

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 replaced 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, and
- Science.

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

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

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

What types of summary information will I receive?

Throughout your child's kindergarten year, your child's teacher will be documenting your child's performance across all 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. This information is only available from your child's teacher since online access is not available to parents.

Are there testing windows where I would expect information?

State reporting only mandates an end of year reporting schedule in mid-May. Local school systems may require completion of certain items on GKIDS at certain intervals. 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 been taught and assessed by your child's teacher to that point.

What kind of information is collected?

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

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

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

What do the levels mean?

Each performance level is written specifically for each GPS element. Not Yet Demonstrating means that your child has shown little no competency in a certain skill. Meets the Standard means that a student exhibits full competency of a skill, and Exceeds the

Standard means a student is able to perform beyond the expected skill level of the element being assessed. Emerging and Progressing are defined for some elements where a level of competency between Not Yet Demonstrating and Meeting the Standard can be determined. If an activity providing instruction on a given GPS has not yet been conducted in your child's classroom, information on your child's report will read Not Assessed. It is the goal of all of Georgia's teachers to provide experiences where your child can meet or exceed the GPS.

What if my child receives a rating of Progressing, Emerging, or Not Yet Demonstrating on a GPS?

Over 100 GPS are documented by the GKIDS. If your child received a rating of Progressing, Emerging, or Not Yet Demonstrating on a 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 element is just one marker of their skill in that area.

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 on your child by their teacher and their school as they progress through kindergarten. Multiple pieces of information are used 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 construction 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.