

TRANSFORMING EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN BATTLE CREEK: KEY RESULTS



When communities, philanthropy, nonprofits, businesses and government work together, they can build a future where all children and families can thrive.

In the early 2010s, the early care and education system in Battle Creek, Mich., struggled to prepare local children to start school. In 2013, fewer than **one in six incoming Battle Creek Public Schools kindergartners** met standards for readiness in reading and math.

With the support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, community leaders, nonprofits, care providers, government agencies and others formed a coalition to ensure all Battle Creek children were prepared to succeed in kindergarten. They created a nimble, community-led approach to transform Battle Creek's early care and education system that focused on:



Building partnerships, trust and relationships between early education providers, families, community leaders, government agencies, local nonprofits and funders.



Using data to guide the way by sharing information between partners, aligning on success metrics and using an ongoing evaluation process.



Meeting families where they live and work and focusing on communities and neighborhoods that were underserved by the existing system.



Developing the workforce by engaging, supporting and strengthening the skills of current and prospective early care and education professionals.

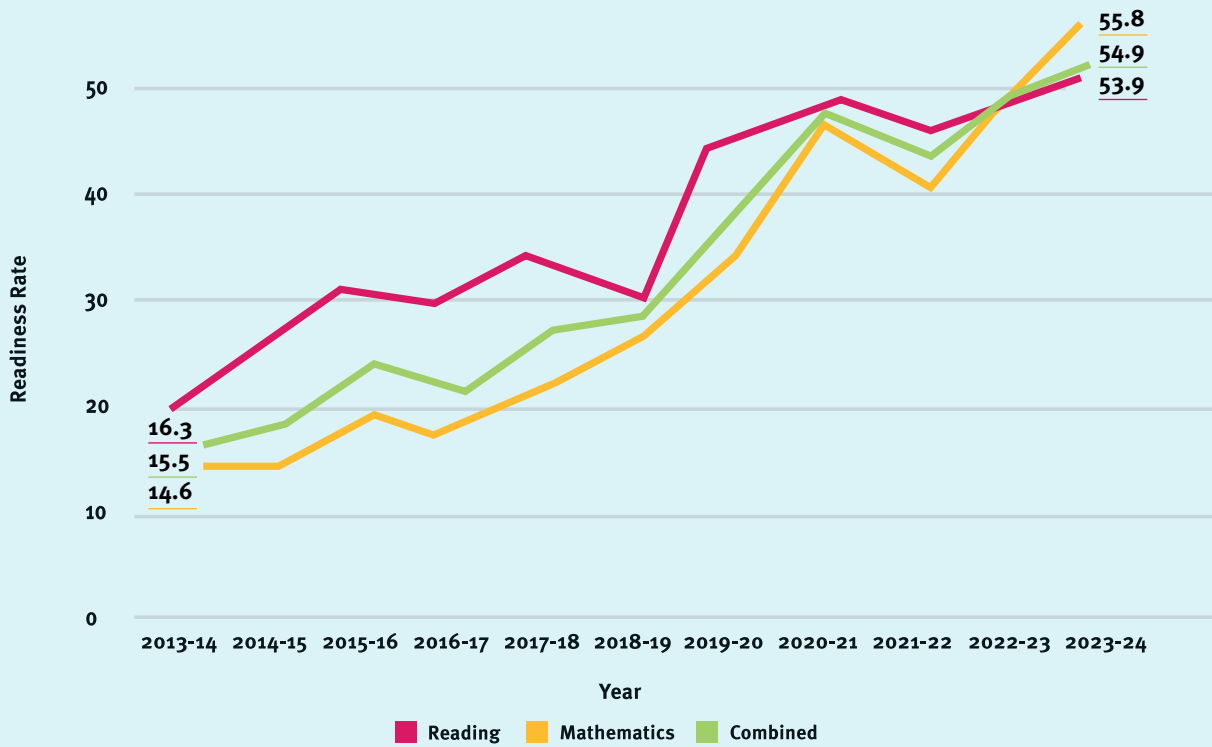


Sustaining investments over time by focusing on long-term commitments and goals, rather than short-term outcomes.



Over a 10-year period, the coalition collaborated to more than triple kindergarten readiness rates to over 55%.

Kindergarten Readiness in Battle Creek: 2013-2024



Note: Figures represent the percentage of Battle Creek Public Schools' kindergartners who attained 50th percentile or higher on Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) fall assessments.



Equitable Progress

Strengthening Battle Creek's early care and education system created positive outcomes across the city's communities:

4x improvement in reading for Black students.

5x improvement in math for Latino students.

Long-Term Benefits

Decades of research from HighScope's Perry Preschool Study demonstrate that the care children get in their earliest years has a lasting impact on their futures, families and communities.

Ongoing monitoring shows that Battle Creek children benefit from the transformation of the city's early care and education system long after they complete kindergarten. BCPS students who took part in quality early care and education through Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program **continued to outperform their peers in reading and math through the end of the third grade.**

A Replicable Model for Change

The success in Battle Creek represents a replicable, scalable approach to reinvent and reimagine early care and education systems. Its success and the lessons it produced can help guide any community in transforming its own early care and education system.



To learn more about how the Battle Creek community strengthened its early care and education system to create better outcomes for children, visit wkkf.co/battle-creek-kindergarten-readiness.