

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Implementation Plan

Kindergarten Readiness Definition

At the beginning of kindergarten, it is expected that children will demonstrate knowledge and skills in the areas of early literacy and early numeracy, as objectively measured by a score in the Late Emergent level with a scale score of (TBD*) or above on the state approved Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Instrument, Star Early Literacy and Numeracy.

* In accordance with nationally recognized psychometric standards, the scale score will be determined through a rigorous standard setting process in August 2014.

In the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four-Year-Old Children* (2006), an optional sample checklist is provided for each Pre-K provider to assess the objectives and competencies for each area of development three times a year. Revisions to the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four-Year-Old Children* are scheduled to be released in the fall of 2014. An optional checklist will be available for districts interested in measuring developmentally appropriate kindergarten readiness in the additional six content areas: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Science, Physical Development, Creative Expression, and Social Studies.

Star Early Literacy

As a part of the Mississippi K-3 Assessment Support System (MKAS²), the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is designed to measure how well Pre-K programs prepare four-year-olds to be ready for kindergarten based upon the [Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children](#). The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment data will provide parents, teachers, and early childhood providers with an understanding of what children know and are able to do upon entering Kindergarten. Assessment data will also be used to help improve the quality of classroom instruction and determine interventions and services that students need.

Key Domains Assessed

- **Reading Foundational Skills:** Print Concepts, Phonological Awareness, Phonics and Word Recognition, and Fluency
- **Language:** Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
- **Numbers and Operations:** Counting and Cardinality, Operations and Algebraic Thinking, and Measurement and Data

Sub-Domains Assessed

- Alphabetic Principle
- Concept of Word
- Visual Discrimination
- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Structural Analysis
- Vocabulary
- Sentence-Level Comprehension
- Paragraph-Level
- Early Numeracy

Available Reports

- **K-Instructional Planning Report** – provides the student’s scaled score, date the test was taken, and a list of suggested skills that the student should practice
- **MKAS² SEL Student Score Report** – displays the student’s scaled score along with their score in each sub-domain
- **MKAS² SEL Parent Report** – provides the student’s scaled score and gives a list of skills that parents can work on with their child at home
- **MKAS² SEL Score Summary Report** – supplies a class, grade level, or school level report showing the students’ scores
- **Student Enrollment Report** – shows all students enrolled in the MKAS² site along with their MSIS numbers
- **Participation Report** – shows test activity and which students have or have not tested

Data Collection for Pre-K and Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

- **Kindergarten and Public School Pre-K** – daily data files uploaded into MSIS for district and MDE review and reporting
- **Non-public Pre-K** – daily reports available through the MKAS² State Portal for collaboratives

Timeline for Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (MKAS² Component 2)

Dates	Activity Description
August 11 – September 19, 2014	K-Readiness Pretest/Universal Screener Window
April 9 – May 13, 2015	Pre-K and Kindergarten Post-Test Window

Planned Professional Development

Monthly District Test Coordinator Webinar Updates (Second Tuesday of each month – 9:30a)

- July 8, 2014
- August 12, 2014
- September 9, 2014
- October 14, 2014
- November 11, 2014
- December 9, 2014
- January 13, 2015
- February 10, 2015
- March 10, 2015
- April 14, 2015
- May 12, 2015
- June 9, 2015

Initial Webinar for K-3 Administrators and District Test Coordinators (July 24, 2014 – 10:00a)

- Define Kindergarten Readiness
- Navigating the MKAS² State Portal
- Assessing Kindergarten Readiness with Star Early Literacy
- Administering the Assessment
- Literacy Classification
- Accessing and Understanding Reports
- Available resources through MDE to support MKAS²
- Available resources through Renaissance Learning
- Test Security Process

Initial Webinar for Teachers in Public Schools and Collaboratives (August 8, 2014 – 10:00a)

- Define Kindergarten Readiness
- Navigating the MKAS² State Portal
- Assessing Kindergarten Readiness with Star Early Literacy
- Administering the Assessment
- Literacy Classification
- Accessing and Understanding Reports
- Available resources through MDE to support MKAS²
- Available resources through Renaissance Learning
- Test Security Process

Planned Follow-up Webinar for K-3 Administrators, District Test Coordinators, and Teachers in Public Schools and Collaboratives (October 7, 2014 – 10:00a)

- Understanding score reports
- Making decisions based on assessment results

Planned Follow-up Training for District Test Coordinators (September 3-4, 2014)

- Assessing student transfer into district
- Accessing and Understanding Reports
- Using the data to make instructional decisions

Planned Follow-up Training for District Test Coordinators (February 9-13, 2015)

- End of Year Post Test
- Reviewing Reports
- Measuring Growth

Note: All training sessions will be recorded and made available on the MDE OSA and C&I website for additional review.

Communication/Technical Assistance

Organization	Point of Contact
MDE	Public Pre-K and Kindergarten: Richard Baliko, Student Assessment (rbaliko@mde.k12.ms.us / 601.359.3052) Early Learning Collaboratives: Robin Lemonis, Curriculum & Instruction (rlemonis@mde.k12.ms.us / 601.359.2586)
School District	District Test Coordinator
School	School Test Coordinator
Renaissance Learning	Customer Support (800.338.4204)

Resources Available Through MDE Website

- [K-Readiness Pilot Test Administrator Manual](#)
- [Introduction to Computer Use](#)
- [Kindergarten Literacy Readiness Indicators](#)
- [Pre-K and Kindergarten Reading Activities](#)
- [Star Early Literacy Pretest Instructions](#)
- [K-Readiness Practice Page](#)
- [K-Readiness Webinars](#)
- [STAR Early Literacy Video](#)
- [Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children](#)

Note: To access all of the above resources, please visit www.mde.k12.ms.us/mkas2.

Renaissance Learning Resources

The following resources are available to **all** schools through the **MKAS² State Portal**.

Resource	Description
Student Score Report	Provides student's scaled score and sub-domain scores
Instructional Planning Report	Provides the student's scaled score and identifies skills to be addressed
Parent Report	Provides student's scaled score and a list of reading exercises for parents to work on with their child

The following **additional** resources are available to **Renaissance Place subscribers**.

Resource	Description
Growth Report	Includes Student Growth Percentiles and calculates the change between two test scores
Growth Proficiency Chart	Reveals relative growth that can be used to identify and transfer best practices among classrooms and schools
State Standards Report	Provides an estimated mastery range of scaled scores and understanding of each common core standard
Annual Progress Report	Monitors trends to help adjust instruction at the classroom or student level
Diagnostic Report	Displays student's scaled score and sub-domain scores