Welcome to WaKIDS
A State and Regional Partnership

Topics

- Background on WaKIDS
- PSESQ Implementation
- Early Learning Conversations
- Closing

Background/Context for WaKIDS
**WaKIDS Assessment Timeline**

- During the first 7 weeks of school, teachers have been observing and documenting each of their students on all 19 WaKIDS objectives.
- The deadline for the final checkpoint is the end of the 7th week of school. All data must be entered by October 31st.
- Reports will be available for teachers and principals immediately, generally in time to share with families at fall conferences.

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**WaKIDS Implementation**

**State-Wide Implementation:**
- 2011-2012 Pilot Year: 8,651 Kindergartners (9%)
- 2012-2013: (estimate) 22,000 Kindergartners (28%)
  - approx. 973 FDKs
  - Over 1,000 Teachers

**Puget Sound Educational Service District Implementation:**
- 2012-2013: (estimate) 5,000+ Kindergartners
  - 10 school districts
  - 77 schools w/ state funded FDK; 25 schools voluntarily participating
  - 320 teachers

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**WaKIDS Early Learning Collaboration**

Kindergarten teachers and early entering professionals share information and expertise.
Purpose of WaKIDS Assessment

The primary purposes are to help teachers:
- Observe and document children's development and learning over time;
- Support, guide, and inform planning and instruction;
- Identify children who might benefit from special help, screening, or further evaluation; and
- Report and communicate with family members and others.

Purpose of WaKIDS Assessment

The secondary purposes are to help teachers:
- Collect child outcome information as one part of a larger accountability system, and
- Provide reports to administrators to guide program planning and professional development opportunities.
- Guide conversations with early childhood education

WaKIDS vs. Other Kindergarten Assessments

- WaKIDS Whole Child Assessment with Teaching Strategies (TS) GOLD is the only state-mandated kindergarten assessment.
- A Legislative workgroup is studying the feasibility of TS GOLD replacing other district assessments. (ESHB 2586)
The Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) is a process for:

- Welcoming students and their families to kindergarten
- Assessing students' strengths
- Engaging the state in a conversation about the characteristics of children's development and learning that will enable them to be successful in school

**Three Components of WaKIDS**

- Whole Child Assessment
  - Testing literacy and numeracy awareness and readiness
- Early Learning Collaboration
  - Including families and early learning programs
- Family Connection
  - Testing home and school readiness and informing parents about their children's development

**Creating WaKIDS: Three Years and Counting**

2009-2010 Pilot of Three Assessments

- State-funded full-day kindergarten
- State of Early Learning

* SF = State-funded full-day kindergarten
** DEQ = Department of Early Learning*
Closing

• Kindergarten is a year of transition for children and families.

• WaKIDS provides a touchpoint at the beginning of year to guide the student’s educational process in elementary school.

• We are partners with you in this process.

www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS

WaKIDS Resources

PSESD and OSPI support, contact:
• Martha Taylor-Palmer, PSESD (360) 856-8555 or mtaylor-palmer@pse.wa.us for technical-assistance and curriculum assistance and regional support: https://www.pwsd.wa.us/Page/10224
• Gretchen Stolpe, OSPI (360) 725-6180 or gretchen.stolpe@k12.wa.us for questions regarding training, teacher or principal support, IBDP contact information
• Michelle Malloia (360) 725-5161 or michelle.malloia@k12.wa.us for questions regarding user names, transferring users, accessing GOLD, resetting passwords
• Kathleen Taylor (360) 725-6160 or kathleen.taylor@k12.wa.us for questions about overall implementation and data questions

Teaching Strategies GOLD technical support:
• Call 1-866-736-0913
• Hours: Monday through Thursday 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time
• E-mail: support@teachingstrategies.com with a description of your concerns and your username
Questions?

WaKIDS
Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills

For more information, see the WaKIDS website:
http://www.k12.wa.us/wakids

Want to talk to a real person? Call: Kathi Taylor, Ph.D., Director, Early Learning Assessment 360-725-8163