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







Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Required fall administration, optional through year progress monitoring

Star Early Literacy

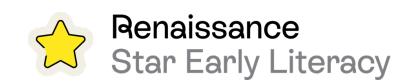
- 10-minute computer adaptive assessment
- Available in English and Spanish

Star Math

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

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

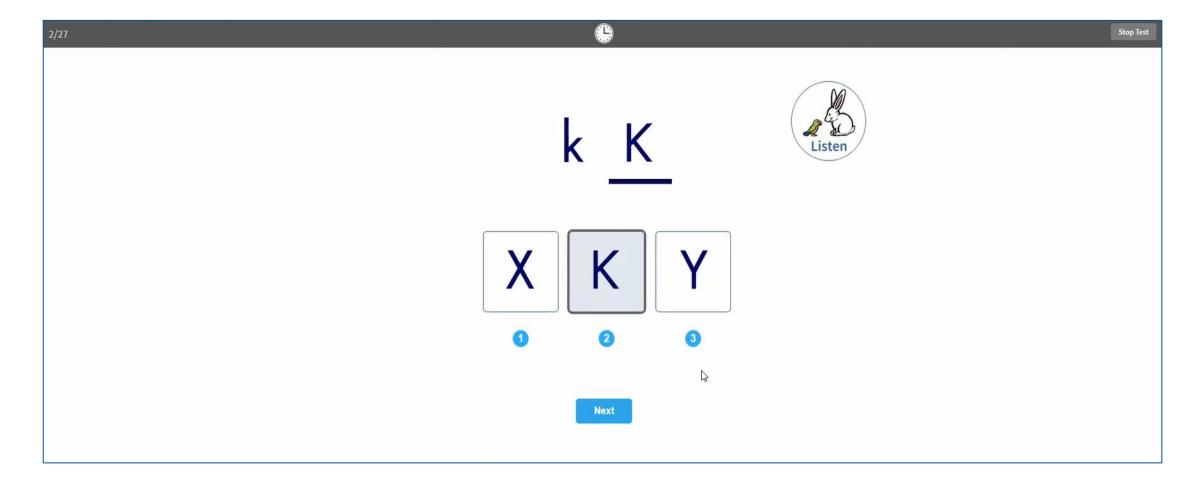
- 10-minute computer adaptive assessment
- Available in English and Spanish

ProLADR (Profile of Preschool Learning and Development Readiness)

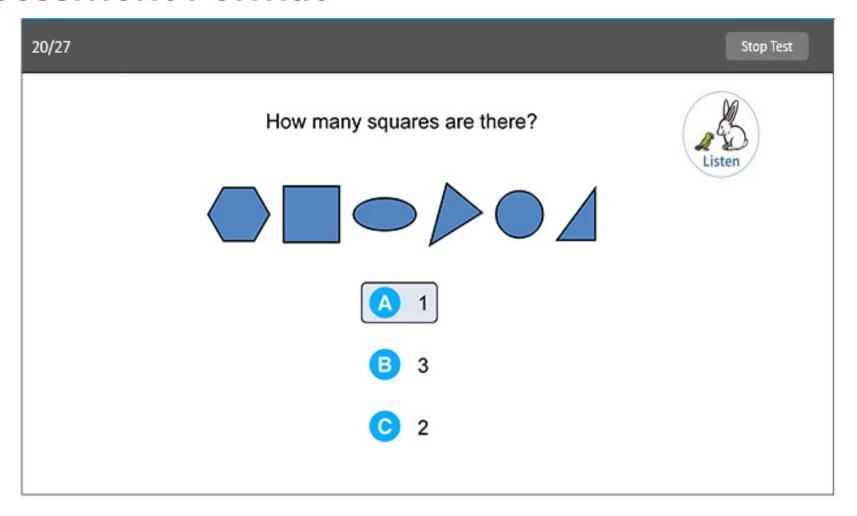
Observational Assessment of Six Domains: Social and Emotional, Language and Literacy,
*Cognitive (includes mathematics), Approaches to Learning, Physical and Motor, Creativity and the Arts

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

Star Assessment Format



Star Assessment Format



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

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

- 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
 - o On-demand training coming in the fall

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KRA and Ready to Read Act

Ready to Read Act

- Requires that all kindergarten through third grade students be screened for potential reading difficulties
- Read to Read Act can be met by using:
 - Star Early Literacy (KRA requirement)
 - o 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