



OVERVIEW

All state or federally funded programs are encouraged to use Teaching Strategies' assessment tool, My Teaching Strategies under the Alaska DEED license, to observationally assess all children in their programs. Completing assessment under the DEED license allows DEED to report statewide pre-elementary results, increase alignment with the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines, and support strong outcomes through the Alaska CLIMBS system.

This assurance page must be submitted to AK CLIMBS staff annually by October 30.

CHILD PORTFOLIOS

DEED contracts with Teaching Strategies, LLC directly for the "child portfolios" based on the number of slots requested by programs in Alaska. Programs are monitored on an ongoing basis to determine portfolio usage. Adjustments can be made at the determination of the department. Programs will contact AK CLIMBS Staff at DEED if an adjustment is needed in portfolio numbers.

ARCHIVING STUDENTS

When a child exits a pre-elementary program that **child's portfolio record must be archived by a program administrator**. After archiving the portfolio, that slot is now available for a new child. All exited students must be archived before a program can request additional portfolios. See the Alaska CLIMBS Handbook for further guidance.

ADMINISTRATOR AND TEACHER LOGINS IN GOLD®

Once this assurance agreement is signed, AK CLIMBS staff will assign administrator login information to the designated administrator. Administrators will assign sites, teachers and classes for their programs. Administrators must keep teacher and child information updated in *My Teaching Strategies*.

TRAINING

AK CLIMBS staff provides on-going support for *My Teaching Strategies* through monthly WebEX trainings. Programs are encouraged to also utilize the online resources available in *GOLD®*.

Ongoing online training features from *My Teaching Strategies* include:

- Introducing *My Teaching Strategies* (2 hours)
- *GOLD®* Introduction (2 hours)
- Objectives for Development and Learning (10 hours) ***Recommended for IRR Certification***

Additional trainings may be available on a case-by-case basis after other options have been exhausted. NOTE: If programs want to contact Teaching Strategies *GOLD®* on their own for training, the program is responsible for funding it on their own.

INTERRATER RELIABILITY (IRR)

Lead teachers must complete Interrater Reliability (IRR) Certification. This must be completed within 6 months of their school year to ensure accuracy of statewide data. IRR Certification must be renewed every 3 years.

Programs must ensure lead teachers maintain IRR or have a system in place for IRR certified staff to aid non-IRR teachers during checkpoints.

- The process generally takes about 3 hours. Programs must allow time for Interrater Reliability to be completed.
- Teachers must score 80% to achieve certification and may repeat the test as many times as necessary. *There is no cost for Interrater Reliability and it is available in English & Spanish.*



TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers are strongly encouraged to rate all objectives in all of the *GOLD*® domain areas that align with the 2007 *State of Alaska Early Learning Guidelines* and the *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework*. These domain areas are: social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics. The remaining *GOLD*® areas of development and learning are optional. Comprehensive assessment in all areas of development, when tied to learning outcomes and curriculum, ensures young children are learning in successful environments.

DEED will collect reports at the end of the school year on the following areas: **social-emotional, language, literacy, cognitive, and mathematics. DEED will also report, when requested, on other domain outcomes on an as-needed basis.**

Teachers are required to observe all children throughout the school year and enter observations in the online version of *GOLD*®.

Note: For some objectives, seeing a child perform a skill one time provides sufficient evidence. Other objectives need more evidence. There is no set number of observations or amount of documentation that is required. All programs are encouraged to work with teachers to determine if a skill level is met.

Programs are encouraged to use the guidelines that are outlined in the AK CLIMBS Handbook.

FINALIZED CHECKPOINTS

Teachers will finalize their ratings for each child 3 times per year in the fall, winter, and spring. (Optional: summer reporting is a programmatic decision and will be based on the program needs). Teachers must finalize the checkpoints in *GOLD*® for all children who attended class for at least 4 weeks before the due date. Finalized checkpoints are due to the state according to the dates below. *Programs may choose to require teachers to finalize checkpoints earlier in order to accommodate administrative review.*

Fall: November 30	Winter: March 5
Spring: June 1	Summer (Optional): August 18

DEED ACCESS TO *GOLD*® DATA

Alaska DEED has permission to access child data entered under the Alaska DEED *GOLD*® license according to the subscription agreement.

A signature below indicates that you have read and understand all of the information in this document.

District/Head Start Program:

SIGNATURE/TITLE

DATE