

Chapter Five

Kindergarten Readiness (ISTAR-KR)

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

The purpose of the *Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (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. 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.

Teachers record ratings within this web-based instrument 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.

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 more information about Indicator 7 refer to: <http://www.doe.in.gov/specialed/indicator-7-preschool-skills>.

Structure and Content of ISTAR-KR for 2014-2015

Testing personnel should note the following regarding the administration of the 2014-2015 ISTAR-KR Assessment:

1. 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.
2. ISTAR-KR is accessed via the Learning Connection. A Learning Connection administrator must provide access to this assessment.

NOTE:

For additional information, please access <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/kindergarten-readiness-assessment> (for ISTAR-KR information).