

Chapter Five

ISTAR Kindergarten Readiness (ISTAR-KR)

The Purpose of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (ISTAR-KR)

The purpose of *ISTAR Kindergarten Readiness (ISTAR-KR)* is to measure skills in children from infancy to kindergarten. A derivative of Indiana's Early Learning Standards (which are part of the Foundations to *Indiana Academic Standards*), ISTAR-KR is aligned to the *Indiana Academic Standards* for Kindergarten in the areas of English/Language Arts and Mathematics and includes three functional areas: physical, personal care and social-emotional skills.

ISTAR-KR is a web-based instrument and is rated by teachers based on their ongoing observations of children engaged in typical daily routines and activities. ISTAR-KR is available to all public schools in Indiana and to private early childhood education programs at no cost. Assessment results from ISTAR-KR can be used to determine the skills a child has mastered and the skills a student needs to learn next.

Public Schools

ISTAR-KR is available to all public schools in Indiana at no cost. Data from ISTAR-KR assessments are used in state reporting for PK students receiving special education services. The assessment may also be used for local purposes in grades PK through 1. Aggregate data comparing entrance and exit scores for children exiting preschool services is submitted annually by the state to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (for Special Education-Indicator 7 purposes). Individual student assessment results of ISTAR-KR are made available to family members at specific intervals when the assessment is used to measure student progress (**upon entrance, at exit, and annually on the child's birthday**). For information regarding results, please contact the school that provides educational services to the child.

For additional information regarding Indicator 7, please click here:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/specialed/indicator-7-preschool-skills>

Private Preschools

ISTAR-KR is also available to private early childhood education programs at no cost. The Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning (OECOSL) provides oversight of all childcare licensing, Indiana's tiered quality rating and improvement system, Paths to Quality™, the State's Pre-K initiatives, On My Way Pre-K, and the Early Education Matching Grant. The Indiana Department of Education supports young learners through various initiatives, including The Foundations (Indiana's early learning development framework), the Indiana Birth to Age 5 Literacy Framework, and the ISTAR-KR assessment tool.

For additional information regarding Early Learning, please click here:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/earlylearning>

For additional information regarding ISTAR KR, please click here

<http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/kindergarten-readiness-assessment>