

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

**Topic: 2018 Kindergarten Screener Results**

**Date: December 5, 2018**

**Action Requested:** ☒ Review

☐ Action/Consent

☐ Action/Discussion

### SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To review the 2018 Kindergarten Entry Screener Data.

### APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

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

### BACKGROUND:

*Existing Policy:* In December 2011, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved 704 KAR 5:070, *Common kindergarten entry screener*. The KBE amended this regulation 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 2017-2018 school year. Instead of determining age eligibility on October 1 of each, the eligibility determination date was changed to August 1 of each year.

*Summary of Issue:* This is the sixth year of the kindergarten entry screener administration. Currently, districts have access to view and plan instruction based on a student's 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. The chart below indicates the cutoff scores associated with each performance level.

	Age 5-0 through 5-5	Age 5-6 through 5-11
<b>Ready with Enrichments</b>	>88	>91
<b>Ready</b>	61-88	70-91
<b>Ready with Interventions</b>	<61	<70

To improve school readiness and to increase the number of children who are ready for kindergarten, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) partners with the Early Childhood Regional Training

Centers (RTCs) to offer high quality, early childhood professional learning opportunities to school districts. These opportunities help early childhood educators improve teaching and learning experiences for young children. Preschool teachers deepen content knowledge through early numeracy and literacy cadres offered by RTCs, as well as how to develop and sequence appropriate learning experiences for preschool students. Intensive trainings offer early childhood teachers and leaders the latest research in social and emotional learning, as well as how to implement trauma-informed care practices and positive behavior supports. These trainings include Conscious Discipline and the Kentucky Initiative for Social Skills and Emotional Development (KISSED). Additional trainings incorporate developmentally appropriate methods of differentiating instruction to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), as well as other low incidence disabilities, focusing on early numeracy and early literacy. Workshops, technical assistance, and coaching sessions are provided to improve preschool classroom environments and teacher/child interactions. Through these options, preschool staff learn more about the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale, Third Edition (ECERS-3). Also, research-based trainings helped preschool educators to strengthen block and dramatic play, as well as visual and performing arts, in classrooms across the state. Many of these trainings were made possible by Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant funds.

Also, the KDE partners with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), the Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC), and other early childhood stakeholders to implement preschool partnership grants. These grants are intended to incentivize public-private partnerships to develop full-day, high-quality early childhood programs for at-risk children. Preliminary data indicates these grants are promoting collaborative activities considered essential for school readiness. The KDE has contracted with Northern Kentucky University to conduct an independent evaluation of the grant this year.

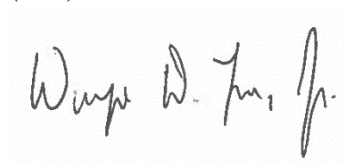
Attached for the board's information is a summary of the most recent kindergarten entry screener data.

*Budget Impact:* The KDE purchases Brigance K screen materials for 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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**Commissioner of Education**

Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> District Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Strengthening Educators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family/
	Community Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Family Supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student Interventions
	Coursework Completion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accountability Reporting	<input type="checkbox"/>