



OVERVIEW for Administrators & Teachers

Kindergarten Readiness is Key

Evidence suggests that a young child's development in key domains — including social and emotional learning, language and literacy, mathematics, and approaches to learning — correlates to long-term education outcomes. Understanding individual children's readiness when they arrive at kindergarten allows educators and families to employ a strengths-based approach, building from what children know and can do. The Kindergarten Individuals Development Survey (KIDS) is an observational tool designed to help teachers, administrators, families, and policymakers better understand the developmental readiness of children entering kindergarten.

KIDS is at the core of the Illinois State Board of Education's goal that every child in Illinois deserves to attend a school wherein all kindergartners are assessed for readiness. KIDS will be used statewide starting in fall 2017, and it is validated, informed by research, and aligned with state standards. KIDS focuses on the knowledge, skills, and behaviors across four key domains that most impact long-term student success. The domains are Approaches to Learning and Self-Regulation; Social and Emotional Development; Language and Literacy Development; Cognition: Math.

A Comprehensive Picture Will Help All Students Succeed

KIDS will provide a single, statewide picture of kindergarten readiness among all students. To date, educators and policymakers have had limited information on how students are developing prior to third grade. KIDS creates common language among the state's 8,300 kindergarten teachers regarding the skills, knowledge, and behaviors that best support learning in children's early school years.

A more comprehensive picture of kindergarten readiness will help teachers better understand each student's development, help families understand their child's development needs, and help school administrators and the State Board of Education develop strategies that will allow all Illinois children to thrive. Aggregate KIDS data also can inform advocates and community stakeholders about areas of greatest student need and policymakers of how best to align resources to most efficiently serve families and children in the years prior to kindergarten and formal schooling.

HOW KIDS WORKS

- All kindergarten teachers will use the KIDS tool beginning in fall 2017 to observe students on 14 measures in four domains within the first 40 days of school.
- Child interactions will be observed and work samples will be collected during routine classroom activities throughout the school day.
- Teachers will use the observations to place each child's abilities on the KIDS' developmental continuums and enter the information in KIDStech, a secure online system.
- Developmental levels for 14 measures will be entered into KIDStech once per year statewide, and districts have the option to collect additional measures and/or additional administrations. Many pilot districts have chosen to extend the use of KIDS because the teachers found the information about their students to be critical to their instructional decision making.

Visit isbe.net/KIDS

Download tools, implementation resources, and information for families (including translated versions)