

## Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Frequently Asked Questions (5/1/2018)

**1) Is participation in the MKEO voluntary?**

- a. [PA108](#) requires the MKEO be conducted in all kindergarten classrooms.

**2) Do public charter schools have to participate?**

- a. Yes. As public school districts, charter school kindergarten programs will participate.

**3) Should Developmental Kindergarten or Young 5s classrooms participate?**

- a. Yes. Michigan defines DK or Young 5 programs as kindergarten. The MKEO will also gather readiness data on children participating in these classrooms as a cohort.

**4) Is the KRA tool the same tool that was piloted in Michigan as part of the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)?**

- a. No. The KEA was implemented with the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment tool. That tool was a completely different tool than the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). The KRA was developed by the Maryland and Ohio Departments of Education utilizing federal Race to the Top (RTTT) funds. The KRA tool has been heavily researched and implemented with every kindergarten classroom in both Maryland and Ohio. The 2016 Michigan pilot study included a number of kindergarten teachers who had previously utilized the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment as part of the KEA pilot prior to administering the KRA tool with students. Those teachers provided very positive feedback on the KRA tool.

**5) Should schools and districts replace other kindergarten assessments with the KRA tool?**

- a. Yes. The KRA tool provides entry level data on students in multiple domains: Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Social Foundations, and Physical Wellbeing and Motor Development. Administration of the assessment will be significantly improved if teachers do not have to duplicate data collection for multiple assessment tools.

**6) Is the KRA tool approved to be implemented as an initial assessment to meet the requirements of Michigan's third grade reading law?**

- a. Yes. [PA108](#) specifically approves the language and literacy domain of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment tool for use by districts as a universal assessment to assist with identifying any possible area of concern for a student in English language arts. Ohio has a similar third grade reading law to Michigan, and that state has incorporated the KRA language and literacy domain as a universal screening tool for all incoming kindergarten students.

**7) Who will train local kindergarten teachers?**

For districts participating in the fall 2018 implementation, ISD and district level trainers will be trained in the spring of 2018 (and spring 2019, 2020) at day-long, regionally hosted trainings. Local trainers will then be available to schedule and conduct local teacher trainings throughout the summer, or before the beginning of the school year (August/September).

**8) Can the data be utilized to assess teacher performance?**

- a. No. The KRA assessment tool was not designed or validated to be an assessment of teacher performance. In addition, the assessment is administered once at the beginning of the kindergarten instruction period. It would be highly inappropriate for districts to utilize the student data to evaluate teacher performance.

**9) Can the KRA be administered to students prior to the start of kindergarten?**

- a. No. Significant parts of the KRA assessment are observational. Teachers administer the assessment over time as part of their daily classroom routine. Unlike some other single domain assessments, the KRA is not designed or validated to be administered individually to students in one or two dedicated sessions.

**10) Why isn't the KRA administered with students at the end of GSRP?**

- a. The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is not universally available to all children in Michigan. Many incoming kindergarten students have participated in other prekindergarten programs such as Head Start or private tuition-based programs. In addition, a significant number of Michigan children do not attend any formal pre-kindergarten program. Kindergarten is the first opportunity to collect baseline developmental data on all Michigan students.

**11) Is there any legislated penalty or state aid reduction for a local school district that chooses not to administer the MKEO assessment??**

Section 104 of Public Act 108 of 2017 (PA108) authorizes the phased in implementation of the Michigan Kindergarten Entry Observation (MKEO) beginning in the fall of 2018. Section 104 states: "The Michigan Kindergarten Entry Observation shall be conducted in all Kindergarten classrooms in districts located in prosperity regions 4, 5, and 9 in the 2017-2018 school year." This section of PA108 does not explicitly prescribe any specific penalties on local districts that choose not to administer the assessment within their kindergarten programs as required by the Act. However, the following provision within the State School Aid Act of 1979 applies to school officials choosing not to implement elements of the Act. Section 161, MCL 388.1761 states: "A school official or member of a board or other person who neglects or refuses to do or perform an act required by this act or who violates or knowingly permits or consents to the violation of this act is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$1500.00, or both. This penalty is in addition to all other financial penalties otherwise specified in this article."

For questions on this FAQ- Contact WISD Administration, Dr. Scott Menzel or Alan Oman 734-994-8100.