Below please find information regarding current plans for options and supports available from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) and the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) to districts regarding implementation of the Massachusetts Kindergarten Entry Assessment (MKEA). For the 2015-16 school year districts will have the option of choosing to implement a standard plan or requesting an alternative pathway to meet the MKEA requirement for the Quality Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) grant (Fund Code 701). Districts will provide information about their plan for MKEA implementation as part of the FDK grant application, pending state appropriation.

In order to help EEC budget and plan appropriately, we are asking all districts to please complete this short Implementation Plan Survey to inform us of your preliminary plans for FY16 by June 10, 2015.

1. Standard MKEA Plan:

   Districts choosing to implement the Standard MKEA Plan can select from option 1A or 1B below.

   A. Social-emotional and cognitive domains with selected indicators from MA customized version of Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG)* or use of equivalent domains in Work Sampling System (WSS) with the following checkpoints:
      - Fall: Friday, November 6th, 2015
      - Spring: Friday, June 3rd, 2016
   
   **Districts may choose to upload observational evidence** into TSG or WSS or keep it in another format at the school or classroom level.

   B. 6 domains (language, literacy, math, social-emotional, cognitive, physical) with selected indicators from MA customized version of TSG, or continued use of equivalent domains in WSS with the following checkpoints:
      - Fall: Friday, November 6th, 2015
      - Spring: Friday, June 3rd, 2016
   
   **Districts may choose to upload observational evidence** into TSG or WSS or keep it in another format at the school or classroom level.

   *NOTE: Access to the entire TSG would be available if district wanted to use all indicators instead of the MA customized version.

Training and supports available if choosing the Standard MKEA Plan (1A or 1B):

- Online portfolios/licenses for TSG/WSS will be purchased for the district for FY16.
- Regional TSG trainings for new teachers for districts in Cohorts 1-3 and for all kindergarten teachers in Cohort 4 districts.
- Additional trainings on topics such as using formative assessment data to inform instruction and conducting developmentally appropriate observations.
- Technical assistance through the Collaborative for Educational Service (CES) tailored to district needs offered.
- Some substitute or stipend funding will be awarded to districts to give teachers time to attend professional development and continue to build their skills around using observational formative assessment.
- Webinars will be available to support districts using TSG.
2. Alternative MKEA Pathways:

Districts choosing to implement an Alternative MKEA Pathways can select option 2A, 2B, or 2C, as outlined below.

Districts choosing these options will be required to outline their proposed plan in their FDK grant application. Plans must include:

✓ **Professional development** for administrators, teachers, and instructional assistants with topics including but not limited to:
  - Conducting developmentally appropriate observations.
  - How to use and combine observational data with other formative assessment data to inform instruction.
  - Developmentally appropriate instructional practices that incorporate observation.

✓ Details about how the information gathered will be used to inform instruction

✓ Districts choosing 2C will need to describe the tool or framework they will use and how it will be used to understand children’s development and learning.

Some training and support may be available to districts to implement professional development in MKEA related areas.

A. **Social-emotional and cognitive domains with selected indicators from MA customized version of TSG** or use of equivalent domains in WSS **without check-points** (using the tool as a guide but not uploading and not doing checkpoints) **or with district determined checkpoint dates**. Online portfolios and licenses will be purchased by EEC for the district.

B. **6 domains (language, literacy, math, social-emotional, cognitive, physical)** with selected indicators from MA customized version of TSG or use of equivalent domains in WSS **without check-points** (using the tool as a guide but not uploading and not doing checkpoints) **or with district determined checkpoint dates**. Online portfolios and licenses will be purchased by EEC for the district.

C. **Use of another observational tool or framework which includes social-emotional and cognitive development**.

We understand that districts may not be able to make a final decision regarding MKEA implementation until after the final FY16 state budget has been approved. If the FDK grant is funded, districts will need to provide information about MKEA plans in the grant application. If the FDK grant is not funded, districts will be encouraged but not required to participate in MKEA, and EEC will continue to provide some MKEA funding resources in FY16 to participating districts.