Completing and Reporting Progress Monitoring for Prekindergarten Students in Hybrid and Remote Learning Settings

Purpose

Under Act 166, all public and private prekindergarten education (PreK) programs are required to complete and report progress monitoring for PreK students. School districts and private PreK programs have had questions about meeting this requirement in hybrid and remote learning environments resulting from the Vermont's response to COVID-19. This guidance clarifies the expectation for the continuation of this requirement during SY 20-21, using the state-approved assessment system Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG), in a hybrid and remote learning context.

Continued Documentation of Student Progress in TSG

During any remote or hybrid learning periods in SY20-21, programs are expected to maintain all reporting requirements under Act 166 related to the documentation and monitoring of PreK student progress using TSG. The AOE recognizes that some of a program's traditional learning activities that were used to inform progress monitoring may be difficult to facilitate in a hybrid or remote setting; it is a program's responsibility to identify and provide learning activities that will facilitate continued progress monitoring in its current educational context, to the best of their ability.

Fall 2020 Checkpoints

Public and private prequalified prekindergarten education programs are required to complete Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) data collection for the Fall 2020. Finalized TSG checkpoints for enrolled PreK students are due:

Fall: Aug. 15, 2020 – Dec. 15, 2020   Checkpoint due Dec. 15, 2020
Spring: Feb. 17, 2020 – June 15, 2021 Checkpoint due June 15, 2021

Guidelines for TSG Account and Student Portfolio Maintenance

Below are some expectations for programs regarding maintaining student accounts in TSG.

Completing Funding Sources

It is critical that the following three sources are completed for each enrolled PreK student:

1. The Supervisory Union or School District counting this student in their Average Daily Membership (ADM).
2. Town of Residence.
3. The School District (SD) or Supervisory Union (SU) including this student in the school census.

One Portfolio per Student

Each PreK student enrolled in a public or private PreK education program should have one GOLD portfolio only in the program's TSG account. All student portfolios should be maintained by the public or private PreK program staff/ECE/ECSE that is providing PreK instruction.

Duplicate Portfolios and Program Accounts

- If a student has two portfolios it is the program administrator's responsibility to determine which portfolio should be maintained and transfer student portfolio information as warranted.
- If the public or private PreK program has multiple accounts, it is the program administrator's responsibility to determine which program should be maintained and delete duplicates or unintended program names.

Please contact Leslie Freedman the State GOLD Administrator to delete the duplicate portfolio at leslie.freedman@vermont.gov. Contact Teaching Strategies in order to close out and delete any duplicate accounts.

Student Transfers

When a student leaves a program, sending programs should ask the student's family if they intend to enroll their student in another PreK program. If it is another Prequalified PreK, both sending and receiving providers must complete and sign the necessary Vermont GOLD Transfer Form and send it to the AOE GOLD Administrator, Leslie Freedman. The GOLD Administrator will ensure that the student's portfolio transfers with the student.

Disabling TSG Access for Departing Staff

It is the Program Administrator's responsibility to ensure that the correct administrators and teachers have access to a student's portfolio.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

Therefore, if an administrator, teacher or other individual who has access to a student's TSG portfolio leaves the program, it is the program administrator or their designee's responsibility to delete or disable the administrator, teacher or other individual from the TSG system.

Related Resources and Documents

1. Alignment of *GOLD* Objectives for Development and Learning Birth-Grade 3 with the VELS.
2. *MyTeachingStrategies®* Support Portal contains TSG articles, videos, frequently asked questions, webinars. Also includes a form for reporting TSG issues. The Portal can be

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Page **2** of **3**

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accessed after logging into your account on the MyTeachingStrategies home page or by clicking on the "**?**" on the left side of your screen.

3. [GOLD Professional Development.](#) These professional development tutorials in the form of slideshows, videos, and interactive experiences help build your knowledge base and give practical information (e.g., directly applicable strategies) that you can use right away in your classroom.

4. [Vermont GOLD Transfer Form](#) is to be used for transferring students from one program to another, or from one site to another. It is not required if the student is moving to a different classroom within the same site.

5. [VELS.](#) The Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) help inform families about the development and capabilities of students from birth through grade 3, and guides educators in the development and design of curriculum and instruction for students from birth through grade 3.

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Page **3** of **3**