



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
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MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

June 27, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Directors, Elementary School Principals, and District Assessment Coordinators

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

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

SUBJECT: Kindergarten Entry Assessment Update

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce that it has selected Teaching Strategies GOLD online as its new Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA). This selection followed a review plan that included stakeholder involvement in showcase demonstrations of existing assessments by other states and vendors, issuance of a Request for Proposals, and a thorough review of each proposal received.

Teaching Strategies Gold online is an authentic observational system for assessing children in the first 45 days of kindergarten. The KEA will provide teachers and parents with important criterion-based information about a child's learning and development in five domains at the beginning of kindergarten so that teachers can inform individual instruction and parents can provide learning opportunities beyond the school day. The domains assessed include: a) mathematics, b) literacy and language, c) cognitive development (approaches toward learning), d) social and emotional development, and e) physical well-being and motor development. For more information about Teaching Strategies GOLD online, visit their website at <http://www.teachingstrategies.com/page/GOLD-assessment-online.cfm>.

Now that we have selected a KEA, the MDE will begin the extensive process of working with Teaching Strategies, Inc. to make any revisions needed to ensure alignment and integration. MDE is currently planning a fall 2013 pilot of the KEA. This pilot project will include professional development on assessment administration and online data collection, as well as on use of the results to inform

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
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instruction and services. All kindergarten teachers are invited to apply to participate. The information needed to learn more about and to sign up for the pilot is located on the following webpage: http://michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_65339---,00.html.

Following the fall 2013 pilot, MDE will review the outcomes of the pilot and revise the assessment as necessary, and the following school year will implement a larger field test including significantly more teachers and districts than the initial pilot. The MDE, working in conjunction with early childhood stakeholders across Michigan, will ensure a Kindergarten Entry Assessment that provides Michigan with critical developmental information about our students as they begin their k-12 educational experience.

If you have any questions at this time regarding the Kindergarten Entry Assessment, please contact the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability at BAA@Michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance