

Are you ready for

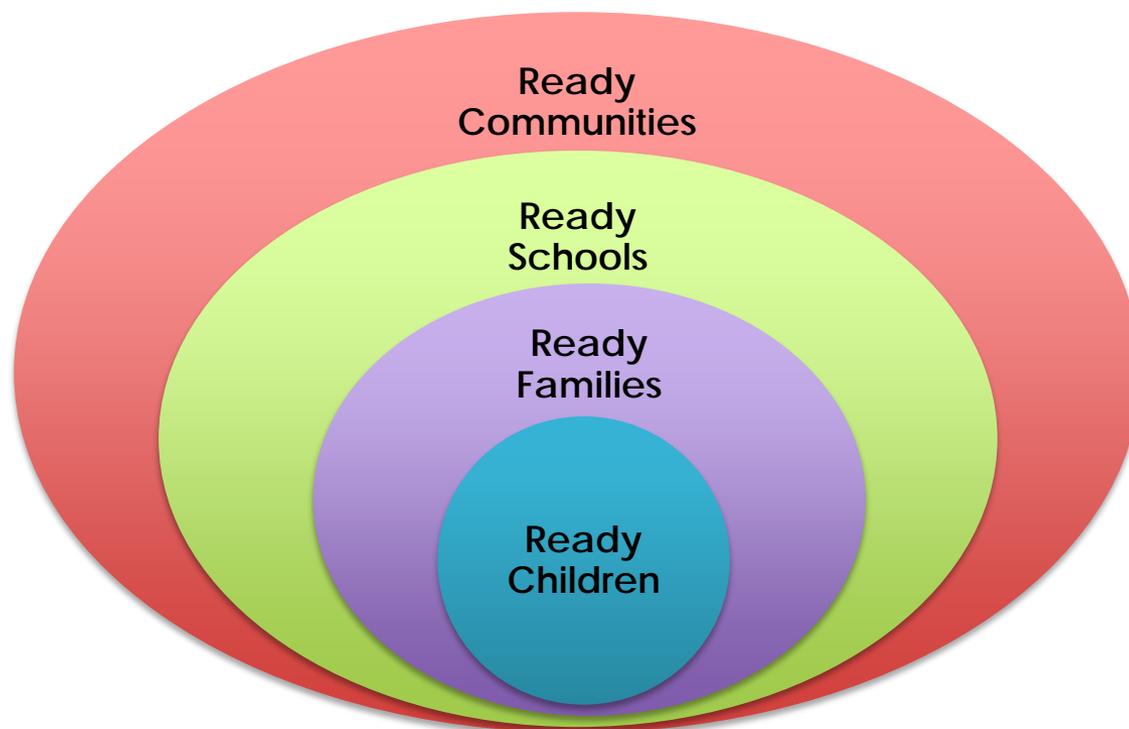


An overview of WV's comprehensive framework for school readiness and transitions

WVDE Office of School Readiness, March 2012



A framework to support children and their families as they enter Kindergarten
from various settings





What is 'readiness'?

- Typically refers to the child's attainment of a certain set of emotional, behavioral, and cognitive skills needed to learn, work, and function successfully in school
- Often places an undue burden on children by expecting them to meet the expectations of school

Perhaps we should:

- remove the expectations from the child and place those expectations onto the schools, families, and communities.



Kindergarten 'Readiness' in WV: a formal definition

West Virginia defines kindergarten readiness as a stage of transition that encompasses the child's various learning experiences and general knowledge, physical well being, social and emotional development, and familiarity and ease with expressing themselves and understanding language. Children develop holistically and at an individual rate. As a result, children enter school with varied levels of skill and learning experiences. These variances are further impacted by the resources children have access to prior to entering school including home, family and community supports.

Since each child's degree of readiness differs and is highly individualized, kindergarten readiness also entails the capacity of schools to be prepared to serve all children effectively regardless of a child's individual developmental level in each of the five developmental domains of school readiness. The five developmental domains of school readiness are:

- health and physical development,
- social and emotional development,
- language development and communication,
- cognition and general knowledge, and
- a child's individual approaches to learning.



Supports in place to assist with the framework:

WV Early Childhood Advisory Council

MISSION

The mission of the Early Childhood Advisory Council of West Virginia is to create a high-quality, coordinated system of services that supports early childhood development.

VISION

The early care and education community should:

Value that all children in West Virginia are healthy and ready to learn; have safe and nurturing environments; and have positive early learning experiences.

Value that all families in West Virginia are respected as their child's first and foremost teacher and have access to information and resources to meet the individual needs of their children.

Value that all communities in West Virginia Share responsibility for the well-being of all children and have a comprehensive system of services to support children and families.



Supports in place to assist with the framework:

WVDE Pre-K Continuous Quality Improvement Advisory Council

The WVDE Pre-K Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Advisory Council has the overall goal of developing a long-range plan for enhancing and supporting children's readiness for school and success in school.

The Council acknowledges the need for increased support and coordination between early care and education and the K-12 School System.

Children are the future of our society, and it is the shared responsibility of everyone in the community to help assure children's readiness for school and on-going success in school.



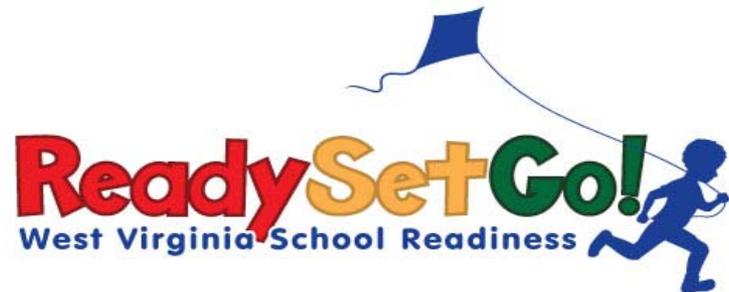
Supports in place to assist with the framework:

CQI Advisory Council
School Readiness Work Group Co-Chairs

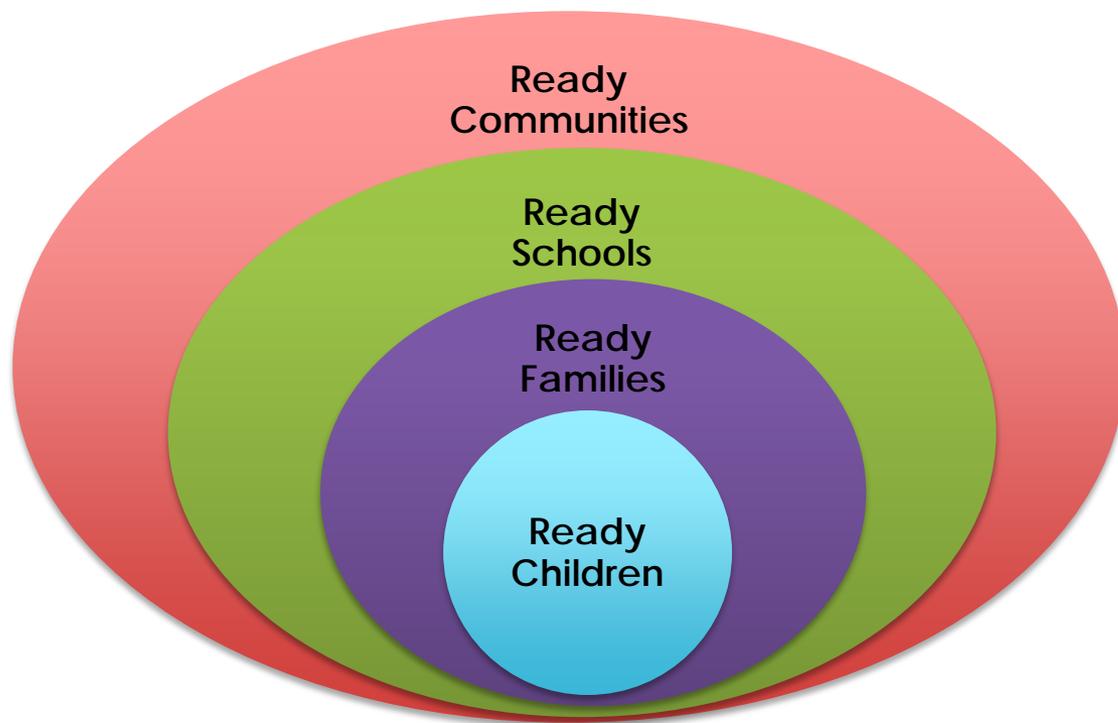
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Best practices for supporting school readiness: A framework to support children and their families as they enter Kindergarten from various settings





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Ready Communities:

What is the role of the community in a comprehensive school readiness system?



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Ready Communities

Some best practices to help ensure ready communities include

- Sharing and understanding through resource connecting
- Development of a comprehensive guide to increase public awareness of the importance of the early years
- Utilization of a place-based approach to community resources
- Forming partnerships with business and medical communities
- Increased public understanding of developmental milestones during the early years
- Provision of high-quality early care and education



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Ready Schools

What is the role of the school in a comprehensive school readiness system?



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Ready Schools

Some best practices to help ensure ready schools include

- Living a vision that is committed to the success of every child
- Ensuring clear communication with all stakeholders (families, educators, and administrators)
- Expand and utilize the county early childhood collaborative team
- Use of Vertical Teaming
 - Matching or pairing Kindergarten with educators from the early care and education community
 - Inclusion of home-based components



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Ready Schools

Some best practices to help ensure ready schools
(continued)

- Annual evaluation of transition plans
- Inclusion of other partners (school psychologist, counselor, behavior specialist, WV Birth to 3, etc...)
- Built-in accountability for implemented transition plan
- Transparent enrollment process to increase families' understanding of requirements and options to best fit their needs
- Offering various types of family engagement and participation
- Providing families with concise, easily understood pre-k and kindergarten enrollment requirements



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Ready Families:

What is the role of the family in supporting a comprehensive school readiness system?



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Ready Families

Some best practices to help ensure ready families include

- Helping families understand the importance of providing a caring, safe, stable environment for their child
- Equipping families with at-home, no-cost resources to increase family/child engagement
- Emphasizing the importance of the early years as a unique period of children's development



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Ready Children

What is the role of the child in a comprehensive school readiness system?



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Ready Children

What is the role of the child in a comprehensive school readiness system?

Each child deserves

Opportunities to engage in meaningful, supportive transitions



Understanding the transition into kindergarten in WV



Types of Transitions:

Where are children transitioning from when they enter kindergarten?

- Pre-K to Kindergarten
- Home to Kindergarten
- Childcare to Kindergarten



“Typical” transitions currently occurring in WV:

- Pre-K visitation to a kindergarten classroom (“move up day”)
- Family orientation prior to the beginning of kindergarten

What else is needed to ensure children have opportunities to engage in meaningful, supportive transitions?

(Brainstorming Activity for Best Practices to support children
AND families)



Using the WV Kindergarten Transition Checklist



Additional Resources:

- Getting Ready for School: <http://www.gettingschoolready.org/>
- WVDE Pre-K CQI Advisory Council: <https://sites.google.com/a/wvde.k12.wv.us/wvde-prek-cqi-advisory-council/home>
- School Readiness – Preparing for Kindergarten and Beyond: Information for Parents <http://www.nasponline.org/resources/handouts/schoolreadiness.pdf>
- Pre-K – Kindergarten Transition Report
- Ready, Set, Go! WV Family Guide (coming 2012)
- Ready, Set, Go! WV Transition Checklist (soon to be posted on WVDE OSR website)



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