



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO: Teaching Strategies GOLD® for Preschool Stakeholders

FROM: Amy Rhyne

DATE: July 1, 2022

RE: 2022-2023 Teaching Strategies GOLD® requirements for LEA operated preschool classrooms

We thank you for your support and implementation of Teaching Strategies GOLD® for LEA operated preschool classrooms. Teaching Strategies GOLD® is an observation-based, ongoing, formative assessment which occurs during the natural routines of the school day. Documentation gathered helps teachers identify students' learning in real time and helps personalize next steps for instruction. Thus, Teaching Strategies GOLD® is the tool which supports a process rather than an instrument to be administered.

Legislative Requirements

As outlined in [§ 115C-83.4B. Early Literacy Program \(b\)\(3\)](#), DPI will “ensure administration of a formative assessment to children at the conclusion of their participation in the NC Pre-K program to determine their kindergarten readiness and the alignment of their literacy instruction with the Science of Reading. The Department shall also ensure that the results of each child's formative assessment are shared with the child's kindergarten teacher at the beginning of the next school year.”

Based on this requirement and to ensure continuity across all LEA preschool classrooms as well as vertical alignment with NC ELI in kindergarten, DPI has extended access to Teaching Strategies GOLD® as the formative assessment tool for all LEA operated preschool classrooms. Currently, all LEA classroom preschool teachers, regardless of funding source, classroom type, or student age, are required to utilize Teaching Strategies GOLD® for year-long formative assessment purposes.

Developmental Day and Exceptional Children Itinerant Programs

For the 2022-2023 school year, Teaching Strategies GOLD® will be optional for students receiving services in a community-based classroom through a Developmental Day contract with the LEA.

Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, Teaching Strategies GOLD® will be required for this group of students.

It is recognized that exceptional children's itinerant teachers serve preschool children in a variety of programs and settings.

- For itinerant teachers serving children within community-based NC Pre-K or any LEA operated classrooms, the itinerant teacher will collaborate with the classroom teacher in evidence collections and the completion of checkpoints. Only one Teaching Strategies GOLD® data set should be maintained for each student.
- Implementation of Teaching Strategies GOLD® by itinerant teachers serving children in non-NC Pre-K community-based settings or within home settings is a local decision. Teaching Strategies GOLD® child portfolios can be requested from the state for this group of teachers by completing the 2022-23 PSU Preschool Survey, which will be made available mid-July.

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Selected Objectives and Timelines

For the 2022-2023 school year, the objectives and all associated dimensions found within the six normed areas of Teaching Strategies GOLD® are required. These areas include Social-Emotional, Physical, Cognitive, Language, Literacy, and Mathematics. LEAs may choose to assess any additional areas to which they have access (e.g., content areas, self-care objectives, English Language Acquisition).

All Pre-K programs in the state's Teaching Strategies GOLD® license have 4 checkpoint periods available. Best practice is, at minimum, to collect data across 3 checkpoint periods: Fall, Winter, and Spring. Each district has the ability to set their own checkpoint dates, with the exception of the spring checkpoint date which is on or before May 31, 2023 to accommodate state reporting timelines.

Transition Report

All NC Pre-K teachers and all lead Pre-K teachers in LEA operated classrooms are required to complete the Transition Report for rising kindergarten students after Spring checkpoints are entered and no later than May 31, 2023. Data collected at the last checkpoint period will be communicated to the receiving kindergarten program via the Transition Report.

The Office of Early Learning looks forward to our continued collaboration as we identify additional ways to support your district's implementation efforts. Please contact your Regional Consultant or view the [Teaching Strategies GOLD® for Preschool FAQ](#) for further assistance.

Sincerely,

Amy Rhyne

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Rhyne', with a stylized, cursive script.

AR/hw

c: Sherry Thomas, Senior Director Office of Exceptional Children