Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Initiative
What Do We Know?

Pathways is creating partnerships among the state's early learning and education, public agency, policy, philanthropic and business leaders to define a common vision, shared measures of success and coordinated strategies that support children's optimal development beginning at birth. A Data Action Team of 30 data, research and policy experts considered the research and created a framework of whole child measures that are critical for moving the needle on third grade reading outcomes. The framework includes indicators in three Goal areas:

- Health and Development on Track, Beginning at Birth
- Supported and Supportive Families and Communities
- High Quality Birth to Eight Learning Environments and Regular Attendance

Each goal area includes five Measures of Success, as well as Influencer Measures that move the Measures of Success.

The Data Action Team also identified critical Developmental Milestones for children on the way to third grade reading proficiency and a set of Community Conditions measures that impact third grade reading proficiency.

This document highlights what data is available in North Carolina on these measures and what data is not. As noted below, many key measures for young children on the pathway to early literacy are not collected and/or analyzed and made available to the public. Part of the Pathways mission is to improve the collection and sharing of these critical measures of success.

Health and Development on Track, Beginning at Birth
Measures of Success

Measures of Success		State average	Trend (5 year)	National Comparison	Disaggregated by county or school district	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity	Disaggregated by income level	Disaggregated by age
Healthy Birthweight	Babies born with low birthweight	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a
Physical Health	Children with excellent or good health	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Oral Health	Children with untreated tooth decay (K)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	n/a
Oral Health	Children with untreated tooth decay (3rd grade)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	n/a
Early Intervention	Children showing improvement with early intervention services	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	n/a
Social Emotional Health	Children exhibiting self-regulation, good interpersonal skills, and no behavior problems	✗ No available data						

Health and Development on Track, Beginning at Birth
Influencer Measures

Influencer Measures		State average	Trend (5 year)	National Comparison	Disaggregated by county or school district	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity	Disaggregated by income level	Disaggregated by age
Adult Health Insurance	Adults with health insurance	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Prenatal Care	Pregnant women who receive on-time pre-natal care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Smoking/ Substance Use	Pregnant women who smoke	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
	Pregnant women who drink alcohol	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
	Pregnant women who misuse prescription drugs and/or use illegal substances	✗	✗	✓	✓ 12 home visiting counties	✗	✗	✗
Teen Pregnancy	Births to girls aged 15-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Well-Child Visits	Medicaid-enrolled children receiving regular well-child visits	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Child Health Insurance	Children with health insurance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parent Health Insurance	Parents with health insurance	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Access to Doctors and Dentists	Availability of pediatricians and family physicians	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
	Availability of pediatricians and family physicians accepting Medicaid	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
	Availability of dentists	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
	Availability of dentists accepting Medicaid	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Immunization	Children aged 19-35 months who are fully immunized	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Medical Home	Parents reporting they have a regular place to take their children for medical care (i.e., medical home)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

Category	Description							
Healthy Weight	Children whose height and weight falls into expected ranges	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Physical Activity	Children over age 6 who are active 60 mins/day, 5 days/week	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Healthy Eating	Children who eat the recommended dietary guidelines of fruits and vegetables	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Breastfeeding	Mothers who exclusively breastfeed for 6 weeks	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Dental Care	Children who have seen a dentist in the past year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Food Security	Children living in food insecure households	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Social-Emotional Screening, Referrals & Services	Children screened for social-emotional needs	✗ No available data						

	Children identified with social-emotional needs	✗ No available data						
	Children referred for behavioral health services	✗ No available data						
	Children receiving behavioral health services	✗ No available data						
Develop-mental Screening, Referrals & Services	Children screened for developmental delay	✔	✔	✔	✗	✔	✔	✗
	Children identified with developmental delay	✔	✔	✗	✔	✔	✔	✗
	Children referred for early intervention services	✗ No available data						
	Children receiving early intervention services	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✗	✗

Supported and Supportive Families and Communities
Measures of Success

Measures of Success		State average	Trend (5 year)	National Comparison	Disaggregated by county or school district	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity	Disaggregated by income level	Disaggregated by age
Safe at Home	Rate of child abuse or neglect	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Positive Parent/Child Interactions	Average number of minutes per day parents talk or play with their children	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Reading with Children	Average number of days per week that parents read to their children	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Supports for Families	New mothers with access to sufficient social supports	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Skilled and Knowledgeable Parents	Parents with sufficient knowledge of child development and parenting skills	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

Supported and Supportive Families and Communities
Influencer Measures

Influencer Measures		State average	Trend (5 year)	National Comparison	Disaggregated by county or school district	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity	Disaggregated by income level	Disaggregated by age
Maternal Education	Births to mothers with at least 12th grade education	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘
Parent Education Supports	Availability of in-home visiting, parent education, and family preservation programs	✘	✘	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘
	Parents participating in above programs	✘ No available data						
Paid Leave	Families with access to the Family Medical Leave Act	✘ region only	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘
Treatment Access	Parents with access to mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse services	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✘

Parental ACEs	Adult with fewer than three adverse childhood experiences	✓	✗	✓ sample	✗	✓	✓	✓
Substance Abuse	Parents misusing substances	✗ No available data						
Parental Depression	Parents screened for depression at well-child visits	✗ No available data. NC began collecting this data in March 2017, and it will be added when available.						
	Parents with identified depression referred for service	✗ No available data						
	Parents receiving services for depression	✗ No available data						
Family Meals	Families having frequent family meals	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Books in Home	Students with 25 or more books in the home	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Poverty Screening	Families screened for poverty at well child visits	✗ No available data						

High Quality Birth to Eight Learning Environments
Measures of Success

Measures of Success		State average	Trend (5 year)	National Comparison	Disaggregated by county or school district	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity	Disaggregated by income level	Disaggregated by age
High Quality Early Care and Education	Children birth-to-five attending licensed child care who are in high quality centers and homes (4- and 5-star)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
	Children birth-to-five receiving subsidy attending licensed child care who are in high-quality centers and homes (4- and 5-star)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promotion to Next Grade	Children promoted to next grade level (K-3)	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Children promoted to next grade level (3rd grade Read to Achieve retentions)	✓	✓	n/a	✓	✗	✗	n/a
Positive School Climate	Schools employing social-emotional strategies	✗ No available data						
Summer Learning	Children who maintain literacy gains over the summer	✗ No available data						
Regular School Attendance	Students in NC schools with K, 1st, 2nd, and/or 3rd grades, who are chronically absent	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
	Average days attended for children enrolled in NC Pre-K	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	n/a

High Quality Birth to Eight Learning Environments
Influencer Measures

Influencer Measures		State average	Trend (5 year)	National Comparison	Disaggregated by county or school district	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity	Disaggregated by income level	Disaggregated by age
Suspension and Expulsion	Children suspended from programs and schools	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘
	Children expelled from programs and schools	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘
Teacher & Administrator Education	Early childhood teachers with post-secondary early childhood education, by degree	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘
	Early childhood administrators and principals with post-secondary early childhood education, by degree	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘
Teacher & Administrator Knowledge of Child Development	Early childhood teachers with early childhood/child development-specific knowledge and competencies*	✔	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
	Early childhood administrator and principals with early	✔	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘

	childhood/child development-specific knowledge and competencies*							
Diverse Schools	Children who attend schools that reflect the socioeconomic diversity of their school districts	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Supported Transitions	Children attending schools that systematically involve child care programs and families before school transition	✗ No available data						
Trauma-Informed Education	Teachers who receive professional development on children's mental health, including trauma	✗ No available data						
Specialized Teacher Training	Teachers working with special populations, including English language learners and children with disabilities, who receive specific training/coaching for these populations	✗ No available data						

Category	Indicator							
Special Education	Children (K-3) receiving special education services**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Native Language Support	Students with access to programs in native language	✗ No available data						
Affordable High Quality Child Care	Estimated eligible children under age 6 receiving child care subsidies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	Families paying 10% or less of income on childcare	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
High Quality Pre-Kindergarten	Estimated eligible four-year-olds attending NC PreK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
School Stability	Children who changed early care and education programs or schools within the past year	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Quality Summer Learning Programs	Availability of summer learning programs	✗ No available data						

* Data is only available for early care teachers (0-5) and center directors (0-5).

** Data is only available for 3-21 year olds.

Developmental Milestones

Measure of Success	State average	Trend (5 year)	National Comparison	Disaggregated by county or school district	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity	Disaggregated by income level	Disaggregated by age
Children on-track for oral language skills at 24, 36, 48 and 60 months	❌ No available data						
Children developmentally on-track at kindergarten entry	❌ No available data						
Children meeting expected growth in reading (K-3)	❌ No available data						
Children reading on grade-level by the end of third grade	✔️	✔️	✔️	✔️	✔️	✔️	n/a

Community Conditions

Community Conditions		State average	Trend (5 year)	National Comparison	Disaggregated by county or school district	Disaggregated by race/ethnicity	Disaggregated by income level	Disaggregated by age
Family Economic Security	Children living in families above 200% of federal poverty level (FPL) (ages 0-17)	✅	✅	✅	✅	✅	n/a	✅
	Children living in families who make a living wage	❌ No available data						
Housing Stability	Children who are homeless (only data is K-3)	✅	✅	❌	❌	❌	n/a	✅
	Children with housing stability (family has not moved more than once in past 12 months)	✅	✅	✅	❌	❌	❌	❌

	Families who spend less than 30% of income on housing	✓	✓	✗	✓ all renters	✓ all renters	✗	✗
Economically Viable Neighbor-hoods	Children living in census tracts with poverty levels below 30%	✓	✓	✓	✓ some	✓	✗	✗
Safe Neighbor-hoods	Reported violent crimes	✓	✓	✓	✓ some	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Adults living on a block where it is safe for children to play outside	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Environmental Health	Children with elevated blood lead levels	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
	Children screened for elevated blood lead levels	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗