

Kindergarten Assessment Process

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Kindergarten assessment process

LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

- Department of Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Thrive by Five Washington will ...
 - Research and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on a statewide kindergarten assessment process
- Report due Dec. 15, 2008

School readiness

Ready Children + Ready Schools + Ready Parents and Families + Ready Communities

- **Ready children** are healthy and socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for success in school and life
- **Ready schools** are prepared to meet the individual needs of the diverse children who enter kindergarten
- **Ready parents and families** have the information and resources needed to be their children's first and most important teachers
- **Ready early learning professionals and communities** have the information and resources needed to support parents, children and schools

Information gathered for report

- Online survey, focus groups, interviews, statewide and national research
- 1,500 Washingtonians provided input
 - Educators
 - Parents and caregivers
 - Tribal Nations
 - Cultural competency experts

What other states are doing

- At least 19 states use a kindergarten assessment process
- Assessment tools used:
 - Teacher-completed checklists, questionnaires or rating scales based on observations and/or portfolios of children's work and behavior
 - Direct assessments focusing on literacy and communication skills
 - Direct assessments of children's development and skills
 - A combination of these approaches

What other states are doing

- Timing of assessment process:
 - Within 4 to 8 weeks of kindergarten entry (10 states)
 - Beginning and end of kindergarten school year (5 states)
 - Middle of kindergarten school year (2 states)
 - Throughout the year (1 state)
- How assessments are used:
 - Improving individual instruction (15 states)
 - Guiding planning at school, district or state levels (11 states)
 - Sharing information with parents about children's strengths and areas of growth (4 states)
 - Screening for developmental delays or special needs (2 states)
 - Supporting transitions between early learning and K-12 (1 state)

What WA school districts are doing

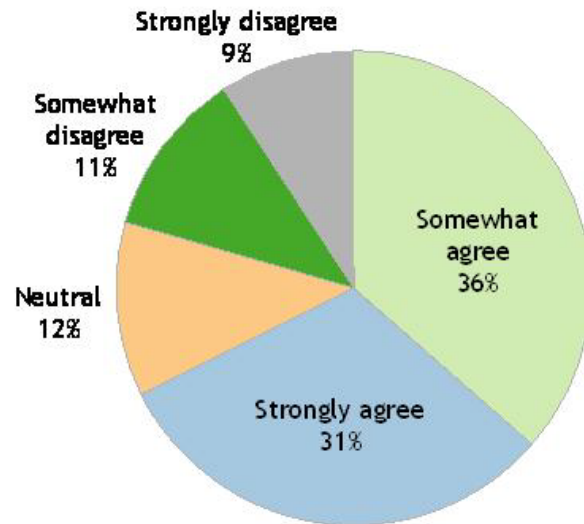
- Survey of 593 elementary schools with kindergarten classrooms (represents 45% of statewide total)
- Telephone interviews with 6 Washington school districts
- Most schools surveyed (80% of respondents) already use some form of assessment process
- Assessment tools used:
 - Tools developed locally
 - Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)
 - A combination of these approaches

What WA school districts are doing

- Timing of assessment process:
 - Most schools begin assessment process at kindergarten entry (75% of respondents)
- How assessments are used:
 - Informing instruction for individual students (96% of respondents)
 - Informing instruction at the classroom level (88%)
 - Informing parents of children's strengths and areas for growth (81%)
 - Screening for developmental delays (77%)
 - Informing planning for ongoing investment in early learning (60%)
 - Supporting transition and alignment between early learning systems (22%)

Stakeholder input

Stakeholder agreement with the idea of developing a statewide kindergarten assessment process

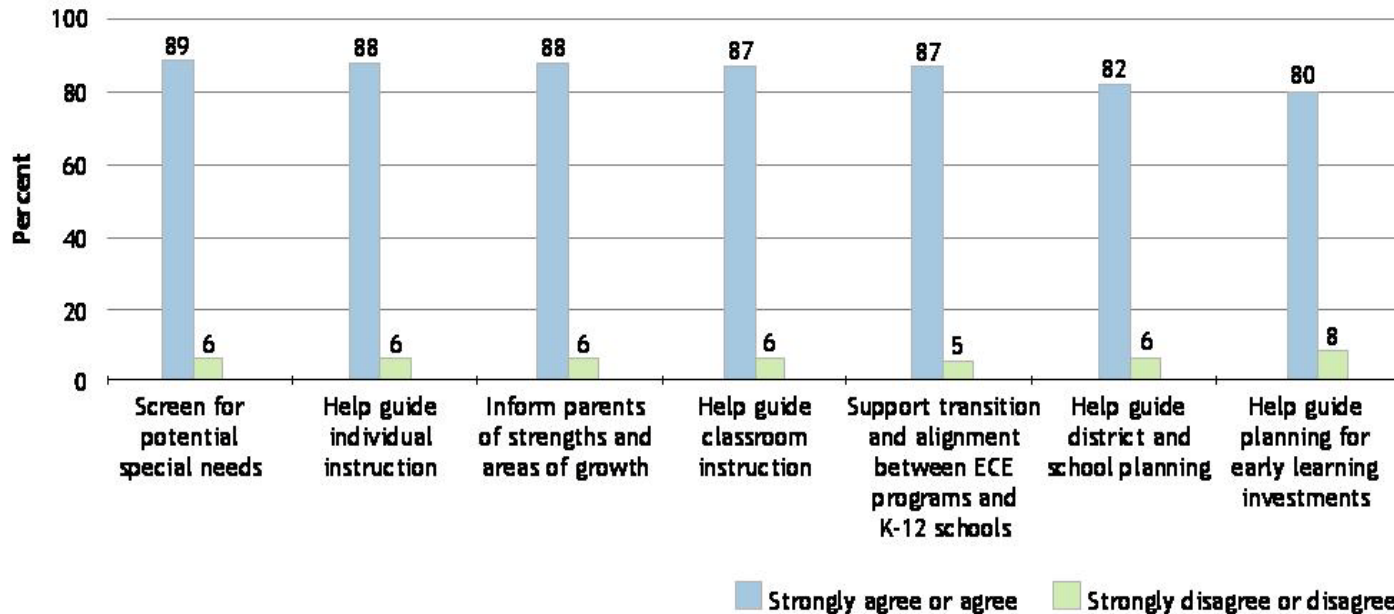


Stakeholder priorities

- Make sure the purpose is clearly defined
- Measure multiple areas of children's skills and development
- Include parents and families in assessment process
- Culturally, linguistically and developmentally appropriate

Stakeholder priorities

Stakeholder agreement and disagreement with purposes of assessment process



Stakeholder concerns

- Cost to districts and schools
- Misunderstanding/misinterpretation of data
- Time away from instruction
- Training of teachers or assessors
- Pressure on children
- Data analysis and reporting capacity

Kindergarten assessment process

FINAL DEC. 15 REPORT

- Content:
 - What is the purpose of an assessment process?
 - “Best practices” for assessment of young children
 - Examples of large-scale assessment processes used around the nation
 - Local kindergarten assessments used in our state
 - Stakeholder priorities for a statewide assessment
 - Recommendations and considerations for next steps