Date: May 10, 2023

To: Local Educational Agency Leads with State Funded Preschool

Route To: Assistant Superintendents/Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, School Administrators

From: Dorothea Specht, Director, K-3 Office of Education
           Division of Early Childhood Services

Kindergarten Entry Assessment Guidance

The updated 2022 *Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs* (N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-6.1(a)2) includes the implementation of a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate kindergarten entry assessment. The New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) Division of Early Childhood Services has released guidance to Preschool Education Aid (PEA) districts focused on the creation or selection of a kindergarten entry assessment. While the kindergarten entry assessment is required for PEA districts, the implementation of one is highly recommended for all school districts as part of a high-quality early learning continuum.

The document, which provides school districts with information about creating or choosing a kindergarten entry assessment by September 2023, can be found by opening the "Kindergarten Entry Assessment Guidance" link in Guidance section of the K-3 Early Childhood Education webpage.

The updated 2022 *Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs* (N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-6.1(a)2) includes the implementation of a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate kindergarten entry assessment within the first *six to eight weeks* of school to measure children's knowledge, skills, and behaviors at the beginning of kindergarten. The alignment of developmentally appropriate practices, curricula, and assessments from preschool to third grade benefits students in a high-quality early learning continuum. School districts may choose a kindergarten entry assessment or create one of their own.

Contact Information
For more information, contact the NJDOE's Office of K-3 Education at K-3Office@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
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