

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools

**DATE:** May 29, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Update on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment



### Purpose

The purpose of this item is to present an update on implementation progress of the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA).

### Background

In July 2024, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) awarded a contract to Renaissance Learning to implement a new KRA instrument beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. During the 2024-2025 school year, a comprehensive training and communications plan was implemented to support the preparation and transition to this new assessment. MSDE has successfully trained most local district-level personnel and is working to train all school-level test administrators. Training efforts will continue throughout the spring, with additional statewide sessions scheduled for August 2025 to support new teachers and administrators. The KRA will include Star Early Literacy and Star Curriculum-Based Measures (CBM) to assess foundational skills and to meet the screening requirements in the Ready to Read Act. The KRA testing window is scheduled to open in August 2025, with public reporting of the data planned for 45 days after the window closes on October 10, 2025.

### Executive Summary

The presentation will provide an update on the components of the new KRA and timeline for training/administration. Example screen shots are also provided within the presentation to preview the student experience.

### Attachments

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Update.pdf

DIVISION OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

# Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Update

May 29, 2025

Presented By | Tim Guy, Assistant State Superintendent

A teacher with curly blonde hair, wearing a green shirt, is giving a high-five to a young student with curly dark hair wearing a yellow and black striped shirt. They are in a classroom with other students in the background.

# Presentation Outline

1. About the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)
2. Preview Example Format
3. Training and Timeline
4. Ready to Read Act

# Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Required fall administration, optional through year progress monitoring

## Star Early Literacy

- 10-minute computer adaptive assessment
- Available in English and Spanish



Renaissance  
Star Early Literacy

## Star Math

- 20-minute computer adaptive assessment
- Available in English and Spanish



Renaissance  
Star Math

## SAEBRS (Social, Academic, Emotional Behavior Risk Screener)

- 19-question teacher survey

# Early Learning Assessment

Optional prekindergarten assessment for LEAs and private providers

## Star Early Literacy

- 10-minute computer adaptive assessment
- Available in English and Spanish

## ProLADR (Profile of Preschool Learning and Development Readiness)

- Observational Assessment of Six Domains: Social and Emotional, Language and Literacy, \*Cognitive (includes mathematics), Approaches to Learning, Physical and Motor, Creativity and the Arts

*\* Cognitive Domain includes the following subdomains: Mathematical and Logical Thinking, Scientific Thinking, and Problem Solving, and Social Systems Understanding*

# Star Assessment Format

2/27

Stop Test

k K

X

K

Y

1

2

3



Next

# Star Assessment Format

20/27

Stop Test

How many squares are there?



A1

B3

C2

# KRA Professional Learning

## In-Person Training for District and School Leaders

- 3-hour overview sessions
- Delivered at regional locations around the state in winter and again in spring
- Asynchronous video also available
- Virtual session for new principals in August

# KRA Professional Learning

## Test Administrator Training

- Synchronous virtual training has been scheduled for each LEA during August pre-service professional development weeks
- Test Administrator training videos will be available to district leaders one-month prior to August training
- Test Administrator training videos, and additional on-demand training videos, will be available in the testing platform for review at anytime

# KRA Administration Timeline

## Required Fall Administration

- Test Administrator Training: August 14th – 28th
- Test Window: August 1st – October 10th
- Public Reporting: within 45 days of October 10th

## Optional Administration Windows

- Winter: January 5th – February 6th
- Spring: April 27th – May 29th
- No public reporting for optional test windows
- Progress monitoring available at any time after the fall window

# KRA Feedback

## From Training and Pilot:

- Assessments are quick and easy to administer
- Administration is flexible and fits into the regular kindergarten schedule
- Data is available immediately and is actionable for teachers, leaders, and families
- Many schools and teachers are interested in using the through-year progress monitoring feature
- Request for additional support with interpreting reports
  - On-demand training coming in the fall

# KRA and Ready to Read Act

## Ready to Read Act

- Requires that all kindergarten through third grade students be screened for potential reading difficulties
- Ready to Read Act can be met by using:
  - Star Early Literacy (KRA requirement)
  - Star CBM (not a KRA requirement, but provided to all Maryland kindergarteners)
- Or LEAs can continue to use an alternate reading screener, as long as it meets the requirements outlined in the Act