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Literacy Readiness Gaps in Kindergarten Grow

Minority, Low-Income School Readiness Declines in Some Areas, Reversing Years of Improvements

Executive Summary

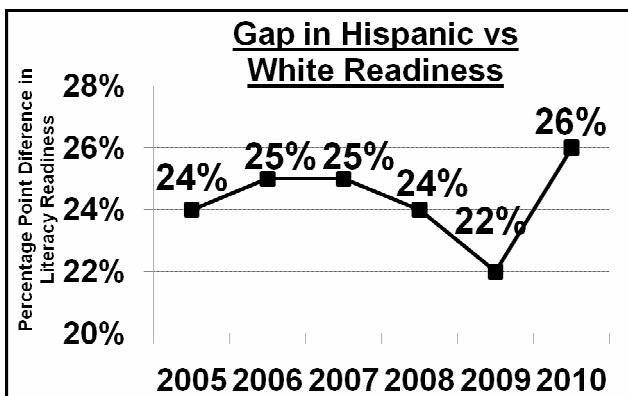
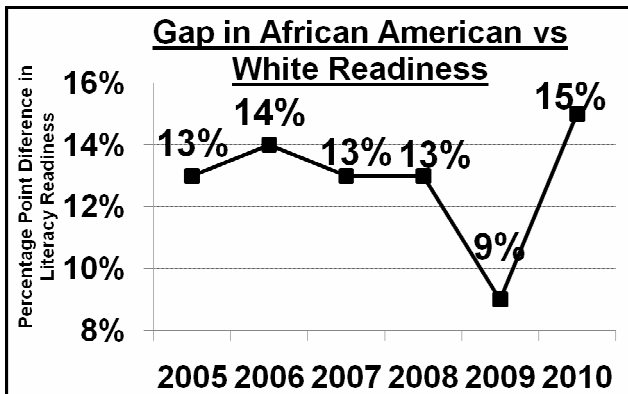
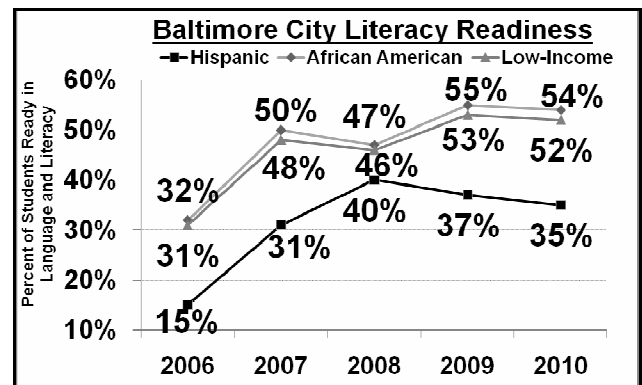
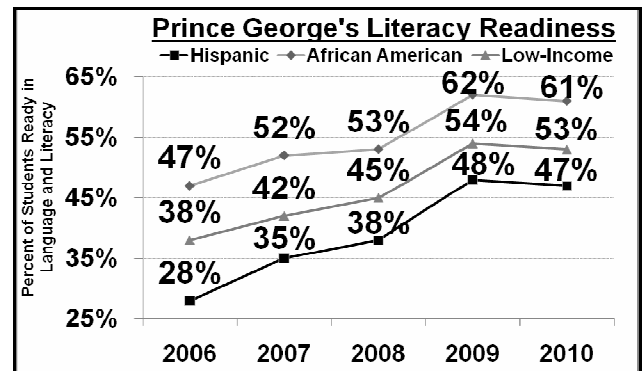
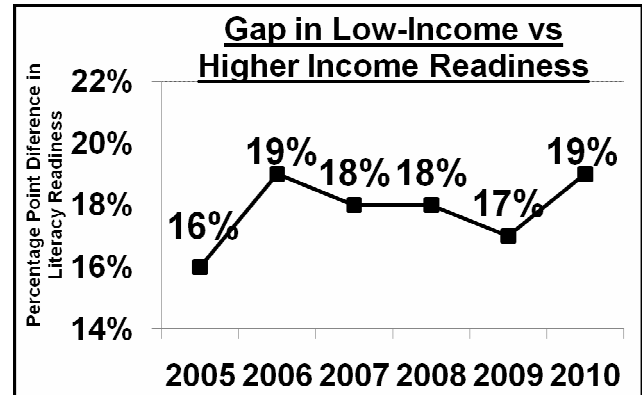
Literacy readiness gaps of kindergarteners grew significantly in 2010. African-American, Hispanic and low-income students fell further behind their White and higher-income peers. Overall progress stalled in two key school districts. Maryland needs to ensure that all four-year-olds are getting high quality and adequate services.

Background

This issue brief examines literacy readiness of kindergarteners for the 2009-10 school year.

Findings

Gaps in school readiness by race and income grew sharply between the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years and are the largest since at least 2005. In two school districts with high numbers of at-risk students, improvements in literacy readiness stalled.¹



Recommendations

1. **Recognize the problem.** The growing gaps and stalled progress require significant attention.
2. **Examine local successes.** Districts with smaller gaps may have strategies other districts can use.
3. **Improve services for four-year-olds.** It is important to ensure that the existing programs are high quality and to see whether additional interventions are needed.

¹ There are significant variations among the 24 jurisdictions. See www.acy.org for this data.

