

# February Update



## KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates

Monday, Feb. 8, 2021

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

### **Districts may apply to begin administering the 2021 Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot beginning March 1, 2021**

Since districts first implemented the **Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot** statewide in Fall 2018, KSDE has gathered feedback on how to best use this tool to improve kindergarten readiness. As of July 2020, all accredited schools can use their building ASQ Online account for any child they serve in that building, birth through kindergarten entry, at any point during the year. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored how important engaging with families is to student success. Looking ahead to 2021, districts should consider strategies to proactively build relationships with families who chose not to enroll in preschool for the 2020-21 school year or who may not be comfortable or able to attend an in-person kindergarten orientation event this spring.

**For the 2021-22 school year, districts may submit [this application](#) to begin administering the ASQ to incoming kindergarteners (for the purposes of the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot) beginning March 1, 2021.** Districts that administer the ASQ to incoming kindergarteners in the spring might consider whether it provides information previously gathered with other tools. For districts that do not apply, the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot window will open July 1. All schools must administer the ASQ to incoming kindergarten students by Sept. 20 and all data (including pending Family Access screenings) must be entered into ASQ Online by Oct. 11, 2021.

Districts must agree to the following in order to begin administering the ASQ to incoming kindergarteners (for the purposes of the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot) beginning March 1:

- The district will **not** use ASQ or other data as a gatekeeper/method to prevent 5-year-old children from entering kindergarten. Per Kansas law, the only requirement for entry into kindergarten is that a child be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31 of the current school year (unless a child has previously attended kindergarten in another state).
- The district will encourage all age-eligible students to enroll in kindergarten.
- The district will follow up with the family within two weeks of completing the ASQ to provide results and learning activities.
- The district will attempt to contact and gain consent to transfer ASQ results from families who complete the ASQ during the springtime but who do not enroll/attend the district at the start of the school year.
- The district will share ASQ data with the child's kindergarten teacher prior to the first day of school.

If your district agrees to comply with these criteria to begin administering the 2021 Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot in the springtime, [click here to apply](#). Visit <https://agesandstages.com/ks/> for Frequently Asked Questions, guides and "how-to" videos on implementing ASQ.



## Kindergarten Readiness Grant Applications Available Feb. 10

The Children's Cabinet announces a request for proposals for Kindergarten Readiness Quality Subgrants. The application will be open Feb. 10 - March 19, 2021.

These grants support community efforts to help ensure successful transitions of children from early childhood settings into kindergarten. Key partners in transition planning efforts include community-based organizations, school districts, Head Start programs, parents and families, child care centers/home-based providers, and organizations that support early childhood care and education (e.g. service centers, technical assistance providers).

To learn more about this upcoming funding opportunity please visit the [Children's Cabinet Kindergarten Readiness Grants](#) webpage. Applications will be submitted through the new [Kansas CommonApp platform](#). If you are new to the platform, [this CommonApp webinar](#) is available as guidance. You can also reach out for assistance by emailing [pdg\\_grantsupport@ku.edu](mailto:pdg_grantsupport@ku.edu).

## Preschool Programs Updates – Kansas Preschool Pilot Grant Applications due Feb. 9

The 2021-2022 Preschool-Aged At-Risk program approval form and the Kansas Preschool Pilot Request for Proposals are posted to [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#):

- **Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP) Grant Request for Proposals:** Due **Feb. 9, 2021 (11:59 p.m.)**. Visit [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#) to review Frequently Asked Questions. Written questions from applicants were due Feb. 2; **the KSDE Early Childhood team will not be available to respond to calls or emails regarding the grant application received after 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9.** A [CommonApp Help Desk](#) is available to help applicants navigate the application portal.
- **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.

Contact Natalie McClane ([nmcclane@ksde.org](mailto:nmcclane@ksde.org)) with preschool questions.

## Early Childhood Special Education Updates

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.

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 approaching spring birthdays. IEP's must be written before the child's third birthday regardless of when school staff are on vacation or closures due to spring break. It is also important to plan ahead and be sure to allow for missed appointments or inclement weather!

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



## State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Updates

The next SICC meeting takes place on Friday, Feb. 19, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The topics for the meeting will include:

- Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment Updates
- Discussion on the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)
- State Agency 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 next week. The intended audience are LICC and Early Childhood Coalition members, but all are welcome to attend.

Contact Jordan Christian ([jchristian@ksde.org](mailto: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 (KPAT 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. **Beginning Feb. 15, 2021**, KPAT coordinators and administrators who have not yet submitted the report will receive weekly reminder emails. If you do not receive a reminder email, KSDE has a complete and submitted KPAT Mid-Year Report on file for your program for the 2020-2021 program year.

Our office received the following question: **“We will have funds remaining at the end-of-the-year because we did not spend as much on mileage. Are we able to use KPAT funds to purchase diapers, wipes, digital thermometers, and other items needed by the families served?”** The answer: [The Kansas Accounting Handbook for Unified School Districts](#) (page 36-37) outlines potential program supplies and materials consumed, worn out, or deteriorated. Diapers, wipes, thermometers, and other such items may be considered miscellaneous supplies.

A Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accountability (DEIA) Roundtable Discussion is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 1:00 p.m. This opportunity is hosted by PAT National Center and you must register in advance: [Register here for the PAT National Center DEIA Roundtable Discussion](#).

An Implementation Support Webinar is scheduled for February 23rd at 12:00 p.m. If you need a link, please contact Nis.

Target Fidelity Project Office Hours are scheduled for February 24th at 1:00 p.m. If you need a link, please contact Nis.

The “March Meet Up” is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9th at 12:00 p.m. If you need a link, please contact Nis.

The 2021-2022 Kansas Parents as Teachers grant renewal application is posted to [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#). The application is due April 2, 2021.

Contact Nis Wilbur ([nwilbur@ksde.org](mailto:nwilbur@ksde.org)) with Parents as Teachers questions.



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

**Click here to register for the Kansas Division for Early Childhood (KDEC) annual conference, “Thriving through Surviving” in a virtual format on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021.** Please check the **KDEC website** for more information as it becomes available.

- KDEC is 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**.
- KDEC has also extended the deadline for award nominations. The deadline for those submissions is 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 12, and awards will be announced at the 2021 KDEC Annual Conference. More information regarding the awards and nomination process can be found on the **KDEC website here**.

**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.

**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. **This will include opportunities to share public input on the Kansas Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).** States can use these federal funds to assist low-income parents with child care costs, enhance the quality of child care for all children and promote learning and development. **Click here to sign up for the first virtual public input session during Wednesday’s noon webinar**, or subscribe to the *All in for Kansas Kids* emails to subscribe to future sessions (Feb. 24 at 7:00 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 10:00 a.m.) **You can also click here to share input regarding how Kansas should use additional federal child care dollars to meet needs due to the pandemic.**

**Click here to view and share a video of our youngest Kansans offering tips on how together we can beat the virus. #KSBeatsTheVirus**

**Remote Learning Grants available for the Spring Semester:** The Children’s Cabinet will be taking applications from eligible programs to address the current **need for alternative care and education for families adversely impacted by remote learning situations.** These funds are designed to ensure that school-age children (grades K-6) are in safe, secure settings during the school day, and that they receive quality supervision, access to internet, and learning supports when schools are in hybrid or remote learning environments. Applications are now currently open for the SPRING SEMESTER with proposals accepted on a rolling basis. Find out more about the Remote Learning Grants supported by the federal CARES Act by **viewing this recorded webinar** hosted in Fall 2020. All Remote Learning Details and Application Information is available on **this Remote Learning Grants webpage** on the Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund website.



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

**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.

- Feb. 19: [Register for Tier 1 Early Numeracy Practices here.](#)
- 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](http://ksdetasn.org/mtss/repositories).

**Register for the Feb. 10 Early Childhood Initial Co-Teaching Training on the KSDE TASN website.** 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

**The KSDE 2021 Kansas 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant application is due March 16.** KSDE expects this grant competition to be extremely competitive. Any general grant questions should be directed to Christine Macy – [cmacy@ksde.org](mailto:cmacy@ksde.org) or 785-296-3287.

**Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund applications are available on the KSDE Sensory Losses webpage** under the Deaf-Blind Fund Quick Start Guides. Funding can support assistive technology (including adaptive equipment, software, etc.), consultation, and/or evaluation for children ages birth through 21 who have severe cognitive and significant disabilities. Children do not need to be included in the Kansas Deaf-Blind Census to apply. Applications can be requested up to \$3,000 and are due April 1, 2021. 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. Contact Joan Houghton, EdD,, [jhoughton@ksde.org](mailto:jhoughton@ksde.org) or 913-620-4235, with questions.



**The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) seeks sponsors to ensure Kansas kids receive nutritious meals during summer.** Organizations interested in sponsoring a site can contact Jill Ladd, assistant director of Child Nutrition and Wellness for the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), at (785) 296-2276 to determine eligibility to participate. For more information, visit [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org) and select the Summer Food Service Program.

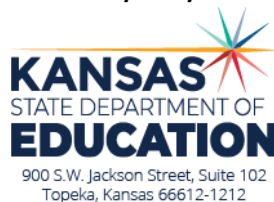
**Kansas Children's Service League has several free child abuse prevention training topics scheduled during the upcoming months. [Click here for a current schedule and descriptions through March, and to register.](#)**

**The Western Regional Early Intervention Conference (WREIC)** in collaboration with the Texas Schools for the Blind and Visually Impaired Coffee Hour is pleased to present **2021 virtual training dates**. The virtual conference is a series of virtual sessions at no cost. Learn more at <http://www.wreic.org/>.

**Mark your calendars! Week of the Young Child is April 10-16, 2021.** Check [the National Association for the Education of Young Children website](#) for updates.

We hope you are staying warm and taking good care! 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.

### **Amanda, Nis, Natalie, Jordan, Julie and Beccy**



For more information, contact:

Amanda Petersen  
Director, Early Childhood  
[apetersen@ksde.org](mailto:apetersen@ksde.org)

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

[www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)

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