

2026 Transition to Kindergarten (TK) Checkpoint Guidance

It is a requirement that TK programs administer all three components of WaKIDS at the start of the program and the WaKIDS Whole-child Assessment one more time during the school year ([RCW 28A.300.072](#)). Also, [RCW 28A.150.315](#) states that it is the intent of the Legislature that administration of the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) replace the administration of other assessments being required by school districts or that other assessments only be administered if they seek to obtain information not covered by WaKIDS.

WaKIDS Whole-child Assessment data for TK students must be submitted and finalized by the appropriate checkpoint dates. While TK programs have flexibility in selecting their second checkpoint, OSPI recommends selecting the Spring checkpoint as the second and final checkpoint to show growth throughout the year.

WaKIDS Whole-child Assessment Checkpoint Dates

- **Fall:** November 15
- **Winter:** March 15
- **Spring:** June 15

TK programs Starting BEFORE October 1

Program Start Date	Fall Checkpoint (November 15)	Winter Checkpoint (March 15)	Spring Checkpoint (June 15)
Before October 1	Required	2 nd Checkpoint (Option 1)	2 nd Checkpoint (Option 2)
TK programs starting before October 1 have the option of completing all three checkpoints, Fall, Winter, and Spring			



TK Programs Starting ON or AFTER October 1

Programs beginning on or after October 1 have two checkpoint pathways:

Pathway 1: Complete the Fall Checkpoint (November 15)

If Pathway 1 is selected, the TK program can select either the Winter or Spring Checkpoint as their **second** Checkpoint Option; TK programs also have the option of completing all three checkpoints.

Fall Checkpoint (November 15)	Winter Checkpoint (March 15)	Spring Checkpoint (June 15)
Complete	2nd Checkpoint (Option 1)	2nd Checkpoint (Option 2)
Pros		Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate access to the <i>SmartTeach</i>TM platform to assess children’s knowledge, skills, and abilities • Earlier completion of assessment requirements • More authentic observation timeline aligned with program start • Quicker turnaround for data analysis and intervention planning • Alignment with fall reporting windows • OSPI score files have a quicker turn around for importing into the student information system. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compressed timeframe for conducting WaKIDS Whole-child Assessment (compared to a full checkpoint period) • May create additional time pressure for educators

Pathway 2: Winter Checkpoint (March 15)

If Pathway 2 is selected, the TK program will complete the Winter and Spring Checkpoints.

Fall Checkpoint (November 15)	Winter Checkpoint (March 15)	Spring Checkpoint (June 15)
N/A	1st Checkpoint (Required)	2nd Checkpoint (Required)
Pros		Cons

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More time for student acclimation and more time to conduct the WaKIDS Whole-child Assessment• Reduced time pressure on educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers must wait until the checkpoint opens on November 16 to begin entering data.• Data may not be reflective of children’s knowledge, skills, and abilities at the beginning of the program• Greater time gap between program starts and assessment completion• Potential misalignment with other reporting timelines• OSPI score files turn around is slower compared to the fall turn around.
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