



Participation or Exemption Guidance for Children with Special Needs

The KIDS instrument is an observational tool designed to improve understanding of children’s development in key areas of learning for long-term success, including social and emotional learning, language and literacy, mathematics, and approaches to learning. KIDS is not a “test,” but is a set of **documented teacher observations** of students’ demonstration of developmental skills and interactions. Below is some broad guidance for situations in which a specific child may be considered for exemption from participation in part or all of the KIDS Observational Assessment.

All kindergarten students would be categorized into one of the following groups, regarding participation in the KIDS assessment:

- Participate in the KIDS assessment without accommodations;
- Participate in the KIDS assessment with accommodations;
- Participate in some measures or developmental areas of the KIDS assessment with or without accommodations (e.g., complete one or two, but not all developmental areas);
- No participation in any measures or developmental areas of the KIDS assessment.

Under what circumstances would a child be eligible for an exemption from participation in KIDS based on an Individualized Education Program (IEP)?

KIDS is observation-based (not a “paper-and-pencil test”), so teachers will be able to issue ratings for most children on at least **some** of the 14 state-required measures. Exempt status for the KIDS assessment is intended for students with *the most significant disabilities*. These students have functioning in all developmental areas well below average, typically associated with functioning levels below 24 months of age. The inclusion of the words “typically associated with” allows for some district/school flexibility and helps to distinguish between students with disabilities and students with the *most significant disabilities*. These students can be assessed in one or two developmental areas if functioning in specific area is less than 24 months.

Using the guidance of “functioning levels well below 24 months of age,” most students with disabilities will not qualify to be exempt from participating in the KIDS assessment. Teachers must observe and assess those students using KIDS with or without accommodations.

Students exempt from taking the KIDS assessment may be identified under a variety of education categories, including, but not limited to, cognitive disabilities, autism, multiple disabilities, and developmental delay.



Which kindergarten students would NOT be eligible for exemption from the KIDS assessment?

Students who are functioning above 24 months in any subset area must take that subset.

Developmental Area (Subset) 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATL-REG 1- Curiosity and Initiative in Learning • ATL-REG 2- Self-Control of Feelings and Behavior • ATL-REG 3 - Engagement and Persistence • SED 3 - Relationships and Social Interactions with Familiar Adults • SED 4 - Relationships and Social Interactions with Peers
Developmental Area (Subset) 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COG: MATH 1 - Classification • COG: MATH 2 - Number Sense of Quantity • COG: MATH 3 - Number Sense of Math Operations • COG: MATH 6 - Shapes
Developmental Area (Subset) 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLD 3 - Communication and Use of Language (Expressive) • LLD 4 - Reciprocal Communication and Conversation • LLD 6 - Comprehension of Age-Appropriate Text • LLD 8 - Phonological Awareness • LLD 9 - Letter and Word Knowledge

Below is the portion of the IEP Forms-Assessment Page that relates to the KIDS Observational Assessment. This section would need to be completed appropriately for each child with an IEP.

6. Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS)

- Participate in KIDS with no accommodation(s).
 - Which Developmental Area(s)/Subsets? __1__2__3
- Participate in KIDS with accommodation(s). (Complete the KIDS Participation Guidelines and attach).
 - Which Developmental Area(s)/Subsets? __1__2__3
- The KIDS assessment is not appropriate.

KIDS Accommodations Form

Accommodation	Yes	No
Communication Devices (low tech or high tech)		
Braille		
Enlarged Pictures/Print		
FM System		
Adapted Writing Utensils		
Adapted Scissors		



Which teacher has the responsibility of entering children's ratings into KIDStech?

(This information is applicable to all situations in which children have both a home school and a serving school, including special education co-ops and Illinois Schools for the Deaf and Blind, classrooms for children with emotional disturbance or behavioral conditions, etc.)

Children are attached to a teacher via the Student Information System (SIS) in KIDStech, so a child with both a general education teacher and a special education teacher would show up on the roster of the general education teacher. If a child is not attached to a serving school teacher through SIS but spends a significant part of the day with that teacher, it is recommended that teachers in the cooperative/serving schools assist the home school teachers in assigning ratings by gathering observational evidence through daily activities in the first 40 days of student attendance. That evidence (notes, conversations, pictures, child work samples, etc.) should then be provided to the home school teacher, who will then review all documented evidence and assign and enter the developmental ratings into KIDStech for each kindergarten student.

- Enrolled students are listed on the home school's SIS roster; therefore, when the teacher from the home school log into her KIDStech account, those students will be included in their class listing. Serving schools would play a major role in gathering evidence in support of a specific developmental rating in each subset or measure. That information would then be forwarded to the home school for home school teachers to use when entering ratings into KIDStech. Serving schools would follow home school's 40th day of data entry guidelines.
- KIDStech information is based on SIS class assignments. It is not possible for nonpublic school teacher/teachers to have their own account in KIDStech to enter data on the kindergarten children that they are serving because they will not have access to those children. Home schools are responsible for those students and will need to report KIDS ratings on those students. In some cases, servicing schools rather than home schools assign the course code, but the home schools have the ultimate responsibility for students listed on their SIS account.