

December Update #2



KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates

Friday, December 18, 2020

Sent by listserv to Early Learning 0-8 and posted on [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#).

KSDE Early Childhood Early Childhood Funding Opportunities for the 2021-2022 School Year

We are pleased to share that the 2021-2022 Preschool-Aged At-Risk program approval form, Kansas Parents as Teachers grant renewal application and Kansas Preschool Pilot Request for Proposals (grant application) are now posted to [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#):

- **Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP) Grant Request for Proposals:** This document details requirements and directions for applying for the grant. This year's application will be entered into the Kansas CommonApp system, which will open on January 12, 2021. Applications are due by **11:59 p.m. on February 9, 2021**.
- **Preschool-Aged At-Risk Program Approval Form:** Districts will complete this form in a Qualtrics survey. Approval forms must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on April 2, 2021** in order to be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education in May.
- **Kansas Parents as Teachers (KPAT) Grant Renewal application:** This document details requirements and directions for applying for the grant. This year's application will be entered into the Kansas CommonApp system, which will open on January 12, 2021. Applications are due by **11:59 p.m. on April 2, 2021**.
- **The Kansas CommonApp** portal is a new grant submission tool to manage applicant profiles and proposals across a variety of state agency funding opportunities. [Join the Kansas CommonApp Technical Assistance Webinar](#) (January 8, 2021, 2:00PM - 3:00PM) for training on how to use the CommonApp system. This webinar will be recorded for those who cannot attend. [Click here to register for the webinar](#).

You may also be interested in the Early Childhood Block Grant, which is administered by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. Visit kschildrenscabinet.org/grants to learn more.

Kansans Can Star Recognition Applications Due Dec. 31

Visit the [KSDE Star Recognition Program website](#) to learn about applications for recognition in the areas of Social-Emotional Growth, Kindergarten Readiness and Individual Plan of Study. Applications are submitted using the KSDE Authenticated Application and are due December 31.

Applications should include supporting artifacts. KSDE will review these artifacts (documentation and/or outcomes analysis) to determine whether an applicant has demonstrated that the self-assessment rating for each subelement is justified. [Click here for a list of potential Kindergarten Readiness artifacts](#). If you have questions regarding the Kindergarten Readiness component of Kansans Can Star Recognition, please feel welcome to follow up with Amanda Petersen (apetersen@ksde.org).



Preschool Programs Updates

In December the Kansas State Board of Education provided additional flexibility for schools in delivering the required 1,1116 hours of instruction. The same waiver process will apply to the required 465 hours of instruction for Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs and Kansas Preschool Pilot grantees. Schools will not be required to submit a separate waiver for their preschool programs. Schools can expect to receive the waiver application later this month, and the KSDE Early Childhood team will also share this message with grantees who are not school districts.

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

Please share! From the KS Deaf-Blind Project/Kansas State School for the Blind: We hope you could help us disseminate or participate in the “State of STEM and Inclusion in Early Education” survey. If you are an early intervention service provider, early childhood educator or special educator, or director/leader of early intervention or early childhood agency/program, we want to hear from you! This survey is critical in helping us understand the experiences, beliefs, and practices in STEM and inclusion, and enable STEMIE staff and partners to develop high-quality technical assistance, and professional development resources to support your work in engaging young children (birth to five) with and without disabilities in STEM experiences. Thank you so much and please contact Marites Altuna (maltuna@kssdb.org) know if you have any questions.

[Early Childhood Practitioner \(English survey\)](#)

[Early Childhood Practitioner \(Spanish survey\)](#)

[Early Childhood Director \(English survey\)](#)

[Early Childhood Director \(Spanish survey\)](#)

Weekly Regional Report-Out Updates: To help Kansans navigate the pandemic, the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President have come together in a bi-partisan effort to communicate critical data that will inform regional and state leaders. Seven state regions will hold Zoom calls every Tuesday to present information that will allow Kansans to most effectively fight this pandemic. These brief, weekly calls will provide detailed data and real-life accounts of current events in each region. Discussions will surround the information on the dashboards already in place and help viewers understand what those numbers mean for each region. These regional, data-driven report outs are designed to serve Kansans during the pandemic. Please sign up to receive weekly emails that will include a summary dashboard and link to each weekly call for the region(s) you select. Visit covid.ks.gov/report-outs/ to learn more and sign up.

The Kindergarten Teacher's Guide to Supporting Family Involvement in Foundational Reading Skills provides information for kindergarten teachers on how to support families as they practice foundational reading skills at home. It serves as a companion to the What Works Clearinghouse Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade. The information in this Kindergarten Teacher's Guide is designed to assist teachers in supporting out-of-school literacy activities that are aligned to classroom instruction, informed by student need, grounded in evidence-based practices, and facilitated by ongoing parent-teacher communication.



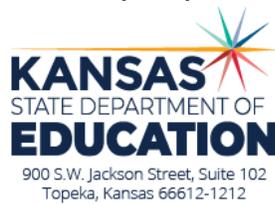
Visit the [Kansas Teaching and Leading Project website](#) for recorded videos and live professional learning opportunities. The Kansas Association of Education Services Agencies, in collaboration with the Kansas State Department of Education, created this website to provide relevant, timely and impactful 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 Division for Early Childhood (KDEC) will be hosting the annual conference, “Thriving through Surviving” in a virtual format on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Please check the [KDEC website](#) for more information as it becomes available.

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.

We are wishing you, your teams and your loved ones well. 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.

Amanda, Nis, Natalie, Jordan, Julie and Beccy



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