



## Using Data Trends to Identify Local Bright Spots

Kentucky and county-specific data from the last five years indicate that more Kentucky children are prepared for kindergarten. Across the commonwealth, 31% or 52 of 170 school districts have improved kindergarten readiness scores overall, and among economically disadvantaged students and those with Individualized Education Plans.

The data is helping leaders identify early childhood bright spots of progress in the state that may be contributing to positive change and is increasing its investment to \$3.39 million per year in grants to Kentucky's Regional Network Collaboratives over the next two fiscal years. Investing in data-driven solutions through local innovation and decision making and implementing proven strategies for children from birth to 5 years old will lay the foundation for school readiness across the state.

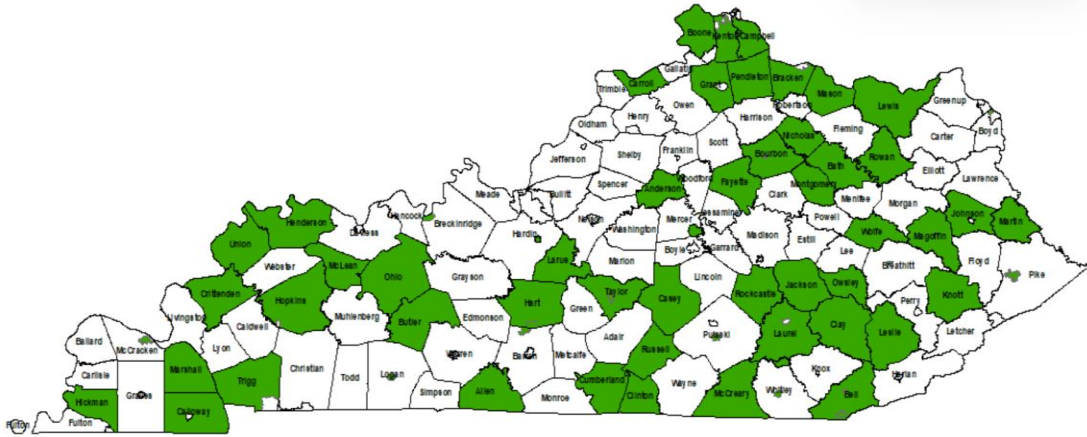
The following examples demonstrate how local bright spots are making a difference for young children and their families and are helping communities align improvement and investment efforts across the commonwealth.

- **Home visitation** supports expectant mothers, families and young children.
- **High-quality professional development** helps early childhood practitioners create nurturing, developmentally appropriate environments.
- **Pre-natal to three strategies** give mothers, families and babies a strong, healthy start.
- **Early literacy programs** improve awareness and use of successful literacy practices.
- **Best practice transition strategies** support effective, high-quality planning, coordination, family engagement and professional development by using data to ensure kindergarten children start school ready to learn.

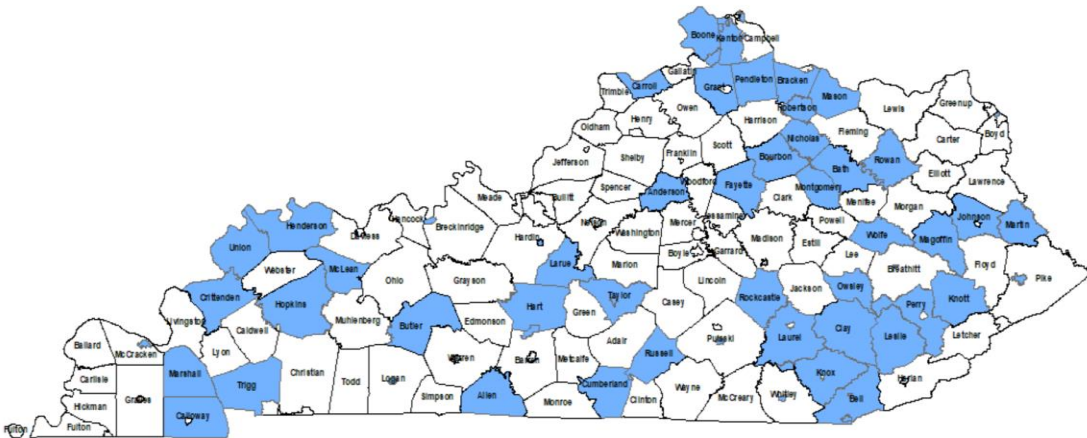
At the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood, we know that every child in the commonwealth can have a robust start when we work together. We are committed to uniting organizations at the state and local level to address the critical early years of a child's life to ensure that every child has a strong start in life and school.

## Kindergarten Screenings from 2017 to 2021

Good news! The school districts highlighted in green, below, experienced gains (from 4.3 to 42.7 percentage points) in overall kindergarten screening scores between 2017 and 2021.



The districts in blue experienced gains from 5.2 to 47.6 percentage points in overall kindergarten screening scores among economically disadvantaged students, between 2017 and 2021.



The districts in pink experienced gains from 7.5 to 67.5 percentage points in overall kindergarten screening scores among students with Individualized Education Plans, between 2017 and 2021.

