

Kansas Preschool Program –Phase 1

PROGRAM STANDARDS

2013-14

Background: In 2006, funding from the Children’s Initiative Fund was used to put a Pre-K Pilot program in place. This program was administered by the Children’s Cabinet for the first two years and in 2008 was transferred to Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) for administration. The current group of grant recipients has been funded by the Program for at least 6 years with half of the grant recipients receiving support for the full 7 years the funds have been available. There has been no increase in funding for expansion or for new programs to be added. A total of 12 sites have been involved in the Pre-K Pilot Program. Requirements included community participation (an early childhood coordinating council), a fiscal agent (not necessarily the local school district), the inclusion in the grant of pre-k classrooms in both community and school-based sites, and a 50/50 participation of at-risk children and those who are not considered at-risk.

Funding availability for the Pre-K Pilot Program is dependent upon the tobacco settlement funds, the recommendations of the Children’s Cabinet and approval by the legislature. With this proposal the name of the Pre-K Pilot Program will be changed to the Kansas Preschool Program.

The purpose of the Kansas Preschool Program (KPP) is twofold:

- to create more high quality learning opportunities for all 3-5 children so that additional young children have access to such experiences; and
- to improve the overall quality of early learning in Kansas.

2013-14 Kansas Preschool Program: Phase 1

FOR THE CURREN YEAR: Use current funding for the Pre-K Pilot Program to begin implementation of a new program: the Kansas Preschool Program. During Phase 1, current applicants will be allowed to apply for grant funding for the 2013-14 year.

Kansas Preschool Program (KPP): The Kansas School Readiness Framework provides the overarching Focus and Frame of the Kansas Preschool Program.

Vision: *The School Readiness Framework for Ready Communities, Ready Educational Environments, Ready Families and Ready Children.*

Mission: *To provide high quality learning experiences and comprehensive services to all children ages 3-5 years and their families through a community and school-based, collaborative process that requires braided funding and community partnerships.*

Outcome: *Each and every child who participated in the Kansas Preschool Program will enter kindergarten ready to be successful.*

REQUIREMENTS for 2013-14:

1. The fiscal agent for 2013-14 Phase 1 of the KPP is locally determined and may continue to be the current agency.
2. The grant application must be clearly written by a collaborative process through an Early Learning Consortium composed of community (including school) representatives that are listed in the application. For 2013-14, the current community collaboration group can be used.
3. All programs must agree to complete all assessments included in the application, including those that are in development during the application timeframe.
4. *The Parents as Teachers program for 3-5 year olds must be available for all families in the Kansas Preschool Program. This Program should build upon existing Parents as Teachers' programs within the local school districts. Training for Parent Educators will be required—cost for this must be included in the 2013-14 budget. If there is no current PAT program, the applicant will work with KSDE PAT coordinator to determine how best to implement the 3-5 program.
5. For 2013-14, the KPP is for all children aged 4 years (the year before kindergarten eligible age). Children who are considered at-risk, have an IEP, or are English Language Learners MUST be considered for inclusion in the KPP classroom.
6. Applicants may continue the current configuration of classroom schedules with either a half day or full day schedule. HOWEVER, because the purpose of the KPP is to meet the needs of ALL children in the community, applicants who want to continue to extend classroom schedules to a full-day session in lieu of adding child slots will provide a clear and data-based justification for making this decision rather than providing more child slots for participation.
7. Grant requirements include the following quality indicators. Changes for the 2013-14 year are noted with a *.
 - a. *A fully licensed Lead Teacher in one of the following areas: Early Childhood Education; Early Childhood Unified; or Early Childhood Special Education (with the understanding that the KPP is a general education classroom).

NOTE: For this year only, teachers with a license in elementary education who have taught the last two years in an early childhood classroom (Four year old at-risk) can be a teacher in the Kansas Preschool Program. Applications who include teachers with this license must clearly indicate how many years this teacher has taught in the four year old at-risk classroom.

 - b. An Assistant Teacher who has either a CDA or an AA in Early Childhood Education or Child Development.

- c. No more than 20 children in the classroom with two teachers (lead and assistant). Paraprofessionals who provide support to children with IEP's may NOT be counted as the Assistant Teacher.
 - d. All programs must use a curriculum that is research-based and aligned with the Kansas Early Learning Standards (2013)—and must be implemented with fidelity. Descriptions of the alignment process, the research, and evidence base of the curriculum/curricula will be included in the applicant's response to the RFP. The Kansas Early Learning Standards are being revised and will be ready for use in May, 2013.
8. *The Kansas Preschool Program sites will participate in TRAINING (date—summer-- TBD; location—Topeka) on the Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS). This training will be for KPP staff and leadership (attendees will be determined through consultation with KSDE) will provide an overview of MTSS and focus on integrating the Kansas Preschool Programs into the MTSS Framework by providing essential elements for early childhood leadership.

Background: The goal of MTSS is to provide an integrated systemic approach to meeting the needs of all children as well as using resources in the most effective and efficient way possible—enabling every child to be successful. This is accomplished by:

- Being prevention oriented—knowing who needs support early each year and putting those supports in place
 - Implementing evidence-based practices for all children and tailoring interventions based on child need
 - Using process monitoring data to know when to make a change
9. *All programs will participate in the Foundations for School Success web-based application—*with the exception of the State Pre-Kindergarten Program (Four year old at-risk) classrooms*. Teachers in those classrooms will use their current application: Early Childhood Success in School for the KELI-4R, the Home Practices, and the Classroom Practices.

The Foundations data collection includes:

- ASQ for all participating 4 year olds (once per year)
- ASQ-SE for all participating 4 year olds (once per year)
- KELI-4R
- Protective Factors survey for each family
- Home Practices Survey
- Program services survey

- HOVERS (Home Visitor's rating scale)
- Classroom Practices
- PALS (child literacy assessment) – to be used for progress monitoring in literacy and language

*Teachers in the State Pre-Kindergarten classrooms complete the KELI-4R and the Classroom Practices and the Home Practices Survey using the Early Childhood Success in School application. Other data collections will be completed by the Parent Educators and other participants in the Kansas Preschool Program.

This is the last year of the current application process. The 2014-15 year will be an open application process and will have further specified requirements.

ADDENDUM (from 2012-13 Program Standards-are the same)

1. Curriculum & Assessment requirements

Child Outcomes:

All Kansas Preschool Programs are required to develop local child outcomes and collect ongoing data on the child outcomes. Upon request, local programs will participate in KSDE evaluation and assessment processes—and send annual results to KSDE as requested.

Curriculum and Assessment requirements

The core curriculum used in each program may be locally determined or developed. All must be aligned with the Kansas Early Learning Standards and must be evidenced-based. Evidence-based practice is defined as a decision-making process that integrates the best available research evidence with family and professional wisdom and values (Buysse & Wesley, 2006). An evidence-based curriculum should be based upon the best research available.

Programs must use developmentally appropriate, valid, and reliable assessments, aligned with Kansas Early Learning Standards and the core curriculum of the program to determine growth over the year.

2. Family Services Worker

In past years, Kansas Preschool Programs were required to have at least one family services worker (similar to the family advocate role in Head Start) who provided referrals and additional supports to families as needed. This professional was to hold either a MSW or a minimum of a BA in social work or a closely related field with 5 years of closely related experience of working with parents and families. For 20-13-14: this requirement will be maintained as current implemented in each program. Some programs may choose to have this person (if meets the criteria) be trained as the Parent Educator for the PAT 3-5 curriculum

3. The teacher: child ratio will be no higher than 1: 10. Head Start classrooms may have a ratio of 2:17.
4. The class size will not exceed 20 children (with 2 adults—teacher, assistant teacher/paraprofessional/teacher aide).
5. Teachers and assistant teachers/paraprofessionals/teacher aides must participate in at least 15 hours of in-service training annually.

6. Kansas Preschool Programs that choose to extend the current half day experience must provide the rationale for the extension and add 465 hours to their current classroom time for a total of 930 hours across the year.
7. Collaboration among community early childhood partners is required to meet application assurances and must be described in the application.
8. **At least** 50% of children in the program must meet one or more of the at-risk criteria listed in the table below.

Criteria for Kansas Preschool Program

Criteria	Clarification
1. Poverty (4 year old at-risk)	1. Qualifies for free lunch program <u>or</u> reduced lunch program on September 20, 2012
2. Single parent families	2. At the time of enrollment, the custodial parent is unmarried.
3. SRS referral	3. The reason for referral must describe the need for the child to attend the pre-K program and be documented and signed by the SRS agent.
4. Teen parents	4. At least one parent was a teen when the child was born.
5. Either parent is lacking a high school diploma or GED.	5. At the time of enrollment, either parent lacks a high diploma or a GED.
6. Limited English Proficiency	6. LEP status must be documented. Forms must be in child's file. Process and criteria are found at www.ksde.org under Early Learning. NOTE: ESOL services must be provided by qualified teachers.
7. Lower than expected developmental progress in at least one of the following areas: Cognitive development; physical development; communication/literacy; social-	7. Based on appropriate and valid assessment results, the developmental progress of the child has been determined by a trained professional to be lower than typically expected for his/her chronological age, yet

emotional/behavior; adaptive behavior/self-help skills	above what would be considered eligible for special education services (based on the procedural manual and guidance materials of specific assessment instruments). Scores that fall at or below the 40 th percentile indicate 'at-risk'.
8. Children of active duty military	8. Family member who is active duty must have paperwork showing active status.
9. EC Referral	9. The reason for the referral must describe the need for the child to attend the Pre-K Program. Documentation should include a written referral with rationale and any necessary supporting evidence.

Note: **Participants must be four years of age on or before August 31, 2013.** (Children turning 5 years old on or before August 31, 2012 **cannot** generate funds for this program.)

Meeting the site- based criteria

The Pre-K Program requires that 50% of the child spaces are in public school programs (typically Four Year Old At-Risk) and 50% are in community programs that **already** exist. Describe in the application the number of spaces (children) which are in the public schools and the number of spaces (children) which are in existing community child care (centers, preschools, faith-based preschools) and Head Start programs. Include the percentage of the total number of spaces for both school-based and community center/preschool. For example, if there are 25 children in four year old at-risk programs and 32 in community centers and preschools, 44% are in public school settings and 56% are in community-based settings. This would not meet current criteria, so a rationale and explanation will need to be included in the application. If there are plans for changing the current situation, please provide a description of the plan.

Implementation Information

1. **For 2013-2014:** If a grantee chooses to allow communities to use an existing State Pre-Kindergarten (Four Year Old At-Risk) program as a participant in the Kansas Preschool Program, the State Pre-

Kindergarten (Four Year Old At-Risk) classroom is allowed to use the Kansas Preschool Program funds to either (1) add more slots while maintaining the approved teacher-child ratio (1:10); or (2) to extend the four year old at-risk half-day class to a full day experience by adding an additional 465 hours over the year (for a total of 930 hours over the year).

2. **For 2013-2014:** If a grantee chooses to allow communities to use an existing Head Start program as a participant in the Kansas Preschool Program, the Head Start classroom is allowed to use the Kansas Preschool Program funds to either (1) add more slots for four year old children while maintaining the approved teacher-child ratio (1:10); or (2) to extend the Head Start half-day class to a full day experience by adding an additional 465 hours over the year (for a total of 930 hours over the year).

3. All classrooms must meet the Kansas Preschool Program standards. If a grantee chooses to use a child-care classroom as a Kansas Preschool Program classroom, that classroom must meet the standards.

4. **Classrooms that are located in school buildings that choose to extend their Kansas Preschool Program or State Pre-Kindergarten (Four Year Old At-Risk) day beyond the 3 hours must contact Gayle Stuber at 785-296-5352 or gstuber@ksde.org to discuss KDHE licensing requirements and the need for meeting high quality standards.**

5. If a grantee chooses to allow children who do not meet the age or at-risk criteria into the Kansas Preschool Program classroom, this is allowed with the following caveat: **the funding from this grant can ONLY be used to support the education for 4 year old children** who meet the criteria. Other children may physically be in the classroom, but grantees must demonstrate that funds are to be used only for the grant-eligible children. For example, a teacher in such a classroom may have to have her salary be pro-rated according to the number of eligible and non-eligible children in the classroom.