

## **Benefits for the Districts, Schools, and Teachers from Participating in the Kindergarten Entry Assessment Fall 2014 Field Test**

1. You will be able to generate aggregated and disaggregated reports about what your students know and are able to do in the five domains assessed: social and emotional development, approaches toward learning, language and literacy, mathematics, and physical well-being and motor development. You can generate the reports as soon as the test window is completed. You can use the information immediately to inform individual instruction, and you can provide parents/caregivers with the information so that they can provide more targeted learning opportunities beyond the school day.

Possible ways to use the information gathered:

- Create a parent/caregiver report that identifies what skills their child can do independently, what skills their child is working on, and what activities (with detailed directions) a parent/caregiver can provide that will increase their child's learning trajectory.
  - Generate individual child reports that you can use to individualize instruction using a comprehensive Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS). The system has the capability to progress monitor student learning.
  - Create classroom level reports that you can use to group students for instruction and identify students who need the most support and increased learning opportunities. There is an extensive activities library for both teachers and parents that target all of the core skills in every domain.
  - Create districtwide and schoolwide reports that are detailed enough that you can use the reports to make curricular and professional development decisions, as well as, use the information gathered for Title I and school improvement planning.
2. You can use the KEA provided by Teaching Strategies GOLD for the entire school year free of charge (license costs and professional development paid by MDE). MDE will collect data from the first checkpoint for the KEA (the first 55 days of school), but you can choose to use it the entire school year at the other checkpoints. Using the assessment all year long will provide you with important information about student growth, provision of MTSS, and allow for progress monitoring.
  3. Each participating teacher and interested administrators will receive professional development (you will earn 15 SCECHs at completion) that includes:
    - how to look closely at student skills and behaviors to get a picture of the whole child;
    - how to focus on collecting and documenting information that is most important in predicting future school success;
    - how to evaluate students skills and behaviors along a continuum of learning progressions for each item assessed;
    - how to use data to inform their instruction and determine intervention strategies that will increase their students' learning trajectories;
    - how to generate parent reports that include helpful activities for parents to use at home that are directly tied to the student's instructional needs; and
    - how to provide parents with a portal that allows them to access the assessment data and information through the Teaching Strategies GOLD website.
  4. You are ensured that the assessment you are using is valid and reliable. Research-based and validated assessments are the hallmarks of a quality comprehensive assessment system.
  5. You will be supported throughout the field test by the KEA vendor TS GOLD and MDE. This support eases implementation and assures successful completion of the assessment.