

INFORMATION SHEET



Early Childhood Funding

CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2021-2022 AND 2022-2023

A focus on early childhood is essential to achieving our state's vision for education. The following can support communities in maximizing early learning opportunities and combining early childhood education opportunities (for example, early childhood special education, Head Start, Preschool-Aged At-Risk) into integrated preschool classrooms.

Preschool-aged students with disabilities AND 4-year-old students eligible for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program who are enrolled and attending on Count Day automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district's enrollment and accompanying weightings.

- Districts can offer preschool in a variety of settings and generate state aid through the school finance formula. Contracting with partners to operate preschool is one strategy to expand preschool access while supporting community-based child care.
- While state statute allows the Kansas State Board of Education to select qualifying three-year-olds as preschool-aged at-risk, the Kansas State Department of Education cannot yet anticipate that sufficient funding will be available to serve 3-year-old students during the 2021-2022 school year.
- The **at-risk student weighting** is calculated by determining the number of total students eligible for free meals included in the district enrollment, which includes these two types of preschool students. District at-risk funds may be used to support qualifying preschool students. Providing children with quality early learning opportunities (Pre-K) is included on the KSDE approved list of evidence-based practices and programs.

Important considerations regarding the Kansas Preschool Pilot grant

- The amount of Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funding requested remains much larger than the amount of funding available. There are other larger and more sustainable options for districts to invest in preschool. These include state school finance formula funds, special education funds and federal Head Start grants.
- In 2022-2023, districts applying for Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funds will first demonstrate that they are reinvesting other available sources of funding into their preschool programs before requesting Kansas Preschool Pilot funding to supplement gaps. Districts should plan accordingly, recognizing that competitive grant funding levels are not guaranteed for future years.

Tools are available to support districts in preschool budgeting.

- The Kansas Preschool Revenue Calculator and Budget Template can help districts estimate preschool revenue and budget across multiple funding sources. It is available at www.ksde.org, Early Childhood Programs, Early Childhood Funding.
 - Applicants for the 2022-23 Kansas Preschool Pilot grant will be required to submit the Calculator and Budget Template as part of their application for grant funds.
- The 2021 KSDE TASN Summer Leadership Conference will include a recorded webinar on early childhood funding. Visit www.ksdetasn.org, Future Conference Dates.
- The FY2022 Special Education Reimbursement Guide is available at www.ksde.org, Special Education, Fiscal Resources, State Categorical Aid including Catastrophic Aid.

Important considerations regarding the Kansas Parents as Teachers grant

- The Kansas State Department of Education does not anticipate an increase in the state budget line item for Kansas Parents as Teachers grants during the 2022-23 school year. **Districts should plan accordingly, recognizing that grant funding levels are not guaranteed for future years.** Districts should consider increasing local sources of funding in order to maintain existing levels of service (accounting for inflation) and/or to expand services provided. School districts should also consider applying for other federal, state, and/or local funds that may be available to support parent education, home visiting, health, family engagement, and/or community engagement.

For more information, contact:

Amanda Petersen
Director
Early Childhood
apetersen@ksde.org
(785) 296-7929



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.