

# Massachusetts Kindergarten Entry Assessment (MKEA)

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Cohort 3 Kickoff Meeting  
March 7, 2014



MASSACHUSETTS  
**Department of  
Early Education and Care**



Massachusetts Department of  
ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION

# MKEA Cohort 3 Kickoff Meeting

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- Provide high level overview and vision of MKEA
- Address some of the challenges and issues brought forth by school districts
- Provide an opportunity for school districts to ask questions



# What is MKEA?

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- Funded by the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC), the **Massachusetts Kindergarten Entry Assessment (MKEA)** is a joint initiative between the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) to support children and teachers in **formative assessment** practices.
- MKEA is part of the Birth to Third Grade Alignment framework to create a seamless educational experience for young children.
- MKEA supports a critical link for children's early learning and the start of their K-12 educational journey.



# Value of MKEA

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- Opportunity to link children's development (e.g., social-emotional development) with learning (e.g., literacy, language, mathematics)
- Developmentally appropriate approach for assessment of young children by relying on observation to collect authentic data that shows what a child knows and is able to do



# Value of MKEA

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- Data on children's development and learning that can inform the approaches and strategies used in initiatives such as RETELL, Educator Evaluation, Response to Intervention (RtI), and Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- Comprehensive approach to inform instruction, engage with families, guide professional development, and address program quality.



# Federal Context for Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)

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- US Dept. of Education and Administration for Children and Families effort to improve outcomes for young children through comprehensive assessment that aligns with learning and curriculum standards.
- RTT-ELC requires the state to implement a “Comprehensive Assessment System”. Elements of a Comprehensive Assessment System:
  - Screening Measures
  - **Formative Assessments**
  - Measures of Environmental Quality
  - Measures of the Quality of Adult-Child Interactions



# MKEA Original Proposal (from RTT-ELC application)

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- Choice between 3 formative assessment tools: Teaching Strategies GOLD, Work Sampling System, High Scope COR.
- Assessment of all kindergarten children.
- Assessment in all developmental domains, including social-emotional development; approaches towards play and learning; physical development.
- Participation of all school districts in MKEA.



# Revised MKEA Proposal (pending Federal approval)

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- Cohort 3 using one assessment tool (Teaching Strategies GOLD).
- Cohort 1 and 2 have the option of switching over to Teaching Strategies GOLD (from Work Sampling System).
- Assessment in 2 domains (social and emotional development, approaches to learning and play) in 2014-2015 school year.
- Assessment in all domains by 2015-2016 school year.
- Participation by all Quality Full Day Kindergarten grantees and voluntary participation in remaining school districts.



# Next Steps

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- April 7<sup>th</sup> MKEA conference on formative assessment in Worcester.
- Regional trainings on formative assessment and Teaching Strategies GOLD by Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) in spring and summer.
- Formation of an external MKEA Advisory Committee in spring.
- Review of resources for MKEA substitutes and stipends.
- Submission of revised MKEA proposal for Federal review. Federal response by June 2014.

