

READY FOR KINDERGARTEN



24%

Percent lower WaKIDS assessment a child in poverty averages than his or her classmates who are not living in poverty.

KEY FINDINGS

Overall Gains and Some Gaps Closing

Washington lags behind comparable states in the number of children who start kindergarten ready to learn. In Tacoma, our students are averaging two points above the state average of 47%. In other words, not quite half of our incoming kindergarteners demonstrate the characteristics of entering kindergarteners, as assessed by the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS).

WaKIDS assesses children in six developmental areas:

- Social-emotional
- Physical
- Cognitive
- Language
- Literacy
- Math

In each of the six areas, we've seen modest inclines since 2011-12, except for in social-emotional learning, which has shown a slight decline (but is still above the state average). The numbers in each assessment area for Tacoma this year are almost identical to those reported for Washington state.

Poverty persists as one of the strongest determinants for kindergarten readiness: Students who qualify for free-or-reduced lunches (FRL) are assessed on average 24% lower than non-poverty students on the WaKIDS assessment.

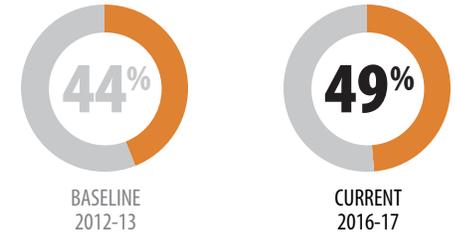
Although the race gap between White students as compared to Asian and Black students has narrowed three points and nine points respectively, the gap is widening for Multi-racial and Hispanic kids.

NOTE: TPS data for 2014-16 includes those students who completed 6 of 6 tasks. Previous reports included students assessed in any single developmental area.

Sources: Tacoma Public School District, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATA DIVE

↑ WaKIDS ASSESSMENT



AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Increase the percentage of incoming students who demonstrate the skills typical of a child entering kindergarten in all six developmental areas as measured by the WaKIDS Assessment.

% BY POVERTY, RACE, ETHNICITY, & STATE

Percent Ready for Kindergarten in all Developmental Areas

WaKIDS ASSESSMENT

Gaps as % difference – Students of color: White students. Poverty: Non-poverty.

