

Old Orchard Beach School Department Kindergarten Screening Plan

Maine regulations state under 20-A MRSA §4801.1.D - *A school administrative unit, operating under a plan approved by the commissioner, may provide for the use of up to 5 of the 175 instructional days required by this section to be used for screening the incoming first year students for the purpose of identifying exceptional students and students at risk of school failure as required by state and federal law.*

Basic Approval Standards for Maine Public Schools state under Chapter 125 §6.03 B - *Kindergarten Screening: The purpose of kindergarten screening shall be to identify students who may be exceptional or at risk of school failure. The plan for the use of screening days shall be part of the Comprehensive Education Plan and shall contain at least the following information: the objectives of screening, the qualifications of personnel, the instruments to be used, the data to be collected and analyzed, and how decisions will be made based on screening.*

Using the regulations above, the Old Orchard Beach School Department has developed a kindergarten screening plan that meets the needs of our local school system and the requirements of the state.

1. Each spring during the last week of May, all incoming kindergarten students for the upcoming school year will be screened. Notice of the screening dates and times will be given in a timely manner to all possible parents of incoming kindergarten students using a wide-variety of methods (notices sent home with current grade K – 5 students, notices placed at town hall, notices placed in local newspapers and notices given to Head Start parents).
2. The objectives of kindergarten screening will be as follows:
 - To identify students who are exceptional or at risk for school failure
 - To identify students who may exhibit medical concerns that might impact learning
 - To assure that each kindergarten classroom consists of groupings of students who demonstrate comparable levels of school readiness
 - To communicate to parents their child's strengths and/or weaknesses and areas that would benefit from home support
3. The personnel included on the kindergarten screening team will be a minimum of the following:
 - Certified elementary school teacher(s)
 - Certified school nurse (s)
 - Certified speech and language therapist(s)
 - Certified special education teacher(s)
 - Certified school administrator(s)
4. The instruments used during kindergarten screening will be a minimum of the following:
 - Appropriately calibrated audiometer
 - Phelps Kindergarten Readiness assessment
 - Appropriate vision chart(s)
 - Speech and language assessment(s) (to be determined based upon individual needs)

5. The data to be collected during kindergarten screening will include, but will not be limited to, the following:
 - Auditory processing skills
 - Articulation skills
 - Vision and hearing acuity
 - Potential to learn
 - Individual student profile
6. Decisions from kindergarten screening will be made using the following components:
 - A review meeting with parents in which their child's assessment data is presented by the principal or designee
 - A review meeting in which the screening team will discuss each child's strengths and/or weaknesses, and possible interventions that may be needed
 - A follow up communication to parents on the screening team's recommendations
7. The Kindergarten Screening Plan will be reviewed each year and recommendations will be given to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration.