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For more information about WaKIDS,
visit www.k12.wa.us/wakids

**During the 2011-2012 school year,
WaKIDS will include:**

- 68 school districts
- 165 schools
- 479 teachers
- 11,000 kindergartners

What is WaKIDS?

The Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) is a kindergarten process that:

- Welcomes families into the Washington K-12 system as partners in their child's education.
- Gives kindergarten teachers information about the development of children in their classroom to help them teach every child—data about social/emotional, cognitive, language/literacy and physical development.
- Align practices of early learning professionals and kindergarten teachers to support smooth transitions for children.
- Offers a statewide snapshot of where children in Washington are in their development at the start of kindergarten, to help inform state-level decisions about policy and investments.

WaKIDS was successfully piloted during the 2010-2011 school year. Senate Bill 5427, passed during the 2011 legislative session, moves toward statewide WaKIDS implementation:

- WaKIDS is optional for state-funded full-day kindergarten classrooms in school year 2011-2012.
- WaKIDS will be mandatory for state-funded full-day kindergarten classrooms beginning in school year 2012-2013.
- Other schools may choose to participate.
- SB 5427 required a bias and sensitivity review, which was conducted during summer 2011. The review is available online at www.k12.wa.us/wakids.

WaKIDS pilot year assessment data suggested that more than one-third of children enter kindergarten below expected skill levels in all four developmental domains. In the area of language, communication and literacy, nearly half of children enter with skills below expected level. Data from the 2011-2012 school year will be available in winter 2012. Data currently is housed in OSPI's CEDARS data system, and will be part of the statewide longitudinal data warehouse when launched in July 2012.

Next steps

Continue WaKIDS phase-in along with state-funded full-day kindergarten to help ensure that children in schools with the highest poverty levels have this important tool for supporting success in kindergarten and beyond.

WaKIDS budget

WaKIDS is funded with state, federal and private money. DEL and OSPI work together to oversee WaKIDS. Private partners include Thrive by Five Washington and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

- **General Fund-State:** \$500,000 for SFY12, \$400,000 for SFY13
- **Federal funding:** \$100,000 State Advisory Council grant
- **Private funding:** \$400,000