



# KINDERGARTEN READINESS C.A.N

## NOVEMBER 7, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

**Attendance:** Rene Hobbs, Paula Stefani, Renee Henry, Julianne Hartzell, Renee Fauset, Peter Van Wyck, Ruth Donnelly, Sylvia Johnson, Jen Ernst, Anna Brown, Kate Haynes, Catherine Mulligan, Mary K. Walton, Linda Harbottle, Peggy Rittmann, Anne Wallace, Michelle Novelli, Paul Kulpinski

Catherine Mulligan opened the meeting with a presentation on how the **NACOG Head Start program uses the Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) tool** for student evaluation to inform instruction in their program. Catherine informed the group that TSG is aligned with the Arizona Early Learning Standards. She shared some recent data as an illustration of the major categories that are measured in TSG:

| 2016-17 Four-Year Olds - % Accomplishing TSG Kindergarten Readiness Benchmarks |           |             |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| All NACOG Head Start in Coconino County  | Fall 2016 | Spring 2017 |
| Social / Emotional   | 38.3%     | 84.4%       |
| Physical   | 42.0%     | 84.4%       |
| Language   | 36.2%     | 79.3%       |
| Cognitive  | 35.3%     | 87.1%       |
| Literacy   | 25.4%     | 80.7%       |
| Mathematics  | 10.1%     | 55.6%       |

Sylvia Johnson then presented information **about Flagstaff Unified School District’s (FUSD) Kindergarten Development Assessment (KDA)**. Sylvia shared the KDA form and discussed the categories that are measured: Fine Motor & Readiness Skills; Reading Readiness – Letter Skills; Reading Foundations; Mathematics – Number Sense; Mathematics – Foundations; Behaviors & Skills to Promote Learning. Sylvia shared some graphical data from 703 students assessed during last school year.

The group recognized that a striking similarity between the FUSD KDA data and the Head Start data was a consistent lower performance by 4 year old and 5 year old students around mathematics. This prompted a question for future consideration: **To what degree does mathematics ability in Kindergarten correlate to later early grade success?**

The group then reviewed and considered the question of a multi-Local Educational Agency (LEA) partnership with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for implementation of their Kindergarten Developmental Inventory (KDI). **Paul reported on the answers the CAN had for the ADE from the October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Lauren Zbyszinski, Director of Professional Learning and Sustainability at the ADE provided the following answers:

*“Considering your region, we could absolutely do a multi-LEA application. In modifying the application, I would name the “team” based off the region and in parenthesis detail who each district is. From there, it would just be a matter of including the team member name, school site, and district to ensure we know who is where. Currently, all the trainings are scheduled here in Phoenix (the dates listed on the application). For Teaching Strategies to host a training in another region we would need to confirm at least 20 in attendance (this would be the training teachers need to take). In regards to the training for administrators, that is an ADE hosted session... I will check with my K-12 colleague to see if they can schedule in your region.”*

**The CAN then agreed to move forward with a collaborative multi-LEA application** with shared agreement from **Peak School; Mountain School; and FUSD. NAU** and the **Coconino Education Service Agency (CCESA)** agreed to provide logistical support for the application and implementation process.

A question that arose was: **For the schools that participate in implementing the KDI in spring of 2018, will the requirement for use of AIMSWeb and/or DIBELS be absolved?** The answer again from Lauren Zbyszinski:

*“At this time, as we are in the first stage of implementation, it will not replace the requirement to report with AIMSWeb or DIBELS. We are working to have this assessment under that list of “options” like those other two are, but are just not there yet.”*

**The application deadline is Thursday November 16, 2017. A follow-up meeting was set for Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the CCESA office (2384 N Steves Blvd, Flagstaff).** The following CAN members agreed to meet to complete the joint application: **Sylvia Johnson, Renee Fauset, Tracy Braatz, Michelle Novelli, and Rene Hobbs.** Paul set up a shared Google folder for group members to individually add information to the application prior to the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**The next meeting of the Kindergarten Readiness CAN is: Tuesday December 5, 2017 at 4:00 pm** in the Ponderosa Room of the Coconino County Health Services Building, 2625 N King St, Flagstaff.

**Please bring a parent, teacher or administrator** to introduce them to our work as we share and celebrate our success over the past year!