

### In this Issue

- **Back-to-School GOLD Checklist**
- **GOLD Inter-rater Reliability Certification**

## Welcome Back to School!

Here are some things to consider as you get started using **GOLD** this fall....

- Purchase or renew your **program license** to Teaching Strategies GOLD.  
Email [implementation@teachingstrategies.com](mailto:implementation@teachingstrategies.com).
- Purchase and set up **new child portfolios** as needed. If a child has transferred to your program from another program within Arizona, **request a portfolio transfer**. If you know a child will be dually-enrolled in your program as well as another (i.e. Head Start), **communicate with this program to coordinate sharing a single portfolio** rather than creating a duplicate portfolio for the same child.
- Update Color Bands** on child profile pages as needed. [See Assessment Manual](#) for more information.
- Fill in missing information for returning students** such as **SAIS ID** number and **IEP** Status. See [March GOLD Nuggets](#) for an efficient way to do this!
- Save time!** Before you delete and recreate information in GOLD, keep in mind that Site and Class, Teacher and Administrator information can be added or edited. Child Portfolios can be transferred from one class or site to another class or site. Please **DO NOT DELETE** any child portfolios, even for children that are no longer in your district or have transitioned to kindergarten. If you need additional archive slots, please contact Holly Ford.
- Note the 2013-14 Checkpoint Dates: October 11, February 7th, May 30th.** Generate an *Assessment Status Report* (under Checkpoint Tab) for your class/ program at least a week before each of these dates to ensure that your teachers are on track to finalize data by the due date.
- Take a free refresher training course! Set aside professional development time to allow teachers to **review the narrated training modules in GOLD**.
- Improve the quality of your GOLD data** by helping teachers become reliable raters. See next page for information on Inter-rater Reliability Certification.
- Create a **professional development plan** and a **guidance document** for your program's use of GOLD.
- Limit the use of "Not Observed"** when finalizing data to **ONLY** situations of excessive child absences. Choosing "Not Observed" for any objectives/dimensions will prevent a child's data from being included in federal report to Office of Special Education Programs.
- Sign up for the **Teaching Strategies Gold Two-Day Teacher Training** through the ADE [calendar of events](#).



# GOLD Inter-Rater Reliability Certification

## “How do I know if I’m rating children accurately?”

**Inter-rater reliability** is the degree to which an assessment yields the same score or rating for the child being assessed by more than one rater. Teaching Strategies states that to be considered “reliable”, two individuals observing the same child in the same moment in time must select the same rating, or score within one level of each other, on a particular assessment item.

Inter-rater Reliability Certification is an **online professional development resource** that results in less guessing and more reliable outcomes. [This resource is available at no cost to GOLD users.](#)

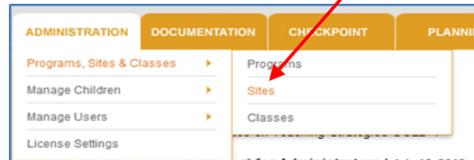
Inter-rater Reliability Certification:

- increases the effectiveness of teachers’ assessment ratings
- enables teachers to stand behind their assessment decisions with greater confidence
- helps teachers know exactly what data to collect and how to interpret it
- is self-paced and does not need to be completed in a single session
- can be completed from any location with an Internet connection
- includes specializations that allow programs to attain certification on practice portfolios that closely mirror their unique populations of children
- can be completed entirely in Spanish, including test instructions and child portfolios in Spanish

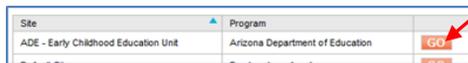
For more information, see link: [www.teachingstrategies.com/content/GOLD/helpitems/IRRguide.pdf](http://www.teachingstrategies.com/content/GOLD/helpitems/IRRguide.pdf)

### How to Give Teachers Access to Inter-rater Reliability Course

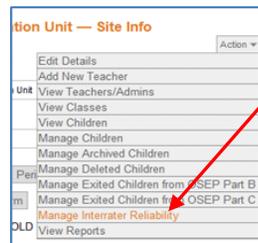
1. From your Administrator Site, select “Sites” from under the Administration Tab. (If you only have administration access to one site, select “License Settings”.)



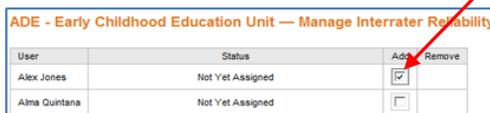
2. Select GO next to a site.



3. Select “Manage Interrater Reliability” from under the Action Box.



4. Select “Add”



next to a user to assign the course.

**Teaching Strategies GOLD  
Two-Day Teacher Training**  
Open seats still available for

- July 29 & 30th
- August 1 & 2
- Sept 12 & 13

**Fall Checkpoint Due Date:  
October 11th**

For assistance with GOLD, please contact  
**602-542-3160 susan.lewis@azed.gov.**

Arizona Department of Education  
Early Childhood Education  
Head Start State Collaboration Office

Physical Address: 2005 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Ph. 602-364-1530  
Fax: 602-542-2730  
Mailing Address: 1535 W. Jefferson St. Bin #15  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Remember!**