



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-160

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals

FROM: Anita Sullivan, Early Childhood Consultant

DATE: October 2, 2009

SUBJECT: WDE-453 Data Collection, Instructional Foundations for Kindergarten (IF-K)

TIME SENSITIVE - UPDATED INFORMATION AND DATES **Please Disseminate to all Kindergarten Teachers**

INSTRUCTIONAL FOUNDATIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN:

The IF-K was designed by Wyoming teachers to reflect children's ability to meet the demands of diverse curricula and integrated 21st Century skills used in kindergarten. The IF-K represents the functional performance of children in 9 key areas identified in readiness research: **Representation** (use of symbolic and abstract information); **Language** (knowledge of vocabulary and semantics for comprehension in verbal communication, reading and writing); **Writing** (knowledge of writing as a form of communication and its relationship to the spoken word); **Reading** (knowledge of printed material, its conventions and the relationship between sounds, words and meaning); **Geometric and Algebraic Math** (knowledge of shapes and ability to distinguish similarities and differences as well as patterns); **Number and Operations** (knowledge of numbers as symbols, their relationship to quantity and problem solving); **Science** (knowledge of materials and the scientific method); **Relationships and Self-Regulation** (knowledge of appropriate classroom behavior); **Social Problem-Solving** (knowledge of positive peer social interactions and conflict resolution).

PURPOSE of IF-K:

To support instruction and identify levels of student readiness for the kindergarten curriculum. The IF-K is also tied to the Wyoming Department of Education strategic plan to improve 3rd grade reading scores and prevent bullying.

DATES:

The WDE-453 Data Collection is to be completed by kindergarten teachers. Data entry is from October 1st through November 20th. This follows recommendations from national researchers to ensure more accurate data entry on student performance.

TEACHER FEEDBACK SURVEY: Due December 15th to be used for the continuous improvement to the IF-K.

ACCESS:

Teachers, Building Principals and Superintendents can request access to the IF-K instrument, training videos, research and reports through:

<http://www.datadrivenenterprises.com/ifk/>

How will data be used?

At the local level, the IF-K can be used for:

- Improved transitions from preschool to kindergarten
- Developing alignment between preschool and kindergarten
- Differentiated instruction
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Report cards
- Class instructional groups
- Response to Intervention

At the state level, data will be aggregated and analyzed to support:

- Professional development
- Improved transitions between preschool and kindergarten
- Increased family involvement in kindergarten readiness

Contact Information:

For information on technical assistance and access to the website:

EmilyS@DataDrivenEnterprises.com or 303-255-5607

For information on the IF-K and support for data entry please contact Anita Sullivan:

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