



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

July 1, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Alabama Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (AlaKiDS)

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pleased to announce a partnership with the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (DECE) to support the implementation of a statewide kindergarten entry inventory or measure for all students entering kindergarten for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Pursuant to *Alabama* Code § 26-24-23, the Alabama Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills, also referred to as AlaKiDS, is intentionally designed to help kindergarten teachers efficiently collect information during the beginning of the school year to assess kindergarten readiness by identifying student knowledge, skills, and behaviors.

With the impact of COVID-19, the Alabama education community has worked collaboratively to provide educators and families with additional readiness tools and resources to identify and close achievement and other gaps in the early learning development of a child. Many of Alabama's early learning programs, other care programs, and families' livelihoods have been disrupted, which has placed many Alabama children at risk of entering kindergarten behind the widely held expectation, negated the opportunity to gather end-of-year data, and impacted the transition programs for incoming kindergarten students. As a result, the DECE and ALSDE state and regional staff have partnered to assist all Alabama elementary schools with the training needed and the initial administration of AlaKiDS to all students entering kindergarten this fall.

Regional coaches, local coaches, and kindergarten teachers will be provided virtual training in July 2020 (see attachments), and all related supplies and materials will be provided for the teachers by the DECE. AlaKiDS should be administered to **all** kindergarten students within the first three-to-four weeks of the start of the school year. Following the initial year of AlaKiDS implementation, system coaches will provide training to new hires, as well as continue providing additional support through regional and local coaches.

More information about the AlaKiDS, including registration dates and a direct link to registration for upcoming virtual one-day trainings, can be found here: <http://children.alabama.gov/alakids/>. Please contact the DECE at (334) 224-3171 or by email at alakids@ece.alabama.gov if you have any questions.

EGM/ED

Attachments

cc: Dr. Trellis Smith
Dr. Tracye Strichik
Ms. Jean Allen
Dr. Daniel Boyd

Dr. Elisabeth Davis
Mrs. Reeda Betts
Mrs. Gay Finn

FY20-2100

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AlaKiDS

ARI Regional Literacy Specialist

The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education, Alabama State Department of Education, and Department of Human Resources are hosting virtual professional development (PD) sessions on using AlaKiDS. Sessions will take place in two, three-hour blocks over two consecutive days, totaling six hours. Participants are required to choose one session to attend.

The PD session will:

- Identify the purpose of using AlaKiDS.*
- Review the assessment prompts and observation process.*
- Explore the AlaKiDS Materials Kits.*
- Demonstrate how to enter the information into AlaKiDS.*
- An additional deeper-dive session created specifically for ARI Regional Literacy Specialist will also be two, three-hour sessions.*



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
Early Childhood
Education



Training Dates

ARI Regional Literacy Specialist Training Cycle	
Attend one session on July 13 & 14 OR July 15 & 16 prior to attending the <i>Deeper Dive ARI Regional Literacy Specialist Training</i> .	
July 13 & 14 9 a.m.-12 noon	July 13 & 14 1-4 p.m.
July 15 & 16 9 a.m.-12 noon	July 15 & 16 1-4 p.m.
July 21 - 8:30-11:30 a.m. & July 23 - 8:30-11:30 a.m. Deeper-Dive Training for ARI Coaches <i>Registration Link for this session will be sent separately.</i>	

Training Registration

Link: <https://bit.ly/3hTJNcl>

- Multiple trainings are offered per morning / afternoon session.
- Each session will hold 35 participants.
- Deeper-Dive link will be sent separately.
- Link to virtual July sessions will be sent in registration confirmation.
- Only registered attendees may participate.
- Within a week of completing the sessions, participants will receive a certificate of completion with contact hours.

For more information: alakids@ece.alabama.gov

AlaKiDS

Teacher/Coach Trainings

The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education, Alabama State Department of Education, and Department of Human Resources are hosting virtual professional development (PD) sessions on using AlaKiDS. Sessions will take place in two, three-hour blocks over two consecutive days, totaling six hours. Participants are required to choose one session to attend.

The PD session will:

- Identify the purpose of using AlaKiDS.
- Review the assessment prompts and observation process.
- Explore the AlaKiDS Materials Kits.
- Demonstrate how to enter the information into AlaKiDS.



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Training Dates

July 13 & 14 9 a.m.-12 noon	July 13 & 14 1-4 p.m.
July 15 & 16 9 a.m.-12 noon	July 15 & 16 1-4 p.m.
July 20 & 21 9 a.m.-12 noon	July 20 & 21 1-4 p.m.
July 22 & 23 9 a.m.-12 noon	July 22 & 23 1-4 p.m.
July 27 & 28 9 a.m.-12 noon	July 27 & 28 1-4 p.m.
July 29 & 30 9 a.m.-12 noon	July 29 & 30 1-4 p.m.
July 31 & August 3 9 a.m.-12 noon	July 31 & August 3 1-4 p.m.

Training Registration Link:

<https://bit.ly/3dqN3sT>

- Multiple trainings are offered per morning / afternoon session.
- Each session will hold 35 participants.
- Link to the virtual session will be sent in registration confirmation.
- Only registered attendees may participate.
- Within a week of completing the sessions, participants will receive a certificate of completion with contact hours.

For more information: alakids@ece.alabama.gov