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Washington
WaKIDS

Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills



What is WaKIDS?

The Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) is a process for welcoming students and their families to kindergarten and assessing students' strengths. It also will help our state better understand the role early childhood development plays in a child's overall education.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Department of Early Learning work together to oversee WaKIDS. Private partners include Thrive by Five and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

How does WaKIDS help kids?

Each year, 80,000 children enter kindergarten with a varying degree of skills. To teach all of those children, teachers need to find out what their new students already know and what they need to learn.

WaKIDS gives teachers the tools to reach that goal. And it provides a more formal process for sharing information, so children receive the support they need to be successful in school.

How does WaKIDS work?

WaKIDS has three components:

1. Family Connection — Before the school year starts, or shortly after, families are welcomed to school to talk about their child's strengths and needs with the kindergarten teacher. Getting to know each student and his/her family will let the teacher talk about the important role that families play in their child's learning.

- 2. "Whole-Child" Assessment** — Within the first seven weeks of the school year, teachers will watch and record each child's developing skills in six areas: social-emotional, physical, cognitive, language, literacy and mathematics. The information gathered from observing students will help teachers tailor their instruction to the needs of each child.
- 3. Early Learning Collaboration** — Kindergarten teachers and early learning professionals will share information and experiences.

Who participates in WaKIDS?

In the 2012–13 school year, WaKIDS reached 21,811 kindergartners. Most of these students are in state-funded, full-day kindergartens, which are required to implement WaKIDS. Washington has 295 school districts; 102 of them have schools that participated in WaKIDS this year.

Will kindergarten entry requirements change?

Entry requirements will stay the same: All children who have had their 5th birthday by August 31 may enter kindergarten. WaKIDS is *not* a screening tool to determine whether a child may enter kindergarten.

For more information



WaKIDS

bit.ly/15xSs9F

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is the primary agency charged with overseeing K–12 education in Washington state. Led by State School Superintendent **Randy Dorn**, OSPI works with the state's 295 school districts to administer basic education programs and implement education reform on behalf of more than one million public school students. www.k12.wa.us

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