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AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation | National Press Club

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Introductions



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AppleTree Early Learning PCS

AppleTree consists of two non-profits, working at the intersection of practice and research with a bold vision of bringing high quality early learning experiences to every three and four year-old child in the nation.



AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter Schools

AppleTree Early Learning PCS is a network of highly-rated public charter preschools in Washington, D.C.. Founded in 1996, AppleTree currently serves children across 13 campuses in Washington, D.C..



AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation

AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation Works to increase access to high quality early learning experiences at a national level. We develop, implement and continuously optimize AppleTree's Every Child Ready Instructional model. We also partner with other local education agencies to implement high quality early learning experiences.

Imagine if...

Every state/district invested in the education of their youngest learners and made them a priority.

Every three and four year old (no matter their SES status) was given a tuition free high quality early learning experience.

Every three and four year old was taught by a highly qualified teacher who engaged in continuous learning.

Every three and four year old and their family was provided with wrap arounds support prior to entering Kindergarten.



One story, two brothers



Why Pre-K?

HIGH QUALITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Children who attend high-quality preschool programs are **more likely** to...



Graduate from High School



Attend College/
University



Have a Career

and **least likely** to...



Be Retained in
Grade School



Utilize Special
Education
Services

Why Quality Pre-K?

HIGH QUALITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

"Preschool and elementary school quality make a difference for the strength of ongoing effects in terms of achievement, school progress, and attainment".

- *Untangling the Evidence on Preschool Effectiveness: 2019*

What Matters in Pre-K?



Evidence Matters - How do you know it works?

- ❖ **Evidence-based practices** - *Strategies that have been researched, evaluated and proven to achieve positive outcomes for children and families*
- ❖ Is there **evidence** that -
 - Children are learning developmentally appropriate social and academic skills?
 - Classrooms are designed to be centers of learning for all children?



Family Engagement Matters

From the US Department of Health and Human Services, we know that Family Engagement matters:

Strong family engagement is central in promoting children's healthy development and wellness, including:

- Social-emotional and behavioral development;
- Preparing children for school;
- Seamlessly transitioning them to kindergarten; and
- Supporting academic achievement in elementary school and beyond.



Teacher Quality Matters

Higher teacher qualifications are highly correlated to higher quality early childhood education and care - including program structure, language and reasoning.

→ Higher qualification requirements of teachers, teaching assistants and other staff.

→ Impact on salaries, pay, and the workforce overall



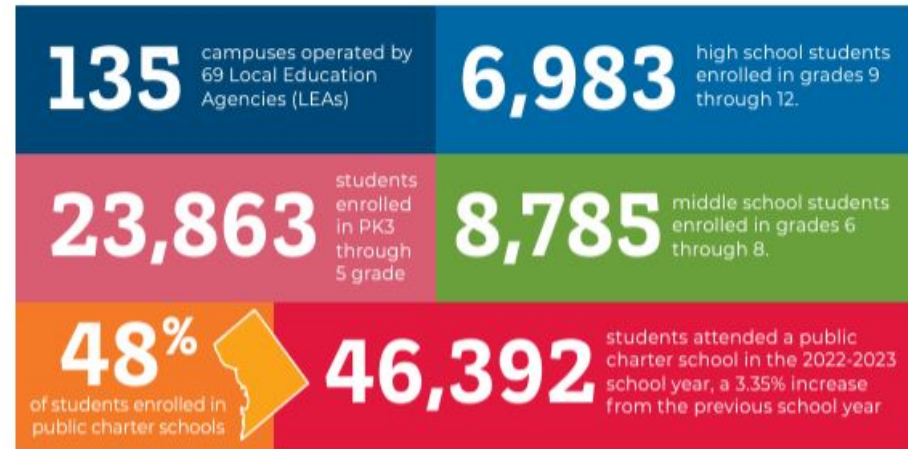
The Landscape in Washington, DC

DC Charter Landscape

DC charter schools were authorized by the DC School Reform Act (1995) by the US Congress

- First charter school authorized in 1996
- Nearly 1 in 2 students attend a charter school in DC
 - 13% of charter school students are enrolled in PK3/4
 - About 3 in 4 students in DC do not attend their in-boundary schools
- Charter schools are public schools funded by public tax dollars. Charter schools must enroll every student.
- Charter school serve SPED students, ELL students
- DC has among the most stringent charter school accountability systems nationwide
 - About 1 in 3 charter schools in DC closed

SY 2022 – 23 Year in Review



On Average \$17,000 is allotted per pupil.

DC Charter Landscape

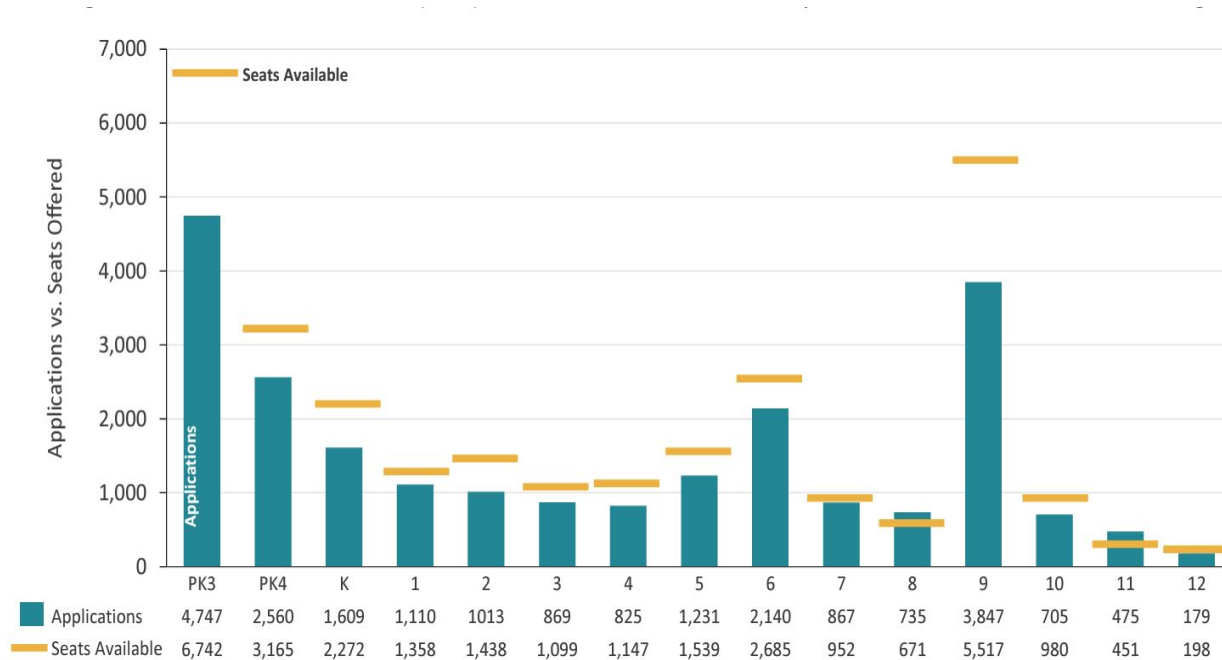
DC passed the Pre K Enhancement Act in 2008 allowing universal, free PreK 3 and 4 programs

- **School Lottery**

- DC Public Schools : In-boundary. "Right to attend" not guaranteed in PK3/4. Based on number of slots available at school program. "Right to attend" begins in K.
- DC Charter Schools: No boundary preference
 - Fall 2025 - 138 PreK3 options
 - 5,849 PK3 students (SY22-23)
 - 6,961 PK4 students (SY22-23)

Early Childhood in Public Schools

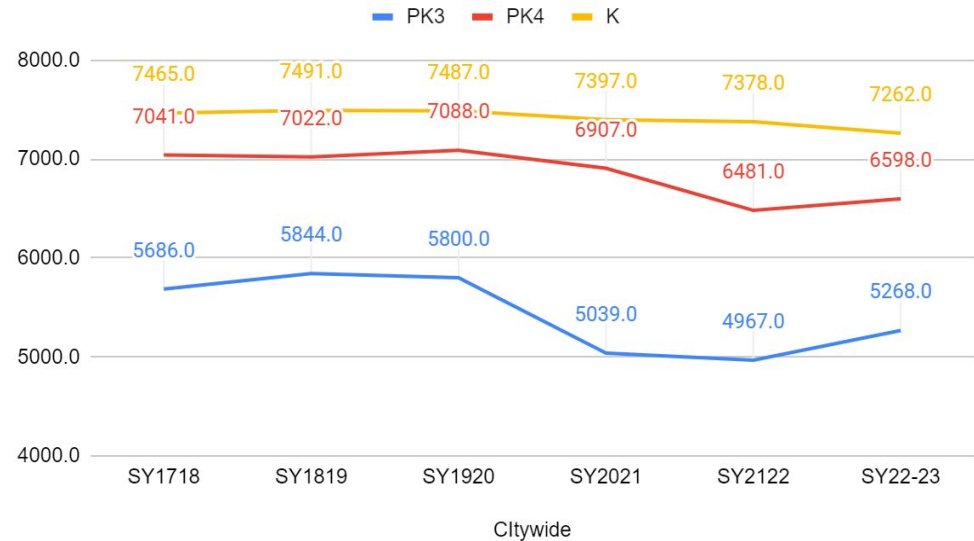
Available PK3 /4 Seats exceed lottery applicants in 2023



Early Childhood in Public Schools

DC experienced a drop in enrollment due to COVID in early childhood and has not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Citywide (DC PCS) PK3, PK4 and K



AppleTree Schools

Who We Are ~ What We Do

AppleTree is a **mission driven organization**, committed to providing **high quality early childhood learning experiences** for all students.

AppleTree Schools were founded by the **AppleTree Institute**, a **national research, think-tank** focused on early childhood that has been a leader in this field since 2001.



Who We Are ~ What We Do

AppleTree Schools is **the only top-ranked public preschool program in DC exclusively for 3 and 4-year olds**. We offer:

A researched-based instructional model exclusively designed for 3 and 4 year olds

Learning through exploration and purposeful play

Small class sizes with two teachers in each classroom

Social Workers / Counselors at each campus

Full Student Support Team to meet the needs of diverse learners.

Program oversight for other education agencies early childhood programs

Teacher residency program

Wrap around support for families

Humble Beginnings
1 Classroom; 33 Students

AppleTree by the Numbers

1,100
STUDENTS

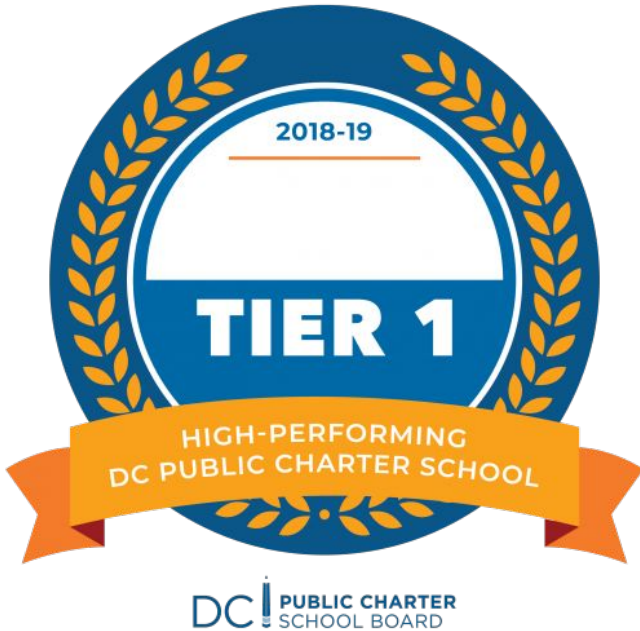
13 (2024)
CAMPUSES

58%
AT-RISK STUDENT
POPULATION

90%
ECONOMICALLY
DISADVANTAGED

Our Record

APPLETREE EFFECT



AppleTree Schools are highly rated and popular with parents.

All of our operating preschools earned points to be Tier 1 as rated by the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board.

AppleTree won a federal **Investing in Innovation award (i3)** for our **Every Child Ready** instructional model.

The Every Child Ready Instructional Model





EVERY CHILD READY Instructional Model



Every Child Ready is a comprehensive instructional model designed specifically for three and four year old.

Every Child Ready is a unique solution for early educators and is disrupting the “status quo” of early childhood education.



Where to
Start



What to
Teach



How to
Teach



How to
**Measure
Success**

Where to Start

What can Pre-K students do?

Talk to us about potty training..

Can you help us understand the DOH rules and regulations?

How do you know if pre-K students are making progress?

What does an excellent pre-K classroom look like?

What does an ideal early childhood educator look like?
How do I hire them?

We believe Pre-K is important but...

What does it mean to be Kindergarten ready?

What should professional development look like for pre-K?

What do we need to order?

What does a typical day look like in pre-K?

How do you onboard families of pre-K students?

Do you have a discipline system in pre-K?

How much does it cost to start a pre-K program from scratch?

How do you know what to coach on in a pre-K classroom?

What do you assess pre-K students on?

Where to Start

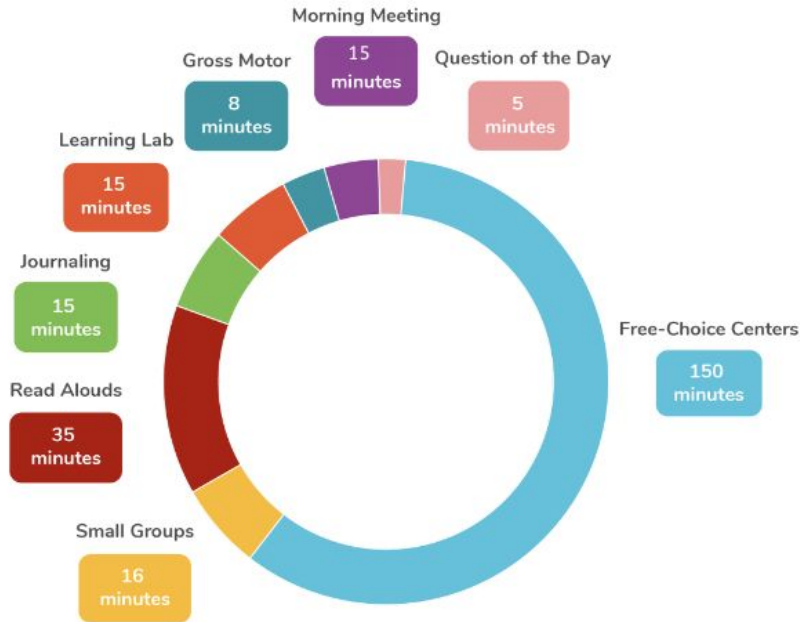
- ❖ Resources and expertise to support the launch, development, and advancement of a pre-K program.



- ❖ Consultancy to support schools in launching a high-quality early learning program, which can include application support, guidance on materials, professional learning and more.



What To Teach



Quick Facts

- Available in English and Spanish (PK3 and PK4)
- Every Child Ready achieved the recommended threshold across all domains through five different curriculum state approval processes
- Aligned with the science of reading
- 11 Thematic Units, differentiated for three-and-four year olds
- Two-year, week-by-week Scope and sequence
- Multi Tiered Model
- Family engagement opportunities embedded throughout

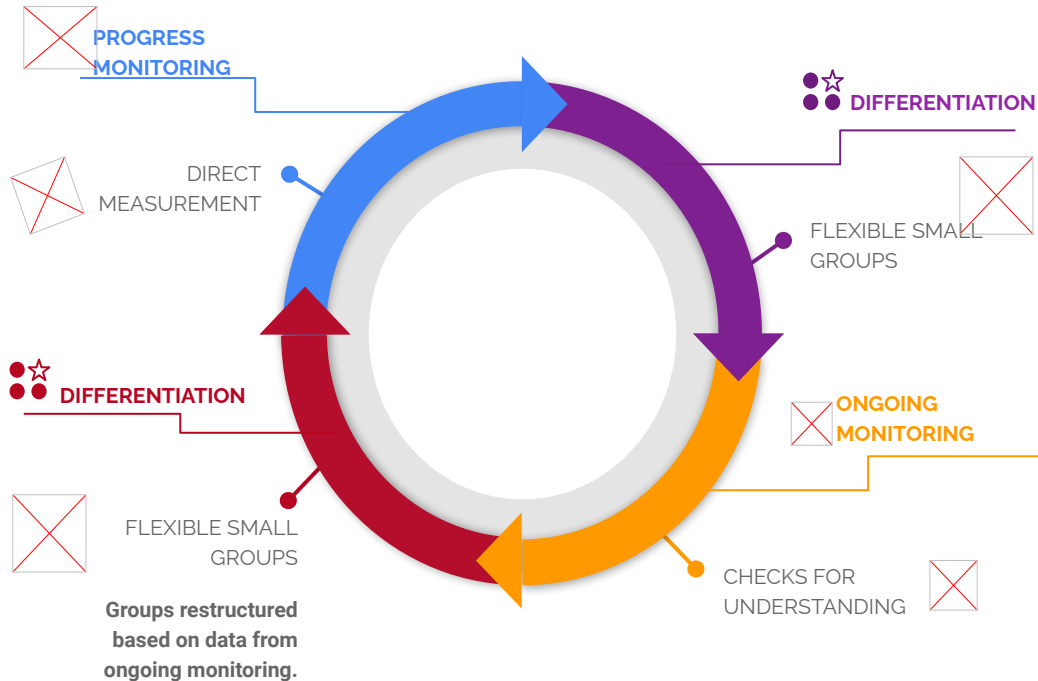
How To Teach

Professional Learning

- Teacher and Leader Coaching
- Summer Training
- Professional Learning Train the Trainer Program
- Pre-K Best Practices: Asynchronous and Synchronous Training (CANVAS)
- Quarterly Leader Workshops
- Every Child Ready Technical Support



How to Measure Success



Assessment

- Validated Assessments (Language, Literacy, Math, SEL)
- Checks for Understanding
- Classroom Quality
- Reporting

Our Results

RANDOMIZED CONTROL TRIAL. Classrooms that used *Get Ready to Learn* with even just a moderate degree of fidelity saw positive results for both teachers and children

Improved social-emotional skills, self-regulation skills, initiative, and attachment to adults and peers.

Teachers experienced improved emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional strategies.

Children learning in moderate-risk centers experienced greater social-emotional benefits.

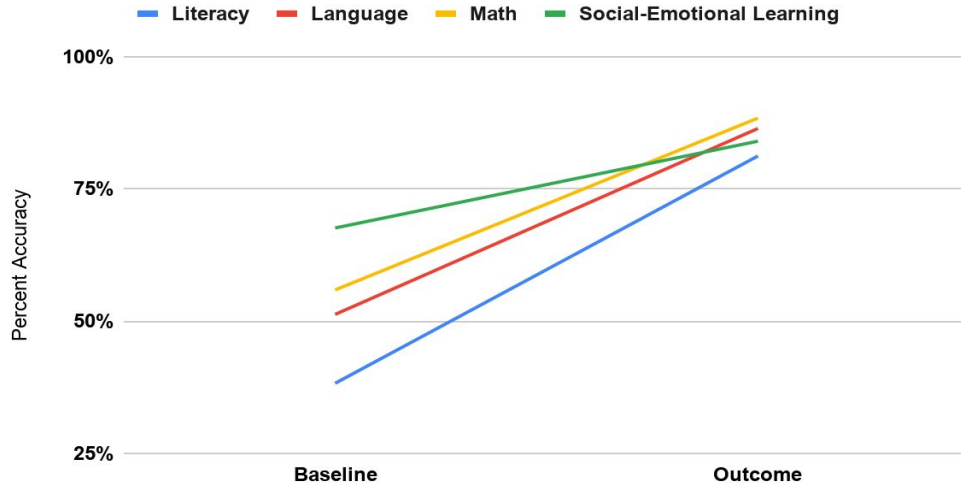


Case Study

Students who experienced *Every Child Ready* for preschool and prekindergarten achieved 6% higher scores on PARCC in math & 9% higher scores on PARCC in English Language Arts.

Child Outcomes in Early Learning Domains

Children in *Every Child Ready* classrooms make significant gains from the Fall to Spring in the important early learning domains of math, literacy, language, and social-emotional learning.



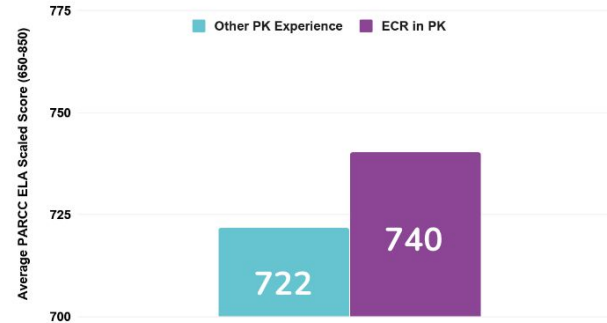
Child Outcomes in Early Learning Domains

Children's strong performance persists beyond pre-kindergarten. A sample of children followed from pre-kindergarten into third grade scored 6% higher in Math and 9% higher in English Language Arts on 3rd grade state testing.

Math 3rd Grade Scaled Scores



English Language Arts 3rd Grade Scaled Scores



Every Child Ready Network

2023 - 2024

3,500 children
experiencing high-quality
early learning

Washington, DC:



St. Louis:



New York:



Texas:





What if every child had an early learning experience that empowered them with the habits and skills they needed to thrive in school?

What if we invested more energy, resources and time into professionally supporting leaders and teachers in pre-K classrooms?

Connect with Us!



AppleTree Website:

<https://www.appletreeinstitute.org/>



Every Child Ready Website:

<https://www.everychildready.org/>



Youtube Channels:

[AppleTree](#)

[Every Child Ready by AppleTree Institute](#)



[@AppleTreeDC](#)



[@AppleTreeInst](#)








[@appletree_dc_org](#)





A photograph of four diverse children of various ethnicities smiling and hugging each other in front of a red door. The children are dressed in casual clothing. The text 'THANK YOU' is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.




THANK YOU

How to Measure Success

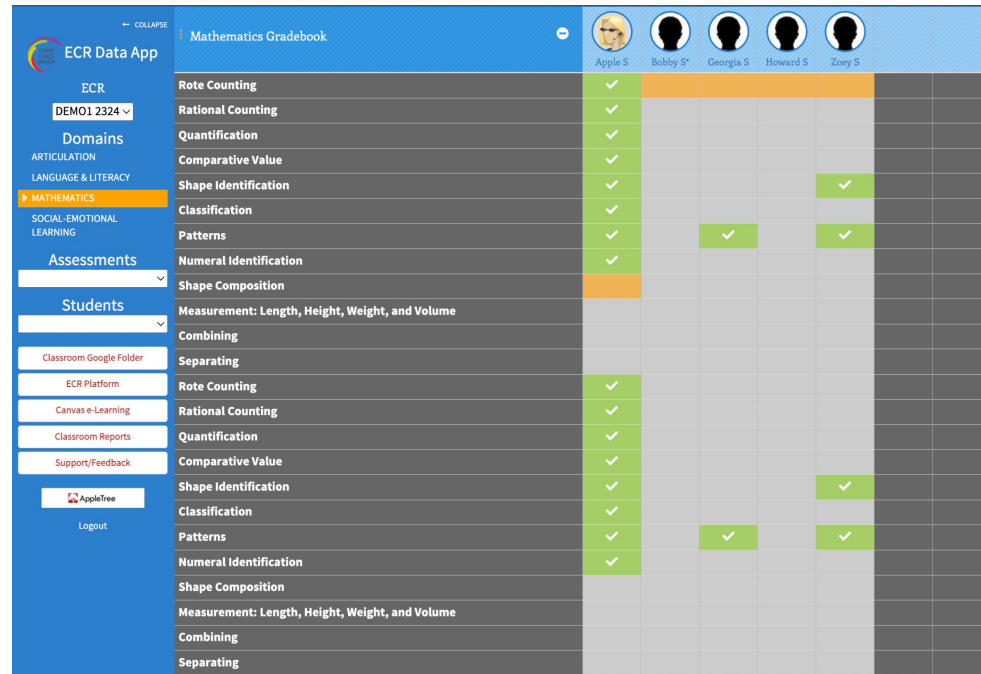
Formal Measurement and Reporting SAMPLE

	% Meeting Score or Growth Goals	ECR Language and Literacy (Link to full report)
ECR:LL Total	17.98%	
Language Comprehension	18.56%	
Phonological Awareness	19.16%	
Book Knowledge	14.35%	
Narrative Comprehension	16.25%	

	% Meeting Score or Growth Goals	ECR Mathematics (Link to full report ; Math Details Reports)
ECR: M Total	19.19%	
Number Concepts	18.82%	
Geometry	19.02%	
Patterns, Functions, & Algebra	18.65%	

	% Meeting Score or Growth Goals	ECR Letters and Writing (Link to full report)
Name Writing	43.57%	
Uppercase and Lowercase Identification	41.59%	
Uppercase and Lowercase Sounds	40.86%	

Curriculum Based Measurement and Reporting SAMPLE



Mathematics Gradebook	Apple S	Bobby S	Georgia S	Howard S	Zoey S
Rote Counting	✓				
Rational Counting	✓				
Quantification	✓				
Comparative Value	✓				
Shape Identification	✓				✓
Classification	✓				
Patterns	✓				
Numeral Identification	✓		✓		✓
Shape Composition					
Measurement: Length, Height, Weight, and Volume					
Combining					
Separating					
Rote Counting	✓				
Rational Counting	✓				
Quantification	✓				
Comparative Value	✓				
Shape Identification	✓				✓
Classification	✓				
Patterns	✓		✓		✓
Numeral Identification	✓				
Shape Composition					
Measurement: Length, Height, Weight, and Volume					
Combining					
Separating					