

WaKIDS Assessment Training, AI

Agency: 350 Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Budget Period: 2013-15

Recommendation Summary Text:

Superintendent Dorn requests \$2,650,000 to train all kindergarten teachers in the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) Assessment. Senate Bill 5427 requires all state-funded full-day kindergarten programs to administer WaKIDS at the beginning of the school year to all students enrolled. In a separate budget package, Superintendent Dorn requests funding for full statewide implementation of state-funded full-day kindergarten program in the 2013-14 school year. Therefore, all kindergarten teachers will need to be trained in August 2013.

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures		FY 2014	FY 2015	Total
General Fund	001-01	\$2,363,000	\$287,000	\$2,650,000
Total Cost		\$2,363,000	\$287,000	\$2,650,000

Staffing	FY 2014	FY 2015	Annual Avg.
Total FTEs Requested	1.0	0.0	0.5

Package Description

Background

In 2007, the legislature passed SB 5841 in response to recommendations by the Washington Learns Commission. The bill funded voluntary full-day kindergarten for 20% of students in the 2007-08 school year, beginning with schools with the highest percentage of students living in poverty.

WaKIDS is a process for:

- Welcoming students and their families to kindergarten.
- Assessing students' strengths.
- Engaging early learning and kindergarten professionals in a conversation about the characteristics of children's development and learning to enable more successful in school.

Current Situation

Currently, the state provides funding for full-day kindergarten for 22% of students in the 2012-13 school year. 105 school districts and 307 schools will participate in the 2012-13 implementation of WaKIDS.

WaKIDS Assessment Training, AI

Proposed Solution

With full statewide implementation of full-day kindergarten in the 2013-14 school year, an estimated 2,585 kindergarten teachers will need to be trained in August 2013.

Contact person

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Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

The state requires WaKIDS to be administered to all full-day kindergarten students, which requires that all teachers be trained in the tool. This budget request will ensure the successful administration of the assessment across the state.

Performance Measure Detail

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

One of Superintendent Dorn's priorities is to promote early learning opportunities.

Does this decision package provide essential support to one of the Governor's priorities?

This package supports the Governor's priority to improve student achievement.

Does this decision package make key contributions to statewide results? Would it rate as a high priority in the Priorities of Government process?

WaKIDS provides a statewide snapshot of where children in Washington are in their development at the start of kindergarten. This helps inform state-level decisions about education policy and investments in early learning.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

Washington was awarded a Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant from the Department of Education, which will bring \$60 million for our state over four years. Washington's application included the goal that WaKIDS be implemented statewide by the 2014-15 school year.

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

One alternative is to ramp up full-day kindergarten a portion each year until 2017-18 and train teachers incrementally. Superintendent Dorn did not chose this option because the statute has already identified full-day K as a priority and he believes the state should fund that commitment first and then focus on other investments necessary to provide an "ample" education for all children by 2017-18.

WaKIDS Assessment Training, AI

A second alternative is to amend the statute to not require all full-day programs to administer WaKIDS. Superintendent Dorn believes that WaKIDS is important and should be administered as teachers are transitioning from a part-time kindergarten program to full-time.

What are the consequences of not funding this package?

WaKIDS will not be successfully administered statewide without proper training and buy-in of all kindergarten teachers. The goal of a common assessment with reliable results that will help inform state policy and investments will not be realized.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

None.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

None.

Expenditure and Revenue Calculations and Assumptions:

Revenue Calculations and Assumptions:

The current WaKIDS budget for FY14 includes \$1.4 million in state funds, \$836,000 in private funds, and \$1.249 million from the Race to the Top federal grant for a total of \$3,485 million. This funding is sufficient to train 48% of kindergarten teachers; the FY14 request is the funding necessary to reach 100%. In FY15, the private funds are not guaranteed and the Race to the Top amount dedicated to WaKIDS is decreased to \$495,000. The FY15 amount is sufficient to cover the assessment fees and administration costs for 100% of students, but does not provide enough for funds for training of new teachers.

Expenditure Calculations and Assumptions:

It is assumed that an additional 1,926 teachers will be provided a 2-day introductory training in August 2013 and a one day training on using the data from the assessment in November. The teacher assumption is the difference between 48% and 100% of teachers. A total of \$712,000 will be provided to school districts to reimburse for per diem and substitute costs. \$81,000 is necessary to train the trainers. It is estimated that \$124,000 of additional funds is needed for the Educational Service District to coordinate the regional trainings. \$762,000 will cover other training costs. \$609,000 is needed for introduction brochures, assessment materials and testing fees for 42,000 additional students. OSPI will need an additional 1.0 administrative assistant to help coordinate the training at a total cost of \$75,000 in FY14 only.

For FY15, the Race to the Top grant and the state funds are sufficient to fund administration and assessment material costs, but additional funding is needed to train new kindergarten teachers. It is assumed that 260 teachers will need training ongoing. \$157,000 is needed to reimburse school districts for per diem and substitute costs. \$104,000 will fund training costs. \$26,000 is needed for assessment materials for the new teachers.

WaKIDS Assessment Training, AI

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

The FY15 costs are assumed to be ongoing. Once the Race to the Top grant ends, additional state funds may be necessary to support the WaKIDS assessment ongoing.

Object Detail

		FY 2014	FY 2015	Total
A	Salary and Wages	\$37,000	\$0	\$37,000
B	Employee Benefits	\$23,000	\$0	\$23,000
C	Contracts	\$81,000	\$0	\$81,000
E	Goods/Services	\$624,000	\$26,000	\$650,000
G	Travel	\$762,000	\$104,000	\$866,000
J	Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
N	Grants	\$836,000	\$157,000	\$993,000
	Interagency Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Objects		\$2,363,000	\$287,000	\$2,650,000

Expenditures & FTEs by Program

Activity Inventory Item	Prog	Staffing			Operating Expenditures		
		FY 2014	FY 2015	Avg	FY 2014	FY 2015	Total
Early Education	055	1.0	0	.5	\$2,363,000	\$287,000	\$2,650,000
Total Activities		1.0	0	.5	\$2,363,000	\$287,000	\$2,650,000

Six-Year Expenditure Estimates

Fund	13-15 Total	15-17 Total	17-19 Total
General Fund-State 001	\$574,000	\$574,000	\$574,000
Expenditure Total	\$574,000	\$574,000	\$574,000
FTEs			