

Understanding and Supporting Kindergarten Readiness

April 10, 2024

DEFINING KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Improve Learning & Readiness for Kindergarten

ELAC Priority 1: Define kindergarten readiness and refresh early learning standards to align to this definition.

- Kindergarten readiness is achieved when children are prepared in all domains of early learning, and families, schools, and communities collaborate to positively impact educational outcomes.
- Indiana Early Learning Standards were formally adopted by SBOE in June 2023, in alignment with this definition.



MEASURING KINDERGARTEN READINESS



Improve Learning & Readiness for Kindergarten

ELAC Priority 1: Build and deploy an assessment system that effectively measures all domains of early learning across the birth-to-five system.

- IDOE procured a vendor to develop a new system of measuring and supporting kindergarten readiness:
 - Children ages 2 and under (available January 2025)
 - Preschool children ages 3-5 (available July 2024)
 - Kindergarten students (available July 2024)

WHY MEASURE SKILLS IN **EARLY LEARNING?**

- Provides ability to measure and compare individual child-outcomes over time
- Provides early indicators for children “at-risk” of not meeting proficiency in literacy and math at later stages
- Provides data for educators and families to target student supports



ISPROUT

Children are evaluated in all eight domains of early learning, providing the most in-depth picture of developmental level, strengths, and areas of need.

- **Ages 2 and under:** Educator observations
 - Opt in begins October 2024
- **Preschool students ages 3-5:** Direct skill measurement by educators based on ongoing observations of children's typical daily routines and activities.
 - Currently used for federally-required reporting for children ages 3-5 with exceptional needs.
 - Opt in for all preschool students ages 3-5 begins May 2024

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Administered once in the first six weeks of kindergarten. Includes direct assessment items and educator-led activities.

Children are assessed in all eight domains.



NEXT STEPS

1 Opt In for Expansion of ISPROUT & New KRA

2 Deployment: Training, Rosters, Administration

3 New Indicator on Indiana GPS Dashboard



COMMUNICATION TO SCHOOLS & PROVIDERS

What does this look like?

- IDOE provides webinars, live Q&As, office hours, and Indiana Learning Lab sessions to support implementation.
- Information about professional development, opt-in expectations, and other supports are also provided by IDOE.



ROLLOUT OVERVIEW

Opt-in Process

May 2024

- Schools/providers may begin opting in to administer the KRA for kindergarten students and ISPROUT for preschool students ages 3-5.

October 2024

- Schools/providers may begin opting in to administer ISPROUT to children 2 and under.



INDIANA GPS **VISUALIZATION & ANALYTICS**



When the Indiana GPS dashboard was first launched in 2022, Kindergarten Readiness was highlighted as an aspirational, benchmarked indicator.

- Indiana's new KRA will be used to demonstrate the percentage of students who have the skills necessary to be considered ready to start kindergarten or ready to start with support.
- The first KRA data will be available on Indiana GPS in early 2025.



THANK YOU!