



Washington
Kindergarten Inventory
of Developing Skills



PRINCIPAL SERIES 3 Whole-Child Assessment

WaKIDS uses an observational, whole-child assessment tool called *GOLD™* by Teaching Strategies®. *GOLD™* helps teachers measure student knowledge, skills and behaviors that have been shown to predict future school success. This customized version of *GOLD™* includes six areas of development and learning: social and emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development; literacy and mathematics.

How do teachers assess students?

In an observational assessment, teachers watch their students participate in routine classroom activities and document their strengths.

You may see your teachers:

- Taking notes on post-its, clipboards or tablets as they watch students complete a project or task, or engage in small group learning activities.
- Videotaping students' conversations as they approach a task together.
- Saving a sample (or photo) of a student's work in a portfolio.

Teachers gather and document evidence of students' development to evaluate each objective or dimension. ***Teachers can assess more than one student and objective at a time.***

What can principals do?

- **Encourage all experienced WaKIDS teachers to review the WaKIDS objectives.** Teachers can find the list of objectives/dimensions at www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS/Assessment.
- **Ask teachers how they use WaKIDS data for instruction.** Teachers shouldn't wait until after October 31 to act on what they learn about students' strengths.
- **Reassure teachers they do not need to delay instruction.** Students will continue to learn and develop during the WaKIDS assessment period.
- **Encourage teachers to complete their Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR) Certification:**
 - In 2015, almost 84% of WaKIDS teachers had earned their IRR certification.
 - WaKIDS 101 training includes time to complete the certificate.

- **Delay or eliminate other assessments until after October 31.**
- **Work with your teachers to ensure all assessment data are entered into the *GOLD™* online system before 9 pm on October 31.** Your District Assessment Coordinator or ESD WaKIDS Coordinator can help you find and use *GOLD™*'s Assessment Status Report to follow teachers' data collection progress.
- **Consider ways your school can share individual student data with families.** 49% of the principals who responded to the 2014 feedback survey shared results with families.
- **Consider ways your school can share school/district data with early learning providers.** Only 11% of principals who responded to the 2014 feedback survey said they planned to share WaKIDS data with local early learning providers. See Principal Series #5 for suggestions on collaboration.

Key Dates

JUNE–SEPTEMBER

Training dates for teachers,
www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS/Events

OCTOBER 31, BY 9 PM

Teachers finalize their evaluations of children in the *GOLD™* system

LATE FALL

ESDs offer teacher/principal workshops to learn how to use *GOLD™* reports,
www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS

JANUARY

WaKIDS data released on State Report Card,
reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us

How does WaKIDS compare to other state assessments?

WaKIDS <i>GOLD™</i> by Teaching Strategies®	Other State Assessments (like Smarter Balanced, MSP - Science)
Measures development and learning evident at beginning of school year	Measure knowledge and skills evident at end of school year
Is observational	Are multiple-choice and constructed response; can be computer-adaptive
Assesses whole child	Assess knowledge and skills in specific academic content areas
Is conducted while children are engaged in curriculum-embedded learning activities	Are conducted as a separate testing activity
Is not a screening tool; additional evidence needed to identify students who might benefit from referrals	Are not screening tools; additional evidence needed to identify students who might benefit from referrals
Is ongoing; evidence collected over multiple points of time	Measure a single point in time
Uses formative data to inform instruction at the moment collected	<i>Not applicable</i>
Reports summative data after teachers finish uploading it	Report summative data weeks after students finish testing

Password to *GOLD™* All principals are assigned a username and password to *GOLD™*, and are given administrative privileges. If you have questions or do not receive your username in an email from implementation@teachingstrategies.com by the beginning of the school year, please contact WaKIDS@k12.wa.us.

We look forward to hearing your challenges and success stories, and hope you will share them with your colleagues!

Note: This document is one of several support materials available to deepen principals' understanding of WaKIDS and support best practices. Additional materials are available at www.k12.wa.us/wakids.

Contact Information

www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS

Main Number: 360-725-6161

Nancee Alvord, Professional Development Coordinator
nancee.alvord@k12.wa.us

Educational Service District WaKIDS Coordinators
www.k12.wa.us/wakids/ESD-Coordinators.aspx

***GOLD™* by Teaching Strategies® research:** bit.ly/1aHTu6u

***GOLD™* technical assistance:**
WaKIDS@teachingstrategies.com

- Support your kindergarten teachers
- in the implementation phase
- and it will pay great rewards
- later! The time is worth it and we
- know so much more about our
- kindergartners than we ever did!
-
- — Kay Gallo, Principal,
- Crestwood Elementary School,
- Sumner School District
-