Kindergarten School Readiness Assessment Implementation Options: 2015-2016

When the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) legislation passed in 2008, it mandated that every child in state funded preschool or kindergarten have an individual readiness plan. The plan ensures a responsive learning enviroment so that each child develops the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. The individual readiness plan is informed by Colorado State Board of Education approved assessments. Based on feedback from district leaders and kindergarten teachers, the department identified a number of implementation options that districts may choose to best meet their local needs.

School Readiness Assessment Menu

CAP4K requires the state board to approve one or more school readiness assessments. In 2012, the state board voted to provide a menu of assessments. The board approved Teaching Strategies GOLD as the first assessment system for kindergarten. In October 2014, the board added Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP-K), Riverside Early Assessment of Learning (REAL) and the use of Teaching Strategies GOLD survey to the approved menu.

Implementation Options for 2015-16

Based on feedback from teachers and districts, CDE is providing flexible implementation options. Below are general flexibility options which apply to any of the assessment systems. Specific options about each tool are available on our website, www.cde.state.co.us/schoolreadiness.

Options for All Assessment Systems

Tools:
- Districts may choose to use the full school readiness assessment system according to the publisher's guidelines
- Districts may also use a reduced item version of the school readiness assessment system assessing only the domains required in legislation (physical well-being and motor development; social and emotional development; language and comprehension; cognition; and general knowledge (math and literacy).

Checkpoints:
- Districts may choose to use the school readiness assessment system for all children only for the first checkpoint of the year.
- In addition to the first checkpoint, districts may use the assessment system for all children for the remainder of the year.

School Readiness Requirements Within CAP4K

School Readiness Domains
School readiness includes both developmental and academic domains: physical well-being and motor development; social and emotional development; language and comprehension; cognition; and general knowledge (math and literacy).
 Section 22-7-1004 (1) C.R.S.

Selection of School Readiness Assessments
The state board shall consider assessments that are research-based; recognized nationwide as reliable instruments for measuring school readiness; and suitable for determining the instruction and interventions students need to improve his/her readiness to succeed in school.
 Section 22-7-1004 (2)(a) C.R.S.

Use of School Readiness Assessments
School readiness assessments shall not be used to deny a student admission or progression to kindergarten or first grade.
Section 22-7-1004 (2)(a) C.R.S.

Each local education provider shall ensure that each [kindergarten] student receives an individualized readiness plan that addresses the kindergarten standards, as appropriate, knowledge and skill areas in which a student needs assistance to make progress toward school readiness.
Section 22-7-1014 (1)(a) C.R.S.

- In addition to using the first checkpoint for all children, districts may use the assessment system to progress monitor only those children in need of additional learning supports.

Considerations for All Assessment Systems

- Districts have the option to use their READ Act assessment data in place of the literacy section of each assessment system.
- Information from each assessment system can be used to create an individual readiness plan, a report card and parent/teacher conference information.
- Using the fall and spring checkpoints would provide beginning and end of year information to evaluate a child's growth over the course of kindergarten.
- All kindergarten readiness assessment systems have cross-walk documents to the standards.
- The data collected in all kindergarten readiness assessment systems may eliminate the need for certain teacher-created or district-created assessments.
- Assessment results will support authentic and functional baseline data when developing intervention plans for Response to Intervention implementation, as the tool measures individual student strengths and needs and tracks individual growth over time.
- Local kindergarten readiness assessment data can be used when developing school or district Unified Improvement Plans.

Specific Options for Each Assessment System

Teaching Strategies GOLD (TS GOLD) Options

- Use the full version of TS GOLD according to the publisher's guidelines.
- Use a customized version of TS GOLD, which has reduced the number of objectives from 38 to 23 and includes the following domains: Social-Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy and Math.
- TS GOLD survey tool may be used for the first checkpoint. Learn more at http://teachingstrategies.com.

Desired Results Developmental Profile – Kindergarten (DRDP-K) Options

- Use the full version of DRDP-K according to the publisher's guidelines.
- Assess only the following domains: Approaches to Learning; Social and Emotional Development; Language and Literacy Development; Cognition: Math; and Physical Development.
- Learn more at http://drdpsr.org/drdpk.html.

Riverside Early Assessment of Learning (REAL) Options

- Use the full version of REAL according to the publisher's guidelines.
- Assess only the following domains: Cognition and General Knowledge; Approaches to Learning; Language and Literacy Development; Physical Development; and, Health, Social and Emotional Development.
- Learn more at http://riversidepublishing.com/products/real/index.html.

Next Steps

CDE will continue to work with DRDP-K, REAL and TS GOLD to provide opportunities for school districts to become more comfortable using each assessment system, as well as offer support and trainings for implementation.

Where can I learn more?

- CDE's School Readiness web page: www.cde.state.co.us/schoolreadiness
- Staff Contacts: Daryl Gagliano gagliano_d@cde.state.co.us, Emily Kielmeyer kielmeyer_E@cde.state.co.us, Lauren Augusta augusta_l@cde.state.co.us, Sharon Triolo-Moloney triolo-moloney_s@cde.state.co.us.
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs