

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Update on the Common Kindergarten Entry Screener Data

Rationale:

To update the board on the results of the statewide administration of the Kindergarten Entry Screener.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, 156.160, 704 KAR 5:070, KRS 157.3175

History/Background:

Existing Policy: In December 2011, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved 704 KAR 5:070, Common kindergarten entry screener. The KBE approved the amending of this policy in June 2015 to shorten the window for data entry.

In the 2012 legislative session, the Kentucky General Assembly (KGA) passed KRS 158.030. This statute changed the age eligibility for kindergarten, beginning in the 2017-18 school year, from shall enter at age (6) and may enter at age five (5) by October 1 to shall enter at age six (6) and may enter at age five (5) by August 1.

Summary: This is the fifth year of the kindergarten entry screener administration. Currently, districts are able to view and plan instruction based on their readiness results as soon as the screener is administered. The screener is administered during a window which starts 15 days before the first instructional day and extends through the thirtieth (30th) instructional day. Readiness data, along with other data sources, is used for planning instruction, initiating the Response to Intervention (RtI) process and communicating with the public about the importance of quality early care and education environments.

While the screener is not an exam to determine entrance into school or to rate a school's performance, it provides a snapshot of what each child knows and is able to do when starting school for the first time. The basic screener consists of a cumulative score of 100 points, indicating readiness in the areas of language/communication, physical well-being and cognitive/general knowledge. Screening reports show students' results compared to cutoff scores identified by performance levels, using psychometric measures. For state reporting, children are determined kindergarten-ready if their cumulative scores fall

within the point range of “Ready with Enrichments” and “Ready”. The chart below indicates the cutoff scores associated with each performance level.

	Age 5-0 through 5-5	Age 5-6 through 5-11
Ready with Enrichments	>88	>91
Ready	61-88	70-91
Not Ready	<61	<70

To support school readiness across the state, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), along with other partners, provided a variety of tools, resources and strategies. These efforts include the Early Childhood Institute and the School Readiness Summits hosted by the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC). Another effort was the Early Learning Leadership Networks (2011-16) that provided early childhood educators with professional learning focused on high quality teaching and learning offered by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). Additional professional learning opportunities were made available through the Early Childhood Regional Training Centers (RTCs). The RTCs delivered services targeting improvements for preschool children ages three (3) through five (5) using a STEAM-based approach (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), designed to address workforce knowledge and skills, as well as social/emotional learning, language arts and social studies.

Additional resources were made available through a partnership with the GOEC. The Superintendent’s Toolbox, an online suite of school readiness tools and resources, assists school and community leaders with preparing children for kindergarten. Additionally, the School Readiness Summits (2015-17) helped 33 school districts connect with early childhood providers and service organizations in their communities to strengthen the foundations of school success.

Attached for the board’s information is a summary of the most recent kindergarten entry screener data.

Budget Impact: The KDE provides the screener to all districts at a cost of approximately \$240,000 annually. Funding comes from resources set aside for assessment, sixty percent of which are federal and forty percent are state.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen L. Pruitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'P'.

Commissioner of Education

Date:

December 2017