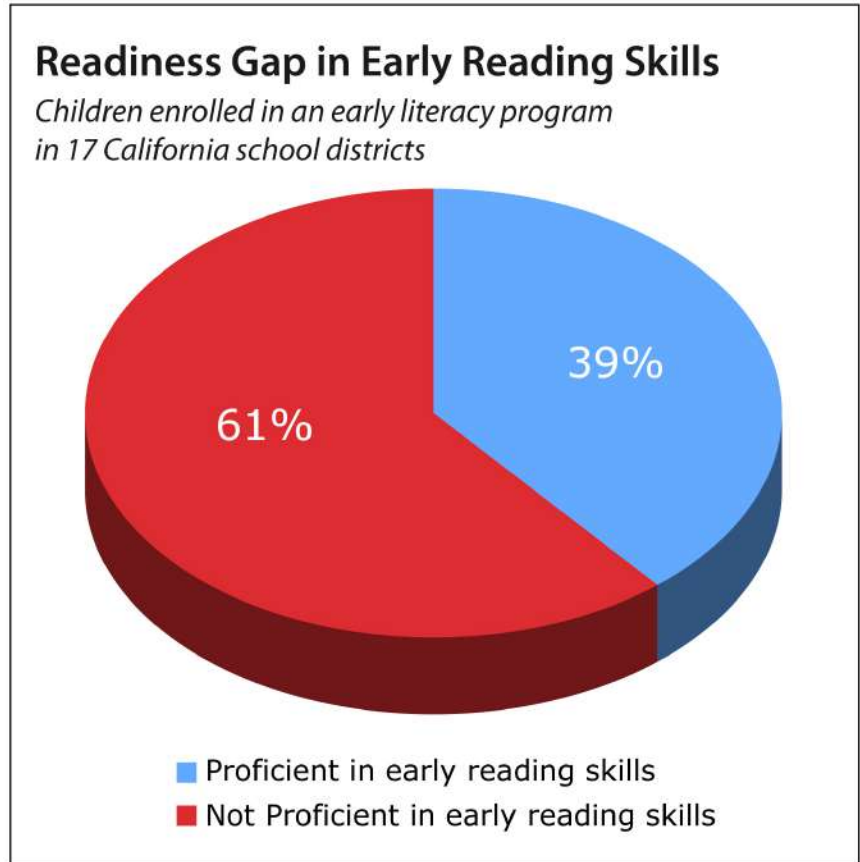
- Series of four studies
 - **Study 1: Analysis of Achievement Gaps in Meeting California K-3 Standards**
 - Study 2: Policy Analysis of Publicly-Funded Preschool and Child Care in California and Case Study Counties
 - Study 3: Collection and Analysis of New Data on ECE Utilization and Quality
 - Study 4: Synthesis Study of Preschool Adequacy and Efficiency

Readiness Gaps Mirror Achievement Gaps in Later Grades

- Achievement differences evident during the K-12 years exist at the starting gate, when kids first enter kindergarten
- Groups of students who start school behind tend to stay behind

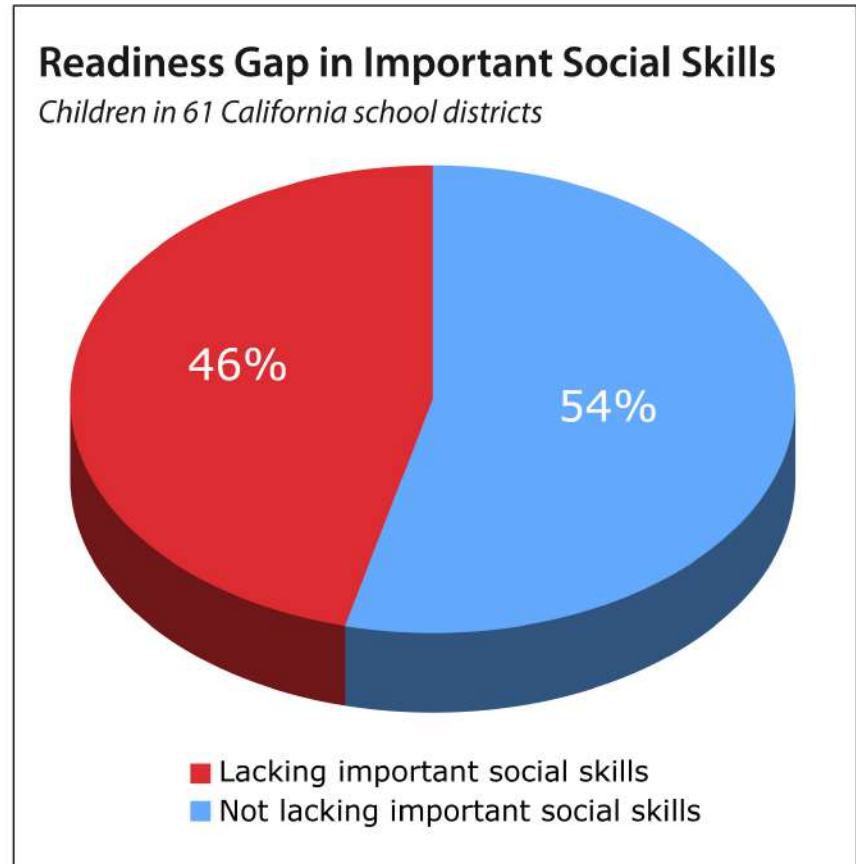
Readiness Gap in Early Reading Skills

61 percent of children enrolled in an early literacy program in 17 California school districts were not proficient in early reading skills

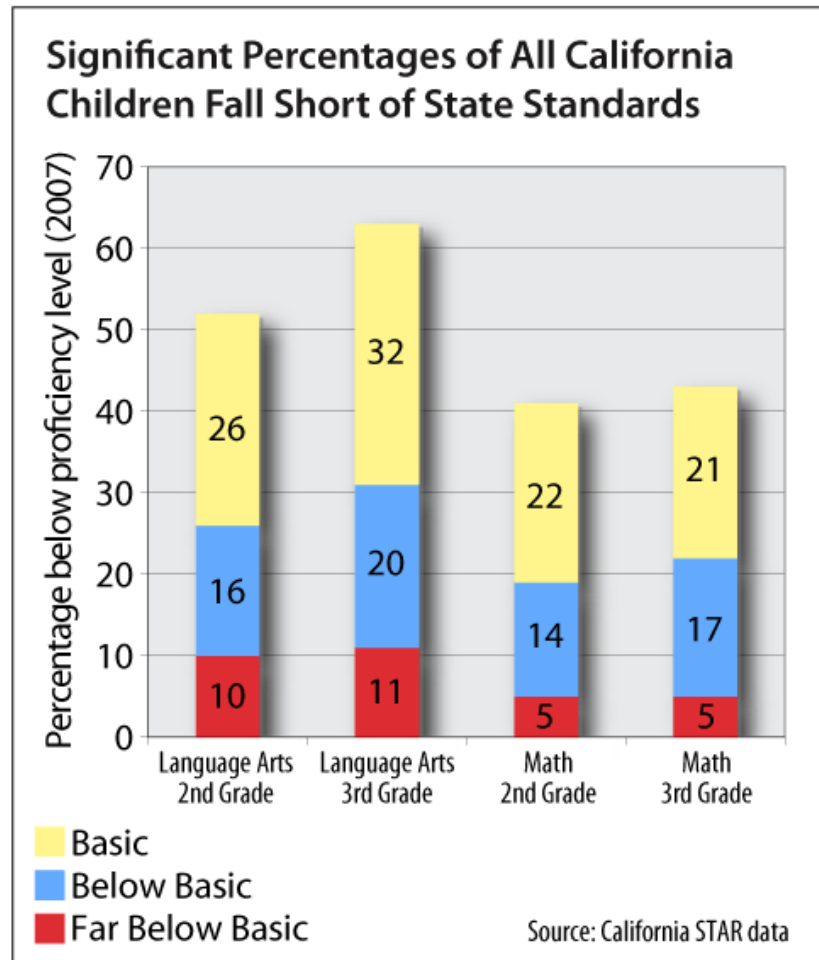


Readiness Gap in Important Social Skills

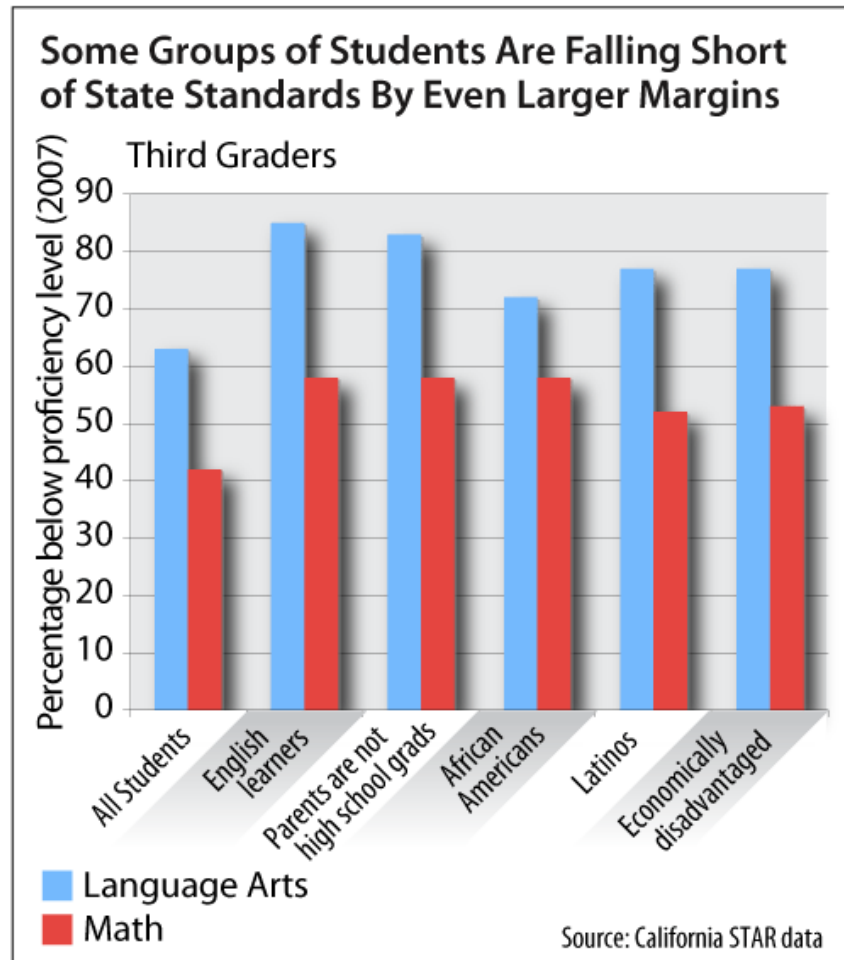
46 percent of children in 61 California school districts lacked important social skills



Achievement Gap in Early Elementary Grades



Achievement Gap in Early Elementary Grades

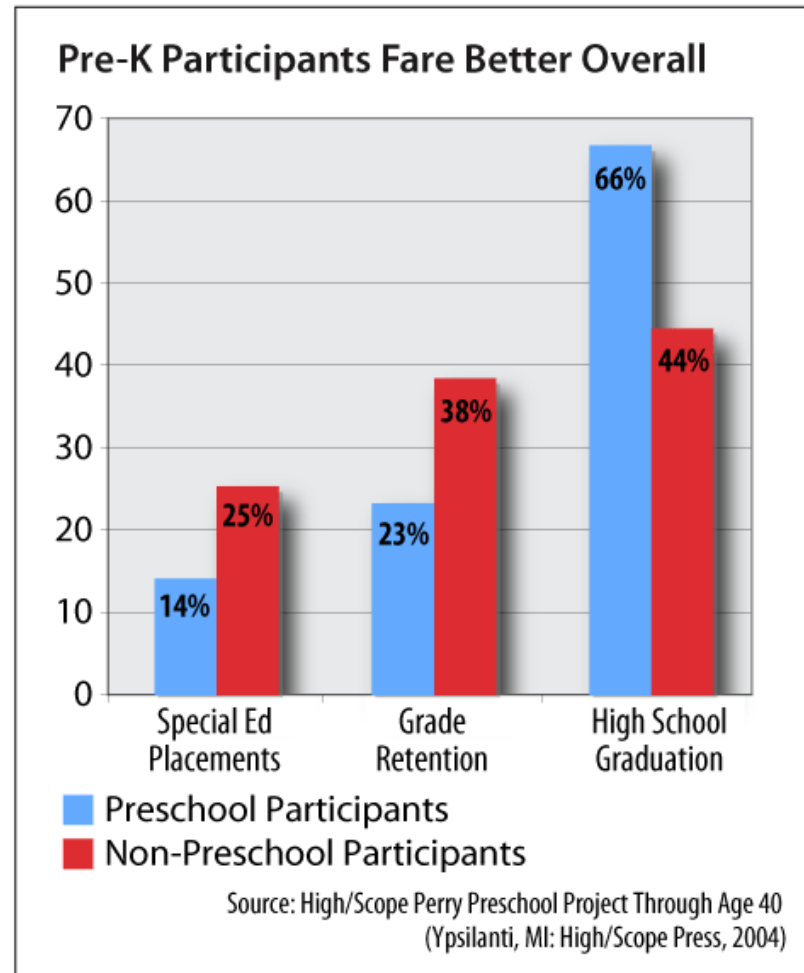


Effective Pre-K Helps Narrow the Achievement Gap by Addressing the Readiness Gap

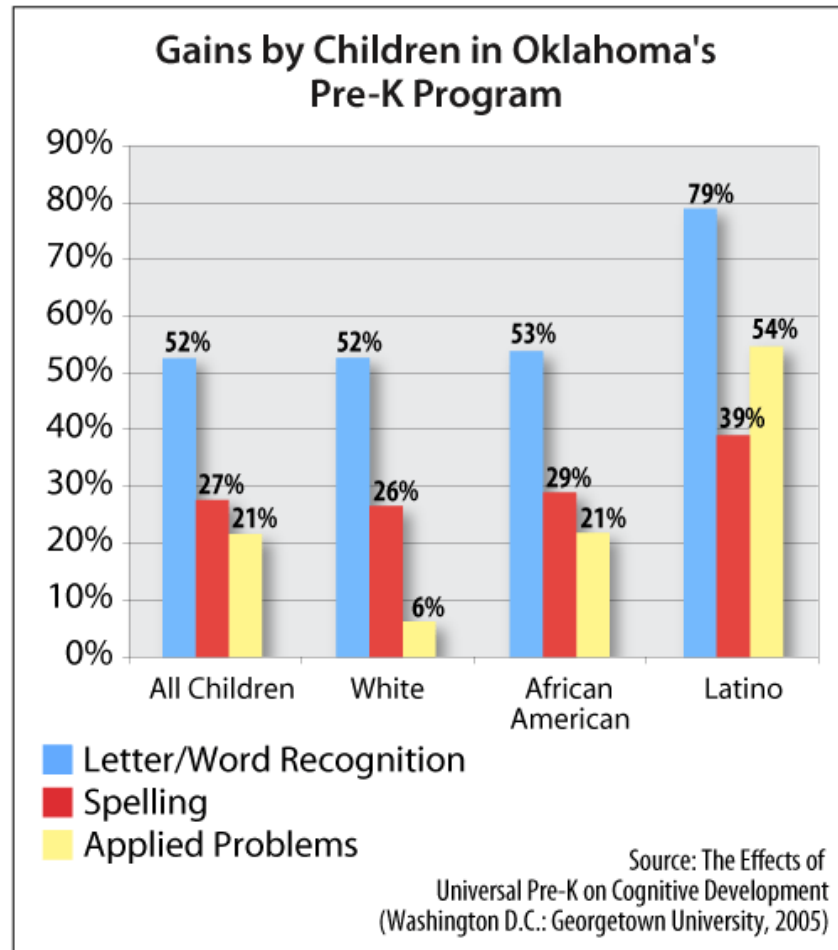
Studies show:

- children who attend pre-k score higher on school readiness measures at kindergarten entry;
- effective pre-k improves children's K-12 academic performance; and
- effective pre-k has long-term benefits

Research Shows: Pre-K Prepares Kids for Success in School



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New Jersey's Abbott Preschool Program

- Pre-k group closed more than 50 percent of achievement gap
- Children who did not attend pre-k only closed 18 percent

Now is the Time to Ensure Kids Who Need It Most Have Access to Effective Pre-K

- Too many children left out
- California must increase investment in high-quality pre-k
- Pre-k is a first step in education reform



Summary



- School readiness gaps mirror achievement gaps in later grades
- Effective pre-k helps narrow the achievement gap by addressing the readiness gap
- Now is the time to ensure that the kids who need it most have access to effective pre-k

Learn More About Pre-K and RAND's Study



<http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org>

http://www.rand.org/labor/projects/ca_preschool/

Additional RAND studies coming soon.