



# The GKIDS Readiness Check

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Teachers

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 key questions about the GKIDS Readiness Check.

#### General Questions

1. **What is the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check is a component of the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS). It consists of twenty assessment activities that represent three essential domains of learning: Foundations of School Success, English Language Arts, and Mathematics. Teachers use a variety of methods such as direct tasks, observations, and checklists to measure student performance on each of the twenty activities.

2. **How was the GKIDS Readiness Check developed?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check was developed by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). The GKIDS Readiness Check was developed with input from Georgia educators and reflects recommendations throughout the development process.

3. **Who participates in the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check is designed to provide baseline information for *all* students as they enter kindergarten, including students with disabilities and students who are English Learners (ELs). Teachers have the flexibility to assess per the individual needs of each student; standard accommodations are allowed if the accommodations are part of the student’s IEP, IAP, or EL/TPC plan.

Late enrollees or students who transfer during the GKIDS Readiness Check assessment window may be assessed. There is no minimum number of days enrolled to be assessed during the administration window. Teachers may administer some, if not all, of the activities to these students. Teachers can also administer the GKIDS Readiness Check to students who enroll after the window but will not be able to enter data into the GKIDS platform.

#### **4. How is the GKIDS Readiness Check part of the GKIDS?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check is designed to be used throughout the kindergarten year, whereas the GKIDS Readiness Check is specifically designed for administration during the first six weeks of instruction.

#### **5. What does the GKIDS Readiness Check measure?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check measures children’s growth and development around three essential domains of learning: Foundations of School Success, English Language Arts, and Mathematics. The GKIDS Readiness Check assesses the knowledge and skills students should have when they enter kindergarten. There are twenty activities on the GKIDS Readiness Check, and they are aligned to the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) and correlated to the kindergarten Georgia Standards of Excellence.

#### **6. How should the GKIDS Readiness Check be used?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check should be used formatively by teachers to individualize instruction. Results from the GKIDS Readiness Check can also be used to communicate with families regarding their child’s knowledge and skills at kindergarten entry. As children progress, the GKIDS Readiness Check can be helpful in demonstrating children’s growth and development.

#### **7. How should the GKIDS Readiness Check NOT be used?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check will not be used to assign a “readiness” score to a child. The activities are not designed to be summed or compiled into one score. The GKIDS Readiness Check is not to be used to prevent children’s entry to kindergarten; all children are ready for kindergarten. In addition, the Readiness Check will NOT be used for accountability or high-stakes purposes (e.g., to evaluate teachers or Pre-K programs).

### **Questions before Administration**

#### **8. When is the GKIDS Readiness Check administered?**

Teachers administer the GKIDS Readiness Check during the district’s first six weeks of kindergarten. Each administration window is unique to a district and is based on the district’s start date. Assessment may occur at any time during the window. There is no prescribed order of activities; some of the GKIDS Readiness Check activities can be directly assessed and some may require repeated observations over time. It is not necessary to administer the items all at one time.

The administration window closes 6 weeks from the first day of school (30 school days). End dates are calculated considering start dates and holidays. Teachers can view their district’s end date in the GKIDS online platform. After the end of a district’s administration window, the ability to enter student data will no longer be available.

#### **9. Who may administer the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

Certified teachers and paraprofessionals who hold licensure in the state of Georgia are eligible to administer the GKIDS Readiness Check. In addition to holding certification in the state of Georgia, anyone administering the GKIDS Readiness Check must complete all training required by the Georgia Department of Education and local districts prior to the first day of school/the beginning of the administration window.

**10. How will NEW teachers be trained to administer the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

Training for the administration of the GKIDS Readiness Check will be facilitated via training modules. There are six training modules available in the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). 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. Certified teachers or paraprofessionals who will administer any activities **must** complete training, including Module 4 with the quiz component, prior to the administration window. 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.

Module 4 should be viewed individually. Modules 1-3 as well as Modules 5 and 6 may be viewed as a group or individually by teachers. 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.).

**11. Can teachers complete the training as a grade-level group?**

It is up to each district to determine how participation in the GKIDS Readiness Check training is completed and monitored. All training modules, except for Module 4, can be completed as a grade-level group.

**12. How will RETURNING kindergarten teachers be trained to administer the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

Returning teachers to kindergarten only need to view the refresher training webinar. This will be posted on the GaDOE assessment webpage July 9<sup>th</sup>. The webinar link was also sent to all kindergarten teachers via the communication's listserv. Educators administering the GKIDS Readiness Check must complete training, which includes viewing the GKIDS Readiness Check training modules prior to the administration window. The training modules are available through the Georgia State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). 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.

**13. How will students be added to the GKIDS platform for the GKIDS Readiness Check?**

Districts will 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 platform.

The roster upload was a new feature of the GKIDS platform for the 2017-18 school year. This roster upload functionality eliminates the need for the pre-ID cycle and the associated "downtime" when the GKIDS platform is unavailable.

More information about the creation of class rosters, teacher accounts and the GKIDS platform is provided in the GKIDS Readiness Check Administration Manual and Training Module 5.

**14. Are there resources to help prepare for administration?**

The GKIDS Readiness Check resources can be accessed through the GaDOE website GKIDS Readiness Check webpage and the GKIDS platform (beginning in mid-July). 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 to guide instructional planning.

### **Questions during Administration**

**15. Is the GKIDS Readiness Check appropriate for children who are dual language learners and students with disabilities?**

As with all other state assessments, the GKIDS Readiness Check is administered in English. Additionally, the GKIDS Readiness Check is appropriate for all kindergarten children, including students with disabilities and students who are English Learners (ELs).

Because teachers have the flexibility to assess according to the individual needs of each student, standard accommodations are allowed if the accommodations are a part of the student's IEP, IAP, or EL/TPC plan.

**16. How often will students need to be assessed within the six-week administration window?**

Students will only need to be assessed once for each skill. The GKIDS Readiness Check is a formative assessment that measures where students are on the learning continuum for each activity, and guides instruction. It is designed to provide information about children's learning and development as they enter kindergarten.

**17. Will there be a specific set of materials for use for administering the GKIDS Readiness Check activities?**

Teachers will have flexibility in choice of materials for administration. Teachers may use common classroom materials for assessment activities (e.g., letter and number cards, manipulatives, etc.). Further, within the Optional Resources document, there is a summary list of materials needed to administer each activity. Within the Optional Resources document, there are also optional materials and class-level and student-level recording sheets that can be used to collect data.

**18. How is the GKIDS Readiness Check data recorded?**

Data collection and reporting for the GKIDS Readiness Check will occur through the GKIDS platform. Detailed training for how to record data for the GKIDS Readiness Check will be provided in the GKIDS Readiness Check Administration Manual and in Training Module 5.

### **Questions after Administration**

**19. What type of reports are available?**

Report templates are available for the GKIDS Readiness Check. Reports are available at the student, class, school, and system level by activity. The student-level report provides a parent-friendly description of the GKIDS Readiness Check as well. As with the GKIDS, teachers can generate reports within the GKIDS platform, which can be printed and shared with parents or used for planning purposes.

**20. When will summary reports be available?**

Summary reports can be generated as soon as the assessment window ends.

**21. How will the information be communicated to families?**

Teachers may use information from the GKIDS Readiness Check in their on-going communication with families. The results can be used to inform progress reports, conferences, and other assessments. A parent friendly student report by activity is available.

Additionally, the GaDOE offers a parent resource website which will provide additional information on the GKIDS Readiness Check and resources for parents on how to further guide and support their child at home. The website can be accessed via the link below.

<http://GKIDSReadinessCheck.gadoe.org>

**22. How will the GaDOE use GKIDS Readiness Check data?**

The GaDOE will use state-level GKIDS Readiness Check data to better understand children’s growth and development as they enter kindergarten. The data will help the GaDOE and other partners such as the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) develop additional resources to support early childhood education in Georgia.

**Other Questions**

**23. Who can I contact for more 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](mailto: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](mailto:abaker@doe.k12.ga.us) or (404) 656-2135.

