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( X ) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 033-17 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents

School District Superintendents

School District Business Managers

School District Principals

School District Assessment Coordinators

School District Early Learning Coordinators

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Expanded Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developmental Skills (WaKIDS) Assessment Tool for 2017–18

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This bulletin is to inform administrators of an upcoming change for the 2017–18 school year in the assessment component of the state’s kindergarten transition process, the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS). WaKIDS uses the observational assessment known as Teaching Strategies *GOLD*.

The online assessment tool, Teaching Strategies *GOLD*, will convert to a new platform known as *MyTeachingStrategies* on July 1. The new platform will feature expanded progressions of Objectives and Dimensions that extend through 3rd grade; however, state policy requires only kindergarten teachers to use *MyTeachingStrategies* to assess their students at the beginning of the school year.

The expansion of the developmental progressions will benefit kindergarten teachers in several ways:

* Teachers can assess students with more advanced skills more precisely.
* Teachers can refer students with more advanced skills for screening to determine if they would benefit by access to accelerated learning (see [WAC 392-170-078](http://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=392-170-078)).
* Teachers opting to use the assessment tool to document student growth as part of the Teacher Principal Evaluation Program (TPEP) will have opportunities to follow students with a greater ranger of entering skills because the progressions will not stop at the kindergarten level.

Teachers new to WaKIDS will be trained on the new platform when they participate in the two-day required training, WaKIDS 101, in July–September. Teachers already trained in WaKIDS will log in using their existing *GOLD* username and password, which will bring them to the upgraded user interface. Once logged in, they will have access to a host of optional supplementary resources to help strengthen the link between assessment and instruction.

Before the end of this school year, teachers and administrators who have been using Teaching Strategies *GOLD* will be notified of the change to *MyTeachingStrategies* via email. There will be a short video on the GOLD® Dashboard of all current accounts that will explain the changes within the new system. This video and additional communication will continue to be rolled out over the summer.

All other aspects of WaKIDS remain the same. WaKIDS will continue to assess objectives in sixareas of development and learning:social-emotional, physical, language,cognitive development, literacy,and mathematics. Districts are expected to:

* Assure that kindergarten teachers new to WaKIDS attend WaKIDS 101 training, including special education teachers in self-contained classrooms with kindergarten students.
* Assure that teachers individually assess all full-day kindergarten students in their class during the assessment window. (Data entry must be completed by October 31, at 9 p.m. Pacific Time.)
* Assure that administrative procedures are addressed and followed.
* Encourage all teachers to complete Inter-rater Reliability certification.
* Determine ways to use WaKIDS data to inform and plan instruction, and provide feedback to families and early learning providers with the option to use *GOLD™* for some or all students in winter and/or spring.
* Implement all components of WaKIDS (whole child assessment, family connection, and early learning collaboration). No waiver is needed if districts elect to use up to three school days at the beginning of the year for teachers to meet individually with each student’s parents or guardians.

Detailed information about all components of WaKIDS (including WaKIDS 101 summer 2017 training dates) may be found on the WaKIDS website at About WaKIDS.

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Amber Havens, WaKIDS Assessment Coordinator at 360-725-6180 or email [amber.havens@k12.wa.us](mailto:amber.havens@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the OSPI website at [Bulletins and Memos, 2017 bulletins.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2017.aspx).

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