



# The Power of Early Learning: A Strong Foundation for Long-Term Success

November 7, 2024



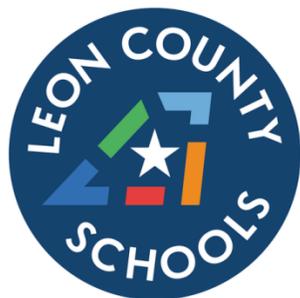
[earlylearningleon.com](http://earlylearningleon.com)



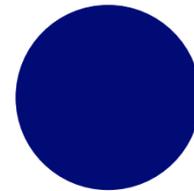
# Early Learning Benefits



- Early learning enhances cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- It fosters a love for learning and builds a strong educational base.
- Early learners are better prepared for school and life challenges.

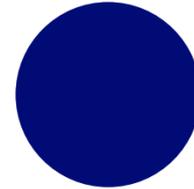


# Building Success with Early Learning Principles



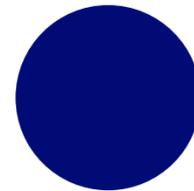
## Communication

Language develops through play as children practice vocabulary, communication, and expression in social interactions and role-playing scenarios.



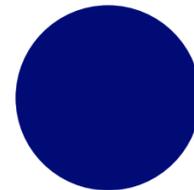
## Creativity

Creativity and innovation are developed through play as children explore new ideas, experiment with different approaches, and solve problems in imaginative ways. Play encourages risk-taking and thinking outside the box, fostering flexible and inventive thinking.



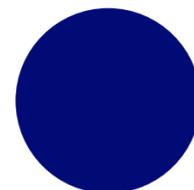
## Critical Thinking

Critical thinking skills are developed through play as children analyze situations, make decisions, and evaluate outcomes based on their actions. Play encourages them to question, reason, and reflect, fostering deeper cognitive processing and logical thinking.



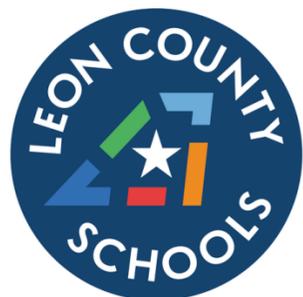
## Problem-Solving

Problem-solving is developed through play as children encounter challenges, experiment with solutions, and learn to think critically about how to overcome obstacles. Play provides a safe space for trial and error, helping them build resilience and strategic thinking skills.



## Interpersonal Skills

Interpersonal skills are developed through play as children learn to communicate, cooperate, and resolve conflicts with others. These interactions help them understand social cues, practice empathy, and build relationships, laying the foundation for effective teamwork and collaboration.



# Early Learning Matters



Children that attend VPK are better prepared for Kdg



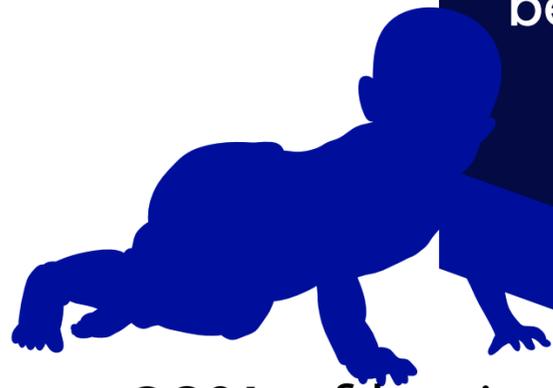
Kdg Readiness Rates are a predictor for 3rd grade Rdg scores



3rd grade Rdg scores are a predictor for 8th grade Rdg scores



8th grade Rdg scores are a predictor for graduation rates



90% of brain development occurs **before** kindergarten



# Importance of Kindergarten Readiness



- For children who enter kindergarten behind, **roughly 75%** will never catch up to their classmates.
- State and local **prekindergarten programs**, almost without exception, **improve academic readiness for school.**
- Participants in the prekindergarten program **scored higher on third-grade language arts tests** than did nonparticipants.
- Participation in an **early childhood experience** (child care or preschool) **increases high school graduation rates.**

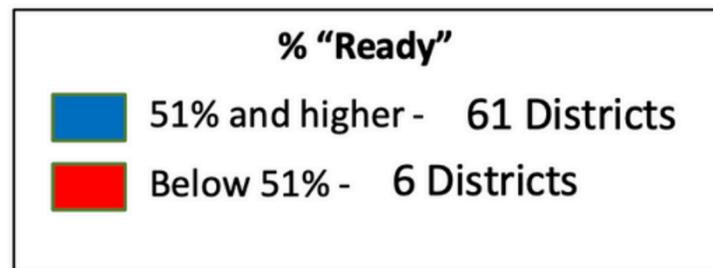


# 2023 FAST PM 1 VPK Completer Results by County

## Early Learning in Florida

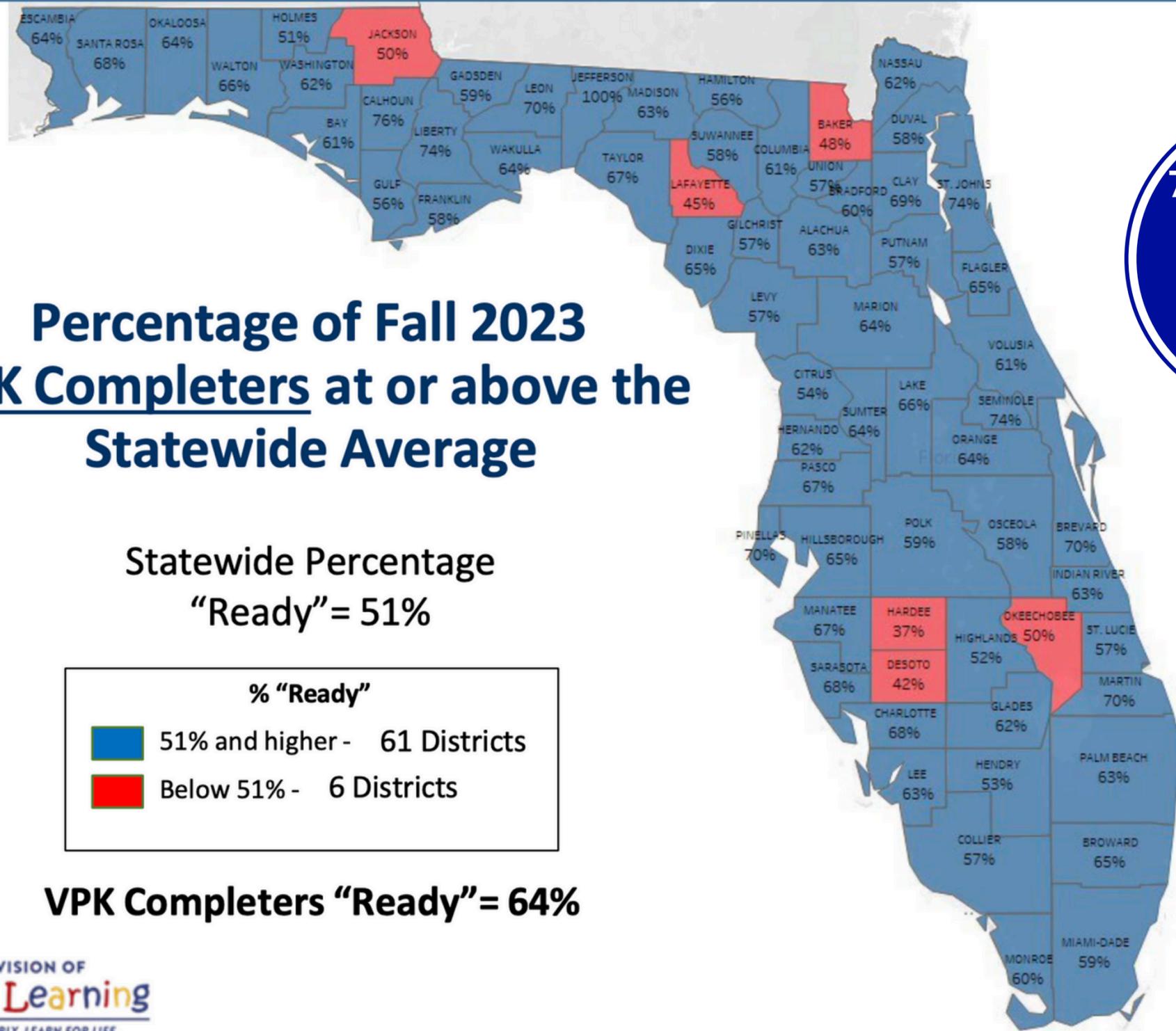
### Percentage of Fall 2023 VPK Completers at or above the Statewide Average

Statewide Percentage "Ready" = 51%



VPK Completers "Ready" = 64%

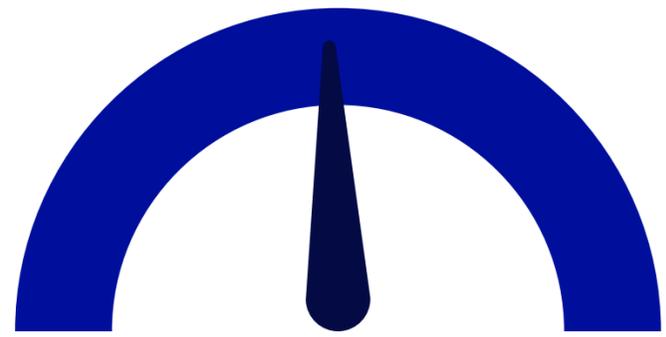
70% of Leon VPK completers Kg Ready





# Early Learning In Leon County

53% of Leon County kindergarteners are ready for school



Only 3 out 10 Title I students are ready for kindergarten



# Little to Leaders

## HOW DOES IT WORK?



**Parent Education.** Every parent of a new born child receives brain development education & community resources to help with the development of baby.



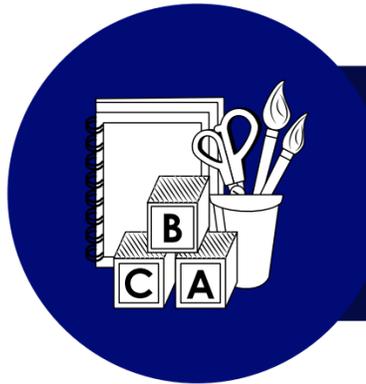
**Brain Bag.** Every family will receive a brain bag at the hospital following the birth of their baby. This bag contains resources & information to support your baby's brain development.



**Intensive Support.** Need more help? Sign up for FREE in-home support from one of our four local home visiting programs.



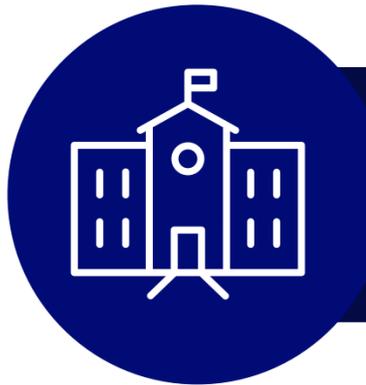
# Leon County Schools Early Learning Programs



Pk ESE, provides early intervention ~600 students



VPK ~300 students



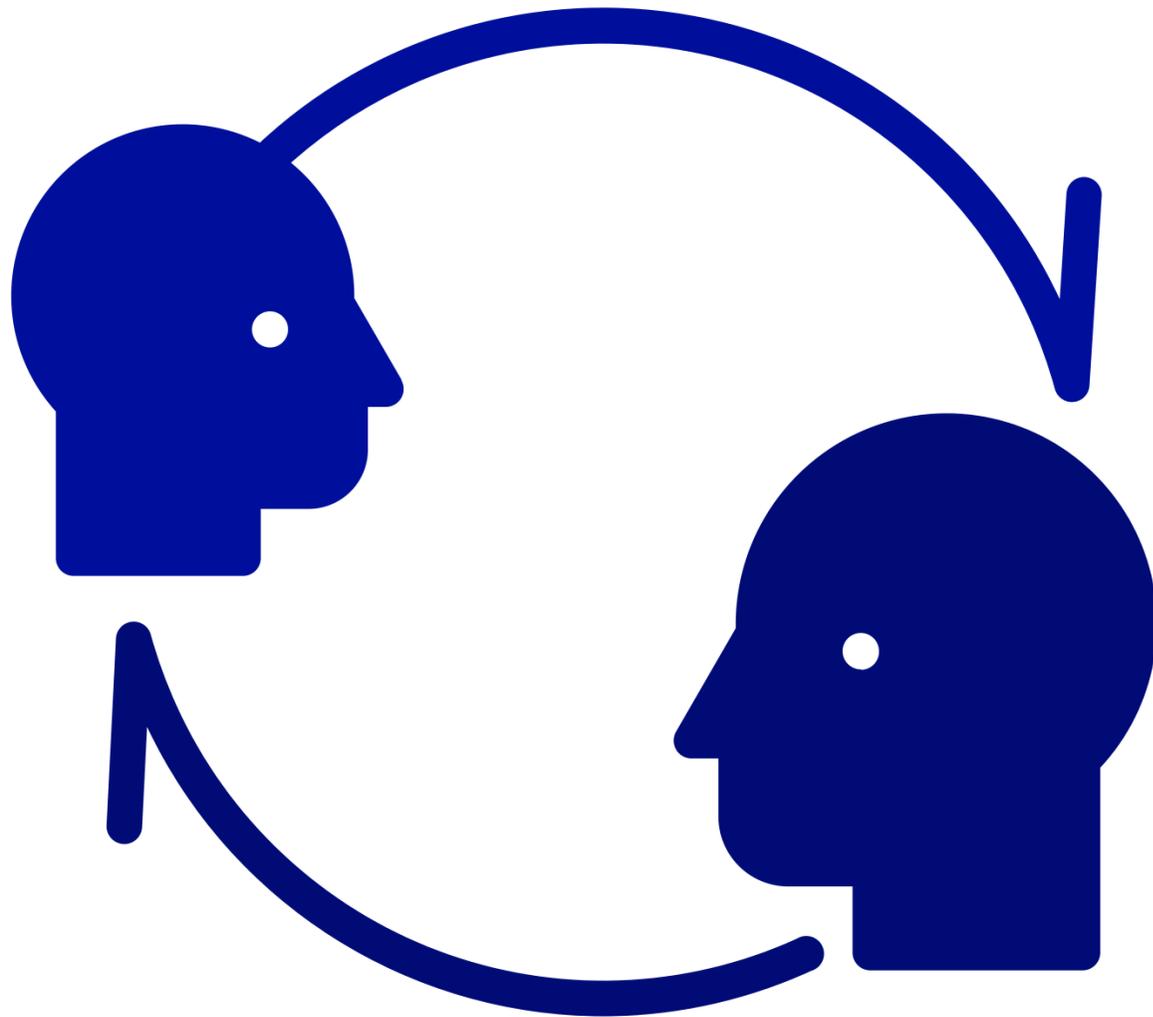
VPK All Day for Title I Schools

# Classroom on Wheels



The STEAM Stops is a mobile unit that “pops up” in neighborhoods where quality early learning experiences for children, birth to five, are not currently available, accessible or affordable. The primary focus is to **reinforce ‘parents as first teachers’** by providing a two-generational approach to quality early learning. This includes delivering age-appropriate, play-based learning activities in an outdoor environment, coaching parents on how to participate and lead their child’s learning, and connecting families to vital community resources based on their individual family needs.

# Did You Know?



**School Readiness –tuition assistance for childcare**

**CSC tuition assistance**

**VPK –provides 3 hours of voluntary pre-kindergarten instruction for free**



# Return on Investment: Every Dollar Invested Pays Off

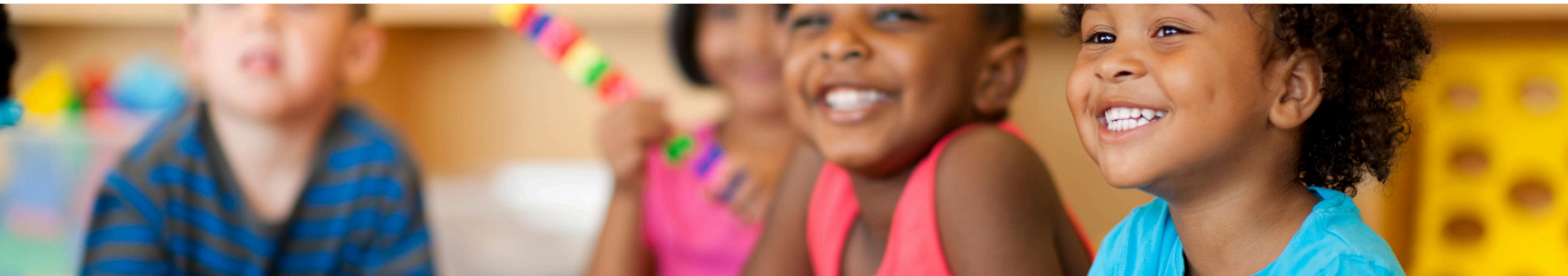
For every \$1 invested in early childhood education, there is a \$7 to \$12 return in the form of:

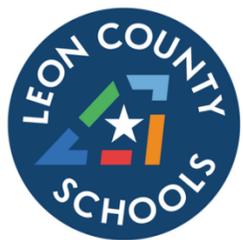
- Increased earnings for participants.
- Lower costs for special education, criminal justice, and public assistance.
- High-quality early learning also supports the local economy by enabling parents to participate in the workforce.

**ROI**  
**RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

# Early Learning: The Smart Investment for Our Future

- Early learning is not just an educational issue, it's an economic one.
- Long-term impacts include a more skilled workforce, healthier community, and a more vibrant local economy.
- Together, we can build a stronger future for Leon County by investing in our youngest learners today.





Leon County Schools

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Leon County Schools

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