

A Parent's Guide to the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS)



What is GKIDS?

The Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) is a year-long, performance based assessment. GKIDS is replacing the former kindergarten assessment in the 2008-09 school year. GKIDS will document your child's progress on the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) throughout his or her kindergarten year.

What does GKIDS document?

In kindergarten, teachers will provide learning experiences for your child in:

- English/Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science

By collecting information across a number of activities in each of these areas, your child's teacher can tailor instruction on specific elements of the GPS as your child demonstrates increasing competency with kindergarten skills.

GKIDS also provides parents and teachers with information about a child's

- Approaches to Learning
- Personal and Social Development
- Motor Skills

“Approaches to Learning” refers to your child's attitude toward learning and using new skills. Behaviors that are assessed include curiosity, initiative, creativity, paying attention, and completing tasks.

“Personal Development” refers to your child's confidence and ability to express his or her emotions and needs appropriately.

“Social Development” refers to your child's ability to interact with adults and other children in a school setting.

What types of summary information will I receive?

Throughout the kindergarten year, your child's teacher will be documenting your child's performance across all elements of the GPS. At any time during the year, your child's teacher can provide you with a report of the skills your child has mastered and those that need additional attention. Only your child's teacher can access this report, there is no mechanism for parents to see these electronic reports without securing them from your child's teacher.

Are there testing windows where I would expect information?

Unlike the former kindergarten assessment, there are no mandated reporting windows for GKIDS except at the end of the year. Local school systems may require completion of certain items on GKIDS at certain intervals during the school year. Your child's teacher can print a report for you at any time during the year. This report would only indicate the skills that have already been taught and assessed by your child's teacher.

What kind of information is collected?

Each element of the GPS has a carefully designed set of performance levels that will allow you as a parent to understand where your child is in his or her development. Not all standards are assessed in the same way, but your child's performance on the elements of the GPS is typically assessed with the following performance levels:

- Exceeds the Standard
- Meets the Standard
- Progressing
- Emerging
- Not Yet Demonstrating

Throughout the kindergarten year, your child's performance may range from Not Yet Demonstrating to Exceeds the Standard.

Your child's performance in Approaches to Learning, Personal and Social Development, and Motor Skills are evaluated using the following performance levels:

- Consistently Demonstrating
- Developing
- Area of Concern

What do the GKIDS performance levels mean?

Over 100 elements of the GPS are documented by GKIDS. If your child received a rating of Progressing, Emerging, or Not Yet Demonstrating on an element of the GPS, that rating indicates that your child needs more support in learning that skill. It is important to remember that your child's performance on that one standard is just one marker of his or her skill in that area. It is part of a collection of information about your child's performance in kindergarten and should be considered as just one piece of information.

Does GKIDS tell me whether my child will be promoted to the first grade?

GKIDS is one part of an extensive summary of information that is collected by your child's teacher as he or she progresses through kindergarten. You and your child's teacher will consider those multiple pieces of information when considering promotion to the first grade. GKIDS is **NOT** an assessment with a "score" that singularly determines your child's promotion to first grade.

Where can I read more about GKIDS?

Information about GKIDS can be found on the Georgia Department of Education website (http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_testing.aspx?PageReq=CI_TESTING_GKIDS).

Documents on this website detail the development of GKIDS, provide example activities that your child's teacher may use to document progress, and give a detailed description of the GPS and GKIDS performance levels.

Who can I contact if I have questions about KIDS?

Your child's teacher will have a wealth of information about GKIDS and your child's individual performance on this assessment.

