



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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MEMORANDUM

TO Superintendents

FROM Rebecca Garland
Deputy State Superintendent

John Pruette, Director

PHASE I OF KEA STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) is preparing to begin statewide implementation of the first component of the K-3 formative assessment process, the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA). The KEA takes place during the first 60 days of school and is designed to collect information about children entering kindergarten. This information will provide a picture of the child, a Child Profile, which can then be used to inform instruction. Phase I of statewide implementation will begin in the fall of 2015.

In an effort to ensure this assessment process is as meaningful and manageable as possible, the Office of Early Learning has held a series of focus group and input sessions with teachers, administrators, and families, established an Advisory Council, and incorporated an extensive external review into every aspect of the development process. Reviewers have included teachers, content experts, and specialists working with English learners, gifted students, and children with disabilities. Even the initial pilot, which is currently underway in a number of kindergarten classrooms across the state, has been designed to gather input and feedback from teachers and administrators that will inform revisions to the assessment resources and associated professional development.

To help prepare districts and schools to begin working with the KEA process next year, the Office of Early Learning will be hosting a series of meetings in early 2015 to support districts in planning for and implementing the KEA process. Each district will be asked to send a core team of people (e.g., district supervisor, principal, instructional coach, teacher) who will then support their districts with implementation. Regional consultants will work with districts as needed to determine representation most appropriate for individual districts.

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Regional meetings will be held from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in regional locations throughout the state on January 8, February 5, March 5, and April 16, 2015. At these meetings, OEL personnel will work with district teams to review training materials and develop plans for professional development, communication, and support. Specific locations for each meeting will be shared in a separate notice.

Please feel free to contact me or your [regional consultant](#) with any questions or concerns you may have. I also encourage you to take advantage of the resources currently available on the K-3 Assessment wiki at <http://rtt-elc-k3assessment.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/home>.

The Office of Early Learning looks forward to working with you toward a smooth implementation in fall of 2015.

C: District Administrators
RTT-ELC Regional Consultants