

## Implementing Kindergarten Assessment Feasibility Recommendations, AW

**Agency:** 350 Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**Budget Period:** 2009-11

### **Recommendation Summary Text (Short Description):**

The 2008 Legislature appropriated \$150,000 to the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to work with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to study and make recommendations regarding the implementation of a statewide kindergarten entry assessment.

DEL and OSPI are to jointly submit a report with recommendations for implementing the kindergarten entry assessment to the Governor and Legislature by December 15, 2008.

In the study and development of the recommendations, the departments are required to:

- (a) Consult with early learning experts;
- (b) Identify a preferred kindergarten entry assessment based on research and examples of other assessments;
- (c) Recommend a plan for the use of the assessment in a pilot phase and a voluntary use phase, and recommend a time certain when school districts must offer the assessment;
- (d) Recommend how to report the results of the assessment and a methodology for conducting the assessments;
- (e) Analyze how the assessment could be used to improve instruction for individual students entering kindergarten and identify whether and how the assessment results could be used to improve the early learning and K-12 systems, including the transition between the systems;
- (f) Identify the costs of the assessment, including the time required to administer the assessment; and
- (g) Recommend how to ensure that the assessment will not be used to screen or otherwise preclude children from entering kindergarten if they are otherwise eligible.

**Status:** The Department of Early Learning, in consultation with OSPI, has identified a contractor (SRI) to complete the feasibility study and work is scheduled to commence on September 15, 2008.

**Potential Fiscal Impact:** The results of the feasibility study completed in December will make it possible to estimate the fiscal impact of implementing the assessment.

### **Contact people**

Mary Seaton, Director, Early Learning, 360-725-4463, mary.seaton@k12.wa.us

Bob Butts, Assistant Superintendent, Governmental Relations, 360-725-6022  
bob.butts@k12.wa.us