

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Assessments

What assessments are states and other similar jurisdictions currently administering at pre-kindergarten and kindergarten entry?

The Pre-K/K Assessment¹ tab of the State of the States section of the Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation (CSAI) website provides information on the design, development, and implementation of state-funded pre-kindergarten and kindergarten assessments that are intended to measure school readiness, both before and at kindergarten entry. The information, found under the section's Pre-K/K Assessment tab, is updated twice a year, in February and September. This CSAI Update provides results from the most recent scan of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten assessment systems in individual states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.² As of the February 2016 scan, 21 of these jurisdiction had implemented, or were planning to implement, an assessment for pre-kindergarten, and 31 had implemented, or were planning to implement, an assessment at kindergarten entry. To read the full report on these decisions, visit the CSAI State of the States webpage.

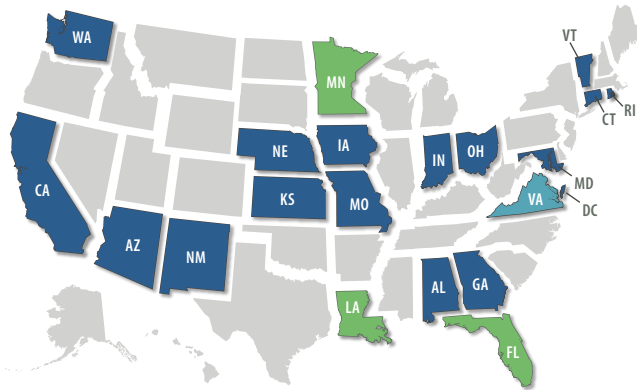
Types of Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Assessment Tools

States and other scanned jurisdictions use a variety of assessment tools that, for the purposes of this scan, were categorized into three types: direct, observation-based, and a combination of the two approaches. The below table presents the differences between the three types of approaches.

TYPE OF ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT DETAILS
Direct	Uses selected-response or performance-task items. Incorporates direct interaction between administrator (e.g., teacher) and child.
Observation-based	Observes children in authentic situations. Gathers information about skills, knowledge, and behaviors.
Combination	Uses both direct and observation-based assessment methods.

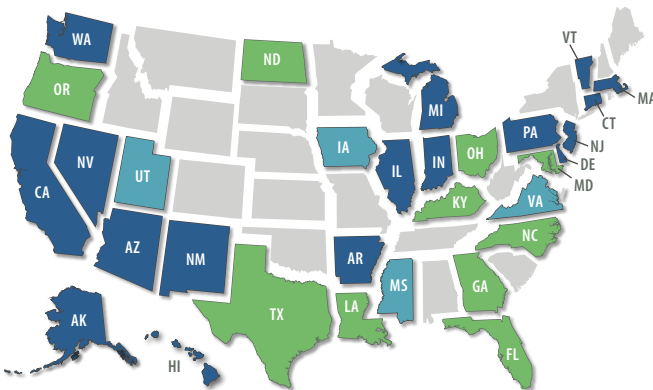
¹ Pre-K/K Assessment: http://www.csai-online.org/sos?t=early_childhood&m=

² CSAI derived the information reported in this summary from websites maintained by individual states, the District of Columbia, and territory departments of education; thus, the accuracy of this report is commensurate with the accuracy of those sources. The reported data are intended to be used as a general summation of current systems, not as a definitive report on any individual system.



Pre-Kindergarten Assessment Tools

- 1** Direct Assessment
- 17** Observation-based Assessment
- 3** Combination Assessment



Kindergarten Assessment Tools

- 4** Direct Assessment
- 17** Observation-based Assessment
- 10** Combination Assessment

Removal and Addition of Approved/Recommended Assessments

Some states do not have one particular pre-kindergarten or kindergarten-entry assessment but, instead, provide a list of approved or recommended assessments. Below is a list of states that have modified their list of assessments since September 2015.

- Arkansas's state-funded preschool program (Arkansas Better Chance [ABC]³), which provides services for children from at-risk or low-income families, has switched from using the Denver I assessment to using the Denver II.
- Pennsylvania⁴ removed BRIGANCE Early Childhood Developmental Inventory and Riverside Assessments from its list of approved assessment tools and added Teaching Strategies GOLD.
- Wisconsin⁵ removed ASQ-SE, BRIGANCE, Early Screening Inventory (ESI), and Galileo Preschool Assessment Scales from its list of recommended assessments and added Work Sampling System, Hawai'i Early Learning Profile (HELP), and Focused Portfolios.

3 Arkansas Better Chance: <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dcece/Pages/ArkansasBetterChanceResources.aspx>

4 Pennsylvania: http://www.education.pa.gov/Early_Learning/Early_Learning_Standards/Pages/default.aspx

5 Wisconsin: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/curriculum-assessment-child-assessment.php>

Preschool Development and Expansion Grants

In this most recent scan, CSAI began augmenting the state summaries with information about whether states have received funding under the U.S. Department of Education's Preschool Development Grant program, which includes both development and expansion grants. Development grants support states that do not have a Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge grant and whose publicly funded preschool programs serve less than 10 percent of 4-year-olds statewide. Expansion grants support states that have been awarded a Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge grant and whose publicly funded preschool programs serve more than 10 percent of 4-year-olds statewide. The states in the following table have received either a development or expansion grant.

TYPE OF GRANT	AWARDED STATES
Development	Alabama, Arizona, Hawai'i, Montana, Nevada
Expansion	Arkansas, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia

For detailed information about states' pre-kindergarten and kindergarten assessment systems, please read the full report on the [CSAI website](#).



CSAI Update is produced by the The Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation (CSAI). CSAI, a collaboration between WestEd and CRESST, provides state education agencies (SEAs) and Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs) with research support, technical assistance, tools, and other resources to help inform decisions about standards, assessment, and accountability. Visit www.csai-online.org for more information.

This document was produced under prime award #S283B050022A between the U.S. Department of Education and WestEd. The findings and opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Education.



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