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Framework | Expanded School Readiness: A New Approach to Using School Readiness Data

ECDataWorks Project

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Abstract

Use of the Expanded School Readiness Framework encourages states to bring together comprehensive data on the preparedness of schools, communities, and children. This expanded focus yields critical information to those serving young children and families so that they may better collaborate and identify issues and solutions (e.g., program strategies, professional development).

Framework | *Expanded School Readiness*

A New Approach to Using School Readiness Data

While school readiness is important to a variety of stakeholders invested in young children's success in school and beyond, schools, programs, and communities lack information to provide a holistic understanding of readiness to support children's success. Increasingly, states rely solely on kindergarten entry assessment data to measure and understand readiness. This narrow focus puts the onus on the children to succeed, failing to identify how schools and communities could better support children and families before kindergarten entry, throughout the transition, and in the long term.

Use of the Expanded School Readiness Framework encourages states to bring together comprehensive data on the preparedness of schools, communities, and children. This expanded focus yields critical information to those serving young children and families so that they may better collaborate and identify issues and solutions (e.g., program strategies, professional development).

Why a Framework?

State agencies are being charged to create tools and reports that better leverage integrated data to support program and policy decisions. ECDataWorks, in partnership with state agencies, developed conceptual frameworks to guide the discussions and development of analytic tools in four critical policy areas: school readiness, community assessment, data stories, and data governance.

The Expanded School Readiness Framework

FOCUS

Ready Students
Information about children's experiences that can inform decision making so that programs and services are tailored to student needs.

Ready Schools
Information about schools and staff that can help improve collaboration efforts, policies, and practices to support the needs of the children and families they serve.

Ready Communities
Information about communities that can help schools, early childhood programs, and other community-based groups develop partnerships to address challenges that affect the ability of children and families to thrive.

DATA

Student demographics, screening and assessments, health, and other key data of interest.

Staff characteristics, staff capacity, school policies, and other key data of interest.

Community risk factors, local organizations, healthcare (including maternal & child health), income, workforce, and other key data of interest.

ACTION

Adjust instructional practices, allocate resources, implement new services.

Determine whether services, policies, and instructors will meet the needs of kindergarten students and adjust their efforts accordingly.

Improve services available for children and identify their specific needs in kindergarten and beyond.