

December Update



KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Sent by listserv to Early Learning 0-8 and posted at www.ksde.org/default.aspx?tabid=514

KSDE Early Childhood Grants for 2021-2022 School Year

This month our team is hard at work finalizing Preschool-Aged At-Risk program approval forms, Kansas Parents as Teachers grant applications, Kansas Preschool Pilot grant applications and submission details for the 2021-2022 school year. We will share these materials via the Early Learning 0-8 listserv and by emailing current grantees' program administrator contacts once it is available. Please email Beccy Strohm (bstrohm@ksde.org) to join the Early Learning 0-8 listserv.

Kansans Can Star Recognition Applications Due Dec. 31

KSDE is excited to announce that three new opportunities have been added for districts to receive Star Recognition awards. Districts are now able to apply for recognition in the categories of:

- **Social-Emotional Growth,**
- **Kindergarten Readiness** and
- **Individual Plan of Study.**

District recognition in the following areas will continue to be **automatically calculated** by the Kansas State Department of Education based on collected district data:

- **Academically prepared for postsecondary,**
- **High school graduation** and
- **Postsecondary success.**

Visit the [KSDE Star Recognition Program website](#) to learn more about these opportunities and how to apply. Applications are currently being accepted through December 31. Questions about the program? Please email kcanstars@ksde.org.

Preschool Programs Updates

Preschool-Aged At-Risk

- For the 2021-2022 school year, in districts operating approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs, all 4-year-old students who meet at least one at-risk criterion for Preschool-Aged At-Risk students and who are enrolled and attending on Count Day will automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district's enrollment and accompanying weightings. All districts wishing to access Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding are required to submit and have approved the Program Approval Form and Program Assurances.
- The Program Approval Form and Program Assurances will be released via the Early Learning 0-8 listserv and by emailing current grantees' program administrator contacts once available.



Kansas Preschool Pilot

- Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funds should build on existing sources of state and federal funding, such as state school finance formula funds and special education funds. The Kansas Preschool Pilot grant application and award process will look quite different for 2021-2022. Rather than funding most applicants at a percentage of their initial funding request, a more competitive process will award funding based on the need and merit demonstrated in the program application.
- The application and program requirements will be more closely aligned to the Early Childhood Block Grant operated by the Kansas Children's Cabinet to streamline the application process for local programs.
- The grant application will be housed in a new platform. Details on how to apply will be announced via the Early Learning 0-8 listserv and by emailing current grantees' program administrator contacts once available.

Contact Natalie McClane (nmclane@ksde.org) with preschool questions.

Early Childhood Special Education Updates

Indicator 12 Reminder- Keep accessing the **Part C to Part B Electronic Referral system (CBER)** to accept any children who reside in your district and remember to check on those children who have birthdays over Winter Break and beginning of the year. IEP's must be written before the child's third birthday regardless of when school staff are on vacation. It is important to plan ahead and be sure to allow for missed appointments or inclement weather!

As we navigate this school year, please continue to refer to the **School Year 2020-2021 Compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Kansas Special Education for Exceptional Children Act for Reopening Schools during the COVID-19 Pandemic** to address frequently asked questions around providing special education and related services to students with exceptionalities during COVID-19.

Contact Julie Rand (jrand@ksde.org) with early childhood special education questions.

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Updates

The SICC is excited to announce our newest member to the Council, Melinda Kline, who will be representing Foster Care. She is currently the Prevention and Protection Services (PPS) Deputy Director for the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

The next SICC meeting takes place on December 18th, from 1-4pm. Topics will include:

- Part C/tiny-k and the ASQ
- Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment Discussion
- State Agency and Committee Updates



The SICC is also finalizing the planning process for the first ever Local ICC Annual Retreat. This will take place virtually on the morning of **Friday, April 23rd**. More information, including a registration link and the agenda, will be shared in the coming weeks.

Contact Jordan Christian (jchristian@ksde.org) with State Interagency Coordinating Council questions or to request the Zoom link to join upcoming meetings. You can also visit the [State ICC website](#) for more information.

Parents as Teachers Updates

The Kansas Parents as Teachers Mid-Year Report, which collects data for the period July 1, 2020 – December 1, 2020, is available now in SurveyMonkey. The submission deadline is **FRIDAY, March 5, 2021** at 11:45 p.m. KPAT coordinators and administrators will receive on December 2nd an email with detailed instructions.

Parents as Teachers National Center is offering “Providing Group Reflective Supervision Virtually” on Wednesday, December 2nd at 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. [Click here to register for this free opportunity.](#)

The “December Meet Up” is scheduled for Thursday, December 10th. If you need a link, please contact Nis or Shelley Tellez.

Contact Nis Wilbur (nwilbur@ksde.org) with Parents as Teachers questions.

1-800-CHILDREN: Judgment-Free Information, Resources, and Supports for Kansans

The **1-800-CHILDREN Call Line + Resource Directory** launched in November with updated branding and robust tools to better support families and communities across Kansas. 1-800-CHILDREN provides judgment-free 24/7, confidential information, connection to local resources, and supports. You can:

- Share the electronic **Family Outreach Card** with families and caregivers in your community.
- Check out the new 1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory at 1800childrenks.org.
- Download the free 1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory app by searching 1800childrenks in your iOS or Android app store.
- Confirm your program is listed in the resource directory. This **Quick Reference Guide for Providers** outlines step-by-step instructions.
- Request a presentation or demo of the updated resource directory and call line by contacting Stephanie Boone at sboone@kcsli.org.



Other KSDE Updates, Upcoming Professional Learning and News You Can Use

Visit the Kansas Teaching and Leading Project website for recorded videos and live professional learning opportunities. The Kansas Association of Education Services Agencies, in collaboration with the Kansas State Department of Education, created this website to provide relevant, timely and impactful professional development support to education professionals in order to build their capacity for effectively developing and implementing key components of the *Navigating Change guidance* for Kansas school districts.

The Kansas Hero Relief Fund can now cover lost wages for COVID-19 positive individuals in qualifying industries/jobs, including education, early childhood care and education and home visiting. Learn more at <http://ksherorelief.com/>.

The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Board will meet this Friday, Dec. 4, at 9:00 a.m. All Kansans are invited to view the meeting and utilize the chat function to ask questions. **Register to join the meeting by visiting the Children's Cabinet website.**

The Kansas Early Childhood Stakeholder Group meeting is this Friday, Dec. 4 at 1:30 p.m. Participation in this recurring meeting is open to any early childhood stakeholder, and you can **register to participate in the Stakeholder Group here. This Friday's meeting will include plans to share kindergarten transitions resources with Kansas communities and school districts.**

Stay up to date on the Kansas early childhood system: The team supporting the *All in for Kansas Kids* strategic plan shares weekly email updates and hosts webinars every other week Wednesday at noon. Visit the [Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund website](#) to sign up.

Register for this Friday's 2020 TASN Kansas Infinitec Coalition Technology Conference here. This conference is free for all Kansas school districts.

The Kansas Volunteer Commission is seeking input to learn about the critical unmet needs facing our communities. **Click here to complete the Kansas Volunteerism Survey**, which is short and anonymous, and please share with your networks. Responses are due by Friday, Dec. 4, 2020.

Literacy Network of Kansas (LiNK) Early Childhood Community of Practice: Dennis Kear and Tasia Markowitz of the Kansas Masonic Literacy Center and Jodi Case from Mobilizing Literacy lead these sessions on the **3rd Thursday of each month, from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.** This offers preschool and kindergarten teachers and administrators the opportunity to make connections and talk through challenges with a supportive community. Monthly topics will include community collaboration, transportation, family involvement (literacy nights), and Kindergarten Jump Start programs. **Register for LiNK Communities of Practice here.**



Kansas MTSS and Alignment is hosting Teaching & Leading by Design: Distance Learning Playbook Conference

on Dec. 11, 2020. Join Kansas MTSS and Alignment and Corwin for a Distance Learning Playbook Institute welcoming renowned educators and co-authors of the Distance Learning Playbook series, Dr. Douglas Fisher, Dr. Olivia Amador-Valerio and Dr. Dominique Smith as we explore the Distance Learning Playbooks for Teachers and School Leaders.

- **Register for the Teachers Strand.** Slots for 200 teachers will be available, and we anticipate they will fill quickly! Due to the anticipated popularity of this event, be sure you have availability to attend the entire session, as your district may be charged a cancellation fee to cover materials.
- **Register for the School Leaders Strand (waitlist).**
- Please send questions about the event to Denise Brown (denise@kansasmtss.org) or Susan Danner (susand@kansasmtss.org).

2020-21 Kansas MTSS and Alignment Early Childhood Training: Join the Kansas MTSS and Alignment Training Team for professional development opportunities! These events are open to all early childhood professionals and you can **register on the Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) website**. Webinars are on Fridays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

- Jan. 29: Embedded Learning Opportunities in Daily Practices
- Feb. 19: Tier 1 Early Numeracy Practices
- April 9: Teaching Phonological Awareness Skills at Tier 1

Workplace Wellness Academy for Early Childhood: The Kansas Head Start Association has partnered with Generation Wellness to bring you the **Workplace Wellness Academy**, a 2-hour self-paced online training for the early childhood community. With stress and anxiety on the rise, there is no better time than now to focus on wellness. This course equips you and your staff with 20+ tools for less stress and more success. Register now to learn new strategies and feel empowered. Participate in the online modules through December 15th at a special discounted rate of \$79/person (a \$20 discount). Visit the [Workplace Wellness Academy website](#) for details and registration.

We're wishing you a peaceful, joyful holiday season!

Our team is wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season. Please email or call any of us if you have questions, requests for technical assistance or an issue it'd be helpful to think through together. **Take care,**

Amanda, Nis, Natalie, Jordan, Julie and Beccy



For more information, contact:

Amanda Petersen
Director, Early Childhood
apetersen@ksde.org

Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212

www.ksde.org

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.



Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.