

Meeting Date	September 28, 2023 Topic: Kindergarten Readiness Definition
Attendees	<p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonya Williams (lead) ○ Lori Bridges ○ Dawn Jeffery <p>Work Group Members in attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jenny Barber, Russellville School District/Pre-K Administrator ○ Anna Strong, AR Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics ○ Tara Armstrong, Camden Fairview School District ○ Fredricka Tabor, White River Health ○ Leigh Keener, Teacher ○ Gwen Couthren, Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative ○ Jamie Ward, Curricula Concepts ○ Angela Betancourt, Greenbrier School District/Pre-K Administrator ○ Richard T. Atkinson, Ozark Opportunities, Inc. Head Start ○ Bill Sims, Grow Learning Center/Early Intervention ○ Brandy Wolfenbarger, Pre-K Administrator/ Springdale SD <p>ADE Internal Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jackie Govan, Head Start Collaborative ○ Ashlyn Abney, OEC Licensing Unit <p>Watershed Advisors in Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lizzie Cosse ○ Ellie Bezos
Absent	<p>Work Group Members absent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diana Nathan, Parent (absent) ○ Shelley Ray, Teacher/Junction City SD (absent) ○ Tracy Dunn, Russellville School District/Teacher (absent) ○ Alexandra Galleur, Penny Lane Child Care Center (absent) ○ Danita Pitts, DESE Early Childhood Special Education (absent)

Draft Rule/Policy Component	
LEARNS Executive Order Report	
<p>Kindergarten Readiness K Readiness Definition Examples</p>	

[Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards](#)

Meeting Notes

- AR K Readiness Definition has been in place since 2012, we have the opportunity to revise.
- Continue to use the idea of setting it as the North Star as foundation to include Families, Communities and Schools/Programs as partners in consistent expectations for K vs School Readiness. All important in shaping children for success
- Need for consistent expectations aligned to CDELS/K Readiness indicators for ALL EC providers.
- Setting expectation that all curriculums used in supporting developmentally appropriate learning experiences meet CDELS and K Readiness indicators
- Curriculum: State Developed (free) vs purchased curriculum with state support with training and accountability supporting positive outcomes for children
- Must meet ALL children where they are to include inclusive practices
- How can we include Emotional needs to be pulled in to this definition?
- Behavior and Communication Skills must be included in school readiness
- All families should receive the KRIC and resources to support their children
- Less is more and current definition meets the basic concept of consistent K readiness expectations
- Understanding that behavior is a form of communication “cry for help” and understanding that children need support developing the skills that create a barrier to learning –
- Pre-K Setting vs Kindergarten setting – AR needs to ensure not only children are K ready but are schools “child” ready? See Georgia’s definition. It calls out communities and schools need to be ready for children.
- Russellville SD use language of “Greater Community” in their strategic plan to support K readiness.
- Health and Physical Readiness must be included for School readiness.
- [EDI tool](#) discussed and uses “social competence” tool at the community level. Administered by Kindergarten teacher in 30 school districts – communities are supporting school readiness by using data to create spaces for children to promote gross motor, language development etc. [ARC EDI Community Report by County](#)
- School Readiness includes more than just academics and must include social intrapersonal skills, health, physical and wellness
- K Definition vs VISION for all incoming K children
- This definition can support home schooled, Home visiting and all EC programs with a consistent target
- ADE is prioritizing child outcomes: ERS and CLASS pilot



	<p>➤ Local EC Lead Organizations can be huge in the communication and marketing for</p>
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<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A kindergarten readiness definition will be drafted using all feedback from the LEARNNS Early Learning Work Group. The DRAFT K Readiness definition will be shared with the EL Work Group to review. <p>The group will reconvene on October 26th for update on Local Early Childhood Lead Organization.</p>
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