

What School Readiness Looks Like

A great public school requires that all students are school ready by the time they reach kindergarten. A quality school-readiness program requires that all children have access to a high-quality early childhood education, all children attend full-day kindergarten, all teachers are prepared and effective, all children undergo comprehensive health screenings and follow-ups, and all children experience transitional alignment from early childhood education to third grade.

Meeting these GPS criteria require the continued commitment of all educators, families, community stakeholders, and policymakers. Join NEA in working to achieve great public schools for every student. Only with all stakeholders working together can we eliminate inequities, close achievement gaps, and elevate achievement for all students.

For more information on what makes a great public school, please visit:
www.nea.org/gpsindicators

Is Your School a Great Public School?

School Readiness

Series 1 of 7



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 with development of 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 standards and a rigorous curriculum;
- Teaching and learning conditions conducive to engagement and enrichment;
- Educators of the highest quality;
- Valid assessments;
- Engaged families and community; and,
- Sufficient funding for advanced courses, modern materials and facilities, and educator professional development.

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 health services, students enter kindergarten ready to learn. This enables schools to focus on accelerating student achievement rather than spend valuable time on remediation. Further, a quality early childhood education raises graduation rates, increases college enrollment, and positively affects earnings.



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

Essential Pieces

Access to Quality Early Childhood

Mandatory Full-Day Kindergarten Attendance

Teacher Preparation and Effectiveness

Comprehensive Screening & Follow-Up

Transitional Alignment

Action Steps

When choosing child care, select highly rated and/or NAEYC accredited centers.

If your district does not provide full-day, five-day/week kindergarten, contact your superintendent and school board representatives.

Ask the early childhood center director about the number of educators with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Ask the school principal if the kindergarten educators are licensed and/or certified in early childhood education and development.

Make sure your child undergoes a developmental and comprehensive health screening (e.g., ear, oral, vision).

Make sure your child receives regular checkups and has all of his/her immunizations.

Ask your early childhood center director if there are any activities or information that will help your child make a smooth transition into kindergarten.