**Kindergarten: Version 2.0 – Looking at the Kindergarten Through a New Lens**

**March 27, 2018**

**Questions and Answers**

1. Will Pre-K be required to take MKAS? Yes, pre-K will continue to take MKAS.
2. Who can attend Boot Camp? Pre-K and Kindergarten Teachers who need to obtain a pre-k endorsement and teacher assistants who work with pre-k or kindergarten.
3. When will Boot Camp take place? June 18-29, 2018 at six sites throughout the state: Oxford, Greenville, Jackson, Meridian, Hattiesburg, Biloxi.
4. With dramatic play being so developmentally important, are there grants specific to these resources for classrooms? Would literacy- based grants be appropriate? The writer of the grant would have to follow the requirements of the request for proposals, but it would be appropriate for literacy resources to be present in a dramatic play center.
5. Are you recommending the centers like home living, blocks, etc. should be brought back to kindergarten? Yes
6. How can kindergarten teachers reconcile the pressure of MKAS growth and MDE’s “literacy guidelines” (i.e. SEPARATING ELA & Math) and NOT compromise thematic, INTERGRATED instruction? If your teachers are purposefully planning their center instructions and have standards intentionally embedded in their center instruction, trust that the standards will be taught and learned.
7. Do the kindergarten guidelines have to be followed during the accreditation process? **Yes, guidelines must be followed**. MDE will provide technical assistance in any area if needed.
8. Is the reason for this training now just to review kindergarten guidelines or have things changes; or is there a concern about guidelines not being followed? Most classrooms in the state are not following all the elements of the guidelines or are unaware of some of the kindergarten guidelines. Therefore, this training is being conducted to educate administrators of kindergarten programs of what is expected for all kindergarten programs in the state.
9. Are the guidelines on the MDE website from 2015 still current? Yes, the guidelines on the website are current.
10. Will our teachers have an opportunity to view today’s presentation online? No, but our power points are being made available.
11. Do you have a quality sample lesson plan that includes all required components? We are working on sample plans, but they have not been completed yet.
12. Can you please clarify the comprehensive health screener requirement for 2018 in current guidelines? What should be included in the comprehensive health piece? Will it be a physical like required for sports? Who conducts the screeners? Although the guidance in Section IV, C.1 requires a comprehensive health screening, the MDE Office of Early Childhood is currently revising the guidelines to change the language in this section.  Presently, the guidelines “require” students to have a comprehensive health screening, but in the revised guidelines this language will likely be adjusted to “strongly recommended.” The language for the Individual Screening Assessments (Section IV, C.1.) will closely mirror the language in the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children*.  These guidelines are currently in revision as well, and the language excerpt below is in draft form.

### *Recommended Screening*

*A comprehensive health screening (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment-EPSDT) or a standard physical conducted by a child’s health care provider or health department is recommended for all pre-kindergarten students.  EPSDT screenings/standard physicals should be conducted within 45 days of enrollment by either a private health care provider of the parents’ choosing, or through school resources such as school nurses, or the local Department of Health.  Parents are strongly encouraged to attend screenings conducted at the school.  A standard physical form is submitted for all screenings conducted by a private health care provider.*

In the meantime, the approved screenings are the EPSDT or a regular physical exam from the child’s physician/health department.  The EPSDT mirrors the Bright Futures prevention program of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

1. Where is the approved screener? It is not in the current guidelines but will be listed in the revised guidelines. Approved screeners are the EPSDT or a regular physical exam from the child’s physician/health department. The child’s physician can submit the information on the forma they use or the form the district uses currently. The EPSDT mirrors the Bright Futures prevention program of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
2. When hiring new TAs after 2020, how long will they have to complete boot camp and projects since pool of confidantes will be limited? One hundred percent of the assistants in your district will meet the new requirements by 2022. Fifty percent of the assistants in the district must meet the requirements by 2020. Therefore, districts will need to consider training both their pre-k and kindergarten assistants to create a pool for pre-k classrooms from now until full implementation of the staff requirements in the guidelines.
3. Will the teacher assistants be allowed to attend the summer training with the teachers? Yes
4. Did you say that the Hearing/Vision screener timeline will be changed from within 30 days of the beginning of school to within 45 days? If so, will this also change in the PreK Guidelines?  Yes, screeners will be given within 45 days of the beginning of school in both pre-k and kindergarten.
5. Do you recommend standards based reporting or traditional grading? We recommend standards-based reporting.
6. Does MDE have communication with colleges about training teachers in pre-k and kindergarten standards, teaching and methodologies? Will the graduates of IHL’s in the upcoming classes (within the next 4 years) meet the updated requirements for the pre-k endorsement? Yes, MDE meets with IHL’s and Community college deans, presidents, chancellors and instructors to help reshape the thought process about their elementary and early childhood programs.