GKIDS Readiness Check
Frequently Asked Questions
for System and School
Leaders

The GKIDS Readiness Check is a component of the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills 2.0 (GKIDS 2.0) and is designed to provide teachers with important information about children's learning and development as they enter kindergarten. As part of GKIDS 2.0, the GKIDS Readiness Check offers an early assessment window to support teachers in designing individualized instruction. The GKIDS Readiness Check is designed to be developmentally appropriate and will be used primarily for planning and instructional purposes.

The following are some key questions about the GKIDS Readiness Check.

General Questions

1. **What is the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

   The GKIDS Readiness Check is a component of the GKIDS 2.0. It consists of twenty assessment activities that represent three essential domains of learning: Foundations of School Success, English Language Arts, and Mathematics. Teachers use a variety of methods such as direct tasks, observations, and checklists to measure student performance on each of the twenty activities.

2. **How was the GKIDS Readiness Check developed?**

   The GKIDS Readiness Check was developed by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). The GKIDS Readiness Check was developed with input from Georgia educators and reflects recommendations throughout the development process.

3. **Who participates in the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

   The GKIDS Readiness Check is designed to provide baseline information for all students as they enter kindergarten, including students with disabilities and students who are English Learners (ELs). Teachers have the flexibility to assess per the individual needs of each student.

   Late enrollees or students who transfer during the GKIDS Readiness Check assessment window may be assessed. There is no minimum number of days enrolled to be assessed during the administration window. Teachers may administer some, if not all, of the activities to these students. Teachers can also administer the GKIDS Readiness Check to students who enroll after the window but will not be able to enter data into the GKIDS 2.0 platform. We encourage districts to make assessment decisions based on what is appropriate for their instructional program to guide and benefit teaching and learning.

4. **How is the GKIDS Readiness Check part of the GKIDS 2.0?**

The GKIDS 2.0 is designed to be used throughout the kindergarten year, whereas the GKIDS Readiness Check is specifically designed for administration during the first six weeks of instruction.

5. **What does the GKIDS Readiness Check measure**?

The GKIDS Readiness Check measures children's growth and development around three essential domains of learning: Foundations of School Success, English Language Arts, and Mathematics. The GKIDS Readiness Check assesses the knowledge and skills students should have when they enter kindergarten. There are twenty activities on the GKIDS Readiness Check, and they are aligned to the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) and correlated to Georgia's state content standards for kindergarten.

6. **How should the GKIDS Readiness Check be used?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check should be used formatively by teachers to individualize instruction and by school leaders for planning purposes. Results from the GKIDS Readiness Check can also be used to communicate with families regarding their child's knowledge and skills at kindergarten entry. As children progress, the GKIDS Readiness Check can be helpful in demonstrating children's growth and development.

7. **How should the GKIDS Readiness Check NOT be used?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check will not be used to assign a "readiness" score to a child. The activities are not designed to be summed or compiled into one score. The GKIDS Readiness Check is not to be used to prevent children's entry to kindergarten; all children are ready for kindergarten. In addition, the GKIDS Readiness Check will NOT be used for accountability or high-stakes purposes (e.g., to evaluate teachers or Pre-K programs).

Questions Before Administration

8. **When is the GKIDS Readiness Check administered?**

Teachers administer the GKIDS Readiness Check during the district or charter school's first six weeks of kindergarten. Each administration window is unique to a district and is based on the district's start date. Assessment may occur at any time during the window. There is no prescribed order of activities; some of the GKIDS Readiness Check activities can be directly assessed and some may require repeated observations over time. It is not necessary to administer the items all at one time.

The administration window closes 6 weeks from the first day of school (30 school days). End dates are calculated considering start dates and holidays. Teachers can view their district's end date in the GKIDS 2.0 online platform. After the end of a district's administration window, the ability to enter student data will no longer be available.

9. **How are logins and passwords for the GKIDS 2.0 platform assigned to system and school test coordinators?**

- A member from the GKIDS 2.0 support team will complete setup of one system contact per district in early July.
- System coordinators will be responsible for school administrator account setup.

- Step-by-step guidance, including screenshots, is included in the user guide and supporting modules.

10. **Who may administer the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

Certified teachers and paraprofessionals who hold licensure in the state of Georgia are eligible to administer the GKIDS Readiness Check. In addition to holding certification in the state of Georgia, anyone administering the GKIDS Readiness Check must complete all training required by the Georgia Department of Education and local districts prior to the first day of school/the beginning of the administration window.

11. **How will NEW kindergarten teachers be trained to administer the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

Training for the administration of the GKIDS Readiness Check will be facilitated via online training modules. There are seven training modules available in the GKIDS 2.0 Teacher Training Course available in Georgia Learns found in SLDS, three of which are pre-recorded. Training for the GKIDS Readiness Check should occur prior to the first day of school for all educators who will administer any of the activities. Certified teachers or paraprofessionals who will administer any activities **must** complete training, including Module 4:Rating Student Performance with the quiz component, prior to the administration window. This quiz is provided as an opportunity for teachers to receive feedback as they rate student performance in the samples provided in Module 4. Teachers may view this module and take the quiz as needed to feel confident in the administration of the GKIDS Readiness Check.

Module 4 should be viewed individually. Modules 1, 1.1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 may be viewed as a group or individually by teachers. Districts should determine how to monitor and document training. Districts or schools may choose to require teachers to provide printed copies of the completion certificates provided upon completion of each of the online training modules. These copies may be kept as documentation in the school testing log.

Training can be completed any time that is convenient (e.g., during planning time, during post-planning, etc.).

12. **How will RETURNING kindergarten teachers be trained to administer the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

Educators administering the GKIDS Readiness Check must complete training, which includes viewing the GKIDS Readiness Check Teacher Training Course in SLDS. This is the first section of the GKIDS 2.0 Teacher Training course in Georgia Learns. Teachers who completed the training modules for a previous administration of the GKIDS Readiness Check are not required to view the modules again. However, the modules are available for reference at any point.

13. **How will students be added to the GKIDS 2.0 platform for the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

Districts should decide whether teachers will manually add students at the beginning of the year or, if at the system level, a roster of kindergarten students will be uploaded to the GKIDS 2.0 platform.

More information about the creation of class rosters, teacher accounts, and the GKIDS 2.0 platform is provided in the user guide and supporting modules.

14. **Are there resources to help prepare for administration?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check resources can be accessed via the GKIDS Readiness Check website (see link below) as well as the GKIDS 2.0 platform. Resources include documents such as the GKIDS Readiness Check Administration Manual, Optional Resources (e.g., checklists which may be used to collect data, a materials list for planning, etc.), Reminders and Considerations, and Next Steps Guide for instructional planning.

http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Readiness.aspx

Questions During Administration

15. **Is the GKIDS Readiness Check appropriate for children who are dual language learners and students with disabilities?**

    As with all other state assessments, the GKIDS Readiness Check is administered in English. Additionally, the GKIDS Readiness Check is appropriate for all kindergarten children, including students with disabilities and students who are English Learners (EL). Teachers have the flexibility to assess according to the individual needs of each student.

16. **What is the role of district and school leaders during the administration of the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

    District and school leaders should support and monitor the administration of the GKIDS Readiness Check by providing access to associated resources as well as answering questions that may arise. In addition, leaders may answer questions related to the GKIDS 2.0 platform, data collection and use to support instructional decisions in the classroom.

Questions After Administration

17. **How long will data be available for review after the administration?**

    GKIDS Readiness Check data will be available until the platform closes on June 10, 2024. After that time, all data will be removed. Please be sure to download all data keeping this deadline in mind.

18. **What type of reports will be available?**

    Report templates are available for the GKIDS Readiness Check. Reports are available at the student, class, school, and system level by activity. The student-level report provides a parent-friendly description of the GKIDS Readiness Check as well. As with the GKIDS 2.0, teachers and school administrators can generate reports within the GKIDS 2.0 platform, which can be printed and shared with parents or used for planning purposes.

19. **When will summary reports be available?**

    Summary reports can be generated at any time within the GKIDS 2.0 platform.

20. **How will the information be communicated to families?**

Teachers may use information from the GKIDS Readiness Check in their ongoing communication with families. The data can be used to inform progress reports, conferences, and other assessments. As mentioned, a newly designed, parent friendly student report by activity is available.

Additionally, the GaDOE has developed a parent resource website which will provide additional support for parents by providing information about young learners and ways parents can help their child at home. More information about available parent resources can be located at the following link:

http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/GKIDSReadinessCheck.aspx

http://GKIDSReadinessCheck.gadoe.org

21. **How will GaDOE use the GKIDS Readiness Check data?**

The GaDOE will use state-level GKIDS Readiness Check data to better understand children's growth and development as they enter kindergarten. The data will help the GaDOE and other partners such as the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) develop additional resources to support early childhood education in Georgia.

Other Questions

22. **Who can I contact for more information?**

Questions about the GKIDS platform should be directed via Intercom, an online chat feature providing live customer support to all users. More information about the location and navigation of Intercom can be found in the Platform User's Guide located at the following link: https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/GKIDS-2.0-Resources.aspx

Questions about the GKIDS Readiness Check should be directed to the GaDOE Assessment Office by calling (470) 579-3244.

Questions about the SLDS should be directed to the GaDOE technology department: slds@doe.k12.ga.us