

QELI™ UNIFIES ARKANSAS' APPROACH TO KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

Qualls

Early Learning Inventory™

THE CHALLENGE

Children in Arkansas were entering Kindergarten with varied readiness skills. Compounding this issue was the state's lack of providing common expectations and common standards for incoming students. Each district in the state was using a different screening tool. This made it impossible for the state to make any type of entrance comparison among children. Arkansas had developed a set of readiness indicators when the state mandated universal screening for all entering Kindergarten students. The state needed an assessment tool that aligned those indicators and provided information on the skill level of Kindergarten students.



QELI in Arkansas
Schools: 523
Students: 36,967
Grade Level: Kindergarten

THE CHALLENGE:

- * Find a screening tool within a limited timeframe that would correlate to and support the state-developed Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist (KRIC)
- * Use common measure for entering students across the state

THE RESULTS:

- * Observational screening tool that aligned with the KRIC
- * Common measurement across the state
- * Student data that guides instruction

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THE SOLUTION

Arkansas selected the *Qualls Early Learning Inventory (QELI)* as its Kindergarten screener. Arkansas selected *QELI* for the following reasons:

- ✓ Quick to complete
- ✓ Developmentally appropriate—*QELI* is based on teacher observations in natural settings
- ✓ Closely aligned with the existing *KRIC*
- ✓ Data generated can be shared with Pre-Kindergarten teachers to help them better prepare entering Kindergarten students
- ✓ Preschool teachers were provided with better awareness of what skills were being measured in Kindergarten

THE RESULTS

- ✓ Better communication and transition between Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, as well as with parents
- ✓ Arkansas has a common framework for preparing Kindergarten children
- ✓ All teachers, administrators, and parents have a common expectation of the entering Kindergarten student
- ✓ Schools are better prepared due to greater knowledge and understanding of the entering Kindergarten student
- ✓ Data provide ability to enhance and assist with instructional interventions
- ✓ Schools can show progress and growth of entering Kindergarten students each year
- ✓ Schools can better prepare for next year's entering students due to data on strengths and weaknesses of current class



"We continually heard 'that is the way children come to us', instead of 'this is what we expect from entering Kindergarten students.' By using *QELI*, all Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten teachers, parents, and administrators have a common expectation of the entering Kindergarten student."

— Dee Cox
Arkansas Department of Education



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