



The GKIDS Readiness Check

Reminders and Considerations

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), in partnership with the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), is pleased to announce the operational launch of the GKIDS Readiness Check.

The GKIDS Readiness Check is a component of the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) and is designed to provide teachers with important information about children's learning and development as they enter kindergarten. As part of the GKIDS, 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 reminders and considerations regarding preparation for the GKIDS Readiness Check.

Reminders

- 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 website. The roster upload functionality eliminates the need for the pre-ID cycle and the associated "downtime" when the GKIDS platform is unavailable.
- All system coordinator, school coordinator, and teacher information in the GKIDS website from the 2017-18 school year will remain intact unless requested otherwise by systems.
 - School coordinators should assign login names and passwords to new teachers at the beginning of the school year.
 - System coordinators should assign login names and passwords to new school coordinators at the beginning of the school year.
 - If you are a new system test coordinator or, if as a coordinator, you have transitioned to a new system or role, please contact the Georgia Center for Assessment regarding your login credentials.
- The administration window of the GKIDS Readiness Check is unique to each district and is dependent on your district's start date. The window closes 6 weeks (or 30 school days) from the first day of school. Each district's assessment window end date will be communicated in early July.
- Certified teachers and paraprofessionals who hold licensure in the state of Georgia may administer the GKIDS Readiness Check. Educators administering the GKIDS Readiness Check **must** complete training, including the required teacher training webinar and Modules 1-6, prior to the administration window.
- 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.
- Returning kindergarten teachers should be provided updates and guidance as needed by school and/or district leaders to ensure a smooth administration.

- The GKIDS Readiness Check resources can be accessed through the GaDOE website GKIDS Readiness Check landing page and the GKIDS platform beginning July 9. 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>

- Data collection and reporting for the GKIDS Readiness Check will occur through the existing GKIDS platform. Please reference the GKIDS Readiness Check manual and Training Module 5 for screenshots and explicit directions.

Training Considerations

Training for the administration of the GKIDS Readiness Check will be facilitated via online training webinars and modules. Certified teachers or paraprofessionals who will administer any activities **must** complete training, including Module 4 with the quiz component, prior to the administration window. 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. 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.

- Six Training Modules for the GKIDS Readiness Check are available to teachers in the Statewide Longitudinal DataSystem (SLDS).
- Modules 1-3 include general information about the GKIDS Readiness Check and administration activities assessed using direct and indirect methods. Module 5 (Data Collection and Reporting) and Module 6 (Using the GKIDS Readiness Check to Inform Instruction), along with Modules 1-3 may be viewed as a group or individually by teachers.
- Module 4, however, **must** be viewed individually. This module provides teachers both guided and independent practice evaluating student performance on the GKIDS Readiness Check. The quiz component included in Module 4 helps to ensure that student performance is being viewed through the same lens by all who administer the GKIDS Readiness Check. 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.
- Onscreen certificates of completion are provided with each module. It is recommended that teachers print and/or save the certificates as a record of completion. These may be housed at the classroom, school or even district level.
- It is recommended that documentation of Module 4 completion by all participating educators be collected and retained at the district level.
 - 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 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.).

Contact Information

- Questions about the GKIDS Readiness Check should be directed to the GaDOE Assessment Office by calling (404) 656-2668 or 1-800-634-4106.
- Questions about the GKIDS platform should be directed to GCA: Heather Bolinger, Program Coordinator, at heatherbolinger@uga.edu or (888) 392-8977.
- Questions about the SLDS should be directed to the GaDOE technology department: Angie Baker, at abaker@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 656-2135

