

## **Description of Formal Assessments**

**Kindergarten Starting Point** is a tool for gathering information on entering kindergarten students. This information will be used by administrators to assist in “building” kindergarten classes. In addition, the teacher will have valuable information to inform instruction in the classroom.

**Kindergarten Readiness Assessment** The KRA is a developmentally appropriate instrument that measures a child's school readiness across multiple domains. Understanding a child's school readiness helps kindergarten teachers best meet the child's needs, and it helps schools, families, communities and policy makers know how best to support young children as they enter the K-12 environment.

The KRA determines each child's readiness level from an evaluation of four domains: Social Foundations, Language/Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Well-Being. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year.

**Observation Survey (OS)** is a systematic observation of early reading and writing behaviors.

**Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System** is an assessment that provides materials and procedures for observing and assessing the reading levels and behaviors of students in Grades K-8.

**Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP)** is a state computerized adaptive assessment program that provides educators with the information they need to improve teaching and learning. Growth and data from MAP is used to develop targeted instructional strategies and to plan school improvement.

**Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)** is an abilities test to assess student's abilities in reasoning and problem solving using verbal, quantitative and nonverbal (spatial) symbols.

**SC-READY** is an assessment aligned to the South Carolina Standards.