



Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

William E. Kirwan
Chairman

October 9, 2018

Dr. Karen B. Salmon
State Superintendent
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Dr. Salmon:

As you may recall, on September 21, 2018, Working Group 1 on Early Childhood Education reported in its policy recommendations that “a survey of kindergarten teachers who administered Version 2.0 of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) will be conducted after it is fully implemented in fall 2018 to get feedback on the usefulness and usability of the new version of the KRA. The survey will include questions such as: (i) the usefulness of the KRA data to inform kindergarten instruction; (ii) whether the KRA data enhances a teacher’s ability to identify challenges that a student may be experiencing, especially those indicating that a child may need special education services; and (iii) whether the teacher administers a separate, locally mandated kindergarten diagnostic assessment and if so, whether the KRA is duplicative of that assessment. The State (entity to be determined) will review the results of the survey and review Version 2.0 for usefulness and usability, and in consultation with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), make any recommendations for changes, if needed.”

As Chair of the Commission, I request that MSDE conduct a survey of kindergarten teachers who administer Version 2.0 of the KRA on the usefulness and usability of the assessment after fall 2018, consistent with Working Group 1’s policy recommendations detailed above. Given your outspoken support on the Commission for high-quality and accessible early childhood education programs and early interventions, I think you will agree that this is an excellent opportunity to get feedback and determine whether the KRA is the appropriate instrument for ensuring that our kindergarten children are ready to succeed in school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William E. Kirwan".

William E. Kirwan
Chairman, Commission on Innovation
and Excellence in Education