Delaware
Department of Education

DELAWARE EARLY LEARNER SURVEY 2016 KEY FINDINGS

DE-ELS Defined

An observational tool through which kindergarten teachers indicate children's progress toward attaining skills that lead to success in school and life.

The Delaware Early Learner Survey (DE-ELS) is based on an existing, reliable and nationally recognized tool (Teaching Strategies *GOLD*®) also used by early learning professionals in Delaware Stars programs.

Furthering Delaware's priorities for birth through third grade, this tool is:

· Aligned – with Delaware's Early Learning Foundations and K-12 state standards
· Inclusive – for use with the diversity of Delaware's early learning population
· Developmentally Appropriate – affirming opportunities for the whole child to learn through play, exploring their environment, and interacting with their peers

An advisory committee of Delaware leaders guided the survey creation and kindergarten teachers piloted it in 2012. The survey was implemented statewide for the first time in 2015, and annual teacher feedback provides continuous improvement.

Teachers observe all Delaware kindergarten students during the first 30 days of school, and data from the survey:

· Helps teachers customize instruction to meet children's developmental needs
· Informs ongoing efforts to improve educational quality

What Does the 2016 Early Learner Survey Tell Us?

97% of Delaware kindergarten students were surveyed in six developmental domains.

Examples within each domain, and the % of students who are accomplished at kindergarten entry, follow:

		2016 Results	
Domain	**Examples of child activity:**	**Not Accomplished**	**Accomplished**
1. Social and Emotional	Sustains positive interactions with small group of other children, Shares materials in the classroom and outdoors	38%	62%
2. Physical	Holds drawing or writing tools, Steers wheelchair, Can pedal or push objects that move	36%	64%
3. Language	Follows multistep directions, Uses long sentences, Describes use of items	46%	54%
4. Literacy	Recognizes and names as many as 10 letters, Indicates where to start reading and what direction to follow, Retells story details	33%	67%
5. Cognitive	Sustains work on interesting tasks, Can ignore distractions and interruptions, Uses drawings or movements to represent ideas	45%	55%
6. Mathematics	Verbally counts to 20, Counts 10-20 objects accurately, Describes basic 2D and 3D shapes using own words	57%	43%

Full report: www.doe.k12.de.us/DE-ELS