Parents as Teachers
State Office

In 1990, Kansas made a wise first investment in families with children prenatal to age 3. Since then, more than 220,000 Kansas children have benefited from Kansas Parents as Teachers!

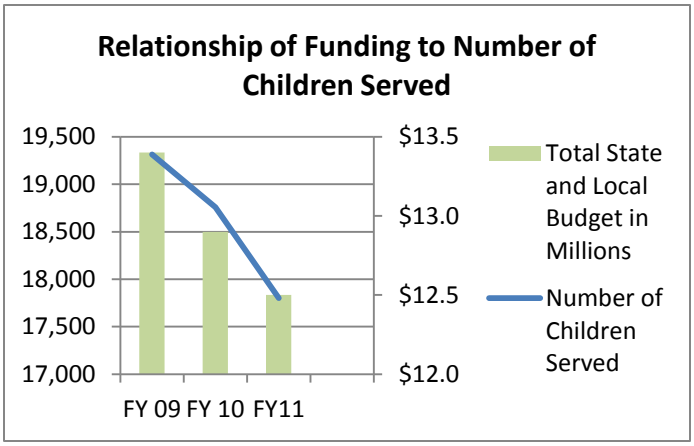
Parents as Teachers (PAT) is designed to provide children the best possible start in life. Using research based curriculum, parents are provided with the skills and knowledge they need to help them make the best decisions regarding their child's development and education. The model includes personal visits, group connections, health, vision, hearing and developmental screenings, and supports family connections with other community services.

Based on *Kansas School Readiness Data*, children whose families participated in Kansas PAT:

- Are more likely to have parents who read to them daily resulting in higher reading scores at Kindergarten, 3rd and 4th grade.
- Score higher in symbolic development, math concepts, written language and oral communication.
- Are more likely to be identified at an earlier age if there are health or developmental concerns resulting in referral to school and community services for early intervention.
- Have a lower Body Mass Index (BMI) at Kindergarten entry and are more likely to be fully immunized at age 2.

While state funds have generally been level over the last few years, school district funding has declined resulting in fewer families served.

Local programs maintain a waiting list of more 1,500 families wanting to access Kansas Parents as Teachers.



Kansas PAT is dedicated to providing high quality services that meet national and state standards and is a nationally recognized evidence-based program. Research shows that parent education can be an important component in supporting and developing healthy relationships between children and their parents, setting the stage for strong families and children ready for success.

In 2010-11, more than 56% of the Kansas PAT families served had one or more identified risk factors including:

4,783 low income

2,208 single head of households

670 families involved with the mental health or social services system

927 teen parents

484 low birth weight babies

608 families who are active duty military

72 Reserve or National Guard families

147 foster/adoptive families

259 transient or homeless families

179 families involved with the corrections system

Parents as Teachers currently reaches less than 15% of the eligible children and families in Kansas.

Kansas PAT is a valued partner with other home visiting and early childhood programs working together to promote easy access and high quality services to children and families in their communities.

Kansas state department of Education

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