GOLD™ by Teaching Strategies® Guide for Principals/Directors

GOLD™ by Teaching Strategies® is an observation-based child assessment that is:

• Valid and reliable

• Appropriate for children ages birth through Kindergarten including children with disabilities and English Language Learners

• Aligned to the Louisiana Birth to Five Early Learning and Development Standards

• One of the informational metrics on the state’s Early Childhood Performance Profiles found on www.louisianaschools.com

• Built on 38 Objectives for Development and Learning that measure children’s learning and growth in the areas of Social/Emotional, Physical, Language and Literacy, Cognitive, Science and Technology and Arts development

• Web-based and designed to generate individual child portfolios and reports

• User-friendly utilizing color coded progressions of development that show widely held expectations for children at each age of life

The GOLD™ Assessment Cycle includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth to 1 Year of age</th>
<th>Preschool 3 (3 Years of age)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 Years of age</td>
<td>Preschool 4 (4 Years of age)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 Years of age</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
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Evaluate

At 3 points during the year, teachers will make determinations on how a child is progressing in relation to the Objectives for Development and Learning. These progress “Checkpoints” are finalized according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last working days of:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>May</td>
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GOLD™ Support for Teachers

• Offers a systematic way to accurately observe and document children’s learning

• Builds understanding of children’s strengths, needs and interests

• Guides and informs planning and instruction

• Helps in making adjustments to teaching practices to create opportunities for high-quality interactions (as measured by the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS))

• Aids in identifying children in need of special help, screening or further evaluation

• Provides a mechanism for reporting and communicating children’s progress to families and others

• Offers an array of tools and resources to support the assessment process

GOLD™ Support for Principals & Directors

• Offers a suite of reports for each of their classes useful for:

  • Knowing how each child in their program is developing and being prepared for successful entry into kindergarten

  • Determining professional development and support needed by staff to make improvements to their teaching

  • Making decisions related to improving the overall quality of their programs

  • Linking families to the education and assessment process

• Provides access for teachers to online basic training and reliability certification

• Includes a ‘Help’ feature with hundreds of resources including printable documents, video tutorials, webinars, and guides

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HOW TO GET STARTED IN GOLD™

1. Contact your Lead Agency administrator or Public PreK Coordinator (for public school programs only) to create an account as a “Standard Administrator” which gives you access to teachers and children in the classes on your campus.

2. Set up a permanent password.

3. Add your teachers and classes:
   - Log into the Teaching Strategies GOLD® website: [https://gold.teachingstrategies.com](https://gold.teachingstrategies.com)
   - Click on the circle in the top right corner that displays your initials and select “Administration.”
   - Under the “Users” tab, click “Add” in the left menu and fill out all of the information for each new teacher, including email.
   - Under the “Classes” tab, click “Add” in the left menu and provide all information for each new class.
   - Teachers will receive an email with instructions to set up a permanent password and will then be able to log on to add children to their class.

HOW PRINCIPALS & DIRECTORS CAN SUPPORT THEIR TEACHERS IN USING GOLD™

- Ensure all teachers and others who work closely with children have received training (In Person or Online)
- Support all teachers to take and pass the Reliability Certification
- Help teachers develop plans for conducting assessments (for example: what data to collect, how often, which children, etc.)
- Guarantee time for teachers to collect and enter assessment artifacts online and to evaluate children’s progress (e.g. finalize Checkpoints)
- Provide support and/or coaching for teachers to use assessment data to plan lessons and to communicate with families and others
- Periodically review reports and other GOLD™ documentation with teachers

For GOLD™ technical support and other questions about GOLD™

- Call the GOLD™ Technical Support line at: 1-866-736-5913, or e-mail: techsupport@teachingstrategies.com, or
- E-mail Taylor Dunn in the Louisiana Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood at: taylor.dunn@la.gov