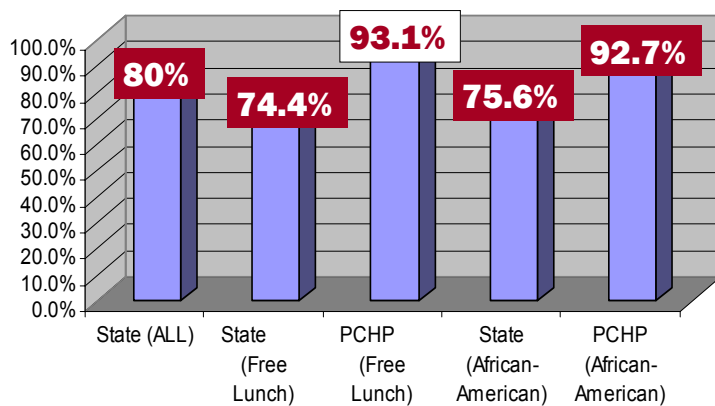


South Carolina Study on Cognitive Skills (*Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 2002)



Levenstein, P., Levenstein S., & Oliver, D. (2002) First grade school readiness of former child participants in a South Carolina replication of the Parent-Child Home Program. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 23(3);

This 4-year study looked at the performance of children who completed The Parent-Child Home Program in South Carolina on the statewide Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB), administered to all first graders. Parent-Child Home Program children performed markedly better on the CSAB than their counterparts, both free-lunch eligible and minority children statewide and in the district.

The study shows that **84.8% of Parent-Child Home Program first graders receiving free lunch passed the assessment** but only 74.4% of free lunch eligible children statewide passed. Similarly, passing scores were achieved by only 75.6% of all African American children statewide but 84% of the at-risk Parent-Child Home Program African American children passed. Program participants who are free lunch eligible passed the school readiness test at 10.4% higher rate than other free lunch eligible students. African-American Program participants (all of whom were free-lunch eligible) passed at an 8.4% higher rate than all African-Americans statewide regardless of income level.

The study reviewed a 4-year cohort of Parent-Child Home Program graduates who entered first grade between 1997 and 2000. Seven of the 84 children in the study entered the program in 1994 after being diagnosed with severe development delays. These children, all of whom failed the test and are now receiving special education services, are, because of their level of disability, atypical of Parent-Child Home Program participants. When the CSAB data is analyzed without their scores, the pass rates for Program participants compared to their peers are even more dramatic, **93.1% of Parent-Child Home Program children receiving free lunch and 92.7% of Parent-Child Home Program African-American children passed the assessment test**. These scores exceed the state passage rates for each of these groups by 18% each.