



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-164

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
Elementary School Principals

**FROM:** Melissa Moser, Early Childhood Educational Consultant  
Standards and Learning Team Division

**DATE:** December 14, 2011

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

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### **TIME SENSITIVE - UPDATED INFORMATION AND DATES**

#### **Principals – Please Communicate to all Applicable Kindergarten Teachers**

**PURPOSE of IF-K:** To support instruction, facilitate transition from preschool to kindergarten, and identify levels of student readiness for the kindergarten curriculum.

The IF-K was designed by Wyoming teachers to reflect children's ability to meet the demands of diverse curricula used in kindergarten. The IF-K represents the performance of children in nine (9) key areas identified in readiness research:

1. **Representation** (use of symbolic and abstract information);
2. **Language** (knowledge of vocabulary and semantics for comprehension in verbal communication, reading and writing);
3. **Writing** (knowledge of writing as a form of communication and its relationship to the spoken word);
4. **Reading** (knowledge of printed material, its conventions and the relationship between sounds, words and meaning);
5. **Geometric and Algebraic Math** (knowledge of shapes and ability to distinguish similarities and differences as well as patterns);
6. **Number and Operations** (knowledge of numbers as symbols, their relationship to quantity and problem solving);
7. **Science** (knowledge of materials and the scientific method);
8. **Relationships and Self-Regulation** (knowledge of appropriate classroom behavior); and,
9. **Social Problem-Solving** (knowledge of positive peer social interactions and conflict resolution).

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### **DATA COLLECTION:**

The WDE-453 Data Collection is completed by teachers whose district provides a preschool program in accordance with Wyoming §21-4-302. By statute, the school readiness and academic performance of pupils who participate in preschool programs as compared with those who do not participate in the preschool programs is reported to the WDE **biennially** (twice per year). One collection is completed in the fall and one is completed in the spring. The fall collection includes kindergarten students who participated in preschool the previous year. The spring collection includes students who are currently enrolled in preschool. This memo is in reference to the fall collection only. A separate memo for the spring collection will be distributed later this school year.

**Student data entry for the fall collection is available through January 20, 2012.** The teacher feedback survey is due January 31, 2012.

**There are two ways teachers can assess the site for data submission:**

- 1) **The link to access the WDE-453 form and enter data is:**  
<http://edu.wyoming.gov/DataInformationAndReporting/DataCollectionSuite.aspx>  
Choose: WDE453  
Select: "Document" Tab  
Click: WDE453 Link; OR
  
- 2) **enter IF-K observation data at:** <http://www.ddesurvey.com/IFK/>

### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND REPORTS:**

In order to provide access to the IF-K website, administrators should send the names and e-mails of applicable teachers and administrators to Tara Bazata at [Tara@DataDrivenEnterprises.com](mailto:Tara@DataDrivenEnterprises.com) or 303-255-5607.

The WDE 453 Data Collection Manual is available at:  
<http://www.datadrivenenterprises.com/ifk/WDE453%20Collection%20Guidebook.pdf>

Teachers, building principals, and superintendents can request access to the IF-K instrument, training videos, research and data/reports through:  
<http://www.ddesurvey.com/IFK/>

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**How will data be used? (Data can be accessed at <http://www.ddesurvey.com/IFK/>)**

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

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:**

If you have any questions about the IF-K, please contact Melissa Moser at [melissa.moser@wyo.gov](mailto:melissa.moser@wyo.gov) or 307-777-5712.

For support or technical assistance, please contact Tara Bazata at [Tara@DataDrivenEnterprises.com](mailto:Tara@DataDrivenEnterprises.com) or 303-255-5607.

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