



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

June 12, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and  
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Joseph A. Martineau, Ph. D. *JAM*  
Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services

Susan K. Broman *SB*  
Deputy Superintendent, Office of Great Start

SUBJECT: Michigan Department of Education Kindergarten Entry Assessment

The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Standards and Assessment and Office of Great Start, is inviting all districts, schools, and teachers to participate in the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) Field Test this fall. Michigan's KEA is provided by Teaching Strategies, Inc.; Teach Strategies GOLD (TS GOLD) is an online, observational assessment that is completed within the first 60 days of kindergarten. TS GOLD is used to evaluate what kindergarteners know, and are able to do, upon kindergarten entry. It assesses six domains that are all predictors of future schools' success: literacy, language, mathematics, cognitive (approaches toward learning), social and emotional development, and physical development. The purpose of the assessment is to provide teachers and parents with important criterion-based information about a child's learning and development so that teachers can inform individual instruction and parents can provide learning opportunities beyond the school day.

After the completion of the KEA Fall 2013 Pilot Study, we used the information gathered from the teachers and administrators who participated to customize the assessment for Michigan. These customizations will greatly reduce the amount of time it takes to administer the assessment. Customizations for the field test include:

- reducing the number of items from 51 to 40;

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT  
DANIEL VARNER – SECRETARY • RICHARD ZEILE – TREASURER  
MICHELLE FECTEAU – NASBE DELEGATE • LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY  
KATHLEEN N. STRAUS • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

- using TS GOLD's new Survey Tool that reduces assessment administration time;
- encouraging teachers to complete the assessment as quickly as possible so that assessment results are unaffected by kindergarten instruction;
- adopting a "once and done" versus "multiple observations" stance for those items that allow for one observation only;
- improving the TS GOLD application capabilities; and
- delivering all KEA professional development on-line (participants can earn 15 SCECHs).

The results of the field test and information gained from working with other states that are also implementing KEAs will provide us with useful information for further improvements to the TS GOLD assessment system for statewide implementation Fall 2015. More importantly, districts, schools, and teachers that participate will gain useful information by using TS GOLD's robust reporting system to generate individual, class, school, and district reports that clearly show how each student is progressing and what interventions, if any, are needed to keep every student on the path toward success in school and life.

To register for the KEA field test, please visit the KEA webpage: [www.michigan.gov/kea](http://www.michigan.gov/kea) and select the link titled REGISTER NOW! FOR THE FALL 2014 KEA FIELD TEST. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Beal at [bealj1@michigan.gov](mailto:bealj1@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance