



# GOLD NUGGET-Summer Issue

## **ARIZONA Selects *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® for Ongoing Formative Assessment in Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms**

ADE is pleased to announce that it has chosen *Teaching Strategies GOLD*®, a proven, observation-based assessment system, to help inform teachers and the state about the skills, knowledge, and behaviors of pre-kindergarten children. The selection was made after a rigorous review of multiple instruments by an advisory committee of pre-kindergarten teachers, school superintendents, parents, early childhood educators, state officials, and other stakeholders. Teachers can use *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® on an ongoing basis throughout the year to measure students' progress and guide instructional decisions, and the tool is being customized to state specifications. "We are proud to be partnering with Arizona" said Andrea Valentine, Chief Operating Officer of Teaching Strategies. "*Teaching Strategies GOLD*® will help Arizona gain a comprehensive understanding of children's development and learning during the pre-kindergarten year and inform efforts to close the school readiness gap. *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® will also help pre-kindergarten teachers plan and individualize instruction for all children."

*Teaching Strategies GOLD*® is a developmentally appropriate, observation-based assessment system for children from birth through kindergarten. *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® covers all essential domains of school readiness and can be used with any developmentally appropriate curriculum. It is grounded in 38 research-based objectives that include predictors of school success and are aligned with state early learning standards, the *Arizona College and Career Ready Standards*, and *The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework*. *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® helps teachers document children's development and learning at particular points in time and over time, use that information to inform instruction, and communicate findings to families and other stakeholders. The tool can be used with all children, including English- and dual-language learners and children with disabilities. Extensive research conducted by the Center for Educational Measurement and Evaluation at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte shows that *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® is highly valid and reliable.

Arizona is collaborating with Teaching Strategies to customize *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® and its implementation during the pre-kindergarten year to best meet the state's unique needs. Arizona will also benefit from the actionable data that *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® provides at all levels through innovative reports for teachers, parents, administrators, and policy makers. In addition, Arizona will be collaborating closely with Teaching Strategies to integrate results from *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® into its statewide longitudinal data system.

*Teaching Strategies GOLD*® includes free online professional development modules and interrater reliability certification to help ensure fidelity of use, as well as a family portal to promote meaningful communication with families and activities to support instruction and assessment. Tools to support documentation collection are also available, including a state-of-the-art app for mobile digital devices that enables teachers to easily capture photos, videos, audio recordings, and text notes as they interact with children.



There is a time line of professional development opportunities for Arizona:

Starting now, teachers and administrators should be taking the **online module courses** on the Teaching Strategies Dashboard "Professional Development" tab. There are 4 online module trainings for teachers that are free. TSG is sending invitations for everyone to take those modules this summer. Please encourage all the teachers to do so. This will provide the state of Arizona was wonderful baseline training for all users.

#### **Introduction to GOLD Lab sessions:**

This training is recommended for those participants who have completed the 4 online module trainings and still have questions on how to use GOLD. Participants must attend both days for full credit hours. Cost is \$200 per participant.

August 5 & 6, 2015-Introduction to GOLD Lab in Flagstaff, AZ.

August 7 & 8, 2015-Introduction to GOLD Lab in Phoenix, AZ

August 10 & 11, 2015-Introduction to GOLD Lab in Mesa, AZ.

August 21 & 22, 2015-Introduction to GOLD in Show Low, AZ.

August 31 & Sept 1, 2015-Intro to GOLD in Continental SD in Green Valley, AZ

#### **Advanced users training:**

This training is recommended for teachers who have been using GOLD in their classrooms for a while. This training will instruct teachers on how to use GOLD more organically in their classrooms and use data to drive instruction. Cost is \$100 per person.

August 13 2015-Advanced GOLD in Mesa, AZ


September 2-Advanced GOLD in Green Valley, AZ

September 11-Advanced Users in Flagstaff, AZ

#### **Administrator's Series:**

Participants must attend all three trainings in the series for full credit hours.

August 12, September 16, and November 18. All trainings will take place in Mesa from 9:30am-4:30pm. Cost is \$300 for the full series. Content includes: Day 1-GOLD Basics, Day 2-Quality Use of the Tool/Monitoring, Day 3-Data for program/classroom instruction. This training is not listed on our website. To register you must contact Evelyn Irvine at [evelyn.irvine@azed.gov](mailto:evelyn.irvine@azed.gov) or 602-364-1530. Thank you!



For more information, please contact Elizabeth Hamilton at AZ Department of Education, she can be reached at [elizabeth.hamilton@azed.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hamilton@azed.gov). Register for trainings at [www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov) under "Early Childhood Programs" or click here:

[http://www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration/SelectEvent.asp?viewall="yes"&GroupID=31](http://www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration/SelectEvent.asp?viewall=)

To learn more about *Teaching Strategies GOLD*®, please visit [TeachingStrategies.com/GOLD](http://TeachingStrategies.com/GOLD) or call 800.637.3652