

January Update

KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates



Wednesday, January 6, 2021

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

Don't miss KSDE Early Childhood Funding Opportunities for the 2021-2022 School Year

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](#). See the [KSDE Early Childhood December 18 Program Updates](#) for additional details, including due dates:

- **Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP) Grant Request for Proposals:** Due **February 9, 2021**.
- **Preschool-Aged At-Risk Program Approval Form:** Due **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:** Due **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, including the Kansas Preschool Pilot and Kansas Parents as Teachers. [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](#).

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 applies 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. Superintendents have received the waiver application, and the KSDE Early Childhood team has shared the application with Kansas Preschool Pilot grantees who are not school districts.

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 are posted to [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#).



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 **The Kansas CommonApp** portal, 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.**

Contact Natalie McClane (nmcclane@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 next SICC meeting takes place on Friday, January 15, from 1-4pm. Topics will include:

- ASQ Training Program Overview and Social-Emotional Initiatives - Dr. Pam Shaw
- 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 23**. 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.

The “January Meet Up” is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12 at 12:00 noon. If you need a link, please contact Nis or Shelley Tellez.

The Target Fidelity Project Office Hours are on January 27 at 1:00 p.m. If you need a link, please contact Nis.

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

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

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Family Health Family Advisory Council (FAC) is looking for dedicated family members or consumers across the state to share what it is like to live in their community and access services. This year the FAC is expanding to include family and consumers from all maternal and child health populations! Until now, this group has represented families of children with special health care needs. Their hard work and successful advocacy has prompted an expansion to target the broader needs Kansas families and consumers. Throughout 2021, the FAC will be adding four new categories, totaling five work groups. Apply [here](#) for all FAC work groups:

- Woman/Maternal
- Early Childhood (birth to 5)
- Child (ages 6-11)
- Adolescents (12+)
- Children with Special Health Care Needs (all ages)

The FAC will host a series of virtual chats for families or consumers to learn how to join and participate. New members are needed for all work groups. Even if you are unable to join, you can share this [Family Advisory Council flyer](#) with potential members. **Join them for a virtual chat at any of the times listed below.** Contact Heather Smith, Heather.Smith@ks.gov, with questions.

- Thursday, January 7, 2021 @ 12 p.m.
- Saturday, January 9, 2021 @ 10 a.m.
- **Family Advisory Council Zoom Meeting Link:** ID 881 0810 7196; Passcode: FACMeeting
- *NOTE: All virtual chats will be structured the same. You only need to attend one if you want to learn more about the FAC.*



Spring Break Alignment: In December the Kansas State Board of Education adopted the recommendation of the work group representing Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) and Coordinating Council (KBOR, KSBE and Kansas Chamber of Commerce) to align spring break calendars. Kansas regent universities and colleges have agreed to adopt the following spring break schedule and districts now have the opportunity to do the same:

- March 14-18, 2022
- March 13-17, 2023
- March 11-15, 2024

While the State Board recommends districts align spring breaks with those set by the higher education systems, this remains a local decision. Aligning spring breaks will benefit high school students who are pursuing dual credit and families with students enrolled in different education systems.

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 Department for Children and Families is accepting applications for the Low-Income Energy Assistance program January 4 to March 31. [Click here to learn more about the Low-Income Energy Assistance program.](#)

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.

The Kansas Division for Early Childhood is pleased to announce that we are accepting submissions for the 2021 KDEC Mini-Grants. [Click here if you are interested in applying for the mini-grants](#) and would like additional information. Questions may be sent to Jennifer Francois at deckansas@gmail.com.

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: [Register for Embedded Learning Opportunities in Daily Practices here.](#)
- Feb. 19: Tier 1 Early Numeracy Practices
- April 9: Teaching Phonological Awareness Skills at Tier 1

Kansas MTSS and Alignment has three new repositories to provide resources that may be helpful in meeting the needs of all students – including an early childhood resource repository. Access this resource on [the Kansas MTSS and Alignment site](#), ksdetasn.org/mtss/repositories.



The Kansas Children's Service League is adding two programs to their regular parent support, parent leadership, and fatherhood opportunities this month. These are both free events, but registration is required. Please contact Dana Book (dbook@kcsl.org) with any questions:

- **Register for Key Behaviors of the 24/7 Dad here:** January 12-14 (Tue., Wed., Thu.; 6p-8p nightly) This virtual workshop helps fathers develop a set of behaviors that will help them become the best fathers possible. These behaviors are centered around 5 common traits of the 24/7 Dad: Self-Awareness, Caring for Self, Fathering Skills, Parenting Skills, and Relationship Skills. All participants who complete the workshop will receive a certificate of completion, and be eligible to win a variety of door prizes.
- **Register for Parent Café: Taming Technology – Weapons of Mass Distraction here:** Thursday, January 21; 6pm-8pm This virtual Parent Café will give parents and caregivers an opportunity discuss the challenges of technology, screen time and social media. Our Parent Cafés create a safe space for you to share opinions, successes and ideas on how social services, agencies, schools, child care centers and the community can provide higher quality services and support for families.

Online Early Childhood Initial Co-Teaching Training is February 10, 2021. This is the first part of a professional learning and coaching system offered by **the Kansas Co-Teaching Project**. This event is intended for teachers, administrators, and instructional support personnel of Early Childhood programs. Participants will define co-teaching; summarize the benefits and rationales for co-teaching; identify similarities, unique features, advantages and cautions among 4 co-teaching approaches; and explore tools for collaboration and communication. This event is provided for **free** to Kansas educators and is provided via Zoom in 4 one-hour sessions:

- 8:30 am Session 1: What Co-Teaching Is and Is Not
- 9:30 am Session 2: Why Co-Teach - Professional, Legal and Evidence-based Rationales
- 2:30 pm Session 3: 4 Approaches to Co-Teaching
- 3:30 pm Session 4: Frequently Asked Questions

Register for the Early Childhood Initial Co-Teaching Training on the KSDE TASN website.

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.

Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund: Funding applications for children, ages birth through 21, who have severe cognitive and significant disabilities can access the Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund beginning January 1 to April 1, 2021. They do not need to be included in the Kansas Deaf-Blind Census to apply. Applications can be requested up to \$3,000 for assistive technology (including adaptive equipment, software, etc.), consultation, and/or evaluation. Applications will go through an approval process. Approved applications will be placed in a pending file (by rank order) and released based on funding availability. Applications are located on **the KSDE Sensory Losses webpage** under the Deaf-Blind Fund Quick Start Guides. Have questions or need additional information? **CONTACT:** Joan Houghton, EdD, Education Program Consultant, jhoughton@ksde.org or 913-620-4235.



Education Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Training Session: Registration is open for the digital training session, February 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Interpreting during Language Arts Time* by Dr. Deborah Cates, PhD, Sign Language Program Coordinator, Iowa School for the Deaf. Participants will download the 4-hour session to their individual computers. CEUs are provided by Boystown. **Click here to register for the February 6, 2021 EIPA Workshop.** If this is the first time registering online for a workshop, click on [Sign up](#) after entering the requested information. Within a short period of time you will receive an email from accounts@ksdetasn.org for you to confirm your account so that you can register. **You must be registered by noon on January 22, 2021.** Contact Joan Houghton, EdD, Education Program Consultant, jhoughton@ksde.org or 913-620-4235 or Karen Maddox, kmaddox@ksde.org for any questions.

We are here to support you as we begin 2021 together.

Feel welcome to 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:

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