



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

December 30, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education
FROM: Thomas R. Bice *TRB*
State Superintendent of Education
RE: Pre-K

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As research is showing the importance of Pre-K, and as additional state and federal dollars are being targeted towards Pre-K, data is becoming more critical to ensure accountability.

We are being asked to answer questions such as "What type of program were students in before they came to Kindergarten? What programs help students get ready for Kindergarten? How ready are students for Kindergarten?" In order to answer these questions, we must begin to gather and record information about children's experiences prior to Kindergarten entry.

To begin the process of creating a more complete data picture of students entering Kindergarten, STI has implemented a new screen to collect information about the type and length of experience prior to Kindergarten for this year. Effective fall of 2014, this new section, "Preschool" will be required of all systems. By collecting this information, the state will have a better understanding of the types of programs and experiences that best prepare students for Kindergarten. To give you time to get the additional necessary data entered for each Kindergarten student, error messages will not be generated until the 20 day report. At that time, a hard error will occur if required fields are left blank in the "Preschool" section. Attached is a screen shot of the new screen.

Also attached is a spreadsheet of required data points to be collected at Pre-K and Kindergarten registration. The definitions of each of the types of preschool experiences are also included. We recommend that your registration forms ask for this required data so that you may complete the required fields in iNow.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jan Hume at the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs at (334)353-2719 or e-mail her at jan.hume@dca.alabama.gov.

TRB/MM/ATB

Attachments

cc: Jeana Ross
Jan Hume
Melinda Maddox
A.J. Price

FY14-1009

Preschool



Head Start:

State Funded Preschool:

Center Based Child Care:

Home Based Child Care:

Home Visitation Program:

Other Preschool:

No Preschool:

Data point	Values	Definition
Child First Name		
Child Middle Initial/ Name		
Child Last Name		
Child Preferred Name		
Child Date of Birth		
Child Age		
Child Gender	Male or Female	
Language Spoken at Home		
Child Social Security Number		Not required to provide, but requested
Race/ Ethnicity of Child		
Parent/ Guardian First Name		
Parent/ Guardian Middle Initial/ Name		
Parent/ Guardian Address		
Parent/ Guardian City		
Parent/ Guardian Zip Code		
Parent/ Guardian Alternate Address		
Parent/ Guardian Alternate City		
Parent/ Guardian Alternate Zip Code		
Parent/ Guardian Phone Number		
Parent/ Guardian Alternate Phone Number		
Is child currently receiving services from the local school system?	Yes/ No	
If yes, which services?		
Does child have a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?	Yes/ No	
Has your child attended Early Head Start or Head Start	Yes/No; If Yes, More than 1 year, 1 year or Less than 1 year	Federally funded income based program for 3-5 year olds provided through local agencies such as community action agencies.
Has your child attended a State Funded Preschool (First Class Pre-K) program	Yes/No; If Yes, More than 1 year, 1 year or Less than 1 year	Programs funded by the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs Office of School Readiness (OSR). Programs are also known as First Class Pre-K and may be located in public schools, private childcare centers, Head Start or other community organizations. OSR programs are the same length as a school day and may have an option of before or after school care.
Has your child attended a center based childcare program	Yes/No; If Yes, More than 1 year, 1 year or Less than 1 year	May also be known as "daycare." Children of a variety of ages are supervised in a group setting, typically organized by age groupings. Care is full-time, year round. Licensed childcare centers have 12 or more children; centers exempt from licensing by DHR may include church based or school based childcare programs.

Has your child attended a home based childcare program	Yes/No; If Yes, More than 1 year, 1 year or Less than 1 year	Home based child care providers are licensed to care for no more than 6 children in the providers' homes. Group day care homes, also in the category, can be licensed for up to 12 children with 2 adult caregivers. In home child care is part of this category and is when a paid caregiver cares for the child in the child's home.
Has your child participated in a home visiting program	Yes/No; If Yes, More than 1 year, 1 year or Less than 1 year	Examples of home visitation programs include Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), Parents as Teachers (PAT), Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), or other program where a trained home visitor provides assistance and support for families in the family home.
Has your child attended another preschool program	Yes/No; If Yes, More than 1 year, 1 year or Less than 1 year	Any other preschool experience than ones listed and may include school based Title I or locally funded preschool, part-time preschool, Mother's Day Out or other non-listed preschool type.
No preschool: My child was primarily taken care of at home by a relative prior to Kindergarten entry	Yes/ No	