

Apply for the 2020-21 Learning Stories Authentic Assessment Pilot by 6/26!



Center-based programs can [APPLY NOW](#) to use Learning Stories and the Educa platform as their authentic assessment system for the 2020 - 21 school year

- ❖ Use Learning Stories, a narrative-based system, as your authentic assessment tool
 - ❖ Receive training and support to use Learning Stories
 - ❖ Engage with children and families in a new way

Frequently Asked Questions

What are Learning Stories, and what is Educa?

The Learning Stories (LS) assessment is a type of observation and documentation written in a narrative format designed to provide a holistic perspective regarding children's development. Learning stories are structured, short narrative observations in everyday settings, kept in a portfolio that may include photographs, children's work, and comments from the children themselves and their families. In the experience of many educators, a series of stories is a powerful way to understand a child's development.

Research has shown that LS can lead to increased educator involvement, which in turn, prompts better observation and critical thinking skills, as well as a deep and meaningful understanding of children's development. Additionally, LS provides a simple and meaningful way to partner with families, as they allow for families to respond directly in a way that can lead to a mutual deeper understanding of children's areas of strength and growth.

Educa is an online learning platform that allows for the creation of LS and associated documentation. Teaching teams can use Educa to create LS and map them to the Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF). Educa also supports two-way family engagement, allowing for families to easily share information about their children by adding comments to teachers' stories or posting stories themselves.

When, and for how long, does this pilot program run?

The Educa pilot will run during the 2020 - 2021 school year. Sites are required to commit to using Educa as their sole authentic assessment system for one year.

Which programs are eligible for the Educa pilot?

All center-based programs, citywide, operating in school year 2019 - 2020 and that will continue to operate in 2020 - 2021, are eligible to participate in the pilot. If there are more sites applying than available slots, sites will be chosen at random. Because there is a limited number of slots available for this pilot, indicating interest does not necessarily mean that your program will be selected to participate in the pilot.

What will sites participating in this pilot receive?

If selected, sites will receive free access to the Educa platform, training around the creation of LS, and ongoing technical and pedagogical support necessary to effectively use Educa as their authentic assessment system.

What will be the responsibilities for sites participating in this pilot?

Sites will agree to use Educa as the sole authentic assessment platform for one school year. Administrators will agree to make their staff available for online training to ensure appropriate integration of Learning Stories in their teaching practice. Sites will agree to take part in conversations, surveys, and/or focus groups with the DECE about their experience using Educa, and to invite families to provide feedback. This information may be used to inform future authentic assessment guidance.

How do I express interest in the Educa pilot?

Programs can indicate interest in the pilot [here](#). The final deadline to apply is June 26th. Please note that if interest exceeds capacity, sites will be chosen at random. Because there is a limited number of slots available for this pilot, indicating interest does not necessarily mean that your program will be selected to participate in the pilot. Programs will be informed of their pilot status by mid-to-late August, prior to the beginning of the 2020 - 21 school year.

How can I find out more information?

The DECE will host virtual information sessions in June 2020 about LS and Educa. To sign up for an information session, please register [here](#). For more information on authentic assessment or this pilot program, please email authenticassessment@schools.nyc.gov.