



State of Arizona
Department of Education

John Huppenthal
Superintendent of
Public Instruction



Early Childhood Education Alert

ECE

May 26, 2011

Transition to New Assessment Instrument - Teaching Strategies GOLD

Trainings

Since early February, over 15 trainings have taken place around the state on the new early childhood assessment instrument, Teaching Strategies GOLD. Additional teacher and administrator trainings will be scheduled this fall. Please contact Holly Ford at 602-542-2790 or holly.ford@azed.gov for more information.

Purchasing Subscriptions

The ADE ECE unit is encouraging districts to wait until July 1 to activate their per-child subscriptions to GOLD Online. These subscriptions are \$10.95 per child and must be renewed every 12 months. Please note that the purchase of any *printed* materials from Teaching Strategies is optional. Only the purchase and use of the online assessment subscription per child is required. Johanna Hooks is the Arizona contact at Teaching Strategies. Please feel free to contact her with questions about GOLD and to begin the purchase of your program/district per-child subscriptions.

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Free Trial Subscription

Your district/program can receive a free trial subscription to GOLD that will allow you to practice using the system before purchasing your per-child subscriptions. Each organization/district can receive access under one name and multiple users can be added, allowing numerous staff within your org/district to have access. Please contact Johanna to set up this trial subscription.

Data Submission

Starting this fall, districts will no longer be required to upload preschool assessment data to the Student Accountability Information System (SAIS). ADE will now export this data directly from Teaching Strategies GOLD online. This requires that all programs have data entered and finalized for every child by three “checkpoint” dates.

Checkpoint Dates for 2011-2012

Season/Start Date	Date to begin collecting observations and entering documentation in GOLD Online	Checkpoint Date (Date by which teachers must finalize ratings for all areas in GOLD Online)
*Fall	1 st Day of Program	October 14
*Winter	On-going	February 10
*Spring	On-going	June 30
*Children entering program at various dates during the year (e.g. children with IEPs, children that start late, et.al)	Begin collecting data during evaluation or intake process	Enter as soon as possible but no later than 45 days from start date, then continue with schedule above.

On-going progress monitoring requires that teachers, paraprofessionals and related service providers observe children and document these observations on a daily and weekly basis. “Checkpoints” are simply three points in time at which teachers will stop to reflect upon and rate this documentation. All documentation should be entered into GOLD online by these dates to ensure that it is included when ADE exports the data for all programs.

Special education staff will want to use data at approximately the mid IEP juncture to monitor goal progress and at the annual review timeframe to drive strengths, needs and goals for the next IEP.

* The purpose of data collected and ratings given at the first checkpoint date is to serve as a **baseline** for a child by which to measure progress. Therefore, teachers can enter initial ratings as soon as they have sufficient documentation for all areas for each child. Initial special education evaluation information can serve as documentation relating to particular Teaching Strategies GOLD objectives and can be entered as such in child portfolios online. Teachers do not need to wait for the first checkpoint date to finalize their data in GOLD. After entering initial ratings, staff can continue entering documentation and ratings by the next checkpoint date.

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