

Important Considerations for Choosing a HighScope COR Assessment Tool

RESULTS MATTER & KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL READINESS ASSESSMENT



COLORADO
Department of Education

1. COR Advantage and COR for Kindergarten are two distinct assessment tools.

This is different from a tool like *GOLD*[®] which is a single assessment instrument spanning birth through third grade. COR Advantage is the approved tool for Results Matter while COR for Kindergarten is the approved tool for Kindergarten School Readiness Assessment. COR Advantage has only been validated for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers while COR for Kindergarten has only been validated for kindergarteners.

Other things to note about these two tools:

- School districts are not required to use COR for Kindergarten if choosing COR Advantage for preschool and vice versa.
- While there are similar areas of development and learning, each tool has different assessment items and rating scales. Consider the potential limitations to comparing data and the shift in data dialogue between preschool and kindergarten staff if you are moving from a tool such as *GOLD*[®] that has many of the same items at the preschool and kindergarten levels.
- Currently, there is no mechanism to transfer digital records from COR Advantage to COR for Kindergarten
- Unlike *GOLD*[®], the COR for Kindergarten tool does not allow for assessment beyond kindergarten.

2. COR Advantage and COR for Kindergarten will be on two different platforms in 2018-19.

HighScope has partnered with technology provider Kaymbu to host COR Advantage in 2018-19. As a result, the look and feel of the two assessment systems will be different in 2018-19. HighScope has informed CDE that they intend to migrate COR for Kindergarten to the new platform in 2019-20. However, CDE expects the preschool and kindergarten licenses will remain separate as the two assessment tools are technically different.

3. Documentation App

While a mobile documentation app will be available to Results Matter users of COR Advantage, there is no mobile app for COR for Kindergarten users.

Note: the Kindergarten Entry Record component of COR for Kindergarten is not intended to be used throughout the year, although COR for Kindergarten offers optional Ongoing Record and Progress Monitoring tools.

What's In This Document?

Beginning 2018-19, school districts and early childhood programs have the option to use the COR Advantage and/or COR for Kindergarten assessment tools to meet Results Matter and kindergarten school readiness assessment requirements. This resource is meant to help school districts and programs who are considering using these assessments. Also consider using the *Transition Checklist* on p.4.

Early Childhood Assessment Menus

Please note: it is not required to use the COR assessment tools in 2018-19. Districts/programs may continue using the same assessment as in 2017-18. CDE has added the COR Advantage and COR for Kindergarten assessments to the Results Matter and Kindergarten School Readiness assessment menus.



4. Your previous online assessment system subscription will eventually expire.

If you have been using *GOLD*[®], note that after the end of the current subscription year (June 30), you will no longer be able to access *GOLD*[®] online. Consider these steps beforehand:

- **Archive your data.** Download any data you wish to preserve well ahead of the subscription expiration date including reports, documentation, and raw data (i.e., Data Export).
- **Encourage teachers to save a copy of their certificates.** This includes any interrater reliability certificates and certificates from online courses they may have completed.

5. Interrater Reliability Certification (IRR)

IRR certificates from other assessment tools will not transfer to COR Advantage and COR for Kindergarten as these are distinct tools from different publishers.

For Results Matter users, IRR will continue to be a requirement for educators using COR Advantage. Even if educators were recently IRR-certified on *GOLD*[®], they will need to complete IRR on COR Advantage by the time they begin making assessment ratings in the first checkpoint after moving to the new tool.

6. Multi-District Subscription Setup

Agencies such as Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) who host an umbrella assessment subscription and/or provide administrative technical assistance on behalf of member districts will need a separate account in COR if any member districts choose to use COR.

7. Notification to CDE

CDE requests that customers notify the Department as soon as possible of their intent to transition to COR Advantage and/or COR for Kindergarten in 2018-19, and no later than the start of school in your program/district:

- Results Matter administrators should contact Nicholas Ortiz, Results Matter Data and Operations Specialist, at Ortiz_N@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-3368.
- Kindergarten school readiness administrators should notify Anji Gallanos at Gallanos_A@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6602.

It is recommended that customers make a formal decision and notify CDE well before the start of the 2018-19 school year to allow time for intentional transition planning and contract negotiations with the new vendor.

8. Transition Planning

Consider developing a transition plan for education staff that includes communication and training components. Contact the Colorado team at HighScope for more information on training opportunities, brochures, assessment item desk references, scoring guides, etc.

Links to the appropriate HighScope contacts for Results Matter and Kindergarten School Readiness Assessment users can be found in the “Where can I learn more?” section on page 3.



9. OSEP Preschool Outcomes Data Management (*Results Matter participants only*)

Results Matter programs who serve preschoolers with disabilities must take additional steps to ensure OSEP data remain intact during the transition to COR Advantage:

- **Before your *GOLD*[®] subscription expires, make sure to complete the IEP entry information and corresponding checkpoint ratings for any children receiving preschool special education services.** Children who were assessed using *GOLD*[®] at the beginning of preschool special education services will need to have their OSEP entry scores imported into COR Advantage in order to allow for OSEP exiting on the new tool. Completing the IEP entry information and checkpoint ratings in *GOLD*[®] will ensure the OSEP entry data are captured before your 2017-18 subscription expires. HighScope and CDE will be assisting customers with the OSEP data import process later this year.
- **For any children exiting preschool special education services on or before June 30, 2018, make sure to complete the OSEP exit process as needed in *GOLD*[®] before the subscriptions expire on June 30.** Do not complete OSEP exits for any preschoolers with disabilities who will remain in preschool and be assessed using COR Advantage in 2018-19.

Where can I learn more?

- [Results Matter Information](#)
- [Kindergarten School Readiness Information](#)
- [COR Advantage for Colorado Information from HighScope \(for Results Matter participants\)](#)
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TRANSITION CHECKLIST

- ___ Notify CDE of intent to use COR Advantage and/or COR for Kindergarten
- ___ Download/archive reports, documentation, and raw data from previous assessment tool
- ___ Encourage teachers to download IRR certificates and course certificates
- ___ Develop communication and training plan for education staff
- ___ (OSEP, Results Matter only) Complete IEP entry information in *GOLD*®
- ___ (OSEP, Results Matter only) Complete OSEP exits in *GOLD*® for any children exiting preschool special education services on or before 6/30/18

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the impact of choosing a new assessment tool on:

- Reporting
- School Readiness Plans
- Communication
- Data dialogue
- Time needed for training and professional development
- Preschool-to-kindergarten transitions
- P-3 authentic assessment plans