

Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS)

Fast Facts

Overview

WaKIDS is unique among kindergarten entry assessments around the nation. WaKIDS involves the people who know the child best: parents, early learning providers and kindergarten teachers. WaKIDS has been reviewed and evaluated to ensure it is culturally responsive and focuses on child development across several domains. WaKIDS includes three parts:

1. **Whole child assessment.**

WaKIDS gathers information on a child's skills, abilities and areas for growth. When compiled, it provides data on all the Essential Domains of School Readiness of entering kindergartners. OSPI is compiling this school readiness data and will be reported to Washington's P-20 Longitudinal Data System.



2. **Family connection.** Kindergarten teachers meet with families at or before the beginning of the school year in a one-on-one or small group conversation where families share information with teachers about a child's individual strengths and challenges and to set expectations for the school year.
3. **Early learning collaboration.** Collaboration between early learning providers and kindergarten teachers improves information-sharing and smooth the transition of students from early learning environments to kindergarten. Early learning providers have valuable information to share with kindergarten teachers about children's learning and how entering kindergartners function in peer group settings.

Why is WaKIDS important?

WaKIDS provides information about where children are in their development—cognitively, linguistically, physically and socially/emotionally. WaKIDS supports school readiness by:

- Informing K-12 instruction.
- Aligning programs and practices of early learning professionals and kindergarten teachers.
- Involving families as partners in their children's education.
- Providing data to inform state and local policy.

Next steps

WaKIDS was piloted and evaluated during the 2010-11 school year with about 3,000 incoming kindergartners. In 2011-12, 11,000 incoming kindergartners in 165 schools participated in WaKIDS. The state is moving forward with a rolling implementation of WaKIDS and will reach all incoming kindergartners by the 2014-15 school year. OSPI and DEL partner to administer WaKIDS.

More information

WaKIDS:
www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS

Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge:
www.del.wa.gov/government/racetotop

DEL on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/WA_del



Washington
WaKIDS



Washington State Department of
Early Learning