

Statewide Kindergarten Readiness

Senate Bill 08-212, Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K), passed in 2008 with the goal of aligning Colorado's preschool through postsecondary education system. The act included provisions related to school readiness for both the State Board of Education and local education providers.

School Readiness

School readiness describes the status and ongoing progress a child makes within the domains of physical well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, language and comprehension development, and cognition and general knowledge. By monitoring each child's progress across multiple domains, teachers, parents, schools, and caregivers can provide needed support to ensure each child's success in school. Information gathered from school readiness assessments is to be used for supportive and instructional purposes and cannot be used to deny a student admission or progression to kindergarten or first grade.

Individual School Readiness Plans

CAP4K indicates that local education providers are required to ensure all children in publicly-funded preschool or kindergarten receive an individual school readiness plan. The legislation does not specify the contents of school readiness plans except that the plans be informed by the school readiness assessment. The Department of Education recommends that school readiness plans be considered as living documents, documenting the progress children are making across the developmental and academic domains. To assist districts with developing these plans, the department will be making available sample school readiness plan templates that districts may adapt and use as desired. The Department of Education is advising districts to phase-in school readiness plans in either the 2013-14 or 2014-15 school year to coincide with implementation of school readiness assessments.

School Readiness Assessments

In approving school readiness assessments, CAP4K directs the State Board of Education to 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 their readiness to succeed in school. In December 2012, the State Board of Education voted to offer districts a menu of school readiness assessments. The first approved assessment tool for the menu is Teaching Strategies GOLD. Pending positive technical reports and final review, the State Board will approve additional school readiness assessment tools for the menu.

School District School Readiness Requirements

- Beginning in the fall of 2013, local education providers are required to ensure all children in publicly funded preschool or kindergarten receive an individual school readiness plan.
- Local education providers must administer the school readiness assessment to each student in kindergarten.
- A phased-in implementation is planned for these assessments over the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years.
- Districts which are ready to implement TS GOLD in 2013-14 may begin doing so. This will be a time to practice use of the assessment system before full implementation is required.
- Those needing more time and are interested in accessing possible additional assessments that may be added to the approved menu in the next year can use 2013-14 to prepare for implementation in 2014-15.



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Teaching Strategies GOLD

Teaching Strategies GOLD can be used with any developmentally appropriate early childhood curriculum and is based on 38 research-based objectives that include predictors of school success and are aligned with the Common Core State Standards, state early learning guidelines, and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. These help teachers focus on what matters most for children's success.

Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

The Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Fund will provide funds to cover the initial district cost of subscriptions to Teaching Strategies GOLD for each kindergarten student. This grant will also cover some costs related to training and technical assistance provided by the Colorado Department of Education. The Colorado Department of Education's School Readiness web page provides details related to training and other resources and will be updated regularly - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolreadiness/index.asp>.

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