

## **Sign up NOW for Cohort 4 implementation of the Pennsylvania Kindergarten Entry Inventory**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides opportunities to strengthen the contribution of high quality early childhood education in school reform and improvement efforts. The new law recognizes that school success starts before a student enters the K-12 setting. It calls on states to describe how they will assist school districts and elementary schools to collaborate with early childhood education programs, and to invest in evidence-based practices. ESSA supports early learning and LEA collaboration in three main ways: (1) expanding access to high-quality early learning; (2) encouraging alignment and collaboration from birth through third grade; and (3) supporting educators. The Pennsylvania Kindergarten Entry Inventory is a tangible tool to assist districts in understanding the comprehensive learning strengths and needs of students entering the K-12 setting, in establishing common expectations and language for beginning and extending collaborative conversations with pre-kindergarten programs and families, and in planning and implementing joint professional development opportunities that focus on strengthening evidence-based practices for young learners.

All elementary schools are encouraged to implement Pennsylvania's Kindergarten Entry Inventory in the 2017-2018 school year in preparation for enhanced ESSA requirements. The Kindergarten Entry Inventory is available to all school districts at no cost.

In order to implement the Kindergarten Entry Inventory, a Kindergarten Entry Inventory Point of Contact (KEI-POC) is required. The KEI-POC will act as the liaison between local education agency (LEA) administrative staff, implementing kindergarten teachers, and OCDEL and data systems staff. Having a dedicated KEI-POC will ensure that effective communication and implementation occurs throughout the KEI process. Please send the KEI-POC name, email address and phone number to [RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov) before the start of your school term . Receipt of this information will initiate participation in Cohort 4: 2017 Kindergarten Entry Inventory.

All kindergarten teachers who have not previously participated must complete a required professional development on-line course and obtain a certificate of completion in order to gain access to the web-based data system. Teachers with a proficient user certificate of completion do not need to repeat the professional development protocol.

### **Professional Development Options**

All kindergarten teachers who have not previously participated must complete a required professional development on-line course and obtain a certificate of completion in order to gain access to the web-based data system. Teachers with a proficient user certificate of completion do not need to repeat the professional development protocol.

**ALL teachers, regardless of proficiency status should review updated materials (Inventory and User Manual at minimum) each year. All resources can be found at [www.kei-pa.org](http://www.kei-pa.org).**

There are two options to complete the professional development protocol.

**Option 1:** Teachers may participate in an asynchronous on-line course that provides introductory information and purposes of the KEI, introduces the domains, indicators, and behavioral descriptors of the tool, and allows participants to practice determining skill levels, for specific indicators, based upon student portfolio information provided. The on-line asynchronous module includes a final knowledge check. Successful completion of the final knowledge check is required for teachers to earn proficient user status that is good for five years.

**Option 2 (recommended):** Schedule a face-to-face professional development session with OCDEL staff. OCDEL staff is available to conduct on-site sessions with larger groups of implementing teachers. To check availability and schedule a session, email OCDEL staff at [RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov).

Anyone interested in learning more about the Pennsylvania KEI are encouraged to visit the KEI landing page at [www.kei-pa.org](http://www.kei-pa.org) or send questions to [RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov).

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