

Is Your School a Ready School?

A Ready School requires an active, sustained commitment to providing appropriate instructional supports and learning environments. Ready School thinking is different from traditional thinking.

A Different Way of Thinking

Traditional Thinking <i>Teachers and administrators focus on content and believe:</i>	Ready School Thinking <i>Ready Schools put children first and believe:</i>
<i>Many children are at a disadvantage academically when they start school; therefore, we can only do a certain amount in a regular classroom.</i>	<i>All children start school with the ability to learn. We must assess and find ways to narrow and close any gaps as quickly as possible.</i>
<i>Some children aren't ready for school. We do them a favor by suggesting to families that they wait another year.</i>	<i>All children are ready for kindergarten. Some may need extra attention.</i>
<i>Some families need to do a better job of helping their children.</i>	<i>We need to work together with families to ease transitions.</i>
<i>Student diversity means lower performance.</i>	<i>Student diversity is challenging but rewarding for all learners.</i>
<i>We treat all children the same. We help children who are different adjust to the norm and overcome their limitations.</i>	<i>By teaching all children to embrace their own uniqueness and respect differences, we are helping them prepare for a diverse world.</i>
<i>Screening procedures provide data to determine a child's readiness for kindergarten.</i>	<i>Screening procedures provide data that informs instructional practices, the need for additional assessment and the need for supportive services.</i>
<i>Communication with families is limited prior to the start of school.</i>	<i>Communication starts early in the preschool years and is ongoing, providing multiple opportunities for children and families to visit the school.</i>
<i>The learning environment supports the "typical" student.</i>	<i>The school environment is prepared to support the learning and development of all children.</i>

Ohio's Ready Schools Framework

Ohio's framework for a Ready School consists of seven components. These components are based on an extended review of research and national initiatives as well as on survey information collected from Ohio's elementary school principals. While some components may evoke a greater sense of urgency than others for a particular school, all are important, interrelated and complementary. Thus, concerted efforts in one area are likely to bring improvements in other areas. Likewise, major gaps in one area may impede progress in certain other areas.

