OVERVIEW for Kindergarten Families

Kindergarten Readiness is Key
A young child’s knowledge in areas such as language and literacy, mathematics, and social and emotional learning, and development of skills such as curiosity, creativity, and perseverance can better prepare the child for success in school. Understanding the individual strengths, challenges, and dispositions of students at the beginning of kindergarten allows educators and families to take an approach that builds on what children already know and can do. The Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) helps teachers better understand their children and that helps them improve their teaching. A strong experience in kindergarten builds a foundation for a child to learn and grow all through school.

KIDS Helps Teachers, Kids & Families
KIDS helps teachers understand the abilities and behaviors they observe in children who have just begun kindergarten. KIDS focuses on the skills and competencies that are very important for a child’s long-term success. Information from KIDS also can help families learn more about what their child is learning in kindergarten and what they can do at home to continue to support their child’s healthy growth and development.

Illinois school districts previously have used a variety of methods to understand how children are doing after they enter kindergarten. As a result, educators and policymakers did not have a full picture of how all Illinois students are doing until third grade, making it difficult to determine if every child had appropriate support prior to entering kindergarten.

KIDS will be implemented statewide beginning in the 2017-18 school year so that for the first time ever Illinois will have a single, statewide picture of kindergarten readiness among all students, no matter their ZIP code. This will promote collaboration across grade levels, helping districts to smooth the transition for families and children from preschool and child care into kindergarten.

Combined information from KIDS will go to the State Board of Education so it can inform advocates and policymakers of how best to align resources to most efficiently serve families and children.

For More Information
Talk to your child’s kindergarten teacher or check out the resources on www.isbe.net/KIDS.