



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Education**  
*Bulletin Board*

## **PA Kindergarten Entry Inventory – 2026-2027 School Year Invitation to Participate**

All elementary schools are encouraged to implement Pennsylvania’s Kindergarten Entry Inventory (PA KEI) in the 2026-2027 school year to assist in meeting federal requirements.

PA KEI is a reliable reporting tool that offers teachers an instructional strategy for understanding and tracking a student’s proficiency at Kindergarten entry. The PA KEI is available to all local education agencies (LEAs) at no cost.

The PA KEI collects information on a consistent set of standards-based indicators across the Commonwealth. The PA KEI is based on Pennsylvania’s Learning Standards for Early Childhood and the Pennsylvania Core Standards. PA KEI includes 30 indicators and provides a comprehensive profile that includes the domains of: Social and Emotional Development; English Language Arts; Mathematics; Approaches to Learning; and Health, Wellness and Physical Development. The PA KEI is intended to be used by Kindergarten teachers to record a student’s demonstration of skills within the first 45 calendar days of the Kindergarten year. More information is available at [www.kei-pa.org](http://www.kei-pa.org).

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides opportunities to strengthen the contribution of high-quality Early Childhood Education in school reform and improvement efforts. The law recognizes that school success starts before a student enters the K-12 setting; it calls on states to describe how they will assist LEAs and elementary schools to collaborate with Early Childhood Education programs, and to invest in evidence-based practices. ESSA supports Early Learning and LEA collaboration in three main ways: (1) expanding access to high-quality Early Learning; (2) encouraging alignment and collaboration from birth through third grade; and (3) supporting educators. The PA KEI is a tangible tool to assist LEAs in understanding the comprehensive learning strengths and needs of students entering the K-12 setting, establishing common expectations and language for beginning and extending collaborative conversations with pre-kindergarten programs and families, and for planning and implementing joint professional development opportunities that focus on strengthening evidence-based practices for young learners.

Implementing the PA KEI requires a Point of Contact (POC) who will serve as the liaison between LEA administrative staff, implementing Kindergarten teachers, the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), and data systems staff. A dedicated POC ensures effective communication and implementation throughout the PA KEI process.

To initiate PA KEI participation in the 2026-2027 school year, send the POC name, email address, and phone number to [RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov) by May 30, 2026.

All Kindergarten teachers who have not previously participated must complete a required professional development course online and obtain a certificate of completion. Teachers with an expired proficient user certificate (more than five years since certification) must also complete the professional development online course. More [information about taking the online course is available on the KEI website](#).

Below are the tentative training schedule and timeline for participation:

*March-September.* Required professional development online course available

*August-September:* PA KEI systems professional development opportunities available

*By the start of school:* Implementing Kindergarten teachers must have completed the required professional development online course and a certificate of completion on file to gain systems access

*45 calendar days from start of school:* Observation and evidence collection/scoring completed

*60 calendar days from start of school:* Data submissions (student outcomes) **finalized** within data system

Questions about this communication may be sent to [RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov).



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

607 South Drive | Harrisburg, PA 17120 US

This email was sent to .

*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.