



Family Guide to the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)

All students enrolled in kindergarten in Aiken County Public Schools will be assessed using the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). This assessment includes ways for teachers to measure a child's readiness for engaging with instruction aligned to the kindergarten standards.

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is used to assess four areas of early learning:

- **Social Foundations-** including social and emotional development, and approaches toward learning
- **Mathematics**
- **Language & Literacy**
- **Physical Well-being & Motor Development**

The assessment is administered during the first 45 days of the school year. Parts of the assessment include the teachers' direct observation of each student and some parts include students performing simple tasks.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does my child need to take the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment?

The KRA will provide information that teachers will use to get to know your child. The assessment provides important information in four critical areas of learning to determine where your child is in social, emotional and motor development as well as knowledge of letter recognition, numbers etc. This early information is important for your child's teacher in order to help your child learn and grow.

What does the assessment cover?

The kindergarten assessment covers six areas: Social Skills (including the way students learn), Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development. The majority of the items on the assessment are answered by the teacher while watching your child interact with others or as they conduct their day-to-day classroom routines (follow directions, share, grasp a pencil etc.) For the remaining items, the teacher may quietly work with your child one-on-one or in a small group—while another teacher is working with the rest of the class. For example, the teacher may ask your child to match two shapes that look alike out of a group of shapes, or activities that demonstrate simple counting.

How does the assessment work?

First, it is important to note that the KRA is NOT a test! It is an assessment that measures your child's knowledge and abilities in social foundations, language and literacy, mathematics, science, and physical well-being and motor development. Some of the activities in the KRA may look or feel like a game and others may appear to be typical activities or experiences in the course of a regular kindergarten day. For example, your child may interact with some questions on a computer or tablet, or your child may be working in a small group with other children while the teacher conducts a guided activity, or your child may simply be playing on the playground. In each case, your child's

teacher is able to collect information that will help the teacher modify the learning environment to support your child's growth and development.

There are three ways your child will demonstrate what he or she knows and is able to do.

Your child will:

- Select an answer to a question.
- Do a requested task.

The teacher will:

- Observe your child in school and at recess.
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When will this assessment happen?

The assessment is given during the first 45 days of school. In Aiken County, kindergarten teachers will have from August 16 until mid October to complete the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

If my child has a special education plan, will he or she complete the assessment?

Yes. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is for all children including children with disabilities.

How long does the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment take?

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment isn't a traditional paper and pencil assessment. For some parts of the test, your child won't even be aware of the assessment because it involves simple observations on the part of the teacher over a period of a few days. The amount of time it will take to administer, score and input assessment item data will vary from teacher-to-teacher and class-to-class.

Do all kindergarten students get tested with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment?

Yes, all students classified as a Kindergartener must take the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

Can I opt-out my child from the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment?

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment helps a teacher understand each student as he or she is starting school. A teacher will use this information to individualize instruction for every child.

State law requires that all students take the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. Not taking the assessment limits information that helps the child to succeed in school. Consent is not required in order for a district to assess a child, nor is there a state assessment opt-out form. If the school district does not assess the child based upon parent refusal, the school principal will arrange a meeting to discuss concerns, and, if necessary, have the parent/guardian(s) document their refusal in writing.

What if I have additional questions regarding the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment?

Please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or the school administrator with questions. You may also contact the Office of Accountability & Assessment with any specific questions on the assessment.