



OVERVIEW OF STATE KINDERGARTEN READINESS DEFINITIONS

PRESENTATION TO THE ARKANSAS KINDERGARTEN READINESS INDICATORS COMMITTEE

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Current Needs and Issues

- Early childhood educators and K-3rd grade staff do not have a common understanding of "kindergarten readiness".
- There is a need for professional development to increase awareness and understanding of the continuum of learning to support children across ages/grades and settings.
- The Kindergarten Readiness Indicators Committee has reviewed current indicators and materials, and "Association of Measures" developed.
- The purpose of the meeting is to ensure the committee has "a common understanding of what it means to be ready for kindergarten".



Critical Questions

- Do the kindergarten readiness indicators reflect current research and best practice?
- What resources help teachers and parents know what it takes to be ready for kindergarten?
- How can AR implement a coherent message to families and practitioners?
- What is needed to inform quality practice across ECE and K-3rd grade?



What is School Readiness?

- American Academy of Pediatrics “school readiness includes the readiness of the individual child, the school readiness for children, the ability of the family and community to support optimal early childhood development.”
- This definition recognizes the research indicating the role of families and the community on children’s ability to succeed in school.
- States are currently revising definitions to include new brain research and importance of “non-cognitive skills” or executive function on academic success.



History of School Readiness Indicators

- School Readiness Indicators Project (2002-2005), 17 States, built on NEGP and Educate America Act: Goals 2000
- Purpose: create measurable indicators of school readiness to improve 3rd grade reading proficiency
- “Ready Child Equation” = Ready Families + Ready Communities + Ready Schools
- Result: All states developed indicators based on research
- Challenge: Most focused on 0-5; only 2 areas of consensus on Ready Schools



“Many best practices cannot be regulated, they must be coached”

- Standards define what children should know and be able to do.
- Professional development gives teachers the skills to help children reach the standards.
- Curricula helps guide learning in the classroom.
- Formative assessments provide teachers with ongoing information to individualize and improve instruction.



Alignment of Standards, Curriculum and Assessment

- Association of Measures shows relationship of current standards, kindergarten indicators, and an assessment tool
- Very helpful tool to inform professional development and resources for families
- Further clarity may be needed on how best to ensure these tools are implemented in all settings
- Further clarity needed on language:
 - Alignment
 - Connection
 - Continuum
 - Correlation



Potential Next Steps For the AR Kindergarten Readiness Committee

- Develop a definition of school readiness?
- Revise the current kindergarten indicators?
- Develop/revise materials for parents?
- Assess professional development needs and develop new modules and resources?



Key Resources

- “Defining School Readiness: National Trends in School Readiness Definitions”, Available at <http://earlylearningtexas.org/media/10138/trends%20in%20school%20readiness%20final%2011-1.pdf>
- “Getting Ready, Findings from the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative A 17 State Partnership”, Available at <http://www.gettingready.org/matriarch/d.asp?PageID=303&PageName2=pdfhold&p=&PageName=Getting+Ready+-+Full+Report%2Epdf>
- “School Readiness”, Available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/121/4/e1008.full?sid=bd9574fb-4575-4d35-a46e-a63394e68331>
- “State Approaches to Kindergarten Readiness Assessment”, Available at <http://www.ncsl.org/documents/Educ/KindergartenAssessment.pdf>
- “State Profiles: School Readiness Indicators Lessons Learned”, Available at <http://www.gettingready.org/matriarch/d.asp?PageID=303&PageName2=pdfhold&p=&PageName=6281+PosterBookv8%2Epdf>



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