

# Pre-K

A summary of the scientific literature on Pre-K.



## How This Impacts Children's Development

Instructional alignment from preschool through the early grades (PK-3) aims to ensure a seamless educational experience that builds on the gains made in preschool and further enhances learning in the early

elementary years. Ensuring continuity in teaching methods across these grades helps maintain a consistent approach to subject areas, which can boost children's familiarity, confidence, and overall success.

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### **Talking Points from the SRCD Brief**

- Some preschools through the early grades (PK–3) initiatives have endeavored to improve children’s early educational opportunities and sustain the benefits of high-quality early care and education by continuing services. Continuity in instructional practices is less likely if: a) state and district standards and assessments for preschool are not well aligned; b) preschool standards and assessments are not aligned to those for early elementary grades; and c) schools do not provide opportunities for teachers to collaborate across grades.
- District policies and practices can mediate the effect of state policies on teaching.
  - However, district-level efforts will affect instruction and learning only if appropriate practices are put in place at the school level.
- Continuity in instruction can contribute to students’ academic achievement when instruction is sequenced, connected, and elaborated, with less time spent repeating material or providing instruction beyond children’s skill level.

### **Policy Considerations in the Brief**

- Policymakers could align standards and assessments within and across grades at state and district levels. They could develop a database accessible to teachers that includes clear instructional frameworks.
- Education leaders should provide continuity in the relative emphasis on social-emotional development and academic skills in PK–3 curriculum and provide opportunities for collaboration among PK–3 teachers.
- Teachers should give students opportunities to broaden and deepen their skills by applying them in new contexts, and to take stock of their progress in understanding and skills.

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