

KIDS Assessment-

30 Second Scenario:

Teachers will be required to collect between 2,175 and 3,625 pieces of data for the fall assessment, between 1,350 and 2,250 for the winter, and between 2,175 and 3,625 again in the spring. The total pieces of data needing to be collected are between 5,700 and 9,500 PER TEACHER. The cost to the Millburn district for this instructional time is between \$275 and \$ 459 per child, or between \$27,560 and \$45,934 for the 100 Kindergarten students at Millburn. This assumes that it will take 30 seconds to gather, evaluate, and enter each piece of data.

1 Minute Scenario:

Teachers will be required to collect between 2,175 and 3,625 pieces of data for the fall assessment, between 1,350 and 2,250 for the winter, and between 2,175 and 3,625 again in the spring. The total pieces of data needing to be collected are between 5,700 and 9,500 PER TEACHER. The cost to the Millburn district for this instructional time is between \$551 and \$919 per child, or between \$55,122 and \$91,870 for the 100 Kindergarten students at Millburn. This assumes that it will take 1 minute to gather, evaluate, and enter each piece of data.

Superintendent's Position:

- We do not support unfunded mandates of any type, particularly one that is unnecessarily time-consuming at a non-compulsory grade level.
- We do not support an additional assessment detracting from valuable instructional time when many district can demonstrate that research-based assessments are used consistently to make data-driven decisions.
- We see no valid purpose for implementing this burdensome assessment; to date the State is unable to articulate a specific purpose, wavering between it being a readiness assessment or a measure of student achievement.
- We believe research-based Kindergarten programming is occurring throughout much of the state and information about student readiness is already available.
- WE do not believe that public education policy should be dictated to us rather we should partner with the ISBE in establishing best practices collaboratively.

ISBE CURRENT STANDING:

- The task force has been given the directive to revisit the current KIDS survey and make it “doable”. Dr. Tony Smith has given them the task to come up with 10 indicators that should be the focus of the assessment and asked them to return to him with that information in one month.
- There has been discussion to allow districts to use alternative assessment tools as long as they can report data-driven results within the 10 indicators.
- To date, all of the waivers not to administer the KIDS assessment have been denied.

Superintendent’s Response:

- We are considering a boycott of the assessment
- We are considering a mass waiver request
- We are currently working with ISBE for a reasonable resolution

Millburn has been piloting the assessment for two years and we are into our third year. We have yet to see any data or results of the assessment. Our teachers have received extensive training on how to administer the assessments, but the state contact person resigned in the middle of last year. We no longer have any state support for the administration of the pilot assessment. We did get an email from the state that reminded us of the two-week deadline for fall data entry. **I am suggesting that the teachers discontinue the pilot process until we have a better understanding of the final assessment requirements.**