

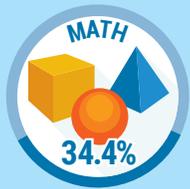


# HILANDER highlights

APRIL 2019

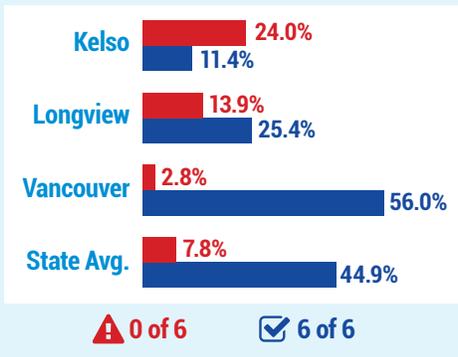
## KINDERGARTEN readiness

### 6 AREAS OF READINESS:



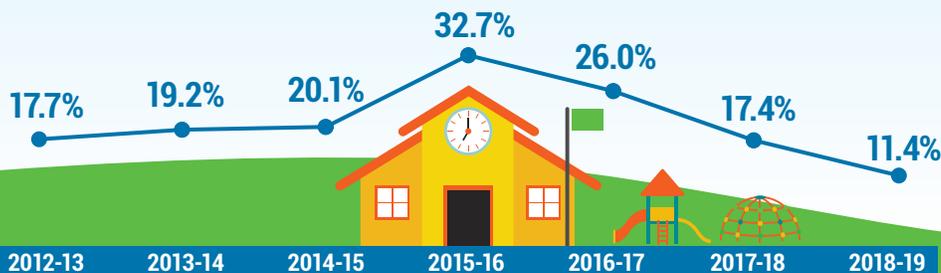
% of Kelso kids ready for kindergarten in 2018-19

### # OF AREAS K-READY



ONLY **50%** vs. **95%**  
of qualifying Kelso kids are enrolled in Head Start programs  
of qualifying Longview kids

Why? Lack of space.



% of Kelso kids ready for kindergarten in all areas

## Early learning a top district priority

We're seeing a steady decline in the number of kids coming to school ready for kindergarten. Some of the ways lack of readiness shows up is in a student's ability (or not) to walk in lines, self-regulate, work with others, identify letters, or recognize their own name when it's written.

Early learning is one of our top district priorities. In addition to providing additional supports for teachers to meet kids where they are, we're working on ways to help more kids come to kindergarten ready to learn.



# Early Learning & the Achievement Gap



**71%**

of kids who are behind when starting kindergarten are still behind in 5th grade  
(Children's Reading Foundation)

**70%**

of the achievement gap is created before the start of second grade and most likely between birth and kindergarten  
(Northwest Evaluation Association)

## WHAT KSD IS DOING TO HELP:



- The district has strong partnerships with Head Start, Progress Center, and Cowlitz County Early Learning Coalition.
- The district is looking for more space for Head Start programs.
- We're looking for grants to fund kindergarten readiness training for ALL pre-K and day care providers and teachers in Kelso.

## WHAT CAREGIVERS CAN DO TO HELP:

### READ 20 MIN/DAY



20 minutes of reading a day builds attachment, resilience and empathy

### PLAY WITH PURPOSE



For example, find all the red vegetables, count toys in a box, identify shapes together

### LABEL ITEMS



Label common items around the house, so kids see letters in relation to things

Look at the Readiness Family Checklist from Spokane Public Schools:  
[bit.ly/k-readiness](http://bit.ly/k-readiness)

Join us for a virtual tour!



Come see what the new Wallace and Lexington elementary schools will look like!

**April 17 • 6:30–8:00 p.m.**

**Kelso High School Auditorium**

SCHOOL BOARD:  
Leah Moore, President  
Karen Grafton, Vice President  
Mike Haas  
Darr Kirk  
Howard Sharples

SUPERINTENDENT: Mary Beth Tack

#### CHILD FIND INFORMATION

Kelso School District will ensure that all students with disabilities who are eligible from birth through 21 years of age, residing within our attendance area, have available to them a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. You can initiate a referral through your local schools or call us at 360-501-1904.

# WE ARE KELSO



### Jennilee Dunlap's preschool class at Catlin Elementary

Dunlap's class is one of five preschool classes in the district, and is the only medically fragile developmental preschool class. Some students in the class have high medical needs, some have disabilities that require one-to-one support, and some have challenges socially or emotionally; all her students receive specially designed instruction. Learn more at [bit.ly/KSD-Dunlap](http://bit.ly/KSD-Dunlap)



### KSD kindergarten teachers

The number of kids entering kindergarten ready to learn in Kelso has been on a steady decline for the last three years. Kindergarten teachers in the district are seeing the impacts of that readiness gap, and having to find ways to lessen it. Learn more about what three kindergarten teachers are doing to close the achievement gap at [bit.ly/KSD-Kteachers](http://bit.ly/KSD-Kteachers)

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Kelso School District is an equal opportunity employer and is in compliance with state and federal anti-discrimination regulations and other requirements.