



## Kindergarten School Readiness Data Collection

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*In accordance with Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K), local education providers are required to ensure kindergarten students receive an individualized readiness plan informed by a State Board of Education-approved school readiness assessment. C.R.S. §§ 22-7-1004(1) and 22-7-1014(1)(a). CAP4K also requires school districts to report school readiness data to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) using a board-adopted format. C.R.S. §§ 22-7-1004(2)(b) and 22-7-1019.*

*Many charter schools sought - and were approved for - a School Readiness Assessment waiver. Such a waiver, however, relieved charter schools only from their obligation to use a board-approved school readiness assessment. Charter schools continue to be responsible for administering a school readiness assessment of their own selection/design, creating individualized readiness plans, and reporting school readiness data to their school districts.*

*CDE has been made aware that some charter schools believed that their School Readiness waiver relieved them from the data reporting components of CAP4K and so may not have readily-available data that maps correctly to the state-adopted reporting format. For the 2017-2018 data collection, CDE asks all charter schools with Kindergarten programs to report their school readiness data in the state-approved format. In the event the school's data is not readily translatable to the state format, schools are asked to make a good-faith effort to report the data and make adjustments as necessary. Any specific challenges with reporting should then be sent to the Schools of Choice Unit so that we can help ensure accurate and quality reporting in future years. To ensure the effective implementation of the school readiness data collection as a recurring practice, CDE will use 2017-2018 data from charter schools as a trial collection while recognizing that there may be anomalies in the way waiver-informed data is reported this year that will need to be addressed prior to development of any required final reports.*

*Please send any concerns to CDE's Schools of Choice Unit at [soc@cde.state.co.us](mailto:soc@cde.state.co.us). CDE's Schools of Choice Unit will work with CDE's School Readiness staff to address reported concerns for the 2018-2019 reporting period.*

### Clarifying Requirement

In March 2016, the Colorado State Board of Education adopted a system for reporting school readiness data. Beginning in the Fall of 2017, school districts were asked to start reporting school readiness data – including charter school data - to CDE through Data Pipeline. The data collection window is open now until mid-December. For more information regarding the Kindergarten School Readiness data collection, including the file layout and definitions, please visit CDE's Kindergarten School Readiness Data Collection webpage [here](#).

## Common Questions

### *Why might charter schools have a difficult time reporting this information?*

Statute defines “school readiness” inclusive of four broad domains: 1) Physical Well-being and Motor Development, 2) Social and Emotional Development, 3) Language and Comprehension Development, and 4) Cognition and General Knowledge. *C.R.S. § 22-7-1004(1)*. The State Board of Education further delineated the fourth domain in two ways - first to separate cognition from general knowledge and second to break general knowledge into math and literacy domains. As a result, many charter schools may currently be collecting data on a “cognition and general knowledge” domain, but are being asked to report on three separate indicators – cognition, math, and literacy. Additionally, many charter schools may have incorporated their literacy indicator into their language and comprehension development indicator. As a result, schools in this first year of reporting that are using assessments different from the state-approved assessments may report readiness data across these domains in a variety of ways.

### *Didn't the school readiness waiver relieve a school from administering formal assessments?*

Currently, the only school readiness waiver sought by a charter school was a waiver delegating the authority for adopting a school readiness assessment from the State Board of Education to the local school. In order to meet the intent of the law, schools are still required to administer a school readiness assessment and use such data to create individualized readiness plans for its kindergarten students. At this time, no charter school has applied for a waiver related to school readiness data reporting.

### *Why must charter schools report school readiness data to their school districts?*

CDE is required to produce an annual report with levels of school readiness demonstrated by students enrolled in kindergarten. *C.R.S. § 22-7-1019*. Each local education provider must cooperate with CDE in providing information for these reports. *C.R.S. § 22-7-1019*.

### *Can a charter school seek a waiver from the data reporting requirement of CAP4K?*

While CDE encourages charter schools to report school readiness data to their school districts, charter schools are permitted to request a waiver from the data reporting so long as the waiver request follows the applicable waiver procedure, which includes 1) submission of waiver requests to the charter school’s authorizer for approval by the authorizer’s board, 2) submission of an updated and signed charter contract (with waivers) to the Schools of Choice Unit, and 3) approval of the waiver request by the State Board of Education.

### *Who should I contact at CDE for assistance with this topic?*

For assistance related to school readiness, please contact Emily Kielmeyer in CDE’s Office of Early Learning and School Readiness at (720) 822-0640 or [Kielmeyer\\_E@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Kielmeyer_E@cde.state.co.us).

For assistance related to charter schools, please contact Brian Martin in CDE’s Schools of Choice Unit at (303) 866-6897 or [Martin\\_B@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Martin_B@cde.state.co.us).