

## Update on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Reductions

In his January 2015 report on state tests, Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Richard A. Ross pledged to make changes to the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment to reduce disruption to classroom instruction. Upon feedback and recommendations from Ohio teachers, the department is reducing the number of items on the assessment by 21 percent. The revision ensures that the results are reliable and helpful in guiding instruction.

The revision reduces:

- The overall number of items from 63 to 50;
- The number of items in which the teacher observes student activities from 29 to 21;
- Items that require a direct response from students from 34 to 29; and
- The number of items that require a teacher to administer one-on-one with a student from 20 to 10.

The revision also saves time by increasing from 12 to 17 the number of items that students can complete through technology, which transfers the scores directly into the data system.

### What educators can expect next:

1. District assessment data and individual student reports will be available to districts in mid-June 2015.
2. New dedicated technology trainers to assist educators and administrators in using the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

### We listened:

Thank you to those educators who provided feedback and recommendations about the assessment to the Ohio Department of Education by phone, email or through five statewide focus groups of teachers and one for administrators.

We heard that teachers liked having a comprehensive assessment that looked at learning and “soft” skills. However, teachers expressed concerns about the technology needed, the number of items on the assessment and the turnaround time to get student results. The department also evaluated statistics about student performance on the test items. This information guided the department in streamlining the assessment, and we are confident it remains an accurate measure of kindergarten readiness.

### The future:

- More items will be available that allow students to use technology to answer questions, making the assessment faster;
- There will be a new and improved help desk available for fall 2015; and
- For fall 2015, teachers will be able to download individual and classroom-level performance reports as student data is entered.