

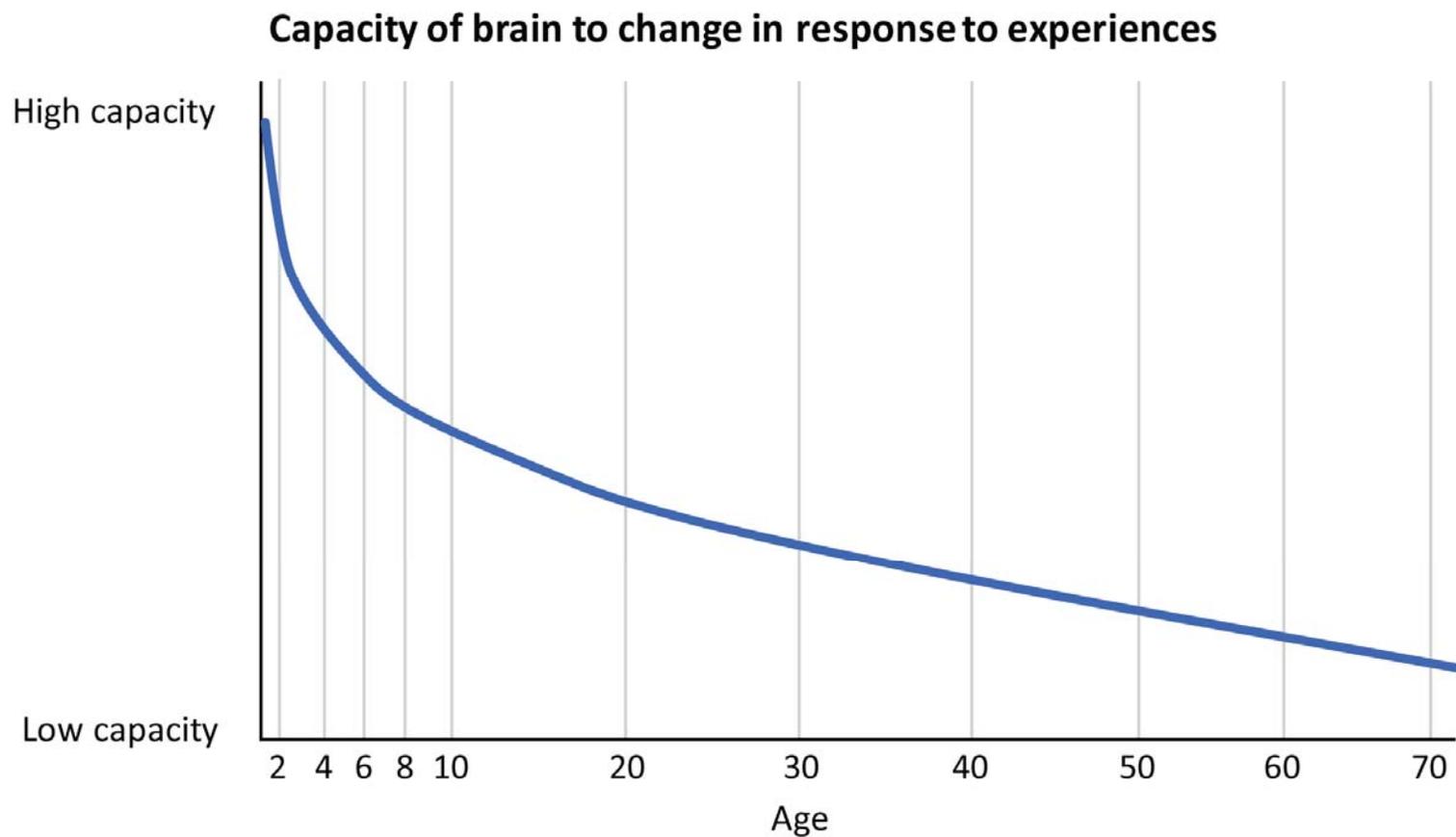
Improving Virginia's Early Childhood Development Programs

Overview for Senate Finance Committee,
Education Subcommittee

Key report findings

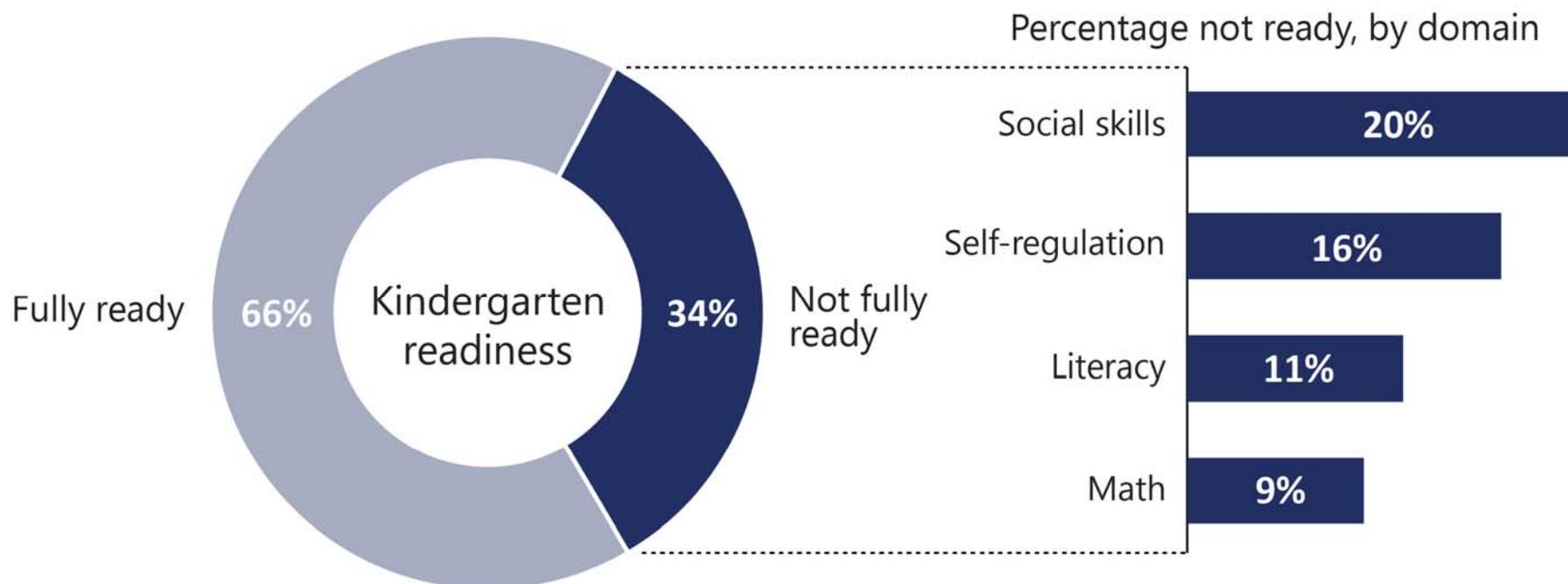
- Voluntary home visiting programs are effective but lack adequate administrative support and stable funding.
- Quality of VPI needs to be improved and ensured statewide.
- Child Care Subsidy Program does not promote or incentivize high-quality child care.
- IDEA programs are mostly effective, but data and use of inclusive settings need improvement.
- Eliminating minimally effective state child care tax deduction could offset costs of improvements.

Brain's capacity to change decreases over time



Adapted with permission from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. Original graphic published in *From Best Practices to Breakthrough Impacts: A Science-Based Approach to Building a More Promising Future for Young Children and Families* (2016).

One-third of sample of kindergartners assessed by VKRP were not fully ready (2014)



SOURCE: VKRP assessment of a representative sample of Virginia kindergartners in Fall 2014. Percentages not ready total more than 34% because some students not ready in multiple domains. VKRP = Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program

VPI improves literacy, but effects on other key readiness domains is unknown

- Statewide, VPI-participating children are less likely to need extra help with reading in kindergarten
- Beyond literacy, the state does not know how well VPI promotes kindergarten readiness
 - VKRP not administered for all children in VPI

Quality of VPI needs to be improved and ensured statewide

- Quality is key for effective pre-K programs
- VPI has no meaningful assurances of quality
 - No routine classroom observations
 - No meaningful curriculum standards
 - No assurances professional development is useful and effective for teachers
- VDOE's administration and oversight is inadequate to ensure quality pre-K

Child Care Subsidy Program does not promote or incentivize high-quality child care

- Created to help low-income parents maintain employment, or obtain education or training
 - National trend to also promote quality child care
- Subsidy has no assurances of quality
 - No routine observations
 - No curriculum expectations
 - No assurances professional development is useful and effective

Voluntary home visiting programs are cost-effective way to help at-risk very, young children

- National research increasingly points to the cost-effectiveness of voluntary home visiting programs
- Virginia's home visiting programs improve odds of healthy brain development
 - Smoking cessation during pregnancy
 - Healthy birth weight
 - Full-term births

Inadequate administrative support and unstable funding hinder Virginia's home visiting programs

- Early Impact Virginia lacks formalized state support to coordinate and plan
 - No full-time staff or statutory authority
 - Existence relies on voluntarily provided support of home visiting programs
- Frequent and substantial changes to funding have challenged Virginia's home visiting programs

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