COLORADO
Department of Education



Kindergarten School Readiness Assessments

Purpose

As part of an aligned system of public education, school readiness assessment was recognized by the General Assembly as a critical element of aligned assessments continuing from preschool to elementary (§22-7-1002).

The purpose of the school readiness assessment is to inform:

1) classroom instruction and individual school readiness plans,
2) families of their child's progress toward school readiness, and
3) statewide policy decisions.

The Colorado State Board of Education has approved assessment tools determined to be valid, reliable, and research-based instruments to aid in meeting the assessment requirements of kindergarten school readiness (§22-7-1014). Each student is required to be assessed in physical well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, language and comprehension development, cognition, literacy, and mathematics (§22-7-1004).

Colorado's School Readiness Description

School readiness describes both the preparedness of a child to engage in and benefit from learning experiences, and the ability of a school to meet the needs of all students enrolled in publicly funded kindergarten. School readiness is enhanced when schools, families, and community service providers work collaboratively to ensure that every child is ready for higher levels of learning in academic content. *State Board of Education, 2023.*

Assessment Tools Choice

Each assessment tool on the current list of State Board of Education (SBE) approved kindergarten school readiness assessment tools meets the above criteria. Use of SBE-approved assessment tools does not require a waiver of the use of an approved assessment tool or a replacement plan. Additional information on approved tools is located at the end of this document.

Waiver of an Approved Assessment Tool

A charter school that wishes to use an assessment tool *not* on the SBE-approved list of assessment tools must create a replacement plan that addresses the assessment of each statutorily required domain. The assessment tools used to meet the requirements of kindergarten school readiness (§22-7-1014) are to:

- be research-based, valid, and reliable,
- determine beginning-of-year benchmarks or expectations by domain
- inform individual learning plans in kindergarten,
- provide aggregate data for the KSR Data Collection.

Colorado School Readiness

1) Use state board approved assessment tools, or an approved KSR assessment tool replacement plan.

2) Assess six domains of learning and development in school readiness.

3) Administer the KSR Assessment from the 1st day of school through the first 60 calendar days.

4) Provide written notice to each family regarding assessment results and individual learning plans.

5) Create Individual Learning Plans for each student who does not meet minimum requirements and whose parents request a plan.

6) Report data during the KSR data collection window, typically early October through early December. The data collection collects aggregate data on all publicly funded

Domains of Learning and Development

Within the first 60 days of school, schools administer kindergarten school readiness assessment tools to measure each student's progress toward school readiness. The required domains outlined in Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) are further defined below and on CDE's website.

Physical well-being and motor development

A child's ability to use small and large muscles to engage in learning activities and to meet his/her own needs.

Social and emotional development

A child's ability to follow limits, persist with learning tasks, make friends, and take care of his or her own needs.

Language and comprehension development

A child's ability to listen and understand, to express his/her thoughts and needs, and to engage in appropriate conversations.

Cognition

Executive function skills and approaches to learning, including a child's ability to persist, solve problems, engage, and organize information.

Math

Early math skills, including number, quantity, operations, geometry, and measurement.

Literacy*

Early literacy, including phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

**READ Act Interim assessments may be used to inform the literacy domain.*

Definitions

The following definitions guide the adoption of school readiness assessment tools that meet the criteria of valid and reliable, research-based instruments.

Research-based

A research-based assessment tool is based on practices or methods proven to be effective through research.

Reliability

Reliability means an assessment tool consistently measures the same intended skill or concept every time the assessment is given.

Validity

Validity means an assessment tool accurately measures the skill or concept it is intended to measure when given in similar situations.

It is the combination of reliability and validity working in tandem that makes assessments work. This is because when an assessment is both valid and reliable, one can assume the assessment not only accurately measures what it intends to measure (validity), but does so consistently over time (reliability).

Assessment tools will have a technical study reporting the reliability and validity of the assessment tool.

Additional Resources

- School Readiness in Kindergarten
- Kindergarten School Readiness Implementation Guide

For more information, contact Megan Prior Rogers.

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

The current Kindergarten School Readiness Assessment tools approved by the Colorado State Board of Education are online. However, the assessment tools are also listed below for convenience. Tools that assess all required domains are listed first, followed by the approved tools that assess specific domains, but not all domains. *Each statutorily required domain is to be assessed and reported.*
For more information and a comparison of each of the tools, download the Approved Kindergarten School Readiness Assessments Spreadsheet (XLXS). To support tool selection, all information submitted by each vendor during the KSR Assessment Review (2022-2023) can be accessed in an online folder. This includes vendor statements, cost sheets, technical evaluation summaries, and correspondence to the end of Preschool and end of Kindergarten Colorado Academic Standards from each vendor.

Tools Assessing all Required Domains

COR for Kindergarten, by HighScope Educational Research Foundation
Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP-K), by WestEd
DIAL-4 Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning, by NCS Pearson, Inc.
GOLD®, by Teaching Strategies
North Carolina Kindergarten Entry Assessment, as submitted by Jefferson County School District

Tool Assessing Physical Well-being and Motor Development, Social-emotional, Language and Comprehension

Brigance Early Childhood Screens III, by Curriculum Associates, LLC*

Additional Tools Assessing Social and Emotional Development

FastBridge SAEBRS, by Renaissance Learning, Inc.*

Additional Tools Assessing Math

Acadience Math K-6, by Acadience Learning Inc. /Voyager Sopris Learning*
FastBridge earlyMath, by Renaissance Learning, Inc.*
Istation's Indicators of Progress (ISIP), by Imagination Station, Inc.*

Additional Tools Assessing Literacy

FastBridge earlyReading, by Renaissance Learning, Inc.*

**Vendor also has an approved interim reading assessment.*

Flexibility in Assessing Literacy

If an interim reading assessment pursuant to §22-7-1205 (1)(a.5) is administered within the first sixty days of the school year, the district is not required to administer the literacy component of the school readiness assessment.
READ Act Approved Interim Assessments.

For more information on the SBE-approved interim reading assessments, visit the READ Act Approved Assessment website. For a comparison of the approved assessments, download the Approved READ Act Assessments Spreadsheet (XLXS).