



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: May 27, 2020

SUBJECT: Request for Waiver of the Timeline Requirement for the Administration of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

PURPOSE:

To review the request for a waiver of the timeline requirements for the administration of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) in anticipation of the reopening of schools in the 2020-2021 school year while abiding by the Governor's Plan for Recovery.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

The Maryland Together: Maryland's Recovery Plan for Education was developed to plan for the reopening of schools, with an understanding that the health, safety, and wellness of students, families, educators, and staff must be a priority. As schools are reopened and consideration is given to the potential utilization of various scheduling models to enable social distancing, assessment requirements, timelines, and multiple priorities must be considered.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Local School Superintendents have been meeting regularly with the State Superintendent. It would be inefficient for each local superintendent on behalf of the local school system and local boards of education to specifically request individual waivers. As a result of reviewing the Maryland Annotated Code, the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), and other documents, and based on the authority of the State Board included under Education Article section 2-205 and COMAR 13A.01.01.02-1 *Waiver from Regulations*, the following waiver is requested collectively for the 2020-2021 school year for all local school systems for good cause, as necessary and justifiable, arising from the state of emergency:

Education Article §7-210 and 13A.08.01.02-3 *Kindergarten Readiness Assessment* – Request waiver of the October 1 timeline requirement, upon the mutual agreement of a principal and a teacher or county board, to administer a full census assessment using the Maryland State Department of Education approved KRA. Request that the October 1 timeline for administration of the KRA be extended to on or before November 1. Request that the timeline for the MSDE to publish and disseminate to local school systems the aggregated assessment information be extended from November 15 to no later than December 15.

ACTION:

Request approval of the waiver of the October 1 timeline requirement for the administration of the KRA to be extended to November 1. Request waiver of the November 15 timeline for MSDE to publish and disseminate the aggregated assessment information to be extended to no later than December 15.

ATTACHMENT:

COMAR 13A.08.01.02-3 *Kindergarten Readiness Assessment* and Maryland Code, Education §7-210

COMAR 13A.08.01.02-3 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

A. Definitions.

(1) For the purpose of this regulation, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(2) Terms Defined.

(a) "Department-approved kindergarten readiness assessment" means the kindergarten readiness assessment developed and approved by the Department for the purpose of measuring school readiness.

(b) "Representative sample" means a sample of sufficient size to produce valid and reliable assessment information on all and major subgroups of students in the local school systems as of the first day of school and as identified by the Department.

B. Representative Sample Assessment Process.

(1) Each school year, each local school system shall complete the administration of the Department-approved kindergarten readiness assessment to the representative sample in the following areas:

(a) Social development;

(b) Language and literacy skills;

(c) Academic knowledge in mathematics, science, and social studies; and

(d) Physical development.

(2) The Department shall provide each local school system with the representative sample identified for the local school system by the Department for assessment.

(3) The Department shall report the results of the representative sample assessment to local school systems in a format developed by the Department.

C. Full-Census Assessment Process.

(1) A local county board of education or a principal and a teacher who are in mutual agreement may decide to assess all students entering kindergarten in a school year using the Department-approved kindergarten readiness assessment.

(2) The superintendent of a local school system shall notify the Department that:

(a) The local county board of education has decided to conduct a full census assessment of all students in all kindergarten classes; or

(b) A principal and teacher in a school in the local school system have agreed to conduct a full census assessment of all students in that teacher's kindergarten class.

(3) A teacher who is administering a full census assessment shall complete the assessment on or before October 1 of the school year.

(4) The Department shall return to the local school system the aggregate results of the full census assessment within 45 days after the administration of the assessment.

D. Publication of Results of Assessments. The Department shall publish and disseminate to local school systems the aggregated assessment information no later than November 15 of each year.

Maryland Code, Education § 7-210

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a statewide kindergarten assessment that is administered with the purpose of measuring school readiness:

(1) Shall be limited to a representative sample, as determined by the Department, of kindergarten students from within each local school system in the State; and

(2) May include an evaluation of:

(i) Language and literacy skills;

(ii) Academic knowledge in mathematics, science, and social studies;

(iii) Physical development; and

(iv) Social development.

(b) A principal and a teacher who are in mutual agreement, or a county board, may administer a statewide kindergarten assessment with the purpose of measuring school readiness if:

(1) The assessment is completed on or before October 10; and

(2) The aggregate results are returned within 45 days after administration of the assessment.

(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a statewide kindergarten assessment may not be administered to an enrolled prekindergarten student.

(2) A statewide kindergarten assessment or early learning assessment may be administered to an enrolled prekindergarten student by a school psychologist or other school-based professional who intends to use the results in order to identify a disability.

(d)(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a county board may administer the early learning assessment to enrolled prekindergarten students in the county.

(2) Before administering the early learning assessment, a county board shall consult with prekindergarten teachers, including teachers nominated by the exclusive bargaining representative, in determining how to implement the assessment.

(e) The Department shall adopt regulations to implement the requirements of this section.