



Kindergarten Readiness

There is a success gap between Kansas students entering kindergarten. Some students arrive at school and can read on a second-grade level and know how to spell their name. Other students arrive and don't know their ABCs or their own address. The same gap is true for social-emotional behaviors.

A student's success in kindergarten and in later years depends largely upon experiences during the first five years of life. Research shows that children who attend early learning programs, such as Head Start and other community preschools, have higher literacy and numeracy skills when they enter kindergarten.

Kindergarten readiness is an essential building block for a student's future success. Implementing a statewide kindergarten readiness screener is key. Some of those measures will include literacy, math and social-emotional behavior areas of development.

The kindergarten readiness screener will provide educators with accurate and comparable data. That data can help determine where we should deliver extra resources and assistance to communities.

The screener won't be used to keep a child from attending kindergarten, and it won't measure a teacher's abilities. It will simply be a tool to provide data to KSDE to inform the department on the needs of each community.

Making sure our young children are well-equipped for kindergarten is crucial to the Kansas State Board of Education's vision: Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

Together, Kansans Can!

Sincerely,

