## frequently asked questions

# Galileo School Readiness Scales & Reporting Tools For Ages Birth-5

Research shows that the social, physical, and cognitive environments that a child is exposed to in the first years of life have a lasting impact on how a child develops. The capabilities that children acquire during their formative preschool years have a profound effect on their successful transition to school as well as on maintaining success while attending school. One of the fundamental goals of Assessment Technology Incorporated (ATI) is to assist programs in meeting the school readiness needs of children. To help programs target these valued educational goals, ATI has created the Galileo® School Readiness Scales.

#### What are the Galileo<sup>®</sup> School Readiness Scales?

The Galileo® School Readiness Scales are a set of reporting tools that consist of capabilities from the essential areas of learning and development reflected in the Galileo® G3 assessment scales. The capabilities on these scales reflect valued school readiness goals that programs may use to report the progress their children are making in getting ready for successful entry into kindergarten. There are five Galileo® School Readiness Scales which create a continuum for monitoring the progress of children from birth through five years. There is one Galileo® School Readiness Scale for each of the Galileo® G3 assessment scale age ranges; Birth to 08 months, 08 to 18 months, 18 to 24 months, 24 to 36 months, and 3 through 5 years.

### Are the Galileo<sup>®</sup> School Readiness Scales aligned to the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and if so, what domains are included?

Yes. The Galileo® School Readiness Scales are made up of capabilities that are automatically linked to the skills articulated in the Galileo® G3 assessment scales. The Galileo<sup>®</sup> G3 assessment scales align to the domains and domain elements outlined in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. The Galileo® School Readiness Scales are organized into five knowledge areas, Cognition and General Knowledge, Language



mastery of critical School Readiness capabilities

and Literacy, Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, and Physical

For more information, schedule a Galileo Overview at ati-online.com or contact us.



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Development and Health. Following is a table that shows how the school readiness knowledge areas align with the Galileo<sup>®</sup> G3 assessment scales and the essential domains outlined in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

## Head Start Early Learning Outomes Framework

Alignment of school readiness knowledge areas with the Galileo® G3 Assessment Scales and the Framework essential domains

Galileo® School Readiness Scales 0-3 Years (Capabilities from each of the four 0-3 years age range scales in the following domains)	Galileo® School Readiness Scale 3-5 Years	Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework Domains
Cognition and General Knowledge • G3 Cognitive Development and General Knowledge • G3 Social and Emotional Development • G3 Language, Communication, Reading & Writing • G3 Approaches to Learning	Cognition and General Knowledge • G3 Early Math • G3 Logic and Reasoning • G3 Nature and Science • G3 Social Studies	• Cognition
Language and Literacy • G3 Language, Communication, Reading & Writing Approaches to Learning • G3 Approaches to Learning • G3 Cognitive Development and General Knowledge • G3 Language, Communication, Reading & Writing	Language and Literacy • G3 Language • G3 Literacy Approaches to Learning • G3 Approaches to Learning • G3 Creative Arts	<ul> <li>Language and Literacy</li> <li>Approaches to Learning</li> </ul>
Social and Emotional Development • G3 Social and Emotional Development Physical Development and Health • G3 Physical Development and	Social and Emotional Development • G3 Social and Emotional Development Physical Development and Health • G3 Physical Development and	<ul> <li>Social and Emotional Development</li> <li>Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Health</li> <li>G3 Language, Communication, Reading &amp; Writing</li> <li>G3 Cognitive Development and General Knowledge</li> </ul>	Health	

### How were the goals on the Galileo® School Readiness Scales selected?

In choosing which capabilities to include on the Galileo® *School Readiness Scale* for 3- through 5-year-olds, ATI analyzed the specific goals in the *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework*, various state early learning standards, and Common Core Kindergarten Standards. Those capabilities that were common among the Framework and standards were identified as the agreed-upon essential performance objectives for preschool-age children transitioning into kindergarten. Once these standards were identified and analyzed, the developmentally sequenced capabilities that a child must learn to achieve these valued goals were determined and then included as school readiness goals in the Galileo® *School Readiness Scale* for 3- through 5-year-olds.

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# FAQ Galileo® School Readiness Scales

Early childhood development experts at ATI identified the precursor skills for these school readiness skills appearing on the multiple age range Galileo® G3 assessment scales for birth to 3 years. The appropriate precursor skills were then included on the Galileo® *School Readiness Scales* for birth to 3 years to create the integrated set of Galileo® *School Readiness Scales* enabling programs to report on a child's developmental progression from birth through 5 years of age.

The end result are scales that can serve as a reporting tool for focusing educators' attention on essential standards and for benchmarking children's progress in attaining these essential capabilities in the process of getting ready for school. The scales seamlessly document children's

# Do these scales provide the same type of data that the Galileo<sup>®</sup> G3 assessment scales can provide?

Yes. As with all Galileo® assessment scales, the Galileo® *School Readiness Scales* provide a reliable and valid assessment of children's learning and development that can be used to inform educational decision-making and the provision of developmentally appropriate learning opportunities. All the capabilities on the Galileo® *School Readiness Scales* contain difficulty and discrimination parameters, making it possible to use them in generating Item Response Theory (IRT) interval level Developmental Level (DL) scores, just like the Galileo® G3 assessment scales. When we know a child's DL as summarized by the DL score, we know the kinds of things that the child has already learned and the things the child is ready to learn now and in the future. This information provides the basis for documenting learning outcomes and planning learning opportunities that are appropriate to the child's needs and interests. The use of IRT makes it possible to use data in meeting Head Start Monitoring Protocol. These requirements call for the effective use of school readiness data by a variety of stakeholders for progress monitoring, outcomes documentation, the planning of developmentally appropriate learning opportunities, and communication with families.

#### How does a program gain access to the Galileo<sup>®</sup> School Readiness Scales?

The Galileo<sup>®</sup> School Readiness Scales are available now for all programs' reporting use. To assign the scale to a class, center, or agency, visit the Assign Scale page within Galileo<sup>®</sup> Pre-K Online under the Setup tab and Scale option. The library containing this scale is named Galileo<sup>®</sup> School Readiness Scales Library. Once the scale is assigned, the new scale will show in the scale dropdown box for all Galileo<sup>®</sup> Pre-K Online and Online Reporter reports.

#### How do **teachers** use the Galileo<sup>®</sup> School Readiness Scales and reports?

The Galileo<sup>®</sup> *School Readiness Scales* are a reporting tool to be used in conjunction with the Galileo<sup>®</sup> G3 assessment scales. Since the Galileo<sup>®</sup> *School Readiness Scales* are made up of selected Galileo<sup>®</sup> G3 assessment scale capabilities, a teacher should continue to assess their children on the broader Galileo<sup>®</sup> G3 assessment scales. Once a program has assigned the Galileo<sup>®</sup> *School Readiness Scales*, the G3 capabilities a child has already learned will automatically be documented as learned on the Galileo<sup>®</sup> *School Readiness Scales*. As a teacher documents a child's learning on the Galileo<sup>®</sup> G3 assessment scales, the like-capabilities on the Galileo<sup>®</sup> *School Readiness Scales* will also be updated as learned, meaning no additional work for the teacher.

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#### How do **administrators** use the Galileo<sup>®</sup> School Readiness Scales and reports?

Administrators may aggregate and analyze Galileo® school readiness assessment data at multiple points in a year. Periodic review will illustrate the progress children are making toward meeting established goals. The *Developmental Profile* can be accessed to spotlight individual children's, or when aggregated the group's, particular school readiness capabilities that have been attained or which need additional attention. The *Outcomes Analysis Report* may be used to illustrate children's gains in ability from one observation period to the next.

Administrators may use the Galileo<sup>®</sup> school readiness assessment data to inform continuous program improvements related to curriculum, teaching, instructional strategies, and the professional development of staff. Furthermore, data from these tools provides programs the opportunity to share with parents and the local community children's readiness for kindergarten.

# What is the Galileo<sup>®</sup> School Readiness Child Demographics form and where is it located?

The Office of Head Start has requested that as Head Start programs analyze school readiness data, they consider patterns of progress and outcomes for the groups of children served by their program. This means that filters should be applied to Galileo<sup>®</sup> reports; filters such as children's age, children's primary language, and program type. To help Head Start meet this reporting need, ATI has created the Galileo<sup>®</sup> *School Readiness Child Demographics* form. By answering a few questions on each child in the program, administrators will have captured the data necessary to inform their program assessment, quality, and improvement plans.

The Galileo<sup>®</sup> *School Readiness Child Demographics* form may be found on the Child Demographics page within the Galileo<sup>®</sup> system.

# I use Merlin and complete the PIR-Child form; do I need to complete this form too?

No. The Galileo<sup>®</sup> School Readiness Child Demographics form includes the ethnicity, race, language, and special needs fields from the PIR-Child forms. These fields may be completed on either form and will automatically populate on the other. The form does include additional fields for you to complete so that you can fully communicate child outcomes information as it relates to school readiness.

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