

Delaware Early Learner Survey



2019-2020
Fact Sheet

What is the Delaware Early Learner Survey?

All kindergarten students participate in the Delaware Early Learner Survey. The survey is a process for:

- Recognizing students' strengths
- Communicating with families about their children's needs and development
- Helping kindergarten teachers, schools, districts, and the state identify how to best support young children's school readiness and progress

Individual child or teacher level data will not be reported publicly.

Teachers will welcome about 10,000 children into kindergarten at the start of the 2019-20 school year.

How does it work?

- 1. Family connections:** Before school starts, or shortly thereafter, teachers can send a family questionnaire home. The questionnaire gives families an opportunity to share information about their children and helps to begin a strong family-school relationship.
- 2. Whole child observations:** Within the first 30 school days, kindergarten teachers observe and document each child's developing skills in five areas.
 - *Language and literacy development*, such as how a child recognizes letters in his or her name or names the parts of a book
 - *Cognition*, such as how a child recognizes shapes or compares and measures
 - *Approaches toward learning*, for example, the way a child solves a problem or completes a task
 - *Physical well-being and motor development*, for example, how a child runs or holds a pencil
 - *Social-emotional development*, such as how a child takes care of his or her own needs or gets along with other children
- 3. Needed supports:** Early Learner Survey results help us learn about our students' transition from early learning into kindergarten in our state and assists teachers, districts and state leaders in identifying resources to best support each child's learning success.

2019-2020 QUICK FACTS

- **6:** Developmental domains teachers observe through the survey:
 - Language
 - Literacy
 - Cognition
 - Mathematics
 - Physical
 - Social-emotional
- **15:** In-person and online training opportunities for kindergarten teachers and school leaders in 2018-19
- **30:** The number of days from start of school that teachers have to observe and record children's progress
- **15:** Additional days that teachers have to input data into Teaching Strategies *GOLD*® online system after the first 30 day observation and recording period
- **1:** Website with comprehensive resources to support kindergarten teachers
www.doe.k12.de.us/DE-ELS

For more information:

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ABOUT THE DELAWARE EARLY LEARNER SURVEY

What is the Delaware Early Learner Survey?

The Delaware Early Learner Survey is an observational tool through which kindergarten teachers observe and record children's progress toward attaining specific skills that lead to success in kindergarten.

Delaware Early Learner Survey has been customized for Delaware using the following principles:

- *Aligned* – with Delaware's Early Learning Foundations and Common Core 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, explore their environment, and interact with their peers.

What is the history of the survey?

A Kindergarten Readiness Advisory Committee that included community organizations, early learning providers, kindergarten teachers, legislators, parents, superintendents, child development experts and state agency representatives guided the selection of the Teaching Strategies *GOLD*® tool and the survey's items.

The Early Learner Survey was piloted in 2012 and revised in 2013-14 to reduce the number of survey items based on teacher feedback. The survey was implemented statewide in Fall 2015, and additional revisions have been made to the process for fall 2016-2018 based on teacher and leader feedback. We will continue to gather feedback to inform updates for the 2020-2021 school year.

