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*Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent*

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 17, 2017

**TO:** System Testing Coordinators

**FROM:** Melissa Fincher,  
Deputy Superintendent, Assessment & Accountability

**SUBJECT:** Operational Launch of GKIDS Readiness Check

**We are pleased to announce the statewide rollout of the GKIDS Readiness Check beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.** Kindergarten entry is a key transition period and this formative tool is designed support teachers in gauging their students' development at this time. The information provided by the GKIDS Readiness Check will offer a great opportunity for families, teachers, principals, and district administrators to look backward in terms of children's preparation and forward in terms of children's needs.

The GKIDS Readiness Check is designed as an augmentation of the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS). It has been developed by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) in collaboration with the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) as a part of the state's Early Learning Challenge initiative. Committees of Georgia educators were integral in the development process. Pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade teachers informed all aspects of development – from determining the essential skills to be assessed to the design of the activities embedded in the assessment.

The GKIDS Readiness Check will provide information about the knowledge and skills of children during the first six weeks of kindergarten. It is designed to inform teachers as they individualize instruction and help guide the determination of any additional supports and interventions that may be needed. Information provided by the GKIDS Readiness Check will also impact instruction and professional development for early childhood educators.

### **Operational Launch Participation**

The operational launch will involve administering the GKIDS Readiness Check to all kindergarten students statewide at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. The activities in the GKIDS Readiness Check can be administered at any time during the first six weeks of the kindergarten year. It is not necessary to administer all activities at the same time or in any prescribed order. Teachers may choose when to administer the activities to minimize the impact on instructional time. Teachers will enter individual student performance levels into a special section of the GKIDS website.

### **Early Learning Measures Overview for System Testing Coordinators and School Administrators**

Informational webinars have been scheduled for **System Testing Coordinators and school administrators** to provide an overview of the Early Learning Measures under development by the GaDOE. These webinars will provide high level information about the GKIDS Readiness Check, revisions to the year-long GKIDS assessment, as well as a formative assessment for first and second grades.

Please note this webinar is for system and school leaders; teachers are not the intended audience. Participants need attend only **one** session, as the webinar is repeated in order to provide alternate dates and times to participate. The webinars will also be recorded.

| <b>Date</b>                       | <b>Time</b>             | <b>Registration Link</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Wednesday,<br>March 1, 2017       | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2883888538333657090">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2883888538333657090</a> |
| <b>Tuesday</b> ,<br>March 7, 2017 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.   | <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6342324298177613826">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6342324298177613826</a> |

The webinar platform requires that you pre-register, using the registration links above. After pre-registering, you will receive a unique link to use in entering the actual webinar session on its scheduled date/time. Your pre-registration will also generate automatic reminders (that will be sent to the email address you provide) prior to the session.

You may share the registration link (above) with others in your office/system that may need to attend the session. They must also pre-register – and upon doing so will receive their own unique link to enter the session.

### **GKIDS Readiness Check Training for System Testing Coordinators and School Administrators**

In preparation for the statewide launch of the GKIDS Readiness Check, webinar sessions will be provided for **district level and/or school leaders** to *communicate the plan for* training kindergarten teachers and prepare leaders for monitoring teachers' completion of training. Please note these are **not** Train-the-Trainer sessions. Webinars and online training modules will be provided for districts for kindergarten teachers to access, as described in the teacher training section below.

The training sessions for **district level and/or school leaders** are scheduled for the dates/times shown below. Please note that each participant will need to attend only **one** training session. The sessions are repeated to provide alternate dates and times to participate. Pre-registration is required as described above. The webinars will also be recorded.

| <b>Date</b>                 | <b>Time</b>             | <b>Registration Link</b>  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Thursday,<br>March 16, 2017 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7218670249887219458">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7218670249887219458</a> |
| Tuesday,<br>March 21, 2017  | 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.   | <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7914828236036924674">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7914828236036924674</a> |

**GKIDS Readiness Check Kindergarten Teacher Training Series**

We invite **kindergarten teachers** to join a **What to Expect Webinar Series**. This informational series has been designed to introduce teachers to the GKIDS Readiness Check.

**Kindergarten teachers** should register for **both** sessions below to learn more about the GKIDS Readiness Check:

| <b>Kindergarten Teacher What to Expect Webinar Series</b> |                       |   |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Time</b>           | <b>Registration Link</b>  |
| Wednesday,<br>March 8, 2017                               | 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Session 1 - GKIDS Readiness Check Overview:<br><a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8994082460807424260">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8994082460807424260</a>        |
| Wednesday,<br>April 19, 2017                              | 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Session 2 - GKIDS Readiness Check Online Platform:<br><a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6242686554468913922">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6242686554468913922</a> |

Sessions will be recorded for those who may be unable to attend at the times above.

Additional webinars for kindergarten teachers will be scheduled in May and June to provide further details about the GKIDS Readiness Check and availability of the online training modules.

**Please communicate the training information above to all kindergarten teachers in your district.** As a follow up, the GaDOE will utilize a kindergarten teacher listserv to communicate training plans and information about the GKIDS Readiness Check directly to kindergarten teachers.

If you need additional information, please contact Dr. Ashley Hope, Assessment Specialist – Early Learning Measures, at [ahope@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ahope@doe.k12.ga.us) or (404) 657-0312 or Dr. Jan Reyes, Test Development Program Manager, at [jreyes@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jreyes@doe.k12.ga.us) or (404) 463-6665.

cc: Richard Woods, State School Superintendent  
Matt Jones, Chief of Staff  
Sandy Greene, Ed.D., Director of Assessment  
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