Pursuant to Colorado’s Achievement Plan for Kids, the State Board of Education is required to adopt one or more assessments for measuring school readiness. This fact sheet provides information on Teaching Strategies GOLD.

What is Teaching Strategies GOLD?
Teaching Strategies GOLD is an early childhood assessment system used for young children, birth through kindergarten age, that measures children’s progress toward research based age expectations. TS GOLD is a valid and reliable instrument. It provides both formative and summative assessment information and meets the school readiness criteria established by the State Board of Education.

Facts about TS GOLD
- **Aligned** with the Colorado Academic Standards and state early learning guidelines
- **Chosen by 98%** of school districts as well as the Charter School Institute for implementation in preschool
- More than **42,000** young children were assessed using TS GOLD in Colorado last year including 500 kindergarteners

What areas of learning and development does TS GOLD assess?
Children are assessed in the content areas of literacy, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, and the arts as well as in developmental domains including social emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development.

How does TS GOLD work?
Teachers observe children in their ongoing daily activities, capturing what children truly know and can do in the context of a typical classroom day. Observations are linked to the Colorado Academic Standards and to the assessment objectives within each content area and domain. Teachers document learning through observation notes, quick reference checklists and the collection of student work. Input from parents and information gathered through other required assessments are also used to inform the body of evidence used for TS GOLD. Three times per year, teachers rate children’s progress along a continuum which shows their development in comparison to researched based age expectations.

How much time does TS GOLD take for teachers to complete?
Observing and documenting children’s learning and development are embedded in everyday instructional activities. As such, this part of the assessment takes place on an ongoing basis. Dedicated time *is* required toward the end of the 10-12 week checkpoint period for completion of the assessment rating for each child. Experienced users of the assessment report that the actual checkpoint rating takes about 30 minutes per child. As with any assessment system, in-service training and teacher experience decrease the amount of time needed for implementation.

How are TS GOLD results currently used?
TS GOLD results are used to inform individual child learning plans required by the Colorado Preschool Program and for IEP updates. Teachers use progress data to inform instructional planning and to communicate progress information with parents. TS GOLD automated reports available to teachers and administrators include family conference, progress monitoring, standards alignment and growth reports. Summary reports also inform continuous quality improvement efforts and accountability reporting.