

SB 08-212 requires school districts to develop individual school readiness plans for all children state funded preschool and kindergarten beginning in the 2013-14 school year. The law also requires the State Board of Education to adopt one or more assessments for measuring students' levels of school readiness. During the fall of 2012, the Colorado Department of Education engaged in outreach to superintendents' advisory councils and regional meetings across the state to gather input to inform recommendations to the State Board. The outreach included meetings in Alamosa, Durango, Pueblo, Greeley, La Junta, Denver, Steamboat Springs, Limon, Grand Junction, Colorado Springs, and a recorded webinar. Over 400 early childhood educators and interested parties attended the sessions. The key themes from the feedback are summarized herein.

## Key Themes

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### Opportunities Afforded by School Readiness

- Data sharing between preschool and kindergarten
- Better communication and transition between preschool and kindergarten
- More and better information for parents
- More and better information to support children

### Barriers to School Readiness Implementation

#### Cost

- Additional cost to districts
- Not enough money to be fully implemented
- Unfunded mandate
- Budgets have been drastically affected by negative factor

#### Time needed to conduct assessment

- Challenge of observational assessment for large numbers of children
- Concern over length of time to administer Teaching Strategies GOLD
- Time to assess cuts into instructional time

#### Training for assessment

- Resources needed for training
- Competition with training needed for other state initiatives

### Considerations for Implementation of School Readiness

- Districts would like to have models of school readiness plans
- Consider partnering with non-school district early learning providers
- Provide time to train and roll out school readiness assessment
- Generate a choice of assessment tools