What School Readiness Looks Like

School readiness means all students are ready for school by the time they reach full-day kindergarten. This means all children have access to the programs, supports, and services proven to prepare children for school. Programs like home visitation for new and expectant mothers, preK education for 3-and 4-year olds, and services like comprehensive health screenings and follow-ups.

Help us ensure all students are ready for school by taking the action steps listed in this brochure and reading up on the policies and practices that make up a great public school (GPS) at nea.org/GPSIndicators.

For tools and resources that can help you achieve what your school needs, fill out the Opportunity Checklist at myschoolmyvoice.nea.org where you will be asked questions about your school and emailed resources related to your needs.
Great Public Schools Indicators Framework

The National Education Association's Great Public Schools (GPS) Indicators Framework elaborates on the seven criteria fundamental to a quality education and calls on all educators, families, community leaders, and policy makers to join the effort to ensure that every student has access to a great public school. Together, we can achieve greatness. Here we focus on one of the seven criteria required for student success—School Readiness.

School Readiness

School readiness is the foundation of a great education. Without it, students enter school behind their peers and struggle to keep up. By providing a high-quality early childhood education and essential supports like health services, students enter kindergarten ready to learn. This enables schools to focus on accelerating student achievement rather than spend valuable time on remediation. Additionally, a quality early childhood education increases a student’s chances of graduating, enrolling in college, and positively affects earnings.

A Great Education

As students progress during the school year, it is essential that they are provided all the resources and supports they need to succeed.

A quality education begins with access to an exemplary early childhood education and continues to develop students socially, emotionally, and cognitively, preparing them for college and 21st-century careers. The bridge from early childhood education to graduation is only made possible with:

- High expectations and a well-rounded curriculum;
- Teaching and learning conditions that lift all students, no matter their zip code;
- Educators of the highest quality;
- Meaningful assessments;
- Engaged families and community; and,
- Sufficient funding for advanced courses, modern materials and facilities, and educator professional development.

How You Can Advocate for a Great Public School—School Readiness

Essential Pieces

Action Steps

Access to Quality Early Childhood

- Find out if your school district offers a pre-kindergarten program and if your child is eligible to participate.
- Find out if your child is eligible to participate in your local Head Start or Early Head Start program.
- Ask your child care provider if they participate in their State’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) or if they are NAEYC accredited.

Full-Day Kindergarten Attendance

- Contact your superintendent and school board representatives and ask for full-day, five-day/week kindergarten if it is not already available.

Teacher Preparation and Effectiveness

- Ask the early childhood center director about the number of educators with a bachelor’s degree.
- Ask the school principal if the kindergarten educators are licensed and/or certified in early childhood education or child development.

Transition to Kindergarten

- Find out if your local elementary school has any activities (or Open Houses) for children and families entering kindergarten.