

Kindergarten School Readiness State Board of Education Approved Assessments, 2023-2029

Request for Submission:

Part I – [Letter of Intent to Apply](#)

Letters of Intent to Apply are due by September 15, 2022, by 4:00pm MT

Background & Purpose

Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids

S.B. 08-212 was passed by the Colorado General Assembly in 2008. Known as Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K), the law called for an alignment of the preschool through postsecondary education system to enable Colorado students to graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in college and careers. CAP4K requires the regular review of Colorado's preschool through high school student learning standards, an aligned state assessment system, and expectations for postsecondary and workforce readiness for all Colorado high school graduates.

CAP4K includes an emphasis on kindergarten school readiness, calling for the State Board of Education to adopt a definition and for local education providers to annually measure school readiness at the beginning of kindergarten. Specifically, CAP4K requires the State Board of Education to: (1) define school readiness; (2) adopt assessments appropriate for determining students' levels of school readiness; and (3) adopt a system for reporting population-level results. Kindergarten school readiness assessments are to be research-based, reliable instruments of measuring school readiness and provide data to determine instruction and interventions to improve each individual child's school readiness.

Colorado's Commitment to Early Literacy

Colorado maintains a commitment to literacy development by ensuring all kindergarten assessments that address reading are aligned to the Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (READ Act), passed by the Colorado legislature in 2012. This legislation focuses on literacy development for all students in kindergarten through third grade, and especially for students at risk to not read at grade level by the end of the third grade. Like CAP4K, the READ Act asserts that students succeed in school if they have the foundational skills necessary for academic success. These skills include social skills, executive function skills, and other domains of readiness, and also must include foundational literacy skills grounded in the research on early reading ([Read the READ Act](#)). Ensuring assessments in kindergarten adhere to the Colorado READ Act advances the work of creating an aligned system of assessment as set forth in the CAP4K and further supports local education providers in establishing and refining cohesive assessment systems to monitor the growth and progress of all students.

Purpose of Kindergarten School Readiness Assessments

The purpose of the kindergarten school readiness assessments is to determine the instruction and interventions students need to improve their readiness to succeed in school. Assessment of school readiness is to include physical well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, language and comprehension development, cognition, mathematics, and literacy.

Letter of Intent & Review of Assessments

The purpose of this Letter of Intent to Apply is to solicit interest from assessment vendors seeking inclusion on the Kindergarten School Readiness Colorado State Board of Education Approved List of Assessments (Approved List of Assessments), pursuant to C.R.S. 22-7-1004. For this review period, vendors may apply to seek inclusion of an assessment which assesses multiple domains of learning and development but must assess at minimum one domain. Vendors must submit this Letter of Intent to receive an application for the entire review process.

A submitted Letter of Intent does not obligate the vendor to apply. Additionally, this Letter of Intent does not guarantee a full review as reviews will be subject to meet the criteria outlined in the application, to be released October 21, 2022. This is not a competitive process and will be used to provide a list of approved assessments for Colorado school districts.

The approved list of assessments will be available to Colorado schools and school districts via the [Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\) website](#). Inclusion on the approved list of assessments does not include a provision for the expenditure of state funds to providers on the list, and there is no guarantee that providers will be selected by schools/districts. The CDE may revise its criteria over time.

ALL VENDORS CURRENTLY ON THE KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL READINESS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED LIST OF ASSESSMENTS MUST REAPPLY

Process & Timeline

The CDE has contracted with an outside entity to complete the full review. CDE will support the application process with the expected technical review to be completed outside of CDE. Inclusion on the approved list of assessments follows these steps:

- Part I – Letter of Intent to Apply
- Part II – Assessment Review
- Appeal Window
- Submission to the State Board of Education for approval
- Approved List of Kindergarten School Readiness Assessments Posted on Website

Completion of *Part I – Letter of Intent to Apply* does not guarantee a vendor will be approved. Vendors meeting *Part I - Letter of Intent to Apply* must still complete the *Assessment Review* and be approved before

final inclusion in the approved list of assessments. Assessments that meet the *Letter of Intent to Apply* criteria will receive the *Assessment Review* application by email from CDE.

KSR Assessment Review Timeline	
August 19, 2022	Notification of Letter of Intent to Apply
September 15, 2022	Letters of Intent to Apply due to CDE by 4:00 PM MT
September 16 - 30, 2022	CDE review of <i>Letter of Intent to Apply</i>
October 21, 2022	Vendor notification <i>Letter of Intent to Apply</i> decision. Applications are distributed to eligible vendors for <i>Assessment Review</i> .
October 21, 2022 – November 10, 2022	Application window for assessment review, for invited vendors.

Please note: The timeline for review and approval of assessments may be extended or changed if unforeseen circumstances arise during the review period.

Submission of Letter of Intent to Apply

All *Letters of Intent to Apply* must be [submitted electronically](#). Submission of materials either in hard copy or via email will not be accepted. Please prepare to provide information on the following ahead of your submission as the form will not save ongoing progress:

- Product title, publisher, edition, and webpages
- Submission contact person name, email, telephone, and mailing address
- Basic assessment specific information, including:
 - Assessment domain and content specifics
 - Information on assessment languages
 - Assessment format and purpose

As part of the submission, vendors will be asked to digitally sign to verify understanding of the following assessment requirements:

1. Verification of understanding that all assessments on the kindergarten school readiness approved list of assessments must research-based, reliable, and valid instruments.

Assessments included on the approved list of assessments must be research-based, valid, and reliable instruments of measuring student knowledge and skills. This must include demonstrated ability to measure the growth of all students, including culturally and linguistically diverse students and students with disabilities. If an assessment does not have strong psychometric properties, it will not be approved.

2. Verification of understanding that all assessments on the kindergarten school readiness approved list of assessments for the literacy domain must have scientifically- and evidence-based literacy components.

Assessments included on the approved list of assessments must be scientifically- and evidence-based to address early literacy skills. If an assessment is aligned to curriculum or promotes practices that are not aligned to the early reading research, it will not be approved.

3. **Verification that all materials must be submitted digitally or in an online format for the *Assessment Review application*.**

Only electronic versions of the completed application and materials will be accepted. The electronic submission must be submitted in PDF form. Any materials submitted must be either available online or submitted as a PDF. Hard copies of materials cannot be accepted and will not, under any circumstances, be reviewed.

All *Letter of Intent to Apply* submissions must be received by September 15, 2022, at 4:00 PM MT.

[Submit the *Letter of Intent to Apply* through the electronic form](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/22f69c5fe5c34417b95917953eaad6f6)

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For questions, please contact rogers_m@cde.state.co.us.