What is WaKIDS?

The Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) is a 3-part kindergarten transition program designed to ensure a successful start to the K-12 experience and connect the school and family.

1. Family Connection welcomes families into the Washington K-12 system at scheduled meetings held the first three days of school, September 6, 7, 8 (kindergartners will not start school until September 11, 2023) as partners in their child's education.
2. Whole-child assessment (My Teaching Strategies) helps kindergarten teachers learn about the skills and strengths of the children in their classrooms so they can meet the needs of each child.
3. Early learning collaboration aligns practices of early learning professionals and kindergarten teachers through regular professional development opportunities called Preschool to Kindergarten Connections to support smooth transitions for children.

You can watch a 4-minute video about WaKIDS supporting the transition to school and connecting families and teachers to learn the basics. Principals with a specific interest in WaKIDS can take an optional self-paced training WaKIDS for Administrators.

WaKIDS data is entered into a software system called My Teaching Strategies (though some may refer to it by its prior name Teaching Strategies Gold or TSG). The Preschool to Fifth Grade team (P-5) will support classroom administration, but Assessment & Research support the Teaching Strategies system. All student, teacher, and principal account changes in Teaching Strategies are completed by Assessment & Research— please disregard any instructions you may receive from OSPI about managing teacher and student accounts.

Assessment & Research will update teacher and student accounts every Monday, from August 31 through November 1 (the enrollment cutoff date). Teachers do not need to contact anyone to request student transfers. Updates are based on eSchool enrollment data. If a student is not updated to their new class/teacher in Teaching Strategies by the following Monday, there is something wrong with student eSchool records (see below for principal expectations around eSchool records).

P-5 Instruction and Assessment & Research will work to provide timely updates as needed via Communications to Principals.

Principal Expectations

Kindergarten teachers are fully trained separately (online) by OSPI and expectations for principals around WaKIDS are primarily facilitation and completion assurance.
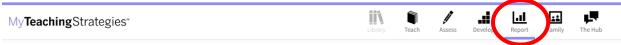
1. Ensure kindergarteners are entered into eSchool as soon as possible. They must have:
    a. An assigned teacher
    b. An SSID number with proper SSID issuance completed in state systems
2. Notify Anne Arnold right away if there are any possible changes to Kindergarten staffing.
3. Ensure that teachers are making progress on WaKIDS and are successful at completing all data entry by November 15. Watch for and promptly respond to email regarding completion status from Greta Fleckenstein.
4. Direct teachers with administration questions to Greta Fleckenstein or Anne Arnold. Direct teachers with My Teaching Strategies questions to Quiana Hennigan.

How to track teacher progress
Log into My Teaching Strategies at: https://my.teachingstrategies.com/

1. Click on Report.

2. Click on the Assessment Status report. The report will show you the percent completed for your teachers. This must show as 100% complete before November 15.

The Assessment Status report enables you to see whether you have entered finalized checkpoint levels by area and by objective/dimension. The report also…