



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice  
State Superintendent of Education

May 11, 2015

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

**MEMORANDUM**

Governor  
Robert Bentley  
President

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

Al Thompson  
District I

**FROM:** Thomas R. Bice *TRB*  
State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters  
District II

**RE:** Kindergarten Entry Assessment Pilot Program

Stephanie Bell  
District III

Yvette M.  
Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pleased to announce a partnership with the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs (DCA) to pilot a Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) program for interested schools. Teaching Strategies® GOLD™ is designed to help kindergarten teachers efficiently collect assessment information during the first few busy weeks of the school year. Each survey question is phrased in accordance with a research-based definition of kindergarten readiness, identifying knowledge, skills, and behaviors that children are expected to develop before entering kindergarten.

Ella B. Bell  
District V  
Vice President

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the ALSDE and DCA will partner to expand the pilot testing program of Teaching Strategies® GOLD™. Teachers who participate in the 2015-2016 cohort will receive significant support that includes a stipend, access to professional development training, and the use of an I-Pad mini computer.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
District VI

The Alabama State Department of Education and the Department of Children's Affairs are seeking innovative teachers who will lead the way for Kindergarten Entry Assessment through this pilot program. There are multiple avenues of participation available, including entire districts, individual schools, or partnered teacher groups.

Jeff Newman  
District VII  
President Pro Tem

If your system would like to participate in the 2015-2016 cohort, or would like more information concerning this endeavor, please contact Ms. Sandra Little, Training Specialist, Alabama Department of Children's Affairs, at [Sandra.Little@dca.alabama.gov](mailto:Sandra.Little@dca.alabama.gov) or (334) 353-2715 before June 1, 2015.

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.  
District VIII

Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D.  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

TRB/MJS/RH

Attachment

FY15-3037



## 2015 Cohort

KEA Implementation Cost		
Provision	Cost per Unit	Total Expense
1. Professional development stipend	25.00 x 10 requirements	250.00
2. Summer training stipend	275.00 (2 days in class and 1 day IRR)	275.00
3. ½ day substitute x4	30.00 x4	120.00
4. iPad mini plus case	450.00	450.00
5. GOLD student licensing	9.99 (20 students)	200.00
<b>Total Support Cost</b>		<b>Per Teacher \$1,295.00</b>

### Supporting Success:

- Minimum of teacher pairs in each participating school.
- Possible provision of clock hours to complete the survey via Bold Goals (providing a substitute).
- GOTO meeting support weekly during the first two months of school.

### Incentives for participation:

- Personal technology device (tablet or ipad).
- Professional support via release time to complete assessment data.
- PD/Classroom materials stipend for attending training.
- PD/Classroom materials stipend for completing IRR.
- PD/Classroom materials stipend for completing finalization of data.
- PD/Classroom materials stipend for entering documentation for each dimension.
- Admission to the Pre-K conference in Birmingham.
- Recognition at the Hall of Fame banquet for teachers, principals and superintendents who support KEA.

## Proposed Timeline for 2015 Cohort

Date	Benchmark	PD Credit Documented
April	Official invitation to participate in KEA	
May/June	Send out acceptance packets to identified teachers	
June-August	GOLD™ KEA training	✓
July	Support webinar for IRR	✓
May-August	GOTO meeting support for participating teachers	✓

## Detailed Timeline

Date	Benchmark	Details
August 5-7	All children entered into GOLD™ KEA database	
August 10-21	Naturalistic observation with students via the KEA observation lens	
August 24-28	Documentation entered and finalization of objectives 1-10 completed in data meeting	<p><b>½ day substitute teacher provided by grant</b></p> <p><i>PD credit documented. PD stipend accrued</i></p>
August 31-September 4	Naturalistic observation with GOLD™ as the lens	
September 7-11	Documentation of objectives 11- 14 in data meeting	<p><b>½ day substitute teacher provided by grant</b></p> <p><i>PD credit documented. PD stipend accrued</i></p>

September 14-18	Objectives 15-19	<b>½ day substitute teacher provided by grant</b> <b><i>PD credit documented. PD stipend accrued</i></b>
September 21-25	Objectives 20-23	<b><i>PD credit documented</i></b>
September 28-Oct 2	Finalize data reports in data meeting	<b>½ day substitute teacher provided by grant</b> <b><i>PD credit documented. PD stipend accrued</i></b>
October 5	OSR reviews data	<b><i>PD credit reviewed. PD stipend awarded.</i></b>