

October 12, 2011

Dear School Principal,

We request your support and assistance with the *Ready Kindergartners Survey*. Monitoring Vermont's progress towards the outcome "all children are ready for school" is a priority of the Department of Education, the Agency of Human Services, schools, and communities. The results of the survey are used to inform school and community planning and practices, legislative initiatives, and grant funding.

The concept of kindergarten readiness used in the *Ready Kindergartners Survey* is a holistic one; it includes the key areas of social-emotional development, approaches to learning, communication, cognitive development, and physical development and health. Teachers will be assessing children's competence in these areas based on the observations they have made during the first few weeks of school.

The survey is designed to create a group-level picture of children's readiness; it is not intended as a screening or diagnostic tool for individual children. Data from this readiness survey will be used to inform instruction and provide information to families, schools, and communities on how they can support young children to be successful learners. These data may serve as a catalyst for bringing people together to discuss schools' readiness for children as well as children's readiness for school.

We have attached a *letter that we ask you to distribute to any classroom teacher who teaches kindergartners in your school*. This letter describes the online *Ready Kindergartners Survey* and includes the link (see below) they will use to access the survey. Please ask teachers to complete **one survey for each kindergartner in their class**, and that they complete the surveys **no later than November 23**.

The link for the *Ready Kindergartners Survey* is as follows:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K-ReadinessSurvey2011-12>

This year we ask that teachers identify their school and the supervisory union (SU) or school district (SD); this will enable us to report results of this survey at the SU/SD level. We're able to ask for that information and still adhere to FERPA requirements since we now are using secure survey software.

A copy of the [State Kindergarten Readiness Report for 2010-2011](#) can be found [here](#).

We wish to thank you and your staff for your continued efforts to complete these surveys so that we may document and track children's readiness for school. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Manuela Fonseca at the Department of Education (phone 828-3850 or by e-mail [manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us](mailto:manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us)).

Sincerely,



Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner  
Department of Education



Dave Yacovone, Commissioner  
Department for Children & Families

The School Readiness Project is co-sponsored by the Vermont Department of Education  
and the Agency of Human Services.