

CONNECTICUT SCHOOL READINESS INDICATORS PROJECT

OVERVIEW

What is School Readiness?

School Readiness is the preparedness of young children to enter school ready to learn and succeed. A child's "readiness" encompasses the whole range of physical, social, emotional and cognitive skills that children need to thrive. Developing and sustaining these skills requires support from families, communities, schools and social service systems.

How is CT Measuring School Readiness?

Connecticut is focusing on assessing how young children are progressing towards school readiness by monitoring the efficacy of service systems in addressing the multi-dimensional needs of children and their families and communities. These needs are categorized into 5 domains: health and child development; early care and education; economic stability; safety and child welfare; and ready schools. Through predominantly service-based indicators, we will evaluate how service systems are doing in promoting desired outcomes within each domain (e.g. all children are healthy.)

Connecting the Work to a Broader Agenda

Connecticut's indicators are closely aligned with early childhood policy objectives that are shared among many initiatives in the state, including CT Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning (CECCS) and Universal Access to Pre-Kindergarten. As such, these indicators can help support these initiatives by helping to measure progress toward the desired outcomes.

In addition, Connecticut's indicator work is designed to help shed light on remaining early childhood data needs and to encourage improved data collection that supports informed policy and program decisions.

SELECTED INDICATORS

Domain: Health and Child Development

Desired Outcome: All children are healthy

- Maternal Health
 - Late or No Prenatal Care
 - Smoking During Pregnancy
- Infant Mortality
- Births to Teen Mothers
- Low Birthweight Infants
- Access to Health Insurance and Preventive Care
 - Insurance Status
 - On-Time Well-Child Visits
 - Immunizations
- Lead Poisoning
- Children with Special Needs
- Strong Families
 - Maternal Education
 - Parent Education and Support

Domain: Safety and Child Welfare

Desired Outcome: All children grow up in safe, stable and nurturing homes

- Children in Foster Care
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Child Deaths

Domain: Economic Stability

Desired Outcome: All children live in economically self-sufficient families

- Median Family Income
- Children in Poverty
- Children Receiving Welfare Benefits

Domain: Early Care and Education

Desired Outcome: All children have access to quality early care and education

- Supply of Regulated Early Care and Education
- Supply of Quality Early Care and Education
- Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies
- Kindergarten Children with a Preschool Experience

Domain: Ready Schools

Desired Outcome: All children attend schools that continue to support their learning and development

- Average Kindergarten Class Size
- Children in Full-Day Kindergarten
- Children Meeting State Goal for Connecticut Mastery Test (4th Grade)