

Delaware Early Learner Survey Process Overview

What is the Delaware Early Learner Survey?

The Delaware Early Learner Survey is an observational tool through which kindergarten teachers observe and record students' knowledge and skills that lead to success in kindergarten and throughout life. All kindergarten students participate in the Delaware Early Learner Survey, as required by Title 14 of Delaware Code, Section 151.

Kindergarten staff observe all kindergarten students during the first 30 days of school. Because the survey is focused on the whole child, teachers observe a set of 34 objectives within six developmental domains: **social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics**. The survey was chosen because it is a curriculum-embedded tool, appropriate for dual immersion classrooms and classes with English learners and students with disabilities.

This survey provides a diagnostic snapshot of students' knowledge and skills at kindergarten entry across all districts and charter schools.

- The survey is developmentally-appropriate, strengths-based and not evaluative for teachers or students. It is not a pull-out assessment to be administered to students.
- Teachers are encouraged to teach their routines, procedures and beginning-of-the-year lessons as planned. As a result, teachers observe students naturally performing skills during their first six weeks of planned lessons.
- Teachers summarize their observations to determine students' levels of accomplishment on a continuum of learning for each objective. Results are inputted into an online, reliable and nationally recognized tool (Teaching Strategies GOLD®) customized for Delaware.

Department of Education's Delaware Early Learner Survey Website: <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/de-els>

Survey Process

Staff have 45 school days total to complete implementation: observation (within first 30 school days) and data entry (15 additional days).

- The window to input data results into Teaching Strategies *GOLD*® online portal is an additional 15 school days after the observation window closes
- Teachers can also choose to input data results during their 30-day observation window

Data Input Support

All logins and passwords reset for the Teaching Strategies *GOLD*® online portal every year.

- Prior to the start of the school year, an email goes directly to teachers with their login and how to reset their password from “Teaching Strategies LLC” [info@teachingstrategies.com]
- Teachers and administrators receive email updates from the Office of Early Learning DE-ELS program manager throughout the fall

All students will be uploaded into the Teaching Strategies online portal from e-School.

- OEL and Teaching Strategies staff do a daily file integration through the implementation period to respond to any errors in uploaded class lists
- Changes in eSchoolPlus take two days to transfer to the *GOLD*® online portal

Technical and programmatic support is available through:

- Teaching Strategies *GOLD*®’s Delaware help desk (technical support only): 888-352-4653
- Christina Koutsourades, Office of Early Learning DE-ELS program manager:
christina.koutsourades@doe.k12.de.us

Training and Materials

The online version of Inter-rater Reliability Certification is not required.

- Inter-rater Reliability will be certified through in-person training for teachers new to kindergarten in the school year

There are multiple online and in-person trainings available to kindergarten teachers and administrators to support DE-ELS implementation and kindergarten best practices.

- New teacher training on DE-ELS implementation is required in-person
 - Office of Early Learning staff scheduled beginning-of-the-year training in statewide locations; sections are available in PDMS
- Optional, ongoing professional development is offered in-person and through webinars:
 - Webinars on how to enter DE-ELS results in the *GOLD*® online portal
 - Webinars on how to run and use DE-ELS results data reports
 - Kindergarten-specific in-person trainings can be scheduled to support best practice across developmental domains, such as social – emotional and early math

Teachers have access to an updated teacher manual through Schoology which includes:

- How-to screenshots on inputting results
- How-to screenshots on running a report in *GOLD*®
- How-to screenshots on running a report in the EdInsight Dashboard
- Recorded webinar trainings
- Teacher’s downloadable binder of kindergarten-specific resources

Family surveys and questionnaires in English and in Spanish are available as optional resources for teachers.

- Family surveys, questionnaires, and additional family engagement resources are available online on the DE-ELS website [<https://www.doe.k12.de.us/de-els>] and in Schoology

Specialized Guidance

Guidance on surveying English learners is available online on the DE-ELS website and through the DE-ELS Schoology course.

- This includes information on how to record the student's home language and observe survey items #37 and #38, "English Language Acquisition"

Guidance on surveying with students with disabilities is available online on the DE-ELS website and through the DE-ELS Schoology course.

- Teachers should follow early learning best practice and refer to each student's individual IEP to appropriately observe survey items

Guidance on implementing DE-ELS as a dual immersion teacher is available online on the DE-ELS website and through the DE-ELS Schoology course.

- Teachers observe language-dependent or language-free objectives depending on their language of instruction

Results and Feedback

Classroom-, school- and district-level data results reports are easily accessible.

- Online webinars show how to run on-demand classroom-level reports
- School- and district-level data dashboards are refreshed with fall results in winter

There are multiple opportunities for feedback on DE-ELS process, content, and potential revisions.

- Teachers and district and charter administrators receive a survey at the end of the implementation period
- Advisory Committee will help plan trainings for all teachers for the upgraded Teaching Strategies online tool that will expand the objective continuum through 3rd grade for the fall
- Advisory Committee including kindergarten teachers, as well as district and charter administrators will be convened to review survey feedback and propose revisions for the school year

NOTE:

District liaisons and principals have been asked to provide additional support through PLC time or provide additional staff member support to kindergarten teachers observing and inputting DE-ELS results online. Please contact Christina Koutsourades at christina.koutsourades@doe.k12.de.us for in-person technical assistance for teachers on inputting DE-ELS results online.