Welcome!

This webinar will begin at 2:00 PM CST

- While you are waiting, please locate the “chat” box on your screen. Use the chat feature to post questions.
- Your questions will be answered via a Q&A that will be posted on the Texas KEA website: http://www.texaskea.org/
Texas Kindergarten Entry Assessment - Webinar

Children’s Learning Institute
May 01, 2014
Overview

• Welcome and Introductions
• What is TX-KEA?
• Explore TX-KEA
• Timeline
Welcome and Introductions

• The Texas Kindergarten Assessment System (TX-KEA) is a collaborative effort between the US Department of Education, the Texas Education Agency, and the Children’s Learning Institute at UTHealth.
What is a Kindergarten Entry Assessment?

• “Kindergarten Entry Assessment” means an assessment that--
  – Is administered to children during the first few months of their admission into kindergarten;
  – Covers all Essential Domains of School Readiness;
  – Is used in conformance with the recommendations of the National Research Council reports on early childhood; and
  – Is valid and reliable for its intended purposes and for the target populations and aligned to the Early Learning and Development Standards.
Currently, public schools are required to test literacy in kindergarten – 2\textsuperscript{nd} grade

SB 172 requires using a multidimensional test that tests literacy, as well as at least two other developmental skills (e.g., mathematics, social and emotional development, language skills).
What is TX-KEA?

• TX-KEA is a criterion-referenced, kindergarten entry assessment conducted within the first few months of kindergarten to:
  – screen what children know and can do, and
  – inform instruction.
About TX-KEA

• TX-KEA will:
  – Be available in English and Spanish
  – Provide reports to parents, teachers, and school district personnel
  – Provide training to teachers for administration and interpretation
  – Be available on a variety of platforms and devices
  – Be freely available to all Texas public schools
TX-KEA

• TX-KEA is multidimensional, in that it will evaluate many learning domains critical for academic success in approximately 45 minutes.

• Three different item types:
  – Student selects response(s)
  – Student performs task(s)
  – Teacher observation
TX-KEA Domains

• Six Domains:
  – Oral Language
  – Literacy
  – Cognition
  – Approaches to Learning
  – Physical Well-being
  – Social and Emotional
Oral Language

• Oral Language Subtests:
  – Vocabulary
  – Listening Comprehension
Literacy

• Literacy Subtests:
  – Letter Knowledge
  – Phonological Awareness
  – Early Writing
Cognition

• Cognition Subtests:
  – Mathematics
  – Science and Engineering
Approaches to Learning

- Approaches to Learning Subtest:
  - Initiative
    - Initiative taking
    - Curiosity
    - Persistence
    - Cooperation
Physical Well-being

- Physical Well-being Subtests:
  - Gross and Fine Motor
  - Physical Health Status
Social and Emotional

• Social and Emotional Subtests:
  – Social Competence
  – Self-Regulation
  – Emotion Understanding
Spring 2014 Focus Group

• Themes from Focus Group:
  – While all domains are important, the “Social and Emotional” domain is very important to include in TX-KEA
  – Adequate teacher training for administration and interpretation is important to lessen bias during testing and in interpreting results
  – Would like to use TX-KEA results to better plan for instruction
TX-KEA Timeline

• Spring 2014
  – Pilot Test

• Fall 2014 – Spring 2016
  – Scaling Study with 2,000 five-year-olds

• Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
  – Validity Study with 200 kindergarten students
How to participate in TX-KEA?

• The Studies
  – Pilot Study
  – Scaling Study
  – Validity Study

• Focus groups

• Surveys
Next Steps: Summer Focus Groups

• July 9-11 at the 4th Annual TSR! Early Childhood Summer Institute in San Antonio
• 3-4 focus groups with:
  – Kindergarten teachers
  – Elementary school principals
  – School district early childhood coordinators
  – Pre-k teachers
• Participants will receive:
  – Classroom materials
  – Admission to the three-day conference

Contact Jennifer Lindley (jennifer.m.lindley@uth.tmc.edu) if you would like to participate.
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