Road to Kindergarten Readiness

Community, Family, and School conditions affecting kindergarten readiness were determined through analysis of 3,000+ surveys and the input of a 30-member Research Advisory Group comprising parents/caregivers, early care and education professionals, transitional/kindergarten teachers, and community leaders. Learn more about the study sample and methodology in Appendix D of the 2021-22 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

FINANCIAL STABILITY
Sufficient income and supports to ensure families can meet their basic needs for housing, food, utilities, diapers, and resources required to create a safe, healthy, and enriching home environment.

THRIVING NEIGHBORHOODS
Community conditions and a built environment that support family well-being, including affordable housing, access to public transportation, and family-friendly spaces.

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION
Access to affordable, high-quality child care options that meet family needs and preferences, especially for families with low incomes and those most impacted by structural racism.

FAMILY HEALTH & WELL-BEING
Connection to community-based resources through family navigation and access to health and mental health services that are culturally responsive and include vision, dental, and screenings and preventative care.

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION SUPPORT
Access to events and activities that ensure families' smooth transition into the TK–12 system, such as parent-teacher meetings, home visits, and kindergarten orientations, plus policies and practices that engage fathers.

SUPPORTED EDUCATORS & SYSTEMS
Collaboration between systems, including early care and education (ECE), transitional kindergarten to 12th grade (TK–12), and community organizations to better support ECE professionals, teachers, and families with resources and services.

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION
As noted by our Research Advisory Group, discrimination based on racism and classism negatively impacts family's ability to access services and resources and undermines conditions needed for kindergarten readiness.

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