



# Michigan Kindergarten Entry Observation

## Information Guide for Michigan Families

At the beginning of the school year, kindergarten students will be administered the Michigan Kindergarten Entry Observation, which is using the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment tool. This tool helps teachers understand your child's strengths and areas for growth when they enter young five's/developmental kindergarten or kindergarten. Below are some frequently asked questions about the assessment.

### **Why does my child need to take the Michigan Kindergarten Entry Observation (MKEO)?**

The assessment provides information for your family, as well as your teachers, to help your child learn and grow. Children come to kindergarten with many different skills and experiences. The MKEO is used with other data and information to help teachers understand their students' strengths and areas for growth.

### **What does the assessment cover?**

The MKEO covers four areas: Social Foundations (this includes concepts like a child's ability to work with peers or concentrate on a task), Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Well-Being and Motor Development.

### **How does the assessment work?**

The MKEO doesn't look like a test. Instead, it includes a variety of items, including the teacher observations of daily activities and age appropriate performance tasks in which the teacher asks a child to respond to a question or complete an activity. Some items can be administered via a tablet or computer.

### **When will this assessment happen?**

The MKEO is administered to students during a window that begins on the first day of school and ends on November 1.

### **If my child has a special education plan, will he or she complete the assessment?**

Yes. The MKEO is for all children including children with disabilities. The assessment includes supports that are designed to allow any child to demonstrate their skills and knowledge.

### **How long does the MKEO take?**

The amount of time it will take to administer, score and input data will vary from teacher to teacher and class to class.

### **Can the MKEO be used to prohibit my child from entering kindergarten?**

No. Performance on the MKEO does not prevent or prohibit a child from entering kindergarten.

### **Can I opt-out my child from the MKEO?**

The MKEO helps a teacher understand each student as he or she is starting school. A teacher will use this information to individualize instruction for every child. A student cannot be denied admission to kindergarten based upon the results. Not taking the assessment limits information that helps the child to succeed in school and be at grade-level reading in the third grade.

Parental consent is not required in order for a district to assess a child, nor is there a state assessment opt-out form. If the school district does not assess the child based upon the parent's refusal, it should have the parent(s) document their refusal in writing.

### **How can I learn about my child's MKEO results?**

Teachers have access to individual student reports. These reports may be shared with families during conferences.