

Vermont's Act 62 Prekindergarten Education Programs Will Transition to Teaching Strategies GOLD

Act 62 requires publicly funded prekindergarten programs to report child progress data for all children who are included in a district's school census. As previously announced on March 23, 2011, Vermont's required assessments for programs to use in reporting the level of children's development when they enter publicly funded Act 62 prekindergarten education (pre-K) and again at the end of the school year are changing. Teaching Strategies GOLD will replace CCDC starting this coming year, and replace WSS in 2012-2013.

Commissioner Vilaseca of the Department of Education (DOE) and Commissioner Yacovone from the Department for Children and Families (DCF) accepted the recommendations of the Pre-K Assessment Ad Hoc Group; the recommendations were as follows:

- (1) Adopt the use of Teaching Strategies GOLD in lieu of the current Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum (CCDC). This change will be effective starting in the 2011-2012 school year.
- (2) Discontinue the option prekindergarten programs now have of selecting one of two assessments tools, and require all programs to use Teaching Strategies GOLD by 2012-2013.

The Transition:

Teaching Strategies GOLD will replace Creative Curriculum starting on **August 15, 2011**. As with its predecessor, there are paper and online versions of GOLD.

Teaching Strategies GOLD Online:

The discounted GOLD Online pricing for the Vermont DOE state license is \$11.95 per child, per year.

If you are **currently using CreativeCurriculum.net**, you will be transitioned to GOLD online by August 15, 2011 for the 2011-2012 year. You can still view your CreativeCurriculum.net data as "read only" after your transition, but you will not be able to enter any new data.

If you are currently using the paper version of CCDC or Work Sampling (WSS), or WSS online and **want to subscribe** to GOLD Online, you need to contact the Customer Solutions Team at Teaching Strategies either by phone (800-637-3652 option 4) or by email CustomerRelations@TeachingStrategies.com to set up your subscription.

Decide how many child portfolios you'll need. ***Specify that you are under the Vermont state license.*** You'll receive your agreement electronically. Once you return the agreement with a signature and payment, you'll have access. You may subscribe now until August 15 and get the additional weeks added free to your year subscription.

Teaching Strategies GOLD Paper Version:

To purchase the GOLD assessment tool, go to the online Bookshop at <http://www.teachingstrategies.com/page/GOLD.cfm>. You can purchase a kit which includes the GOLD book, 25 child portfolios and parent conference forms, and other materials that are useful for implementing GOLD. Additional child portfolios can be purchased separately in packs of 25.

Teaching Strategies has given us a 20% “discount coupon” you can use when ordering the kit and separate components. The coupon is valid until July 21, 2011. Use the code NW11A when ordering your assessment materials to get the discount. The discount coupon does not apply to GOLD Online subscriptions.

Professional Development Opportunities on GOLD:

In order to prepare for this transition, the DOE and DCF are providing train-the-trainer sessions on GOLD. These trainings are designed for program directors and educators who will then train others on the GOLD assessment tool. The first train-the-trainer 2-day session was provided on May 5-6, with a second online training on May 13. Another train-the-trainer 2-day session will be provided on July 14-15, with a second online training on July 22. Registrations for this train-the-trainer session are still being accepted, although space is limited. If you’d like to register, please contact Shirley Rawson at shirley.rawson@state.vt.us.

Additionally, we will work with regions to offer onsite trainings on GOLD. To arrange for a training, please contact Manuela Fonseca at 802-828-3850 or at manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us. A schedule of trainings for educators and para-educators will be posted on this website. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please contact Manuela at least 1 week prior to the event.

Teaching Strategies GOLD Learning Opportunities:

August 19, 2011 - 9:00-3:00 Deerfield Elementary School

360 Rt. 100
Wilmington

August 23, 2011 - 8:30-2:30 Bethel Elementary School

273 Pleasant Street
Bethel

August 24, 2011 - 8:30-2:30 Addison Central SU

Middlebury

August 29, 2011 – 9:30-2:30 Georgia Elementary School

4416 Ethan Allen Highway
St. Albans, VT 05478

Target audience: Educators and para-educators who plan to use GOLD Online
Plan to bring a laptop to the training

August 30, 2011 – 8:30-3:00 Conference Room at the Rutland Northeast SU
49 Court Drive
Brandon, VT 05733

Target audience: Educators and para-educators who plan to use GOLD Online
Plan to bring a laptop to the training

September 16, 2011 - 8:30-2:30 Orleans Central SU
Barton

September 23, 2011 - 9:00-3:00 Campus Center
Castleton State College
Castleton